

York Schools Forum

12th July 2023

Report of Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Safety Valve Year 2, 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 2, Quarter 1 monitoring report was submitted to the Department for Education on 20th January 2023.

Progress on the Safety Valve Recovery Plan

2. In the first quarter of Year 2 the council remains **on track** to meet the deficit reduction targets set out in the Safety Valve agreement.
3. The SEND synergy casework management system has ‘gone live’. This has been a significant piece of work by the Business Intelligence team and provides SEN services with a robust casework management system to support the improvements in practice which are on-going. The implementation of the system will create a more resilient and safe system for the management of education, health and care plans and will improve reporting and performance management processes in the service
4. The local area operational plan has been finalised and published. Progress on the delivery of actions in the plan are being monitored by the SEND Partnership Board and will be an important part of the preparation and evidence base for the next local area SEND inspection. Workstreams have been established for each of the actions identified in the plan and all are progressing. A priority has been the development of the Ordinarily Available Provision guidance. This has been co-produced by the local authority, schools and the parent/carers forum. The guidance has been finalised and is with the design team prior to publication for the start of the new academic year.
5. The table below summarises the operational activity that has taken place in Quarter 1 of Year 2 against each of the priorities in the Safety Valve agreement:

Safety Valve Priority	Activity in Year 2 Quarter 1 (April 2023-June 2023)
Manage demand appropriately by supporting more children and young people in mainstream settings and	Work with partners is continuing to ensure that children and young people’s needs are met appropriately, while also looking to improve process and manage

<p>appropriate and timely ceasing of Education, Health and Care plans.</p>	<p>the number of EHCPs maintained by the local authority. This includes improvements in decision making and assessment, annual review and improve support to deliver preparation for adulthood outcomes. Work has been completed on an Education Inclusion Charter and Ordinarily Available Provision guidance which has been co-produced with schools, the parent/carer forum and children and young people. It will be implemented from September 2023.</p> <p>Quarter 4 of 2022-23 saw 34 EHCP ceased.</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>The York 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. In 2022-23 YILTs has worked with 30 children and young people.</p> <p>The post 16 transport policy has been reviewed and has been made clearer in terms of the eligibility criteria post 16.</p> <p>The development of the in-house transport team has improved the oversight and operational management of the transport contracts which is continuing to deliver efficiency savings. The team has more than halved the cost of taxis used by the city's specialist SEMH provision (Danesgate). Plans to increase the fleet of minibuses from September 2023 are projected to create and additional savings during the academic year 2023-24.</p>
<p>Support the inclusion of children and young people with SEND in mainstream settings to improve outcomes and</p>	<p>The learning support hub has been developed as a single point of access</p>

reduce requests for specialist provision, including the development of pre-and post-diagnosis support pathways.

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. Initial evaluation in May 2023 is showing a range of positive outcomes with schools reporting high levels of satisfaction with the work from the learning support hub (96%-100%). Analysis of requests coming in- to the hub are providing information about emerging areas of demand which will inform commissioning decisions e.g. increased requests re bowel and bladder, ADHD support and training. It has also helped to identify schools and settings which make a disproportionate number of referrals – this is informing follow-up work on the Ordinarily Available offer.

Work with health has provided funding to develop a reintegration support worker post to support the EBSA graduated response which has been developed. This will provide targeted intensive support for children and families to prevent persistent absence from school resulting from anxiety. A theory of change has been developed and a graduated pathway introduced and shared with schools.

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.

The Schools Forum AP task and finish group has reviewed existing provision and made recommendations to address identified sufficiency gaps. This has resulted in identified timed actions.

Work on additional primary and secondary ERP provision is on track for delivery from 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.

Audit activity in May 2023 is focused on ensuring that preparation for adulthood is clear in EHC plans from the age of 14.

A revised transitions protocol has been developed to ensure that there is joint working by children's and adult services.

2022-23 EHC destinations data from Askham Bryan College shows that 29% moved to employment, supported internships or apprenticeships. At York College 8% moved to employment, supported, internships or apprenticeships.

The supported internship hub launch has been planned and will take place in September 2023.

Next Steps

6. Progress has been made on all priority areas during Quarter 1, however it is important to recognise that work on the Safety Valve is challenging and there are risks associated with a small number of highly complex young people who require high- cost provision. Following the submission of the Quarter 1 monitoring report the Department for Education have confirmed that they will be releasing the next instalment of the 2023-24 Safety Valve agreement payment.
7. The Department has asked that the Quarter 2 monitoring report focuses on whether the local authority is on track to achieve an in-year balance in 2023-34 and future plans and associated financial costings and forecasts

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. Members of Schools Forum are also asked to support the development and implementation of the Ordinarily Available Provision Guidance in settings, schools and colleges.

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