

# Public Document Pack



## EXECUTIVE DECISION DAY NOTICE

Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day

**Date and Time** Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 2.00pm

**Place** Remote Decision Day

**Enquiries to** [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk)

Carolyn Williamson FCPFA  
Chief Executive  
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

## FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This decision day is being held remotely and will be recorded and broadcast live via the County Council's website.

## AGENDA

### DEPUTATIONS

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

### KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)

**1. DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND OCTOBER 2022 TO MARCH 2023 (Pages 3 - 18)**

To consider a report outlining the proposed approach for allocation of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund Extension across Hampshire for the period October 2022 to March 2023. This report seeks approval from the Executive Lead Member for spend and grant funding to organisations in support of vulnerable households via the connect4communities programme.

### NON KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)

**2. SUN HILL INFANT SCHOOL AGE RANGE (Pages 19 - 28)**

To consider a report providing feedback on the statutory public notice in relation to the proposal for Sun Hill Infant School to take children from age 3 years old and to deliver nursery provision from 9am to 3pm.

### KEY DECISIONS (EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL)

None Applicable.

**NON KEY DECISIONS (EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL)**

None Applicable.

**ABOUT THIS AGENDA:**

**On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.**

**ABOUT THIS MEETING:**

**The press and public are welcome to observe the public sessions of the decision day via the webcast.**

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund October 2022 to March 2023
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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

**Tel:** 01962 846270

**Email:** [Suzane.smith2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Suzane.smith2@hants.gov.uk)

#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed approach for allocation of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund Extension across Hampshire for the period October 2022 to March 2023. This report seeks approval from the Executive Lead Member for spend and grant funding to organisations in support of vulnerable households via the connect4communities programme.
2. The expectation is that the grant should primarily be used to support households in the most need particularly those not eligible for the other support government has recently made available but who are nevertheless in need. The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills.

## **Recommendation(s)**

3. That the Executive Lead Member note the spend undertaken by the Director of Children's Services for funding to the value of £1,570,718 provided as discretionary grants to schools, colleges and early years settings such that they can provide food and fuel support to vulnerable families.
4. It is recommended that £263,000 is made available to provide £500 to each Hampshire County Council Foster Carer to support them with increasing cost of living.
5. It is recommended that £500,500 is provided in grants to district and borough councils in Hampshire for exceptional housing support which meets the DWP grant criteria as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.
6. It is recommended that a further £1,832,785 is allocated to district and borough councils in Hampshire such that they can provide vouchers to residents in receipt of council tax support and to an additional cohort who receive housing benefits only.
7. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member approves £350,000 to be allocated as grants to organisations supporting unpaid carers in Hampshire. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria set out in paragraph 18.
8. It is recommended that £78,100 is made available to provide care leavers two £50 food vouchers over the grant period to support with the increased cost of living.
9. It is recommended the Executive Lead Member approves the grant of £500,000 to provide two £50 food vouchers with families open to the Disabled Children's Team and the remaining amount in grants to organisations working children and adults with disabilities for further direct support. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraph 18.
10. It is recommended that a grant of £600,000 is awarded to the Citizens Advice Service to provide emergency financial support to vulnerable households with fuel bills. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraph 18.

11. It is recommended that funding of up to £530,000 is provided in grants to support existing community pantries across Hampshire with the increase in cost of food and to organisations seeking to further develop a broader offer alongside the pantries as described in further in detail in paragraph 43. Such grant will be provided on terms agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria set out in paragraph 18.
12. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve community grants to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant for targeted financial support for those in need, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member up to the total value of £500,000.
13. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any Household Support Fund remaining or underspent funds from initiatives set out in paragraphs 4 -12 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.

## **Executive Summary**

14. This report seeks to detail the proposed approach and allocation of funds for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund Extension across Hampshire. A key aim for the connect4communities programme will be to continue to support sustainable and environmentally beneficial food poverty support.
15. Although the grant no longer has ringfenced spend relating to types of households, the grant guidance stresses that the fund is intended to cover a range of low income households including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people. The proposed Hampshire offer has initiatives in place to support these targeted cohorts.

