

FINANCE UPDATE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PUBLIC VALUE AND INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S FUTURES

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- a) Note month 8 DSG monitoring position as set out in this report.
 - b) Note current Safety Valve / DSG management plan position as set out in the report.
- All to Note**

Budget Monitoring Report – Month 8 (2024/25) – Dedicated Schools Grant

Executive Summary

- Before any contributions from the DfE and Devon, the increase in the accumulated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit is forecast to be £51.6 million compared to the DfE Safety Valve planned position of £31.2 million. An increase of £20.4 million.
- Dedicated Schools Grant is forecasting an overspend of £45.2 million and assumes management plan actions of £12.0 million identified in the Safety Valve Intervention management plan will be achieved in this financial year. A further £3.3 million of the management actions have been identified as being at risk of delivery.
- A meeting has been set up for mid January to review the financial recovery plan produced earlier in the financial year to review areas of savings identified and to see if there are further areas that can be explored to support the pull back on the in year overspend. Full year effect of any savings will be realised in 2025/26 financial year.
- The current number of fixed term exclusions recorded for children with an EHCP is at 11.4% for November 2024, which is a reduction from 1.6% in 2023.
- In November 2024, 14.4% of children with an EHCP have been absent from School.
- The number of EHCPs being issued are increasing over and above the Safety Valve submission, one of the reasons for this is due to DfE targets to issue within a timely manner; these targets will have a financial impact on current forecasts. The total number of EHCPs as at November 2024 is 9,754. The projection to January 2025, at this rate, will be 9,833 and therefore 461 plans above that stated within our Safety Valve submission.
- The increasing DSG deficit could have a considerable impact on future education budgets within the DSG as well as impacting on the financial sustainability for Devon County Council.

1. DSG Schools Funding

- 1.1. In July the revised DSG settlement allocation stands at £313 million (after recoupment for academies and direct funded places) based upon pupil numbers as at the October 2023 Schools census and January 2024 Early Years census.
- 1.2. The working budget includes other school grants of £44.5 million.
- 1.3. The DSG and Schools Funding includes £6.3 million Safety Valve funding expected to be received this year from the DfE.

Table 1: Summary of Month 8 forecast position and significant variations

Budget projections as at Month 8	Revised Budget for year £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Outturn Variance £'000	Carry Forward Requested £'000	Transfer to/(from) deficit reserve £'000	Forecast Adjusted variance £'000	Change from prior BMG Reporting Period £'000	Analysis of Savings Plans	
								Budgeted Savings Plans £'000	Forecast Delivery Savings Plans £'000
Schools delegated budgets	168,968	168,968	(0)			(0)	(0)	0	(0)
Academy Grants	19,137	19,137	0			0	0	0	0
DSG and School Funding	(357,866)	(364,196)	(6,330)		6,330	0	0	0	0
Total DSG Funding	(169,761)	(176,091)	(6,330)	0	6,330	(0)	(0)	0	(0)
De-delegated budgets	4,889	4,889	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central School Services Block	4,262	4,233	(29)		29	0	0	0	0
Early Years & Childcare Services	67,228	67,228	0		0	0	0	0	0
Total DSG central budgets	76,379	76,350	(29)	0	29	0	0	0	0
High Needs Budget	146,521	166,971	20,450		(20,450)	0	0	(15,345)	(12,011)
DSG High Needs 24/25 deficit budget prep	(31,166)	0	31,166		(31,166)	0	0	0	0
Total High Needs budget	115,355	166,971	51,616	0	(51,616)	0	0	(15,345)	(12,011)
Total Dedicated Schools Grant	21,973	67,230	45,257	0	(45,257)	(0)	(0)	(15,345)	(12,011)
								Unachievable	3,334

2. DSG Central Budgets

De-delegated budget

- 2.1. The budget covers Copyrights and Licences, Contingencies and exceptional events funds, Education Services contracts, Maternity Fund and Trade Unions, they are all currently forecasting to spend to budget.

Central School Services Block

- 2.2. This budget area includes Termination of Employment Costs, Admissions, Schools Forum, Devon SLS (Phase associations), Insurances and Surplus Properties. £29,000 underspend relates to the Admissions Team £14,000 due to additional grant funding and reduction in contribution to HADMISS and £15,000 for Surplus Properties. Access for Disabled is forecasting a slight overspend in relation to inflationary increase to contract.

