

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing

Title	Allocation of 2 year Nursery Education Fund spend
Decision maker	Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	6 March 2018
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	To agree that a two year underspend in the dedicated school grant (early years pot) of £890k funding will be used to fund Solihull training, speech and language and training for early years professionals and parents.
Decision	That: (a) the £890,000 underspend in dedicated schools grant funding for nursery education for two year olds be applied, as recommended by Schools Forum, to support the following:

	<p>i. an early years speech and language service for children aged 2 to 5 be commissioned for a period of up to three years at a total cost of £590,000 with effect from April 1st 2018</p> <p>ii. a one-off fund of £200,000 be established to support early years training and conferences for parents and practitioners;</p> <p>iii. the Solihull approach be delivered across multi-disciplinary teams and online Solihull training for parents be offered at a cost of £70k birth resolution trauma training for professionals be delivered at a cost of £30k; and</p> <p>(b) the director for children’s wellbeing be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the above recommendations, including procurement and award of contract, within the approved budget allocations.</p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50022891</p>
Options considered	<p>1. The underspend could be used to fund pressures in the high needs block; however, this was debated at schools forum and it was agreed that the funding should be used for early years.</p> <p>2. Share the underspend amongst all registered early years providers (over 90 in total across Herefordshire and over 100 childminders). This is not deemed to be good value for money, as there would be little impact due to the small amount of funds each provider would receive if it was shared.</p>
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	12 March 2018

Councillor: Date 6 March 2018

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(Councillor JG Lester)

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

and

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.