

**York Schools Forum**

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Report of Assistant Director, Education and Skills

**Safety Valve 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 recovery plan. As previously reported, the council has entered into a formal agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) to eradicate the deficit on the High Needs Block of the dedicated schools grant by 2024/25. As part of this agreement the council is required to provide the DfE with quarterly progress reports and the first of these was submitted on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**Progress on the Safety Valve Recovery Plan**

2. At quarter 1 the council is on track to meet the deficit reduction targets set out in the Safety Valve agreement and is currently £132K better than predicted at this point (£3.502m actual v £3.634m projected)
3. Work in Quarter 1 of the agreement has focused on ensuring that the process is in place to manage the delivery of the agreement, including reviewing and refining the priorities and ensuring that the key performance indicators (KPIs) are sound.
4. The table below summarises the operational activity that has taken place against each of the priorities in the Safety Valve agreement:

<b>Safety Valve Priority</b>	<b>Activity in Quarter 1 (March to June 2022)</b>
Manage demand appropriately by supporting more children and young people in mainstream settings and appropriate and timely ceasing of Education, Health and Care plans.	54 cases have been appropriately ceased to date (2022).  Annual Review process improvements have been made.
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	Procurement of new taxi contracts is being completed.  The Home to School Transport policy is being applied more consistently.

<p>city placements, a review of banding and SEND transport.</p>	<p>Processes to assess eligibility for transport have been improved to ensure greater clarity.</p> <p>Two school transport officers are being recruited into the transport team in order to reduce the amount of administration costs currently being charged by the provider and get a better oversight of the day to day operation of the contracts to allow improved contract management.</p>
<p>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>	<p>Plans to ensure sufficiency in mainstream and specialist settings are underway, including additional ERP places.</p> <p>Work with the teaching school hub is taking place to commission a programme of city-wide CPD to develop mainstream practice.</p> <p>Work on the Autism pathway is underway with the parent carer forum.</p>
<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>	<p>Plans to create more ERP places have been developed.</p> <p>Allocation additional banding to schools to enhance support 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>Work has started with Post 19 providers to review the local offer and a commissioning framework is being developed which will focus on skills for employment.</p>
<p>Build on successful pathways out of education and into employment and training that have been implemented.</p>	<p>Continuing to build the network of inclusive employers in York.</p>
<p>Access relevant capital bid opportunities to enhance support in schools.</p>	<p>A bid for additional SEN capital was submitted and has been approved.</p>
<p>Implement additional training and support for mainstream settings and schools.</p>	<p>A city-wide CPD offer is being developed for delivery from September 2022. This will include programmes delivered by the Teaching School Hub, the council and other partners e.g. health.</p>

- Progress has been made on all eight priority areas during Quarter 1, the work during Quarter 2 will build and an look to accelerate areas of progress including finalising the capital plan and developing precise KPIs and metrics to inform the close monitoring of the financial impact of the actions taken to deliver specific priorities in the agreement. The development of the priorities will be further informed by the SEND Green Paper implementation plan in the autumn term.

**Next Steps**

- Workstreams have been established to deliver each of the strands of work in the Safety Valve plan. The Sufficiency workstream will need representation from settings, schools and colleges.

**Recommendations**

- Note the progress on the DSG recovery agreement between the Department for Education and the council which forms the basis of the grant agreement that the council has signed up to.
- Note the financial support provided by the DfE in assisting the Council to recover the DSG deficit and the expectation that this will lead to a balanced position by the end of 2024/25.
- Support the actions identified to deliver the Safety Valve recovery plan, particularly in relation to sufficiency of provision in mainstream and specialist settings.

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