Early Years & Childcare Services

2.3. Currently forecasting to budget. From September 2024, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds. We have received additional settlement but still awaiting new settlement from the January 2025 data.

3. High Needs

3.1. The High Needs Block continues to remain under significant pressure and is forecasting an overspend of £51.6 million.

3.2. Table 2 sets out the high-level view within the High Needs Block.

Table 2: Summary of High Needs budgets and forecast position as at Month 8

	Budget £'000	Month 8 Forecast £'000	Variance £'000	Transfer to/(from) deficit reserve £'000	Deficit / (Surplus) Balance £'000	Movement Previous Mth £'000	Budgeted Safety Valve saving £'000	Forecast savings £'000
Alternative Provision	7,424	7,250	(174)	174	0	143	(259)	(259)
Children in Care and Exclusions	1,776	1,776	0	0	0	0		
Improved Outcomes Disadvantaged Children	1,827	1,766	(61)	61	0	(45)		
Inclusion	150	150	0	0	0	0		
Safeguarding Every Learner	390	388	(2)	2	0	1		
SEN Mainstream	26,851	33,582	6,731	(6,731)	0	476	(3,818)	(1,618)
FE Colleges	5,325	6,095	770	(770)	0	0		
SEN Services	2,393	2,372	(21)	21	0	(3)		
SEN 100 Project	250	238	(12)	12	0	(12)		
Maintained & Academy Special Schools	44,815	49,052	4,237	(4,237)	0	16	(289)	0
Hospital Education Services	776	776	0	0	0	0		
Recoupment	932	1,876	944	(944)	0	0		
Other Special School Fees	51,794	59,888	8,094	(8,094)	0	567	(10,980)	(10,135)
Support Centre Funding	1,818	1,762	(56)	56	0	35		
Total High Needs Funding	146,521	166,971	20,450	(20,450)	0	1,178	(15,346)	(12,012)
DSG High Needs 23/24 deficit budget prep	(31,166)	0	31,166	(31,166)	0	0		
Total High Needs budget	115,355	166,971	51,616	(51,616)	0	1,178	(15,346)	(12,012)

Alternative Provision

3.3. Alternative Provision (AP) is currently forecasting an underspend of £174,000. The main in year pressure continues to be seen within AP Other where the number of children being excluded or who are requiring support due to not being able to attend School is rising. Forecast assumes the budget will be back to budgeted levels of pupils being supported from December (159 actual pupils vs 100 budgeted). All current children requiring extension to provision or new pupils coming through Section 19 who are supported by the Alternative Provision Other budget are discussed and reviewed and provision agreed and signed off at the daily Senior Officer Approval Panel (SOAP).

3.4. The main AP WAVE contract is forecasting to underspend by £358,000 due to the projected numbers being lower than originally budgeted, although the provision is projected to fill up before the end of the financial year. This underspend is currently mitigating the pressure within the AP Special Commission placements at WAVE which is forecasting an overspend of £312,000.

- 3.5. Diabetes funding is reporting to budget, however this assumes £222,000 of funding from Health to pay for the support being provided to schools.
- 3.6. £800,000 projected income is included within the forecast from AP Medical and EOTAS AWPU clawback and forms part of the mitigation of the AP other pressure.
- 3.7. Forecast includes £259,000 safety valve savings to be achieved through the AP commissioning and are expected to be achieved in this academic year.

SEN Mainstream

- 3.8. This covers personalised education packages and EHCPs as well as the central Service Level Agreements which support them.
- 3.9. Mainstream EHCPs (pre-16) are reporting an overspend of £2.4 million, within the forecast there is £3.8 million safety valve savings in relation to Inclusion, Early Help, Sufficiency and Financial Management, of which £2.2 million will not be achieved in this financial year.
- 3.10. Overall EHCP numbers are above the budgeted average of 3,296 at 3,595 (after management action), forecast includes growth for the remainder of the year and that Management Actions will not mitigate the original level of budgeted growth.
- 3.11. Children Educated Other than at School are reporting an overspend of £2.6 million for Tutoring Specialist provision as there are 271 pupils more than budgeted (of which 40 transferring from AP Other). However, the average cost of these pupils is £3,042 lower than budgeted. Personalised Budgets are forecasting an overspend of £333,000 from an additional 28 pupils than budgeted, yet similarly the average cost per pupil is lower than budgeted by £2,647. There are combined safety valve savings of £427,000 within both of these budgets for Financial Management and forecast assumes these savings will be achieved.
- 3.12. SEN Therapies are reporting an overspend of £103,000 due to increased demand for support for young people during the Summer and Autumn, forecast assumes the same level for the Spring term.
- 3.13. An interim commissioning process for packages of Alternative Education Provision (AEP) commenced in June 2024 ensuring that only those providers who are on the approved master provider list which has been put together by the children's commissioning team are being used. This is to ensure all our providers are compliant with DCC's basic checks and these are up to date and to standardise the working practices across Education teams.
- 3.14. Colleagues are in the process of recouping therapy costs from our Health partners estimated at around £1.2 million. This is not currently built into the forecast and forms part of the High Needs Block recovery plan mitigations.

