

# 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 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Childcare Sustainability Grant Awards
<b>Report From:</b>	Assistant Director Business & Development, Children's Services

Contact name: Peter Cooper  
Email: Peter.cooper@hants.gov.uk

### 1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Director of Children's Services approves the following grant from the Childcare Sustainability Fund:
- 1.2 The Watership Down Nursery Ltd T/A Rowlands Castle Preschool, Rowlands Castle St Johns Primary School, Whichers Gate Road, Rowlands Castle, PO9 6BB is recommended for an award of £3,054.51 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards sustainability.
- 1.3 The Watership Down Nursery Ltd T/A Rowlands Castle Preschool has undertaken measures to monitor and manage sustainability issues, has demonstrated that this is a short-term financial issue and has attended a business support surgery with a Childcare Development Officer.
- 1.4 The Watership Down Nursery Ltd T/A Rowlands Castle Preschool has evidenced that they meet the criteria for Childcare Sustainability Grant Funding, and that it will enable them to address this short-term financial issue.
- 2 The conditions of funding require the setting to redirect a proportion of its profits to fund marketing and promotional activities with a view to increasing child numbers, once the setting is financially sustainable.

### 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 The 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: 3 December 2024



-----  
**Stuart Ashley**  
**Director for Children's Services**