

# Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	<b>Surrey County Council Response to Covid: Payment to Stepping Stones for provision over Easter Holidays</b>
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	<b>Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20</b>

## Summary

Stepping Stones are an NMI provider who the Council use for a number of placements. As per government guidance they remained open over the Easter Holidays to provide a secure and safe environment for a number of Surrey children.

Currently there is no additional funding for NMI schools for costs incurred over the Easter holidays as they are not able to access the maintained sector additional Covid-19 funding the government has allocated.

As a result of opening over Easter they incurred a number of additional costs, after review by the panel there was agreement to reimburse them for £4,959 of direct costs relating to provision for SCC children. This included teaching assistants whose contracts would not normally include this period and a deep clean of the premises (due to a relative of a member of staff testing positive for Covid-19).

## Decision made

### Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

The costs of £4,959 would be reimbursed to Stepping Stones to reflect their costs of providing placements to SCC SEND pupils over Easter.

### Reasons for Decision:

No other government funding is available for these type of costs and it is important the provision remains in place post Covid-19. Stepping Stones are also considered

to be a good value provider who have a good reputation in their dealings with the Council.

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 Stepping Stones and require them to fund these costs themselves. This may lead to Stepping Stones having to increase fees or reduce capacity in the future.

### **Summary of any financial implications**

The cost to SCC will be £4,959.  
It is anticipated that this will be funded out of the COVID-19 funding SCC is receiving from central government.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.