## **Background**

16. On 26 May 2022 the Government announced, as part of measures to provide help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living, that the £421m Household Support Fund (HSF) would be extended from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.
17. The final guidance relating to the grant extension was shared with local authorities on 30 September 2022 ([Household Support Fund: guidance for local councils - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1141427/Household-Support-Fund-guidance-for-local-councils-2022-23.pdf)). The guidance confirms that Hampshire County Council's allocation is £7,124,127.25, to be spent

between 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. Despite being a grant extension, any grant underspend from the grant relating to the previous period cannot be carried forward and there are some changes to the grant guidance.

18. The DWP's expectation is that the grant should primarily be used to support households in the most need particularly those including children and pensioners who would otherwise struggle with energy bills, food and water bills. Energy bills may be of particular concern to low income households during the period of the scheme and Local Authorities should especially consider how they can support households with the cost of energy. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.
19. The main change to the grant for October 2022 – March 2023 compared to previous Household Support Fund allocations is that there is no ringfence of any proportion of the funding for specific cohorts of people. However, there is a requirement for all Authorities to operate at least a part of their scheme on an application basis. This means residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support. There is also an expectation of Authorities to particularly consider those groups who may not have benefitted from any of the recent cost of living support.

## **Consultation**

20. A variety of stakeholders have been consulted so that existing local provision and need can be identified, risks in respect of duplication of funding can be addressed and emerging ideas validated or challenged. This has included engagement with Adult Health and Care, Community Pantries, Citizens Advice Service and District Councils.

## **The Proposed Hampshire Offer**

### **Provision for proactive targeted cohorts**

21. **Low income households with children**
22. A discretionary grant for schools, colleges and early years settings has been awarded by the Director of Children's Services such that the funding would be available to support families during October half term. The discretionary grant award was made up of two elements, one was an amount based on the number of children on roll (as per previous grant rounds) and the second

element was a 20p contribution per day per free school meal eligible child in recognition of the increased costs of food.

23. The value of the discretionary grant to each setting was based on the number of children on roll, uplifted by 20% from the previous grant award in order to provide additional support to families for the cost of school uniforms and other essentials.
24. The element of the discretionary grant relating to the contribution towards the increased costs of food for free school meal eligible children, was for schools only, and was not provided to early years settings and schools that had over 15% of their income held as balances at the end of 2021/22. Any school that required additional funding over and above the amount allocated can apply for additional funding through the Community Grant when it is live.
25. The discretionary grant is not means tested and is not for those in receipt of benefits, schools, colleges and early years setting have the discretion to support families they recognise as being in need. Support may be provided through a food voucher or for wider essentials such as warm clothing, white goods or blankets.
26. The Executive Lead Member is asked to note the spend undertaken by the Director of Children's Services for funding to the value of £1,570,718 provided as discretionary grants to schools, colleges and early years settings such that they can provide food and fuel support to vulnerable families during the October half term and winter period up to 31 March 2023. There are over 183,000 pupils on roll in our schools and colleges, of which just over 32,000 are entitled to means tested free schools meals who could benefit from this funding.
27. Hampshire County Council have 517 foster carers supporting some of the most vulnerable children in Hampshire. In recognition of this approval is also sought for £263,000 to award a £500 food voucher to Hampshire Foster Carers to contribute to the increase in cost of living this winter.
28. **Pensioners, low income households and households that are not in receipt of other government support**
29. It is recommended that grants to a total value of £1,832,785 are distributed to district and borough councils across Hampshire such that they can provide one £20 food voucher to households in receipt of council tax support and £40 to households in receipt of housing benefit only in the lead up to the Christmas period. As per the DWP guidance, those on housing benefits only are being targeted because they are ineligible for other government support with the cost of living. This support will benefit nearly 86,000 households.

