

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

Early Years Entitlements – Issuing of Grant Agreements for 2025/26

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Julie Firth, Director Children's Services

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary

The Authority receives an annual 'early year's' block of funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to fund the early years entitlements. The Authority is statutorily obliged to secure early entitlement places for eligible families.

The Authority issues Grant Agreements to Ofsted registered early years providers in North Tyneside who want to deliver the funded early years entitlements in the forthcoming financial year. The Grant Agreement sets out the responsibilities of providers delivering funded entitlements and the hourly funding rates they will receive for delivering the entitlements. The Grant Agreement enables the Authority to fund the early years entitlements in accordance with statutory guidance issued by the DfE.

5. Alternative Options considered

Not to approve the issuing of the 2025/26 grant agreement and request additional information.

6. Decision(s)

The Director of Children's Services:

- (1) agreed to issue and enter into early years Grant Agreements with the Ofsted registered early years childcare providers in the borough listed in the Appendix to this report, to deliver the early years entitlements in accordance with Authority's statutory duty: and
- (2) in respect of any further Grant Agreements not included in the Appendix to this report, will agree that following appropriate check, to enter into early years Grant Agreements with this Ofsted registered providers and will update the Appendix to this report accordingly.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Authority can administer the early years entitlements for the 2025/26 financial year, in accordance with statutory guidance and to meet the Government deadline for sharing information with providers. This will ensure families are able to access funded places from summer term onwards and ensure the Authority fulfils its statutory duties regarding childcare sufficiency.

8. Date Decision Made

21 January 2025

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes, the call-in period will expire at 5.00pm on 28 January 2025

10. Date of Publication

21 January 2025

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

After 5.00pm on 28 January 2025