Maintained and Academy Special Schools

- 3.15. Forecast to overspend in 2024/25 by £4.2 million. The average numbers on roll including Plus Packages and Exceeded places are forecast at 1,843 (vs 1,831 budgeted). Plus Packages are above budget by 17 and we are currently funding 3 guaranteed placements which is resulting in an overspend of £270,000. However, this has been offset by a reduction in top up of 8 places with a saving of £132,000.
- 3.16. Due to capacity limitations at The Promise, place funding has been reduced by 5 from September 2024 resulting in savings of £32,000, but this will impact demand in the area.
- 3.17. SEN outreach support recharges has an unbudgeted pressure £124,000 to support the Special School and SSA outreach support workstreams.

- 3.18. Guaranteed residential funding of 20 places for Orchard Manor has resulted in a £134,000 pressure as the budget assumed places would be reducing in this financial year. A further £94,000 pressure relates to prior year adjustments for change in pupil placements
- 3.19. Since submission of the Safety Valve proposal an accounting error has been identified that was not found during our submission conversations. The error of around £3 million relates to an omission in the calculated costs for Special Schools recoupmnt. Discussions with our DfE finance adviser has confirmed that we will be able to manage this over future years and this will form part of the resubmission in February.
- 3.20. The budgeted included safety valve savings of £289,000 for Preparation for Adulthood in relation to curriculum review this saving will not be realised in this financial year and this area is currently being reviewed, however it will be mitigated against further savings within the overall Preparation for Adulthood (condition 2).

Other Special Schools Fees

- 3.21. The Other Special Schools budget includes Safety Valve Management Action of £10.9 million and the forecast assumes £10.1 million will be achieved in this financial year of which £8.7 million has been achieved to date.
- 3.22. Independent Special Schools are currently reporting an in year overspend of £8.1 million after the management actions of £10.1 million being achieved and £490,000 health funding which is still be agreed.
- 3.23. Forecast placement numbers until March 2025 are 1,261 compared to budgeted 1,112. This is 149 over the budgeted level and relates to Sole funded placements due to both the Summer term and September starters being higher than planned. For the remaining management action to be achieved the forecast assumes 42 placements will either cease or there will a reduction in growth. All placement decisions are being made at the daily SOAP panel.
- 3.24. 35.9% of the overall High Needs Block budget supports young people in Independent Specialist Settings which supports 12.7% of the total number of pupils with an EHCP (9,754 / 1,239).

FE Colleges

- 3.25. FE Colleges are forecasting an overspend of £769,000 due to being 18 pupils above budgeted level of 1,033 and the average cost being £533 higher than budgeted at £5,688.
- 3.26. SLT have provided approval for capital works to have new facilities from 2026/27 but it's hoped these will be available for 2025/26 academic year generating an additional 350 places. £250,000 of revenue support has been agreed for 2024/25 and 2025/26 to fast track availability for an additional 40 places at Petroc from September 2024 for and approximately 30 places at Exeter College from January 2025. Consideration is currently being made as to whether this cost can be converted to flexible use of capital receipts. This cost is currently included in the current FE forecast.

Savings by Conditions

- 3.27. Table 3 sets out a matrix of the savings by condition and budget area.