30. **Unpaid Carers**

31. The most recent census data from 2011 shows 133,000 people in Hampshire who identified as carers. During COVID, Hampshire County Council worked with voluntary sector partner organisations to successfully distribute funding which reached carers in most need of support.
32. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to work with organisations that support unpaid carers in Hampshire up to the value of £350,000 during the winter period and in accordance with the grant guidance in paragraph 18.

33. **Care Leavers**

34. It is recommended that £78,100 is awarded for individuals open to our Care Leavers teams to receive two £50 food vouchers, after Christmas and before the end of the grant period to contribute to the increased cost of living. As per the other targeted groups, care leavers will also be able to access the other forms of support on offer. This will benefit 678 care leavers and 103 post 16 children in supported lodging.

35. **Those with disabilities**

36. For children with disabilities, we will target children that have met the threshold to be open to our Disabled Children's Team and that have gateway cards, working with our social care teams and organisations to deliver direct support. There are currently 670 children open to our Disabled Children's Team and 2,000 gateway card holders.
37. For adults with disabilities, we will target adults that have met the threshold for our Adult Health and Care social care teams. Within this cohort, adults that live alone and therefore may be hit harder by the increase in the cost of living will be targeted for support. There are around 6,500 adults with disabilities open to social care that are not in residential accommodation and just over 500 who do not have any care provision in place that would benefit from this grant.
38. It is recommended the Executive Lead Member approves the grant of £500,000 to provide two £50 food vouchers to families open to the Disabled Children's Team in the lead up to Christmas and in the new year and the remaining amount in grants to organisations working children and adults with disabilities for further direct support during the winter period. Such grant will be provided on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and in accordance with the grant criteria as set out in paragraph 18.



