

OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.

Decision Reference No: LOCYP/SR/2020 - 16/11/20 2021028

BOX 1**DIRECTORATE: LOCYP****DATE: 16/11/20****Contact Name: Kate Featherstone-Bennett****Tel. No.: 01302 737685****Subject Matter: Supplier Relief for SB/AP/1-1/Independent School Providers****BOX 2****DECISION TAKEN**

To extend the programme of financial support for children's short break, AP,1-1 tutor and Independent School providers, who are commissioned by the Council to provide care or education support services across the borough, in response to the COVID 19 crisis.

This extension will provide a financial commitment to the commissioned providers where packages of care/support are;

1. Able to take place but with the need for additional financial contribution towards chargeable PPE or Agency staff costs;
2. Unable to take place due to the isolation of eligible children and/or their families/carers for COVID 19 reasons (self-isolation, shielding or testing positive). This would only be considered if the provision CANNOT be delivered virtually

The timeline for this commitment is from 1st July 2020 to 31st March 2021.

All payments will be agreed on a case-by-case basis with requests and decisions documented. Providers will be expected to evidence why the additional financial support is required, either through a detailed breakdown of expenditure or a detailed explanation as to why they cannot apply for any of the dedicated Government relief schemes.

BOX 3**REASON FOR THE DECISION**

Children's care and educational support services provided by the council via commissioned providers are essential to the children, young people and families of Doncaster. These providers play a key role in enabling members of our communities to live lives that are fulfilling, happy and

full of opportunity. The recommended option will support the stability and sustainability of providers, increasing their resilience to the financial pressures they face in the delivery of their services during COVID-19, providing care, support and jobs to the people of Doncaster.

The children's care and educational support provider market has been impacted substantially by the COVID 19 crisis, and this impact on care providers is likely to continue beyond 2020. Due to the continuation of the issues faced by these providers dealing with COVID, we need to implement urgent measures to help sustain our local care and educational support market.

Through the implementation of this approach, we can ensure the preservation of the children's care and educational support provider market.

The option presented is equitable to providers and fully auditable, providing assurance that the payments made are fair and transparent.

BOX 4

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do Nothing

This option would put providers at risk of failure and the council may be unable to fulfil their statutory obligations under the Children's Act 1989 and The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, to meet the needs of people who have been assessed as requiring these services.

Agree a Retainer for Services


This option would operate smoothly for the package fees, i.e. agreeing to pay half the package fees for all those that do not take place. However, this option would not be viable for the PPE/Agency costs as this is additional element due to COVID-19 and is outside the package fees. This option would not support the providers as much throughout the crisis, and may still put our local care and educational support market at risk of failure.

BOX 5

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has statutory duties to ensure that appropriate care and educational provision is provided for affected children within the Borough. Although there is not a contractual obligation to do so it is a reasonable step to take to offer support to providers who have been adversely affected by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure that such services remain available when required.

The report author should consult with Legal Services in relation to any potential State Aid implications on a case-by-case basis and formal contractual amendments will be required with organisations receiving funding.

Name: Scott Fawcus Signature:  Date: 09/12/20

Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)

BOX 6**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

We cannot put a value to this ODR as these are situations that may or may not occur due to Covid 19.

The financial support for children's short breaks would be funded from general fund. There is no additional cost as we would only be paying for care already agreed, but is unable to take place for COVID 19 reasons (self-isolation, shielding or testing positive).

The financial support for AP, 1-1 tutor and Independent School providers would be funded from the high needs block of DSG. We would be agreeing to pay for care/education already agreed, but is unable to take place for COVID 19 reasons, however there also may be additional financial contribution towards chargeable PPE or Agency staff costs. For April, May and June we had claims from independent schools totalling £6,165.26. Any additional financial support agreed would increase the in year DSG overspend (£3,092m projected in Q2) and this would add to the overspend of £5.8m brought forward from 2019-20.

Name: Laura Sudbury **Signature:**  **Date:** 15/12/2020

Signature of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

BOX 7**OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS**

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Assistant Director (or representative)

ANY IMPLICATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD GENERALLY BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 5 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THESE CAN BE GIVEN THE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION.

BOX 8

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS: (To be completed by the author).

There are no Equality Implications with this decision, as all providers will be treated equitably and equally.

BOX 9

RISK IMPLICATIONS: (To be completed by the author)

There is a risk to ongoing sustainability within the children's care provider market if this matter is not addressed, therefore service continuity related risks for people supported by these services.

Risk of failure for the council in fulfilling their statutory obligations under the Childrens Act 1989 and The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, to meet the needs of people who have been assessed as requiring these children's services.

Negative impact on the councils Key Outcomes:

- Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish;
- Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust;
- Children have the best start in life; and
- Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school.

**BOX 10
CONSULTATION**

None

**BOX 11
INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

To be published in full redacting signatures only.

Name: Kate Featherstone-Bennett Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 17.12.2020

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

**BOX 12
BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR YES/NO

(If YES please list and submit these with this form)

**BOX 13
AUTHORISATION**

Name: Riana Nelson **Signature :** [REDACTED] **Date:** 17 December 2020
Director of Learning Opportunity, Skills and Culture (DCS)

Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer

NO

If yes please authorise below:

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Director/Assistant Director of _____

Consultation with Relevant Member(s)

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Designation _____

Declaration of Interest YES/NO

If YES please give details below:

PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk who will arrange publication.

It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.