Table 3: Savings Matrix 2024/25

Conditions	SRO	SEN	Maintained & Academy	Other	Alternative	Total	Forecast Non-	
		Mainstream	Special Schools	Special Schools	Provision	Targeted Savings 2024/25	deliverable / (over-achieve)	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Condition 1	Improving Early Intervention	TBC	(728)	0	(1,300)	0	(2,028)	783
Condition 2	Develop shared Pathways in Adulthood	Phill Adams	0	0	(3,671)	0	(3,671)	(23)
Condition 3	Appropriate Local Provision	Simon Niles	0	0	(4,112)	(259)	(4,371)	375
Condition 4	Financial Management & Placement Value	Damien Jones	(890)	0	(1,052)	0	(1,942)	2,200
Condition 5	Improve Inclusive Capacity	TBC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Condition 6	Multi-agency Pathways	Hannah Pugliese	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Management Plan Savings			(1,618)	0	(10,135)	(259)	(12,012)	3,335

4. 0.25% Block transfer to High Needs Block (Early Help and Emotionally Based School Avoidance)

- 4.1. £1.3 million was agreed by schools as a block transfer to the High Needs Block for Early Help and Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA).
- 4.2. There is no further update since reporting at SFG 11th November for month 6, a progress report will be provided for month 10 based on outcomes delivered for the Autumn term.

5. Workstream Savings

Table 4: Profiled condition savings / Cost reductions

Safety Valve Intervention Programme	Summer		Autumn		Spring		24/25	24/25	24/25	Rag Rating	
	planned	Term Actuals	Term Planned	Term Actuals	Term Planned	Term Actuals	Targeted Savings	Forecast Deliverable amount	Forecast Non-Deliverable amount		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Improving Early Intervention	(1,222)	(799)	(1,476)	(136)	(112)		(2,810)	(2,028)	783	(935)	
Developed shared pathways in Adulthood	(268)	(356)	(3,380)	(3,315)			(3,648)	(3,671)	(23)	(3,671)	
Appropriate Local Provision	(1,969)		(2,777)	(1,784)	0		(4,746)	(4,371)	375	(1,784)	
Improve process and use of data to make informed decisions	(650)	(110)	(2,842)	(499)	(650)		(4,142)	(1,942)	2,200	(609)	
Multi-agency Pathways											
Total Management Plan Savings	(4,109)	(1,265)	(10,475)	(5,734)	(762)	0	(15,346)	(12,012)	3,335	(6,999)	

- 5.1. Pupil data has been provided by workstream leads to evidence those who have been supported either during the summer term or taken up a placement within the expanded Maintained and Academy special school places, this has achieved to date, £7.0 million of savings to date.
- 5.2. The Management Action of £15.3 million reflects the budgeted savings expected to be delivered in 2024/25 Safety Valve submission. As at month 8 £3.3 million is being recorded as not being achieved for special school outreach, Support Centre expansion and Plus Packages review.
- 5.3. A request was made early in the Autumn term for additional resource to support the programme, there has been a good response from Directorates within the local authority to support the SEND Transformation Programme, majority of the roles which we were looking to fill have now had a resource identified which will help support the deliverability of the programme including the Safety Valve savings. Appendix A details the individual workstreams packages and savings being reported under each safety valve condition.

Condition 1 & 5: Improving Early Intervention (Inclusion & Early Help)

- 5.4. Strand has moved to an amber RAG rating due to the number of milestones that have slipped. The biggest risk to the project remains the Special Schools Outreach offer, which was due to be in place by September 2024. However, conversations have been held with Special Partnership Trust and Education South West to start doing some focused outreach work from January. In addition, the Attendance and Emotionally Based School Avoidance online resource was signed off by the Programme Board in December ahead of publication.

Condition 2: Develop shared Pathways in Adulthood (Preparation for Adulthood)

- 5.5. The strand remains at green/amber with delivery appearing probable, though a small number of risks have been identified. The biggest risk to the project is work to review and development of the 14,16 and 18 review processes due to the capacity of the SEN Statutory team. On a positive note, however, the Transitions guide has now moved into live testing with young people and their families, and a new protocol developed between Children's and Adult's services to assist professionals with young people in transition was signed off by the Programme Board in December.

Condition 3: Appropriate Local Provision (Sufficiency)

- 5.6. Strand remains amber/red due to the continued risks in Department for Education (DfE) special school build projects, though mitigations reduce impact on new places in part. We hope to have movement on the Ivybridge project early in the new year. However, the DfE are currently unable to confirm the position or a timeline for a decision on the self-delivery business case for the Cranbrook project.