## **Self-referral Application Process**

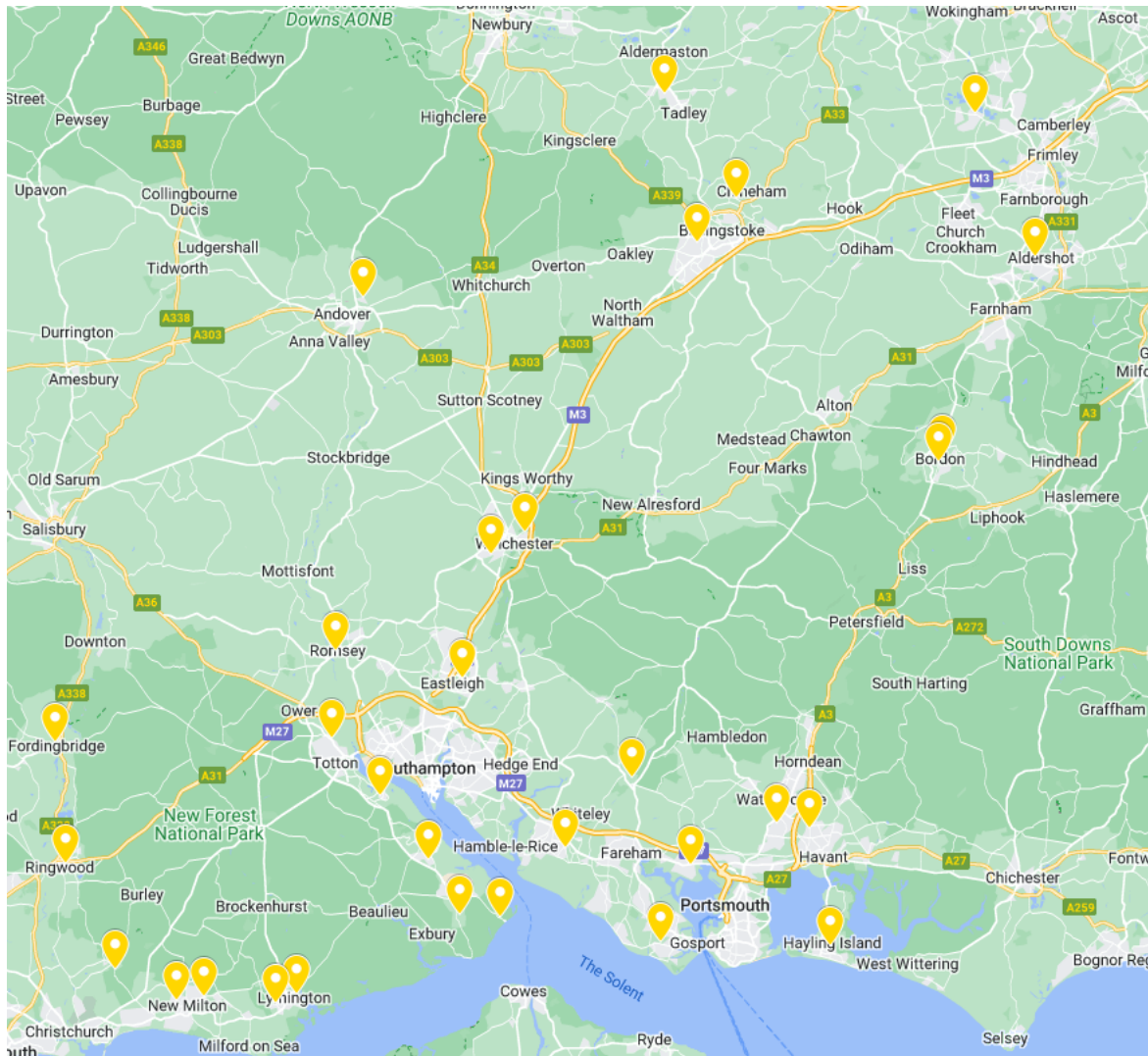
### **39. Utility support**

40. It is recommended that a grant of £500,000 is made available to Citizens Advice to support the most vulnerable households in Hampshire with utility costs during the winter period. We continue to work with Citizens Advice to target support towards energy costs, reduce the potential for double funding and providing the financial support alongside broader support and advice. Citizens Advice are also well placed to undertake ID and benefits checks to mitigate potential risks of fraudulent claims.
41. Citizens Advice require an additional £100,000 to deliver the administration of this scheme in order administer the payments, carry out eligibility and fraud checks and to provide debt relief support if applicable.
42. Whilst there are providers on the market for providing fuel vouchers for pre-payment meters, there is a fee payable for each voucher and there is not yet an offer available for paying fuel bills that are not pre-payment. Conversely there is a wide market of providers who supply easy to use food vouchers with no fee, through the use of food vouchers the programme is freeing up more disposable income which would be available for food costs. This would support an estimated 1,700 households during the winter.

### **43. Community Pantries**

44. Community pantries work on the principle of giving those in need the opportunity to have a 'helping hand' by getting food at a lower rate on a weekly basis. Items found in the pantry will be a range of fresh, frozen and general foods which will change on a weekly basis. Access to the community pantry is by way of membership and, for a small weekly contribution, members receive food to a significantly higher value than if purchased in local shops or the supermarket. For example, members are charged a nominal sum of £5.00 per shop and receive £15 plus worth of goods. Community pantries will be encouraged to provide a delivery service for those who are not able to come and shop for whatever reason.
45. There are 19 fixed venue connect4communities pantries in Hampshire and 11 mobile larders in the New Forest with a current membership of 5,000 households which continues to increase. The map below shows where the pantries are located in yellow.

