

Dirpwy Gyfarwyddwr Is-adran Teuluoedd
Deputy Director Families Division



Flying Start Coordinators
Families First Coordinators

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

February 2017

Dear colleagues,

You should have received your indicative budget allocation letter for 2017/18 and should receive the final allocation letter in March. We have received a number of comments and queries about both the one year budget settlement and the future of the Flying Start and Families First programmes. The reasons for the one year settlement were set up by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in his Final budget where he noted:

“This year’s budget process has been undertaken against the backdrop of unprecedented levels of uncertainty, following the outcome of the European Union referendum but also relating to the fiscal outlook, which presents a number of challenges.

This has inevitably had an impact on our budget preparations, including the time available to undertake our planning for this year’s budget. While it was our ambition to provide longer-term financial certainty for our partners and stakeholders, the lack of clarity ahead of the publication of the UK Government’s Autumn Statement about the revenue resources available to Wales beyond 2017-18 made it impossible to realise this ambition. For this reason, we have developed a one-year revenue budget.” ⁽¹⁾

I appreciate the challenges a one year budget provides and that it is not ideal, and many of you have asked for some assurance that both Flying Start and Families First will continue to be funded beyond 31 March 2018. The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children has made clear his commitment to the continuation of both Flying Start and Families First. The intention to continue delivering Flying Start was noted in the Welsh Government’s new Programme for Government, ‘Taking Wales Forward’ document and the Cabinet Secretary has publicly stated his support for Families First on several occasions, including during his appearance before the National Assembly for Wales Children, Young People and Education Committee on 2 November 2016, and at the recent Flying Start and Families First conference. ⁽²⁾

Furthermore, he wants to see close working between both these programmes to maximise the outcomes for families in Wales.

(1) [Welsh Government Final Budget 2017-2018 – Explanatory Note](#)

(2) [Press Release – Flying Start & Families First National Conference – 7 December 2016](#)

I hope this provides clarification of the current situation; if you have any further queries or concerns, please contact the Flying Start or Families First mailboxes.

FlyingStart2@wales.gsi.gov.uk
familiesfirst@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Alyson Francis

Dirpwy Gyfarwyddwr - Yr Is-adran Plant a Teuluoedd
Deputy Director - Children and Families Division

(1) [Llywodraeth Cymru Cyllideb Derfynol 2017-2018 – Nodyn esboniadol](#)

(1) [Welsh Government Final Budget 2017-2018 – Explanatory Note](#)

(2) [fff](#)

(2) [Press Release – Flying Start & Families First National Conference – 7 December 2016](#)