Condition 4: Improve process and use of data to make informed decisions

- 5.7. The strand has moved to amber as it goes through a period of refocus. A new priority work package to develop Capita One to enable us to better manage data relating to a child and their provision and support better decision-making has now been started

Condition 6: Improve Inclusive Capacity (Multi Agency Pathways)

- 5.8. Lots of work underway across the strand. However, the strand remains at amber/red due to the increasing waiting list backlog. Waiting lists and numbers continue to rise but an approach to reducing the waiting lists has now been agreed and plans are being developed. Over the past month, the Neurodiversity strategy is complete and awaiting sign off and a new online all-age Neurodiversity Hub launched.

6. Mitigations in-year

- 6.1. To manage the projected in-year overspend £1.3 million has been identified to mitigate this:
- Health contribution for therapies - £1.2 million– young people with EHCP's receiving SALT, mentoring and tutoring support through there EHCP.
 - Health contribution for Tribunal cases - £60,000 – based on recent tribunal order for one child. Work being supported to go through IPOC process. Further work is needed to review other recent cases,
 - Pupil Centric- £80,000 – removal of top up from School as soon as pupil in AP.
- 6.2. To ensure the remaining projected overspend is brought into balance colleagues across the organisation are supporting the SEND Statutory team to improve management of independent placements and governance around spend and contract management.

7. DSG Deficit Management Plan

- 7.1. The DSG Adjustment Account, which shows the cumulative DSG Deficit as per government guidance, is projected to be £130.6 million by the end of 2024/25 after all DCC contributions have been considered, but prior to further mitigating work. This assumes that Health will pay £1.2 million of estimated Health contributions before the end of the financial year.

	£'000	£'000
DSG Adjustment Account		164,580
DSG High Needs 24/25 deficit budget prep	31,166	
DSG High Needs 24/25 in year pressure	20,450	
		51,616
In-year mitigation	(1,340)	
Other DSG block surpluses	(29)	
		(1,369)
Department of Education contribution to clear deficit 23/24	(38,000)	
Department of Education contribution to clear deficit 24/25	(6,330)	
		(44,330)
Local Authority contribution to clear deficit 23/24	(11,161)	
Local Authority contribution to clear deficit 24/25	(28,700)	
		(39,861)
Total DSG Deficit Reserve		130,636

8. Data Dashboards

8.1. Data dashboards have been developed to support the SEND Transformation and Safety Valve Programmes. Data included will show the number of EHCP requests received to date and projected to for the remainder of the year compared to previous years as well as the current number of active EHCPs and how this compares to where Devon are projecting to be in January 2025 (as per the Safety Valve Submission). Average costs for the different provision type are also being calculated and showing how this compares to the previous month.

Table 5: Number of EHCP requests over the last 5 years

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Devon Number of EHCNA requests	1512	1745	2013	2146	2356
National Number of EHCNA requests	75951	93302	114482	138242	153815
Requests for EHCNA as % 0-24 population **	0.68%	0.79%	0.91%	0.97%	1.06%
National Requests for EHCNA as % 0-24 population **	0.37%	0.46%	0.56%	0.68%	0.75%

**projected figures based on average number of monthly requests in 2024 to date*

Table 6: EHCPs as % of 0-25 population

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Devon Number of EHCPs	6474	7295	7926	8400	9833
National Number of EHCPs				517049	575963
EHCPs as % 0-25 population**	3.07%	3.46%	3.76%	4.26%	4.44%
National EHCPs as % 0-25 population**				2.53%	2.82%

**projected figures based on average increase in total EHCPs in 2024 to date*

Table 7: Number of Active EHCPs comparison 2023 to 2024

	Jan 25 SV target	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2023		8400	8456	8492	8519	8582	8647	8707	8718	8742	8813	8874
2024	9372	8887	8989	9033	9049	9155	9298	9382	9436	9506	9664	9754

