

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 December 2024
Title:	Childcare Sustainability Grant Awards
Report From:	Assistant Director Business and 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 Busy Bees Preschool, St Anne's Community Centre, Warrys Close, Hythe, Southampton, SO45 3QR is recommended for an award of £4,999 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards short-term sustainability.
- 1.3 Busy Bees Preschool has undertaken cost-saving measures to improve viability and has attended a business support surgery with a Childcare Development Officer.
- 1.4 Busy Bees Preschool 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.
- 1.5 Busy Bees Preschool provide essential support to local vulnerable families who may not be able to access alternative settings in their area.
- 1.6 The conditions of funding require the setting:

To access regular childcare business surgery support - 2 per term (2 in spring term, 2 in summer term 2025).

To maintain updated cashflow forecast with actual figures, ongoing for review at childcare business support surgeries.

To consider charging for consumables and other services.

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 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:

The 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 A childcare sustainability grant is time sensitive to ensure the provider is financially viable to continue the provision of childcare services. Confirming the grant before the end of April will assist the provider with financial planning.

6. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date: 30 December 2024



Stuart Ashley
Director for Children's Services