

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Officer Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Childcare Sustainability Grant Awards
<b>Report From:</b>	Suzanne Smith, Assistant Director, Children's Services

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**1. The decision:**

That the Director of Children's Services approves the award of grants to:

**1.1 The Greenery Nursery School, the sum of £4,500**

The Greenery Nursery School is recommended for an award of £4,500 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards on-going salary and business costs to support the setting while it experiences the slow return of families following the COVID pandemic. The Greenery Nursery School is a new provider which took over an existing setting in January 2020. The Greenery has been ineligible for most COVID relief packages due to the business being new. The provider has requested this additional funding to help ensure continued early years education and childcare for local families in the rural Swanmore area and broader Meon Valley.

**1.2** Conditions that will be attached to the grant include the requirements to:

- i) Complete a business surgery by end of September 2021 with a follow up review of business plan in January 2022.
- ii) Undertake promotion activities to encourage take up of places.
- iii) Use the Hemsall's business tools to review their business and develop a business and marketing plan available by end of December 2021.

**2. Reasons for the decision:**

**2.1** The Childcare Sustainability Grant is part of Hampshire County Council's COVID response. A grant fund of up to £365,000 has been made available to childcare providers who require support with short term financial sustainability. On 24/02/2021, the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member, was given the authority to approve awards to providers where it is evidenced there is sufficiency of need and where, without financial support, the provider may be unable to operate.

2.2 Other options considered and rejected:

Alternative option is not to support the grant funding which could jeopardise childcare sufficiency in the area(s).

**3. Conflicts of interest:**

3.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

3.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.

**4. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel:**

**5. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:**

5.1 Childcare sustainability grant is time sensitivity to ensure the provider is financially viable to continue the provision of childcare services.

5.2 Confirming the grant before the end of September will assist the provider with financial planning.

**6. Statement from the decision maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**Steve Crocker**  
**Director for Children's Services**

[Insert date]