

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DECISION RECORD

Re: Financial support for Early Years' providers for Covid-19

This record is produced in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

**This form should be used to record:**

- **EXECUTIVE decisions (key or otherwise) taken by an individual Executive MEMBER; and**
- **EXECUTIVE decisions (key or otherwise) taken by an OFFICER (either alone or in consultation with an Executive Member)**
- **A non-Executive decision taken by an OFFICER which falls into one of the following descriptions:-**
  - (i) under a specific express authorisation; or**
  - (ii) under a general authorisation to officers to take such decisions and, the effect of the decision is to**
    - **grant a permission or licence;**
    - **affect the rights of an individual; or**
    - **award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects that relevant local government body's financial position.**

*(One form per decision)*

**The following decision has been taken: -**

After consideration of a report of the Corporate Director for Strategic Resources outlining the Government support available for Early Years' providers as a result of COVID-19 and further proposals from the local authority to provide additional financial support to Early Years' Providers within North Yorkshire as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and after consultation with Executive Members, the Chief Executive Officer agreed that

- (i) NYCC proceed with Options 1, 3 & 5 (see below).
- (ii) NYCC not proceed with Options 2 and 4 although Option 4 might be revisited in due course.
- (ii) The Assistant Director Strategic Resources be authorised to take all steps necessary to implement the recommendations set out above.

**Option 1** – Provide 80% upfront payment of summer 2020 funded places for private, voluntary & independent (PVI) Providers. This payment would be made to ensure timely cashflow. The remaining balance (20%) would be paid August 2020.

**Option 3** – develop proposals to provide up to £1.4m of financial support to providers remaining open during the summer term and financial support to “key providers” enabling NYCC to fulfil its statutory responsibility to ensure sufficiency of provision across the county.

**Option 5** – Provide additional funded places for “open” provision during Easter – decision taken by Corporate Director – Children & Young People's Services.

**By whom:** Richard Flinton, Chief Executive Officer, under his emergency delegated powers and in consultation with Executive Members.

**On:** 7 April 2020

Was this an executive decision?

YES/NO

If an executive decision, was it also a key decision?

YES/NO

**Please note that call-in has been exempted from this decision by the Chairman of the County Council under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16(h).**

**Reasons for decision: -**

Early Years providers generally have very thin operating margins and those who have remained open during Covid-19 face a unique potential financial disincentive. The report contains an overview of the rationale behind the proposed three options to be taken forward to support those providing childcare for key workers during COVID-19.

Early Years providers are a strategic asset to the local economy through the provision of childcare.

In regard to the first stage of collecting data, the Application based financial support process needs to be made as simple as possible in order to progress the distribution of payments quickly.

**Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: -**

It was decided that NYCC should not proceed with Options 2 and 4 although Option 4 might be revisited in due course.

**Option 2** - Consider rent holiday for private, voluntary & independent providers who rent NYCC premises

*Rationale – NYCC decision. Financial support to EY local EY sector.*

**Option 4** - Autumn 2020

Consider offer of 80% up-front payment of Autumn 2020 EY funding payment for PVI

*Rationale - to support cash-flow for “restarting” business*

**Conflicts of Interest**

Please record below details of any conflict of interest declared by a Member or Officer regarding the decision and any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer in respect of that conflict.

Conflict	Dispensation?

## Background Papers

Please attach to this decision notice, for publication, the background papers that disclose any facts or matters on which this decision, or an important part of the decision, was based and which were relied on to a material extent in making the decision, but this does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10).

Signed  
RICHARD FLINTON, Chief Executive Officer

Publication Date: 9 April 2020

Directorate – Central Services

***Note 1 regarding Executive decisions only: This decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 clear working days after publication, unless any 6 members of the Council object to it and call it in by notice in writing (including e-mail) to The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services).***

***Note 2: non-executive and non-key executive decisions by Officers are not subject to call in.***

**Contact for further information: [howard.emmett@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:howard.emmett@northyorks.gov.uk)**

**Contact for copy of report considered: [howard.emmett@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:howard.emmett@northyorks.gov.uk)**

To: The PA to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) - for onward circulation to:

All Members of the Council; All Management Board; All Management Board Secretaries; All Senior Managers; All Democratic Services Officers; All Corporate Development Officers; Senior Press Officer; Communications Officer