Table 8: Average costs by provision type

AVERAGE COSTS						
	FTE	2024/25 (Oct 24)	FTE	2024/25 (Nov 24)	FTE Trend 24/25 monthly movement	£ Trend 24/25 monthly movement
Average cost of an EHCP	9664	£17,163	9754	£17,118	●	●
Average mainstream placement cost < 16	3570	£6,020	3595	£6,086	●	●
Average cost of an independent < 16	890	£54,286	904	£54,257	●	●
Average mainstream placement cost > 16	42	£10,196	44	£9,865	●	●
Average cost of an independent > 16	339	£43,852	335	£44,080	●	●
Average cost of maintained / academy special school - in county	1843	£27,752	1843	£27,780	●	●
Average cost of maintained / academy special school - out county	131	£25,213	131	£25,213	●	●
Average cost Resource Base place	101	£22,562	102	£22,682	●	●
Average cost of FE colleges	1122	£9,335	1122	£9,335	●	●
Average placement cost - alternative provision (contract)	135	£23,034	135	£23,097	●	●
Average placement cost - alternative provision (contract - Special Commission)	18	£29,583	20	£27,464	●	●
Average placement cost - alternative provision (Medical)	125	£17,948	126	£17,892	●	●
Average placement cost - alternative provision (other)	199	£15,173	202	£16,097	●	●
Average placement cost - alternative provision (Tutoring)	321	£11,484	447	£11,513	●	●
% of spend in: the independent, non-maintained special school and independent college sector		35.20%		35.20%		●

9. Capital Investment

- 9.1. Since the strategic review of SEND provision in 2018, DCC has increased the special school estate by 74% (circa 640 places) with further plans for a minimum of 150 places, an overall increase of 790 places (90%). From 2022, there are 450 new places planned and or delivered, 150 of which have been secured from the DfE Free School programme with central delivery, all are targeted at increasing provision for learners whose primary needs are ASD and SEMH, as identified through the sufficiency work. The whole programme will see 5 new schools delivered, all in areas which were under-served in respect of SEND provision (Newton Abbot, Ivybridge, Okehampton, Tiverton and Cranbrook New Town). Over time this provision will reduce the impact on school transport revenue funding which has seen budgetary challenges aligned to the pressures on the HNB.
- 9.2. The remaining HNB Capital is earmarked to support the development of resource base provision on mainstream school sites. This targeted programme will deliver circa 200 places and mitigate an identified shortfall of resource base places when compared to our statistical neighbours and national averages.
- 9.3. Joint project working is currently ongoing with Petroc College in North Devon and Exeter College around the provision of additional Post 16 provision for the county, with a focus on the delivery of an additional 350 places within our mainstream FE environment by 2025. DfE capital funding is still to be agreed to support this.

10. Risks

- 10.1. DfE targets to issue within a timely manner will have a financial impact on current forecasts as the number of EHCPs being issued are increasing and over above the safety valve submission plans.
- 10.2. Continued growth of EHCPs and children being excluded with EHCPs causing unexpected high cost with no facility to reduce external demand will make it difficult to contain costs within the allocated budget
- 10.3. Education Services incurring costs which relate to Health and Social Care

- 10.4. Staff recruitment and retention both operational and project resources is a continued problem for Education Services which will impact on the deliverability of the plans.
- 10.5. Staff structures under review and other service delivery changes ahead could impact the current forecasts
- 10.6. Rising demand being seen in Section 19 requests for those children not attending school which is creating additional pressure to the High Needs Block
- 10.7. The SEN Placement continue to cause increase in the demand on the High Needs Block. Support from all stakeholders to take action to mitigate the growing demand and reduce the call on independent placements is necessary.
- 10.8. Stakeholders across the local area not fully understanding their role in working in partnership to improve SEND provision for children in Devon and support the deliverability of plans.
- 10.9. Unexpected demand as new high-cost children and young people move into the area.
- 10.10. Delayed announcement of High Needs Block Safety valve capital impacting on the delivery proposals to create additional capacity in mainstream FE sector.
- 10.11. Service continues to be unable to contain costs within the allocated budget.
- 10.12. Mitigation of the above risks can be achieved through the implementation of the SEND Transformation Programme support from schools and other providers to take action on the growing demand and reduce the call on independent placements.

11. Recommendation

It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- a) Note month 8 DSG monitoring position as set out in this report.
- b) Note current Safety Valve / DSG management plan position as set out in the report.