Map One: Location of connect4communities pantries and larders in Hampshire



46. It is proposed that funding is provided to continue to support the network of community pantries to provide sustainable alternatives to free school meal vouchers and support to any household that is in need. This will be through support to fund the increase in cost of food and gaps from a decrease in donated food, food vouchers for those unable to afford the membership fee and air fryers with associated cook books for those that do not have cooking facilities and need an economical solution.
47. Through the grant, we will also continue to work with organisations to provide a network through which further support can be offered to work with the community pantries to develop a broader support offer including health services, employment support and financial support and advisory services, funded by means other than the DWP Household Support Grant.
48. Approval is sought from the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve grant

awards to organisations for the delivery of such schemes up to the value of £530,000 through the winter. Through the grant, we will also continue to work with community organisations to broaden the support offer to include wraparound services such as health services, employment and financial support.

**49. Community Grant**

50. It is recommended that a grant of £500,000 is made available for organisations who wish to support their local community with food and fuel poverty, particularly in rural areas. Any funded support must meet the DWP grant criteria as set out in paragraph 18, but will be flexible and responsive to local needs as and when they are identified. This fund will also provide support to households who may not be able to access other initiatives set out in this report, for example, chatty cafes to provide food support for mother and baby groups with younger children who may not be in education settings to receive support through these schemes.

**51. Exceptional housing support**

52. As in previous DWP Household Support Funds, the grant guidance states that in exceptional cases of genuine emergency and where existing housing schemes do not meet the exceptional need, support for housing costs can be met. It is recommended that £500,500 is distributed to district and borough councils to support households with exceptional housing costs during the winter, as identified in the DWP grant guidance.

53. In the case of providing financial support around housing, eligibility for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) must first be considered before emergency housing support is offered through the Household Support Fund. Similarly, the Authority must also first consider whether the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and therefore owed a duty of support through the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG).

54. The Fund can exceptionally and in genuine emergency be used to provide support for historic rent arrears built up prior to an existing benefit claim for households already in receipt of Universal Credit and Housing Benefit. This is because these arrears are excluded from the criteria for Discretionary Housing Payments. However, support with rent arrears is not the primary intent of the fund and should not be the focus of spend.

55. The Household Support Fund should not be used to provide housing support on an ongoing basis or to support unsustainable tenancies, nor can it be used to provide mortgage support, though homeowners could still qualify for the other elements of the Fund (such as food, energy, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials). Where a homeowner is

having difficulty with their mortgage payments, they should contact their lender as soon as possible to discuss their circumstances as lenders will have a set procedure to assist.

56. District and borough councils will require £91,000 to administer the exceptional housing and food voucher scheme.

### **Administration Costs**

57. The DWP Household Support Fund guidance allows for reasonable administration costs to be funded from the grant allocation such that enable local authorities, and their partners can deliver the programme.
58. The County Council intends to use up to £420,134 (6%) of the funding to cover reasonable administration costs for all partners which will include relevant staff costs and administration costs of partner organisations.
59. The DWP is keen that a telephone helpline is provided to help signpost households to support funded through the Household Support Fund. It is proposed that the existing Hampshire County Council Childrens Services and General Helplines are used for this purpose and funding will be allocated to provide additional capacity to meet the increased scope of the helpline.
60. Extensive communications are planned to ensure that a range of professional agencies and partner organisations are aware of the connect4communities programme and can signpost vulnerable households to the support being offered.
61. Furthermore, the existing connect4communities directory will be further developed so that organisations and community groups can publish details of any local opportunities or support they wish to share. This is hosted on the Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub:  
(FISH: <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>)
62. This directory enables residents of Hampshire to search by postcode to identify where they may be able to access financial and other support including subsidised food. For Hampshire County Council and partners, this will provide a way to capture offers of support beyond those coordinated directly by the connect4communities programme, and an effective way of signposting residents to available support.

## Finance

63. A summary of the proposed allocation of funding across the initiatives to be delivered through the connect4communities scheme, funded by the Household Support Fund is set out in table 2.

