

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	20 th March 2023
Title:	Childcare Sustainability Grant Awards
Report From:	Suzanne Smith, Assistant Director, Children's Services

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1. The decision:

1.1 That the Director of Children's Services approves the following grants from the Childcare Sustainability Fund:

- a) Busy Bees @ Anstey Park, Alton, East Hants a grant of £4,999
- b) Privett Montessori Nursery, Privett, Alton, East Hants a grant of £4,000

1.2 **Privett Montessori** Nursery is recommended for an award of £4,000 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards running costs. It is a rural setting in East Hampshire, offering places to children from aged one year. The closest other providers are over three miles away. The provision has been affected by the pandemic resulting in low numbers of children attending. The funding is to be used to support promotion to reach new families and to contribute to running costs. The conditions of funding require the setting to continue to access childcare business surgery time.

1.3 **Busy Bees @ Anstey Park** is in Alton, East Hampshire and is recommended for an award of £4,999 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards running costs. The setting is adjacent to an area of high need and offers free funded places. The provision is working hard to increase numbers and develop the services to include younger children. The funding would be used to support running costs as places are promoted and numbers increase. Grant conditions would require the setting to continue to access childcare business surgery time.

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 £209,000 has been made available to childcare providers who require support with short term financial sustainability. On 24 February 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.

[\(Agenda Document for Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People Decision Day, 24/02/2021 13:00 \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

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 sensitive to ensure the provider is financially viable to continue the provision of childcare services.

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

6. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

[Insert date]

Steve Crocker
Director for Children's Services