

York Schools Forum

8th February 2023

Report of Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Safety Valve Quarter 3 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 Quarter 3 monitoring report was submitted on 20th January 2023.

Progress on the Safety Valve Recovery Plan

2. At quarter 3 the council remains **on track** to meet the deficit reduction targets set out in the Safety Valve agreement.
3. In quarter 3 work to support the implementation of the SEND casework management system has taken place. This will result in the council’s SEND Services having a robust and secure casework management system in place which will improve the quality of monitoring data available.
4. Good progress continues to be made in the effective management of education, health and care plans which is ensuring that plans are ended appropriately and the resourcing of new plans is being appropriately scrutinised to ensure that the specificity of resource requirements in plans is improved. In quarter 3, 80 plans have been appropriately ceased.
5. Sufficiency of in-city provision, particularly for neuro-diverse children and young people and those with social, emotional and mental health needs remains a key priority. This will be an important strand of activity within the local area SEND operational plan and will include a task and finish piece of work with schools to agree and publish a document describing what should be ordinarily available in mainstream schools in York.
6. The table below summarises the operational activity that has taken place in Quarter 3 against each of the priorities in the Safety Valve agreement:

Safety Valve Priority	Activity in Quarter 3 (September 2022-January 2023)
Manage demand appropriately by supporting more children and young people in mainstream settings and	80 plans have been ceased in quarter 3.

appropriate and timely ceasing of Education, Health and Care plans.	
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.	Progress has been made to reduce the use of taxis. Taxi use to one provider has seen costs reduce by 80%.
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.	The SEND Champion course has been successfully introduced by the Pathfinder teaching school hub.
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.	Capital works to develop new primary and secondary enhanced resource provision is underway. The primary capital works will be completed for September 2023.
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.	The Skills team have started work on a supported internship hub to increase pathways to employment in York. This work has been funded by NDTI (National Development Team for Inclusion)
Access relevant capital bid opportunities to enhance support in schools	The SEND capital plan has been approved by the council's Executive and the projects are in the procurement and implementation phase.

Next Steps

- Progress has been made on all priority areas during Quarter 3. Following the SEND Inspection revisit work is taking place to develop the local area operational plan which will drive the implementation of the SEND Strategy, 2021-22

Recommendations

6. 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.
7. Support the actions identified to deliver the Safety Valve recovery plan and receive a report on SEN banding in May 2023. Members of Schools Forum are also asked to support the development and implementation of the local area SEND operational plan.

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