Table 2:

<b>connect4communities – Hampshire County Council Household Support Fund Extension</b>	
<b>Component</b>	<b>Funding allocation (£)</b>
Education settings discretionary grant	1,570,718
Food vouchers for people in receipt of council tax reduction support and housing benefit	1,832,785
Unpaid carers grants	350,000
Care Leaver food vouchers	78,100
Those with disabilities grants	500,000
Utility Support	500,000
Community Pantries	530,000
Community Grant	500,000
Exceptional Housing support	500,500
Foster carer support	263,000
Contingency	78,890
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>6,703,993</b>
Administration	420,134
<b>Total plan</b>	<b>7,124,127</b>

## Performance

64. All funding granted to third party organisations (including schools, colleges, early years providers and district and borough councils) will be supported by a grant agreement setting out the conditions of the funding as well as reporting requirements.

65. Third party organisations will be required to report to the County Council on how they have spent the funding provided, in line with the DWP grant criteria.
66. The management information required by the DWP for this grant round will require a more granular data collection from grant recipients. For each award as well as the spend and volumes, the number of households is also required. Whereby, if one family received £15 food vouchers from their schools for their 2 children this will be reported as a total spend of £30, with a volume of 2 for 1 household.
67. Spend information is required by;
- Household composition (household with children, with pensioners, with a disabled person or other)
  - Category (energy and water, food excluding FSM support in the holidays, free school meal support in the holidays, essentials linked to energy and water, wider essentials or housing costs)
  - Type of support (vouchers, cash, third party, tangible item or other)
  - Access route (application based, proactive support, other)

### **Consultation and Equalities**

68. Consultation and engagement have been undertaken as part of developing and delivering the connect4communities programme.
69. School and colleges have previously been consulted regarding their preferred method of supporting children with food by way of a questionnaire.
70. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and will be published in advance of the decision day.

### **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

71. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

### **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation**

72. The carbon mitigation tool and climate change adaptation tools were not applicable on this occasion because the decision relates to a programme that is strategic/administrative in nature.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	No
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes
<b>OR</b>	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	



## EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

### 1. Equality Duty

### 2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx?web=1>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- (a) *why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) *will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Childrens Services
<b>Date:</b>	22 November 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Sun Hill Infant School Age Range
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Tracey Messer – Service Manager Childcare Development

**Tel:** 01962 847070

**Email:** Tracey.messer@hants.gov.uk

### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the statutory public notice in relation to the proposal for Sun Hill Infant School to take children from age 3 years old and to deliver nursery provision from 9am to 3pm.
2. This report seeks approval for the age range of the school to be lowered.

### Recommendations

3. That approval be given to the following proposals, published by Hampshire County Council under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:
  - To make a prescribed alteration to Sun Hill Infant School, Sun Lane, Alresford, Winchester SO24 9NB, to provide nursery provision for up to 24 places for children from 3 - 4 years old, commencing with 24 places with effect from 1 January 2023, and with a requirement to consult with the Council prior to any further expansion of places.

### Executive Summary

4. This report outlines the rationale, background and outcome of the Public Notice to the request to lower the age range Sun Hill Infant School.
5. Sun Hill Infant School is a community school currently approved to take children of school age from Year R to Year 2. The Published Admissions Number (PAN) for the school is currently 45 with maximum capacity of 135. The governing body of the school is seeking to:
  - a) Lower the school age range to 3-year-olds; and
  - b) Directly manage a new early years' facility as part of the school.

6. The Sun Hill Infant School proposal is to open a new provision. The school leadership team has reviewed its management, financial and operational arrangements, and the governors at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 gave full agreement to the proposal.
7. The lowered age range will be accommodated within the school building which has full facilities to accommodate younger children and access to outdoors.
8. There is no cost to Hampshire County Council associated with this proposal.
9. A public consultation was held from 9 September to 7 October 2021.
10. There have been no objections raised.
11. A copy of the Public Notice is appended (Appendix 2). The County Council has complied with all statutory requirements relating to the publication of the Public Notice.

