

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Surrey County Council Response to Covid: Payment to Little Angels Early Years provider
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

To pay Little Angels £5,044 to support their financial sustainability due to loss of private income.

Little Angels are an Ofsted outstanding provider of childcare who have applied for additional financial support as a result of lost private income as a result of Covid-19.

They have provided a detailed cashflow including their DSG funding and Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme allocations which will leave them in a deficit position.

Working with Early Years commissioners they have identified that up to September they require £5,044 of additional support. We have agreed to pay £2,556 now, and the balance as part of a review at the end of April. The figure of £2,556 will support a balanced position for the period up to the end of June. If further government guidance or changes have not been actioned by then the balance of £2,488 will be paid subject to a review.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

A total payment of £5,044 be made to Little Angels in two instalments of £2,556 and £2,488. The second payment in July 2020 will be subject to no further government announcements of funding becoming available which will be assessed by commissioning and finance officers.

Reasons for Decision:

To ensure capacity remains in the Early Years sector when the current restrictions in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted.

Decision taken by:	Dave Hill
Decision taken on:	05/05/2020
To be implemented on:	Payment to be made following CLT and Cabinet Member Decision. This has now happened and payment will be processed.

Alternative options considered

The alternative is to not reimburse Little Angels for the additional costs and leave the provider to find alternative means for funding them. This could put the long term sustainability of the provider at risk which would then impact on the available provision for children in Surrey.

Summary of any financial implications

The cost to SCC will be £5,044.
It is anticipated that this will be funded out of the COVID-19 funding SCC is receiving from central government as this is separate to the provision of childcare which would come from Early Years DSG.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

A panel has been created consisting of Commissioning, procurement and finance staff to consider applications from CFLC providers.

This application has been reviewed and following further engagement with the provider was approved. This has since been approved by the Executive Director of CFLC.

Background Documents

Exempt:

Cabinet report 31st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.