

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:	04 November 2024
Title:	Childcare Sustainability Grant Awards
Report From:	Assistant Director Business & Development, Children's Services

Contact name: Peter Cooper

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Director of Children's Services approves the following grant from the Childcare Sustainability Fund:
- 1.2 Gateway Grange Rowner is recommended for an award of £4,999 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards staff salaries.
- 1.3 Gateway Grange Rowner has undertaken measures to improve viability and has attended a business support surgery with a Childcare Development Officer.
- 1.4 The Provider serves communities with a high level of vulnerable or disadvantaged children and is therefore key to providing continuity of childcare for these specific groups.
- 1.5 Gateway Grange Rowner has evidenced that they meet the criteria for Childcare Sustainability Grant funding, that the grant will only be used to support agreed revenue costs and that it will enable them to address their temporary financial viability issue.
- 1.6 The conditions of funding require the setting to continue to access childcare business surgery time, plus
 - Setting up separate bank accounts for each setting.
 - Updating individual cashflow for each setting with actual figures for next 6 months - these must reconcile with bank statements.
 - Considering implementing a consumables charge across all settings.

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](#)

- 2.2 Other options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is not to support the grant funding which could jeopardise childcare sufficiency locally.

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 April will assist the provider with financial planning.

6. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:



Date:

6 November 2024

Stuart Ashley
Director for Children's Services