

REPORT OF THE
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
PART II

204. GRANTS FROM CHILDREN'S SERVICES INTEGRATED GRANT PROGRAMME 2016/17

1. On the 20 January 2016, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved grant applications, of £5,000 and over, for 2016/17 totalling £463,603 for organisations within Hampshire. Specifically, approval was also given to award a £12,000 grant to Be Your Best Foundation Rock Challenge on behalf of Hampshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Joint Commissioning Group.

2. The Children's Services integrated grant budget is targeted to specific vulnerable groups and strict criteria were used to ensure that each application was eligible to receive a grant. Successful applicants were required to provide services focused on key theme areas, namely counselling, young carers and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender services. Additionally, other grants were allocated to services focused on different themes, including black, minority, ethnic, traveller or young people who are facing barriers to participation or experiencing prejudice and discrimination because of their ethnic background, young offenders, young parents, living in relative poverty, children in care (including post adoption) and young people disadvantaged because of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

3. The grants awarded by the Executive Lead Member will enable the organisations to continue with their service provision and undertake projects which work towards achieving the outcomes of the Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan.

205. TWO YEAR OLD GRANT FUNDING 2015/16

1. On the 20 January 2016, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gave his approval to establish a round of grant funding to improve the capacity and quality of two year old Early Education Places. In relation to this particular round of funding, the Executive Lead Member approved the delegation of authority to make grants of £5,000 and over to the Director of Children's Services.

2. The two year old Early Years Education offer is part of a national offer from the Department for Education (DfE) and has been developed to improve outcomes for identified two year olds who would benefit from access to high quality Early Years and childcare provision. Eligible children can access up to 570 hours (15 hours per week) funded Early Years education in their eligible birthday year (two-three years old).

3. There are approximately 4,000 two year olds likely to be eligible for funding in Hampshire with the latest information from DfE predicting numbers of 3,600 for spring 2016. The number of children accessing places continues to improve and in summer 2015 there were 70% of eligible children confirmed to be accessing provision.

4. The DfE requires local authorities to continue to promote the two year old offer and ensure that the childcare market is well placed to meet the demand. The DfE is seeking that the two year old take up becomes similar to that of three and four year

olds which in Hampshire is close to 98%. Currently the take up of two year old provision in the county is 73%. Following discussions with the Partnership Advisory Group and the Nursery Advisory Group, it was agreed that it would be helpful to develop a grants programme to extend two year old childcare provision.

5. Applications will be sought from childcare providers who are approved by the County Council to provide Early Years education and who are in areas identified as having limited supply and capacity for further growth. Grants will be used to develop places where there exists a need to extend two year old provision. For example, this might include supporting rural providers in developing business models, purchasing of resources and funding minor building works to assist with development of places or support the hours of childcare delivery.

Further details can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Grants from Children's Services Integrated Grant Programme 2016/17 (7045)
- Two Year Old Grant Funding 2015/16 (7196)

COUNCILLOR KEITH MANS
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services