## **STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

12. *The Making Significant Changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools* ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)) guidance sets out the process to be followed.
13. As a Public Notice was published in the press on 9 September 2022 with the consultation period closing 7 October 2022.

## **Contextual Information**

14. Sun Hill Infant School had organised an open day and informed other local provision and families of the intention to open a preschool on 15 June 2022. There had been a preschool within the locality, and this had closed due to a poor Ofsted outcome in August 2020. There is currently one full day care in Alresford for families, so choice for early years provision is limited.
15. A new childcare provision on site for 3 to 4-year-olds will allow further choice of childcare to parents in the Alresford area and support those also with older siblings at the school. Within the Alresford and Itchen Valley areas, there are highlighted three preschools, one full day care provider and one early year's funding approved childminder. The other three preschools are located outside of Alresford – one in Bishops Sutton and two in the Itchen Valley area. These are not accessible to families without transport.
16. Having a nursery managed by the school will not make Sun Hill Infant an all through school. Parents of children attending the nursery will still be required to apply for their place in Year R through the usual admission arrangements. There is scope for children who are eligible for either early years pupil premium, or the service premium, for admission authorities to give priority in

their oversubscription criteria where these children: a) are in a nursery class which is part of the school; or b) attend a nursery that is established and run by the school. There will be requirement for the nursery to be named in the admission arrangements and its selection must be transparent and made on reasonable grounds. Confirmation from the school to take up this admission arrangement will be established once a formal decision is made on the lowering age range.

17. The Sun Hill Infant School proposal to open new early year's provision supports the growth of child population in the area over an eight year period and supports potential growth in demand for services. The Small Area Population Forecast data (2021) estimates that there is a 12% increase in 0–4-year olds from 2021 – 2028 within the Alresford and Itchen Valley area.
18. A review of the childcare population and take up of childcare in Alresford has confirmed a need for 24 places.
19. The school is currently experiencing low numbers in their school admissions which is freeing up classroom space and staffing.
20. There is also new housing planned for the ward with 400 new homes and this new provision therefore helps to provide sufficient childcare places for the anticipated population growth.
21. The Sun Hill Infant School proposal to open a new provision supports the growth of child population in the ward over a six-year period to meet potential demand.

## **Finance**

22. The key to successful early years provision is the ability to be financially sustainable through the limitations of the early years' education funding, through setting appropriate parental fees for additional services together with allowable consumable charges. It is therefore important that both the school governing body and leadership team regularly review their business plans, financial forecasting and establish close monitoring of the income and expenditure with good debt management. It is also recommended that the income and expenditure of the proposed nursery is kept separate to the school's main budget.
23. Sun Hill Infant School has undertaken its own due diligence and understands that the nursery income can only be met from early years education claims and parental fee income. At its meeting of 17 May 2022, the governing body approved the financial plans for the lowered age group. The governing body understands its financial responsibilities regarding this age range change and the budgetary requirements.

## **Human Resources Implications**

24. As Sun Hill Infant School is setting up a new provision, there are no TUPE implications. The school has identified and can put in place appropriate staffing arrangements from January 2023 to support this proposal.
25. The school is responsible for ensuring employment of appropriate staff for the nursery and have taken advice from schools HR support in considering this proposal.

## **Performance Impact**

26. Sun Hill Infant School recognises that delivering an early year's provision will offer an early intervention approach to children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and implement early support prior to children starting school, thus allowing a smooth transition with identified support in place for children who through the school admission process move through to Year R.
27. The school is responsible for meeting all the regulatory requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and any subsequent OFSTED inspection.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

28. On 4 July 2022, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved a statutory four-week public consultation in respect of this proposal which opened from 9 September to 7 October 2022.
29. There were no objections raised during the period of public notice. There was only one comment received which stated: "I want to show my support for this as Alresford has not its own preschool anymore. The community would really benefit from being able to walk and not have to drive outside the area for a preschool".
30. As part of the consultation process, the school published a "statement of intent" publicising a consultation drop-in session on 15 June 2022. This statement went out to all the parents of the infant and junior schools. The headteacher also spoke to one local preschool and the full day nursery in Alresford.
31. Individual meetings have been held with the three preschools local to Sun Hill Infant School and the conversations were all positive. Early discussions have also been held about how all the local preschools might be able to work together to support each other with staffing, training and other aspects in the future.
32. In response to the formal consultation, early expressions of interest from parents have moved to 4 definite enrolments for the majority of sessions offered (currently mornings only) and 6 families wishing the child to attend at least two sessions a week.

