

York Schools Forum**8th May 2025**

Report of Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Safety Valve Year 4, Quarter 1 monitoring report**Summary**

1.This paper provides the members of the School Forum with an update on the progress being made to deliver the Safety Valve High Needs recovery plan. The Year 4, Quarter 1 monitoring report was submitted to the Department for Education on 1st April 2025.

Progress on the Safety Valve Recovery Plan

3. York's Safety Valve agreement is now entering its final year; financial year 2025-26. The emphasis of the work during this year will now be about post Safety Valve planning to ensure that progress made on the deficit reduction can be maintained. The emphasis of post Safety Valve planning is to support inclusive mainstream provision and to develop sufficient in-city specialist provision to improve outcomes for those children and young people who require more specialist support. This can only be achieved through whole system working and opportunities to work in a more integrated way across education, health and care.

.4. The table below summarises the position at the start of the final year of the Safety Valve agreement:

Safety Valve Priority	Year 4, Quarter 1 update
Manage demand appropriately by supporting more children and young people in mainstream settings and appropriate and timely ceasing of Education, Health and Care plans.	Numbers of EHCPs continue to rise but are mirroring the national rate of increase. The percentage of children with an EHCP in mainstream remains above national. This is being supported by the review of SEND banding to further develop inclusive mainstream provision. There has been a reduction of the number of plans maintained post 16. The percentage of post 16 plans is now in line with national, having previously been well above

Reduce the costs of SEND transport and support independence by improving strategic and individual commissioning and contract management. This will include reductions in the costs of out of city placements, a review of banding and SEND transport.	This workstream is complete as the transport savings from the High Needs DSG have been achieved.
Support the inclusion of children and young people with SEND in mainstream settings to improve outcomes and reduce requests for specialist provision, including the development of pre-and post-diagnosis support pathways.	<p>The SEND Hub implementation plan has been drafted and the SEND Hub Manager takes up post from 31st March. New resources to support children with sensory processing difficulties and their families have been developed by our health partners. Let's Make Sense Together is a virtual service that has been developed by Occupational Therapists. It is part of our sensory processing pathway, supporting children and young people who have a physical and functional difficulty due to sensory processing differences. The resources provide support to teachers, parents and carers and other professionals and provide practical support both pre and post diagnosis.</p> <p>An inclusive education toolkit is being developed with a working party drawn from the York Schools and Academies Board. This will be finalised in May 2025 and launched with all schools and parents/carers from September 2025.</p>
Create more enhanced resource provision in mainstream schools to support the transition of children with a primary need of autism and associated social, emotional and mental health needs to reduce out of city placements.	<p>The additional enhanced resource provision created at Huntington secondary school is continuing to grow its numbers and is taking pressure away from the secondary special school. A review of the effectiveness of current and future ERP provision is taking place and will be completed by September 2025. This will inform the allocation of the additional SEND capital grant during 2025/26 to promote inclusive mainstream provision through supporting additional ERP/SEND unit provisions in mainstream</p>

<p>Increase the number of young people with SEND in employment in the 19-25 age range by preparing post 16 and post 19 for adulthood, with a focus on routes to employment post 19.</p>	<p>Continued extension of the supported internship programme with new partners being brought on board in 25/26. This work is providing a model to extend through the Combined Authority Skills Trailblazer.</p> <p>% of 16-17 years olds with an EHCP in employment and training remains above national.</p> <p>% of 19 year olds with an EHCP qualified to L2 including English and Maths showed an improving trend in 23/24 and is above national.</p>
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Next Steps

8. The impact of disapplication from the Schools Block to support Inclusive Mainstream Provision is being modelled and discussed with Schools Forum.

Recommendations

10. Note the progress on the Safety Valve recovery plan between the Department for Education and the council which forms the basis of the grant agreement that the council has signed up to. The Schools Forum is also asked to consider and support the co-production of the options to inform post Safety Valve planning

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