

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills
Cllr Laura Mayes

Families and Children's Commissioning

OFFICER CONTACT: Lucy-Anne Bryant, 01225 718068, lucy-anne.bryant@wiltshire.gov.uk

REFERENCE: CES-05-24

FUNDING FOR CHILDCARE EXPANSION

Purpose of Report

In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced the expansion of Early Years Entitlements. This means that by September 2025 working parents of all children over the age of nine months are entitled to 30 hours of government funded childcare. The DfE has allocated £885,466.40 to Wiltshire Council to support the expansion of places.

This funding will be allocated to providers who are also contributing a minimum of 50% towards the project and the spend will be monitored. Providers will be asked to consider best value for money when appointing contractors to undertake work to create additional childcare places.

The report seeks approval to award the following amounts:

ABC Day Nursery	£84,218
Bebe Tots Nursery & Preschool	£136,000

Consultation

The early years sector has been informed that the funding is available and how it can be used. Information has been shared through a sufficiency report with Children's Select Committee.

Funding will be allocated from Expressions of Interest which will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demand in the community area.
- Number of new places for two-year-olds and under
- Percentage of contributions from the provider.
- Speed of delivery of places (planning permission, etc).

Options Considered

The funding has been allocated to Wiltshire Council for the purpose of childcare expansion and will only be used for this purpose. No other options have been considered.

Reason for Decision

An elected member decision is required as in some cases the funding allocated to providers may exceed £50,000. All funding used is from DfE Grant No 31/6960.

<p><u>INTENTION TO MAKE DECISION</u></p> <p>Following consultation with officers I give notice that I intend to make the decision set out in this report.</p> <p>If you would like to make any representations to me on this issue please do so by 26 July 2024.</p>

The following report and appendices are attached:

Childcare Sufficiency Report 6 June 2024

The following supporting documents are available from the officer named above:

- Spring Budget 2023
- Early Years Sufficiency Children’s Select report 31 October 2023
- Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Determination (2023): No 31/6960

.....
Cllr Laura Mayes
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills

Date:... 19 July 2024.....