

Record of Officer Decision

Allocation of Higher Needs Capital Allocation - Relocation of Family Time to Fairwinds

Decision Taker and Date Decision Taken:

Director of Children's Services, in consultation with Strategic Head of Education and SEND and Head of Education, on 28 April 2026

Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision:

Approval to allocate £200,000 from the Children's Services Higher Needs Capital Allocation (HNPCA) to facilitate the relocation of the Family Time Service to Fairwinds, Ocombe, Paignton.

Decision Taken:

That the allocation of up to £200,000 from the Local Authority's Higher Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) be approved for works to address accommodation and site requirements to support the relocation of the Family Time Service to Fairwinds as a permanent base.

Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken:

The Family Time Service provides a range of services in response to the assessed needs of Children and Families including family assessments and supervised contacts as part of the Council's statutory Corporate Parenting role.

It was displaced from its original home at The Ark in Brixham in July 2025 to enable the expansion of Mayfield School's Chestnut Provision. Whilst it is currently being delivered from temporary settings this is not financially viable in the long term and impacts on service delivery and staffing through the spreading of resources across sites.

There is currently an available budget of £2.1m in the HNPCA, and it is already included within the Children's Capital Programme with Director of Children's Services having delegated powers to approve expenditure in line with the Department for Education (DfE) criteria and with local special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) strategies.

Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected and Background Papers:

Fairwinds is a Council Asset that will become vacant in August 2026. After a site appraisal of available Council sites including ZigZags, the Monastery, Great Parks and the Polsham centre; it has concluded that the most viable and suitable location is Fairwinds and the proposal is to relocate the service to this asset and for it to become their permanent base.

Details of any conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer taking the decision or by any Member of the Council in delegating responsibility for any specific express delegation:

None

Implementation:

This decision will come into force immediately.

A copy of this decision and any supporting documentation considered by the Officer taking this decision may also be available for inspection by the public at the Council's offices or posted upon payment of any copying and postage charges. Any member of the public wishing to take up either of these options is asked to please ring (01803) 207087 or email governance.support@torbay.gov.uk

Signed: _____ Date: 28 April 2026
Director of Children's Services