

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Surrey County Council Response to Covid: Payment to Challengers
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 Challengers a total of £46,000 to stabilise and support their Early Years and short breaks provision in Surrey, including Tandridge Short Breaks, in the short-term. This payment acknowledges the specific challenges facing the provider at this time and their strategic importance in delivering services that support children with disabilities in Surrey.

Based on delivery hours, Challengers are contracted to provide 33% of SCC's total commissioned short breaks provision (excluding overnight respite) so are a strategically important provider in this sector.

The funding is given with the expectation that Challengers work openly and in good faith with CFLC Commissioners to develop and implement any necessary changes to their current models of delivery, whilst ensuring the needs of the children, young people and families currently accessing schemes are effectively met through future arrangements.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

A total payment of £46,000 be made to Challengers.

Reasons for Decision:

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

Decision taken by:	Dave Hill
Decision taken on:	18 th May 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 Challengers 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. Challengers had flagged financial concerns pre-covid19 so their capacity to absorb the impact of the pandemic would be questioned.

Summary of any financial implications

The cost to SCC will be £46,000.
It is anticipated that this will be funded out of the COVID-19 funding SCC is receiving from central government as the £10,000 EY element, is considered 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 31 st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.	
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