

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:	5 th December 2024
Title:	Childcare Sustainability Grant Awards
Report From:	Assistant Director Business & Development, Children's Services

Contact name: Peter Cooper, Childcare Development Service Manager

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1. The decision:

1.1 That the Director of Children's Services approves the award of £14,997 from the Childcare Sustainability Fund to:

- Ampfield Childcare Hub, Deer Park Court, Ampfield, SO21 2LD: £4,999
- Petersfield Childcare Hub, Love Lane, Petersfield, GU31 4BW: £4,999
- Hursley Childcare Hub, 50 Main Road, Hursley, SO21 2JW: £4,999

1.2 Ampfield Childcare Hub is recommended for an award of £4,999 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards staff salaries, marketing and rental costs.

1.3 Petersfield Childcare Hub is recommended for an award of £4,999 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards staff salaries.

1.4 Hursley Childcare Hub is recommended for an award of £4,999 from the Childcare Sustainability Grant to contribute towards staff salaries.

1.5 The conditions of funding require the Provider of these Settings to:

- Access regular childcare business surgery support - 1 per term (Spring and Summer 2025)
- Maintain updated cashflow forecast with actual figures for ongoing review at childcare business support surgeries.

1.6 The Provider has undertaken cost-saving measures to improve viability across each of these three settings. The costs of opening a new setting at Ampfield has impacted their short-term sustainability. The Provider has attended a business support surgery with a Childcare Development Officer.

1.7 Each setting 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.

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 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: 10 December 2024

Stuart Ashley
Director for Children's Services