

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People
Date:	24 February 2021
Title:	Childcare Sustainability Grant
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Suzanne Smith, Assistant Director, Children's Services

Tel: 01962 846270

Email: Suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People:

- 1.1 Approves the establishment of a Childcare Sustainability Grant fund of up to £365,000 to support Early Years and Childcare providers experiencing proven financial issues, but where sustainability of the provider is essential to ensure sufficiency of childcare places.
- 1.2 Delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member, to approve Childcare Sustainability Grant awards to providers, where it can be evidenced that there is sufficiency of need and where, without financial support, the provider may be unable to operate.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 In response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the early years and childcare sector, the Childcare Sustainability Grant Fund will offer small one-off grants to providers who are experiencing significant financial issues and where such a provider is required to ensure sufficient childcare places in a geographical area.
- 2.2 Establishing a temporary sustainability grant fund for the childcare sector will support the County Council to deliver its childcare sufficiency duty whilst also providing financial support to childcare settings experiencing temporary financial difficulty.

- 2.3 Individual grant awards are anticipated to be in the region of £500 - £4,999, from a total grant fund of up to £365,000 for the Childcare Sustainability Grant, funded by the centrally retained component of the Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant.

3. Other options considered and rejected

- 3.1 Hampshire County Council could rely on other sources of Government financial support for the childcare sector, however, we know that some providers are not eligible or able to access these forms of support.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Patricia Stallard
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and
Young People

24 February 2021