

York Schools Forum

9th November 2022

Report of Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Safety Valve Quarter 2 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. 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. The Quarter 2 monitoring report was submitted on 17th September 2022 and has been approved by the DfE.

Progress on the Safety Valve Recovery Plan

2. At quarter 2 the council remains on track to meet the deficit reduction targets set out in the Safety Valve agreement. The delivery of the Safety Valve agreement will see the introduction of a number of process improvement and change management initiatives that will create a sustainable model for long-term success, post safety valve completion. These changes focus around four key areas of activity and the agreement conditions tie in to one or more of these key areas:

- Demand management
- Sufficiency
- Inclusion in mainstream
- Preparation for adulthood

4. The table below summarises the projected progress of DSG Deficit over the lifetime of the Safety Vave agreement

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Brought forward	5,843	5,090	3,811	1,853
In year position	1,747	1,221	542	-96
Safety Valve Funding	-2,500	-2,500	-2,500	-2,000
Carry forward	5,090	3,811	1,853	-243

5. The council is on track to meet the overall financial targets set out in the Management Plan for 2022/23 with all savings identified either already achieved or expected to be achieved by the end of the financial year.

6. The table below summarises the operational activity that has taken place in Quarter 2 against each of the priorities in the Safety Valve agreement:

Safety Valve Priority	Activity in Quarter 2 (June to September 2022)
<p>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>	<p>The impact of improvements in decision making processes has continued to ensure that decisions about the appropriateness of assessment and the resources to support EHCP is leading to plans being appropriate to need.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Originally started in 2010 the Independent Travel Training service (YILTS) aims to support SEN children and young adults in the transition from specialist high cost transport to using mainstream transport methods.</p> <p>Suspended due to the COVID pandemic we are now reintroducing the service and expect to see savings in the current financial year.</p> <p>The transport team is now in place, this is proving effective in providing a closer scrutiny of individual requests for transport and identifying efficiencies through improved route planning.</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>The learning support hub has been developed as a single point of access for specialist teaching and outreach services. This model has been implemented from 5th September 2022 and has been designed to deliver time limited pieces of work to support capacity building in mainstream.</p>

	<p>In August 'York Inspirational Kids' were provided with funding to implement an autism hub. A key requirement in the Autism Pathway initiative this looks to provide children young people and families with both pre and post diagnosis support.</p> <p>The Pathfinder teaching school hub is providing CPD programmes, for mainstream staff, during the academic year 2022-23 and the council are partnering with the Autism Education Trust to develop support work on building capacity in mainstream.</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>Work has started on mapping what services are currently available in the city to support emotional and mental health needs for children and young people with autism and SEMH needs. This mapping is designed to identify what is working and what gaps exist to inform future commissioning.</p> <p>Work has started to review the SEMH provision provided by the Danesgate Community to make a clearer distinction between the PRU cohort and specialist SEMH provision provided by Danesgate.</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>Embarked upon an improvement journey, in conjunction with our partners in SEND, Children's Social Care, the Virtual school, and education and training providers, to drive more integrated and collaborative working models, and systemic improvement in communication, working practices and information sharing – for example – weekly update meetings on individual cases.</p>

Build on successful pathways out of education and into employment and training that have been implemented.	The 16-25 strategic planning group has been put in place. This group are leading on the review and development of the post 16 local offer. It is a partnership group. Including adult services and providers and will focus on post 16 sufficiency with a specific focus on increasing routes to employment and community activity.
Access relevant capital bid opportunities to enhance support in schools	The SEND capital plan has been developed and is being considered by the Council's Executive in November.

Next Steps

- Progress has been made on all priority areas during Quarter 2, the work during Quarter 3 will focus on the implementation plan for the capital projects, the implementation of the communications plan and to begin work on the reform of the SEN banding.

Recommendations

- 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.
- Support the actions identified to deliver the Safety Valve recovery plan and identify members of School Forum who will form a sub-group with council officers to review SEN banding.

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