

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member Children's Services
Date:	20 January 2016
Title:	Two Year old Grant funding 2015/16
Reference:	7196
Report From:	Interim Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Linda Hutchings, Childcare Development Funding Policy Manager,
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1. The decision:

a) That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services:

- approves the establishment of a grant round to improve the capacity and quality of 2 year old Early Education places;
- delegates authority to the Director of Children's Services, to make grants of £5,000 and over in relation to 2 Year old Grant funding 2015/16.

2. Reasons for the decision:

2.1 Hampshire has developed a strong market with over 10,000 places for 2 year olds and these places are also for non-funded 2 year olds and younger children requiring childcare. There is in the region of, 10% of group settings and 6% of childminders who are currently not yet delivering the free 2 year old Early Years Education offer.

2.2 There are currently approximately just under 4,000, 2 year olds likely to be eligible for free early years education funding with the latest information from DfE in November providing a list of 3600 for spring 2016. The numbers of children accessing places continues to improve and in the summer 2015 there were 70% of eligible children confirmed to be accessing provision, however not all children accessed their full 15 hours with the average being in the region of 13.5 hours per week.

2.3 Despite a growth in the number of places and hours available for 2 year old early years education there are still areas across Hampshire where demand is greater than the supply in hours and places. It is proposed that a £55,000 grant fund should be used to continue to grow capacity and support the delivery of high quality education for 2 year olds in areas where greater access to early years education for children is required. This funding is from

2014/15 schools budget underspend allocated for capacity building for 2 year old education provision and approved by schools forum.

3 Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 To only use the funding on small grants under £5,000. This was rejected as consultation with providers indicated that the County Council would get best value from supporting larger projects should applications reflect such a need.

4 Conflicts of interest:

4.1 None.

4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5 Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6 Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7 Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	Date:
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Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Councillor Keith Mans	