

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

This form **MUST** be used to record any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Executive Member (Portfolio Holder).

The form must be completed and passed to the Chief Officer for Legal, Performance and Democratic Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Chief Officer for Legal, Performance and Democratic Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

1. Description of decision

To accept the Department for Education grant for unregulated accommodation for the period of 2023 to 2024/25 for £97,611.

2. Date of decision

11/08/2023

3. Reasons for decision

To allow use of the grant towards lawfully incurred costs towards unregulated placement costs.

4. Alternatives considered and rejected

Not to accept the grant. This is an area of overspend and so this is not considered an option.

5. How decision is to be funded

Grant

6. Conflicts of interest

Name of all Executive members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest.	Nature of interest	Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and date of dispensation)	Did the Chief Executive give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and the date of the dispensation).

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

Yes

Signed Tom Wootton

Date 11 Aug 2023

Name of Decision Taker Tom Wootton.....

This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Chief Officer for Legal, Performance and Democratic Services as soon as it is completed.

Date decision published:11 August 2023.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: ..23 August 2023.....

(Decision to be made exempt from call in.....NO.....)

Agenda Item *

For publication

Bedford Borough Council – Executive

11 August 2023

Report by Manager for Corporate Parenting

Subject - APPROVAL TO RECEIVE GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION FOR UNREGULATED ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PERIOD OF 2023 to 2024/2025

1. Executive Summary

This report is requesting Mayoral Approval to accept receipt of a grant to Bedford Borough Childrens Service from the Department of Education.

2. Recommendations

That the Mayor considers, and if satisfied, agrees to:

To approve the receipt of the Grant to support for the cost of expenditure accumulated following the government decision to introduce the new requirements for providers of supported accommodation for children looked after aged 16 and 17 years. This will include the requirement to register and be inspected by Ofsted against new national quality standards.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

The purpose of this grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in respect of these changes. Local authorities can use this grant funding to offset the increased costs associated with the impact of these changes

4. **Key Implications**

(a) **Policy**

The Council's policy on receiving funds requires an Executive decision. The delivery of work regarding this grant is in line with the Bedford Borough Childrens Services Plan to support our children to be placed in good quality placements that meet the regulations set out by Ofsted and contributes to the delivery of work under the Key Priority Areas as laid out in our service plan.

(b) **Legal Issues**

The conditions of grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in respect of these changes. Local authorities can use this grant funding to offset the increased costs associated with the impact of these changes.

(c) **Resource Implications**

It is requested that the funds from this grant be approved. It is a requirement of the Department For Education that the monies be spent on supporting the local authority in managing spend that is likely to be incurred following the changes in legislation and requirement by Ofsted.

(d) **Risk Implications**

- If the Council does not accept the funding from the DfE there will be a shortfall in spend in this area of practice.
- Reputational risk in relation to the integrity of Children Service and potentially Bedford Borough Council if monies are not spent appropriately.
- A risk that future funding bids to the Department for Education.

(e) **Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental impacts identified.

(f) **Equalities Impact**

In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Borough Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. An equality impact assessment is not needed.

5. **Details**

Bedford has been awarded £195,222 payable in 4 instalments over the next 2 financial year 23/24 and 24/25. The £48,805.50 represents the first of four payments. The grant total value received from the Department For Education unregulated accommodation for 23/24 for £97,611 to date. Funding should be spent within each financial year.

6. **Summary of Consultations and Outcome**

The following Council units or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Martin Purbrick – Director of Children's Services
Harmesh Bhogal – Chief Officer

7. **Ward Councillor Views**

Not applicable for this report

Report Contact Officer:
Ranjit Chambers

Manager for Corporate
Parenting,
Ranjit.Chambers@bedford.gov.
uk

Previous Relevant Minutes:
None

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None