33. During the statutory consultation there have been no respondents objecting to the proposal.
34. An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached to this report (Appendix 3). The proposal will provide inclusive access to early years education and therefore has a positive impact.

### **Conclusion**

35. The Sun Hill Infant School proposal to open a new early years provision supports the growth of child population in the ward over a six year period and supports potential growth in demand for services. The school wish to manage an early years provision directly to provide teacher led early years' service. As the school is a local authority community school, the local authority was required to approve a statutory consultation and Public Notice to be undertaken before any decision can be confirmed.

There were no submitted objections.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
DCS and Executive Member		6 August 2021
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>		<u>Date</u>
<i>The Making Significant Changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools</i> (publishing.service.gov.uk)		<b>October 2018</b>

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	



## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **- Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **- Equalities Impact Assessment:**

Equality and diversity objectives will be considered on an individual project basis by conducting Equality Impact Assessments and are not considered at this stage or within this report.

## Appendix 1

### RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION AND OBJECTIONS RAISED AND RESOLUTION.

There were no objections raised. Following a visit to Sun Hill Infant School from Steve Brine MP on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - see responses below

The following email was sent into the Strategic Planning team and forwarded onto Services for Young Children on 3 October 2022

To: Strategic Planning Unit <[strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)>  
Subject: Sunhill preschool

I want to show my support for this as Alresford has not its own preschool anymore. The community would really benefit from being able to walk and not have to drive outside the area for a preschool.

#### **Facebook posts from the Sun Hill Infant School page**

FB Respondent 1: Very exciting! (Received 1 thumbs up)

FB Respondent 2: ooooooh, how exciting!! (Received 1 thumbs up)

FB Respondent 3: I can't wait to (fingers crossed) use the pre-school!!!! (Receive 2 thumbs up)

FB Respondent 4: Fantastic head, fantastic school. Have has 3 children attend (1 there currently) and would definitely use this preschool if our children were the right age now. (Received 7 thumbs up and a heart)

FB Respondent 5: Wow, what a fantastic idea. Exciting news. This way, even more parents can benefit from this amazing school and the leadership team who run it. (Received 4 thumbs up)

## Appendix 2 – Public Notice

### SUN HILL INFANT SCHOOL, ALRESFORD - REDUCTION IN AGE RANGE

1. Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Hampshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to SUN HILL INFANT SCHOOL, Sun Lane, Alresford SO24 9NB (category of school – Community) with effect from 1 January 2023.

2. The PAN for the school is currently 45. It is proposed that the age range for the school is lowered to enable nursery children aged from 3 years to attend. The governing body of the school is seeking to lower the school age range to 3-year-olds and directly manage a new early years' facility as part of the school. Children attending the nursery will still be required to apply for their place in Year R through the usual admission arrangements.

3. The current capacity of the school is 180 and will be unaffected by the proposal. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 123. The current admission number for the school is 45 and is not affected by the school taking on the nursery which will be a separate capacity of 24 on the implementation of this proposal. There are no costs associated with this proposal.

4. Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal may be obtained from Gemma Bowry, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; telephone 0370 779 4892; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

5. Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Gemma Bowry, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; telephone 0370 779 4892; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

36. Contact:

Gemma Bowry, Strategic Development Officer, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG  
Email: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)

Appendix 3

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASESMENT

And on the council's webpage

[Children's Services | About the Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)