All to Note

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Appendix A

Education & Learning - Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP) Cost & Volume Analysis

High Needs EHCP Analysis	Actual No of Pupils				No of FYE Pupils				Budget 24/25	Forecast outturn	Variation		Budgeted Unit cost	Forecast Unit cost	Variation	Month 8		
	Budgeted 24/25	Month 8	Variation	%	Budgeted 24/25	Month 8	Variation	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£	£	£	Price Var £'000	Vol Var £'000	Total Var £'000
Top ups	150	144	(6)	(4.2%)	150	136	(14)	(10.3%)	2,003	1,768	(235)	(11.7%)	13,353	13,000	(353)	(48)	(187)	(235)
Medical Planned Places	90	90	0	0.0%	90	90	0	0.0%	1,620	1,620	0	0.0%	18,000	18,000	0	0	0	0
Medical Planned Additional	39	45	6	13.3%	39	36	(3)	(8.3%)	762	634	(128)	(16.8%)	19,538	17,611	(1,927)	(69)	(59)	(128)
AP WAVE Special Commission	13	20	7	35.0%	13	20	7	35.0%	312	549	237	76.0%	25,000	27,450	2,450	49	175	224
AP Other [Non-WAVE]	95	105	10	9.5%	131	202	71	35.0%	466	3,251	2,785	597.6%	9,221	16,094	6,873	1,388	652	2,041
Alternative Provision	387	404	17	4.2%	423	484	61	12.6%	5,163	7,822	2,659	51.5%	85,112	92,155	7,043	1,320	582	1,902
Personalised Packages	72	74	2	2.7%	72	100	28	28.0%	1,537	1,870	333	21.7%	21,347	18,700	(2,647)	(265)	598	333
Home Tutoring	177	271	94	34.7%	177	448	271	60.5%	2,574	5,152	2,578	100.2%	14,542	11,500	(3,042)	(1,363)	3,941	2,578
Educated Other than at School	249	345	96	27.8%	249	548	299	54.6%	4,111	7,022	2,911	70.8%	35,890	30,200	(5,690)	(1,628)	4,539	2,911
Mainstream Provision (pre 16)	2,079	2,238	159	7.1%	2,245	2,346	101	4.3%	7,866	8,252	386	4.9%	3,504	3,517	14	32	354	386
Mainstream Provision (pre 16) Plus Packages	1,085	1,263	178	14.1%	1,051	1,249	198	15.9%	11,712	13,626	1,914	16.3%	11,144	10,910	(234)	(292)	2,206	1,914
Mainstream	3,164	3,501	337	9.6%	3,296	3,595	299	8.3%	19,578	21,878	2,300	11.7%	14,647	14,427	(220)	(260)	2,560	2,300
Further Education	1,033	1,128	95	8.4%	1,033	1,051	18	1.7%	5,325	6,094	769	14.4%	5,155	5,687	532	559	93	652
Top Ups	1,812	1,793	(19)	(1.1%)	1,788	1,780	(8)	(0.5%)	24,633	24,501	(132)	(0.5%)	13,775	13,763	(12)	(21)	(111)	(132)
Guaranteed Places	0	5	5	100.0%	0	3	3	100.0%	0	59	59		18,084	18,084	0	0	59	59
Plus Packages	43	58	15.50	26.7%	43	60	17.00	28.6%	589	801	212	35.9%	13,859	13,454	(404)	(24)	236	212
Maintained & Academy Special Schools	1,855	1,856	1	0.1%	1,831	1,843	12	0.7%	25,222	25,361	139	0.5%	45,718	45,302	(416)	(45)	183	138
Sole Funded	1,037	1,225	188	15.3%	1,092	1,246	153	12.3%	50,166	58,793	8,627	17.2%	50,111	51,071	960	1,196	7,690	8,886
Joint Funded	15	7	(8)	(114.3%)	15	9	(6)	(68.5%)	1,184	506	(678)	(57.3%)	97,603	99,399	1,796	16	(595)	(579)
Adults	5	7	2	28.6%	5	6	1	21.3%	444	584	140	31.5%	90,244	82,108	(8,136)	(51)	120	69
Independent Special Schools	1,057	1,239	182	14.7%	1,112	1,261	149	11.8%	51,794	59,883	8,089	(5.9%)	237,958	232,578	(5,380)	1,161	7,214	8,375
Resource Bases (Topup)	126	94	(32)	(34.0%)	122	102	(20)	(19.9%)	1,089	933	(156)	(14.3%)	8,902	9,147	245	25	(181)	(156)
Reported Forecast Outturn 2024/25	7,745	8,473	728	8.6%	7,944	8,782	838	9.5%	111,193	128,060	16,867	15.2%				1,107	15,171	16,279