

York Schools Forum

23rd January 2025

Report of Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Safety Valve Year 3, 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 Year 3, Quarter 3 monitoring report was submitted to the Department for Education on 25th November 2024.

Progress on the Safety Valve Recovery Plan

3. As reported previously despite the progress York has made delivery of the deficit reduction targets within the Safety Valve agreement will not deliver long -term sustainable change without significant changes to the national legislative framework. We remain committed to SEND transformation in York and continue to work with our partners across education, health and care to drive innovation e.g. the development of our SEND Hub, the work of our Learning Support Hub and supporting inclusive practice in mainstream. We would welcome opportunities to work in partnership with the Department for Education to support SEND transformation.

4. As an f40 local authority the low level of school funding has an impact on being able to create sustainable system change whilst managing historic deficits due to lack of financial headroom to implement innovative solutions.

.4. The table below summarises the operational activity that has taken place in Quarter 3 of Year 3 against each of the priorities in the Safety Valve agreement:

Safety Valve Priority	Activity in Year 3 Quarter 2 (September 2024-November 2024)
Manage demand appropriately by supporting more children and young people in mainstream settings and appropriate and timely ceasing of Education, Health and Care plans.	<p>The number of post 16 EHC plans has reduced in quarter 3, with 26 plans being appropriately ceased. Work to develop the Preparation for Adulthood offer during 2025-26 will focus on developing clearer pathways between children’s and adult services.</p> <p>The number of tribunals remains low, 3 were lodged at the end of quarter 2. The number of mediations has continued to</p>

	fall. There were 49 in 2022-23 and 17 in 2023-24
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.	The Council's Executive approved the plan to develop a SEND Hub, as part of the RAISE Family Hubs, in September 2024. This will be an advice and support centre for parents and carers and will be a physical front door in to the SEND local offer. The hub will operate a hub and spoke model with outreach in to other Family Hubs and community based provision. The recruitment of the SEND Hub manager is taking place in the new year. This is a partnership post jointly funded by the local authority and health. The SEND Hub is a partnership building and will be at the centre of SEND transformation in York through bringing together statutory services and the community and voluntary sector to co-produce a range of services for children, young people and families.
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.	Schools Forum and the York Schools and Academies Board are working together to re-commission the SEMH outreach service from the Danesgate Community. This will support tier 1 intervention in early years and primary to improve early intervention in mainstream.
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.	Recruitment and selection to the Aviva supported internship programme was successfully completed in this quarter. During 2023/24 21 young people have followed the supported internship route.

	<p>The SEND Employer Forum continues to meet and is developing a network of inclusive employers.</p> <p>Aviva are continuing to offer supported internships and York College are developing a supported internship preparation pathway which will provide an entry route in to supported internships.</p> <p>The number of young people on supported internship programmes is continuing to grow.</p>
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5. The deficit reduction assumptions have been re-evaluated in Qtr 3 in order to ensure that the Safety Valve conditions can be met by the end of the plan. The Department for Education have accepted the Qtr 3 monitoring report.

Next Steps

8. The impact of disapplication from the Schools Block to support Inclusive Mainstream Provision is being modelled and will be shared with Schools Forum in May.

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.

Contact Details	Chief Officers Responsible for the Report:			
Authors:				
Maxine Squire Assistant Director, Education and Skills Tel: 01904 553007 email: maxine.squire@york.gov.uk	Martin Kelly Corporate Director of Children’s Services and Education			
	Report Approved		Date	
For further information please contact the author of the report				