

## 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>	25 November 2022
<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 awards:

- **Chawton Pre School £3950**
- **Fairlands Nursery £3000**
- **Mulberry Pre School £4,999**
- **The Village Pre School £4,000**

1.2 The Childcare Sustainability Grant will be used to contribute towards registration requirements, marketing and staffing costs. These settings are needed to provide sufficient places and support continued early years education and childcare for families in Hampshire. These providers will be required to continue to review their business planning and undertake regular business reviews by attending regular CDBO business surgeries commencing Jan 23.

**Chawton Pre-School** is the only setting in the rural village of Chawton, it is experiencing low numbers of children, however there is an increase in housing developments locally and this setting will help to support further demand as the housing develops. The grant will provide support to budget and cashflow challenges.

**Fairlands Nursery** supports a semi-rural community. New ownership and the challenges of Covid has resulted in significant cash flow challenges, the grant will help support a period of change from a restricted term time only to a full day care offer.

**Mulberry Pre-School** supports a significant number of service families and the setting has commenced its journey to make changes to the model of delivery and they have increased marketing on social media platforms. The grant will provide support to budget and cashflow

**The Village Pre School** supports a village community and in the past year

had to relocate the setting to a neighbouring village. The grant will support cashflow challenges as the new venue is marketed and becomes more established.

**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:**

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

[Insert date]