

---

**Subject:**

Review Sustainability Grants

---

---

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Donna Martin, Children, Schools & Families

---

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS / DECISION REQUESTED**

1.1 To reduce the Sustainability grant available for Private, Voluntary and Independent childcare providers in the borough by 50% from £12,000 per year to £6,000 per year.

**2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Under utilisation of this budget. The remaining amount will enable the Council to respond to business sustainability demands if required.

**3. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 None

**4. BACKGROUND & SUMMARY**

4.1 The Sustainability grant is allocated by Sure Start in order to support childcare providers who are experiencing a temporary challenge to their business sustainability. The purpose of the grant is to enable providers to stay in business where the supply of places is needed to meet the Council's Duty under the Childcare Sufficiency Act. Due to the quality of the provision and the advice available locally, despite the current economic climate there has been limited demand on this budget over the past 2 financial years.

**5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN / REQUIRED**

5.1 The Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families has been consulted.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 **Theme:** Building Success

6.2 **Proposal Title:** Reduce the Sustainability Grant

**6.3 Breakdown of Savings from the Service**

Service Name: Support for Learning

Area of Service: Sure Start

Cost Centre affected:

Is this a cost or additional saving: Saving

	Savings 2013/14 £000		Savings 2014/15 £000		Total Savings £000	
	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off
Employees Other Costs Income lost (Show as minus)	6				6	
Net Savings Additional Income Generated (show as a positive figure)	6				6	
<b>Total Savings</b> Implementation Costs	<b>6</b>				<b>6</b>	
<b>Total Savings less</b> <b>Implementation Costs</b>	<b>6</b>				<b>6</b>	

6.4 **Financial Impact on another service?** There is no financial impact on another service as a result of this proposal.

6.5 **Voluntary Sector Financial Impact:** We anticipate that current resources would be sufficient to support a provider with a short term sustainability issue in an area of undersupply.

## 7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Council will still meet its duty under the Childcare Sufficiency duty (Childcare Act 2006)

## 8 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The proposals within this report do not have staffing implications for the council.

## 9 RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The main risk for Members to consider is if the number of childcare businesses facing short term sustainability issues increases due to the economic climate and Sure start as unable to provide financial support in areas where supply needs to be maintained to comply with the Childcare Sufficiency Duty.

## 10 ASSET IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no asset implications for members to consider arising from this report.

## 11 JOINT WORKING

11.1 Sure Start has very strong working relationships with Private, Voluntary and independent childcare providers and will continue to work closely with them.

## 12 EQUALITIES IMPACT

12.1 **Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment:** This proposal has no staffing implications and therefore there are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

12.2 **Equality/Community Impact Assessments:** An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for this proposal.

## 13 VOLUNTARY SECTOR IMPACT

13.1 This proposal may have an impact on the Private Voluntary and Independent Childcare sector. However, based on the previous two years we anticipate that current resources would be sufficient to support a provider with a short term sustainability issue in an area of undersupply.

<b>Background Papers:</b> There are no background papers relating to this report.
---