

# Minutes



## Safety Valve Board Meeting

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 2pm

## Microsoft Teams Meeting

### Present:

Naomi Carter (NC) – Service Director, Education, Inclusion and Access  
Jade Kennett (JK) – Service Manager, Strategic Development  
Heather Morris (HM) – Service Manager, SEN and Inclusion  
Theresa Wall (TW) – Service Manager, Education  
Julie Lambert (JL) – Post 16 Lead  
Rachael Williams (RW) – Inclusion Manager  
Nichola Smith (NS) – SEND Manager  
Debbie Williams (DW) – Team Manager, Data and Performance  
Margarida Ressurreicao (MR) – Associate Analyst  
Kate Evans (KE) – Information Analyst  
Irina Rowan (IR) – Senior Finance Business Partner  
Jodi Smith (JS) – Senior Accounting Technician  
Rosie Lister (RL) – Virtual School Headteacher  
Sarah Linington (SL) – Business Services Service Manager  
Charlotte Heard (CH) – Business Services Officer

| Summary of Actions   |
|--|
| <b>Action: IR to amend “2025/06” to “2025/26”.</b>   |
| <b>Action: JL to update the wording in 3.6 from “Sandown Bay Academy” to “The Bay CE School.”</b>      |
| <b>Action: HM to send IR the expected number of EP assessments between now and February half-term.</b> |

### 1. Welcome

NC welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. She explained that the safety valve agreement started in Spring 2023 due to the overspend on the High Needs Block, which is common across the country. The order of the meeting has been changed slightly since the IWC took over control of the board from Hampshire, as she feels it works better.

The actions from the last meeting were reviewed. IR advised that she had not amended the date from 2025/06 to 2025/26 and confirmed that she will.

**Action: IR to amend “2025/06” to “2025/26”.**

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed correct.

## **2. Chairs Update**

NC gave an update and shared that she is pleased with the additional capacity TW and JL have provided. She stated that the Post 16 area wasn't being driven before due to capacity and she stressed the importance of all working together.

NC also shared that she is pleased with the work on the Studio School site and thanked HM and JK for their hard work, going above and beyond.

## **3. Performance Impact**

The group ran through the current performance data and HM said that she feels more confident now that NS is on board. She explained that NS will be able to give a more detailed understanding and effectively streamline the information. HM reported that mitigations are in place to address overdue advice for new assessments, but the delays are creating additional pressures in the team.

## **4. Workstream Update**

NC reminded colleagues that the first page for each workstream is not for amending, unless they are adding impact criteria.

The colleagues responsible for each workstream gave updates. NC explained that the different colours relate to the different priorities of the Education Strategy as she wanted to link it to the Safety Valve agreement.

TW has taken over the lead for 3.1 and is in a period of handover.

With regards to 3.2, HM explained that the plan is to create training for the statutory team workforce, which will be on an annual cycle and will form part of inductions. She confirmed that there are no vacancies in the statutory team, but there is a member of staff on long-term absence and all their cases have been reallocated, which has created additional pressure.

HM advised that the IWC asked to participate in the LGA Peer Challenge, and an audit took place two weeks ago, across Education, Health and Care, with the feedback being quite positive. Next week, the LGA are due to visit provisions and stakeholders.

In relation to 3.3, HM confirmed that there is good attendance at meetings and NS will look into whether there can be better practice with partner agencies. HM added that she chairs the finance meeting, and they are getting smarter, and she is confident that progress is being made.

In relation to 3.4, HM confirmed that the St George's studio site has opened and young people have been placed. The Greenmount expansion has been approved, and young people have been profiled for the Medina House expansion. HM advised that adverts for the provision are now live, and she has weekly meetings with the Headteacher of Medina House School.

RW provided an update for 3.5 and explained that work with the PBS is ongoing and needs to embed. She noted that schools need to be using the service at the earliest opportunity as there is the risk that it will get to crisis point. HM raised the risks of primary PX's for pupils with an EHCP as there is no provision and the only option is a mainland placement.

NC noted that there is a PBS open day tomorrow and asked for more notice next time.

RW explained that there has been some discussion around PBS and transport costs, as there is the possibility that some schools aren't accessing it as it costs too much to get to. She noted that if a pupil gets permanently excluded, the LA becomes responsible for transport costs.

In relation to 3.6, JL confirmed that she is creating networks and linking in with secondary heads to look at their careers function and address any gaps. NC asked that "Sandown Bay Academy" is amended to "The Bay CE School."

**Action: JL to update the wording in 3.6 from "Sandown Bay Academy" to "The Bay CE School."**

With regards to 3.7, NC explained that adverts are out for the roles in the EP service, and as a council we are investigating introducing the Soulbury scheme. She confirmed that the roles in the School Improvement service will also move to the scheme. NC asked for an indication of the expected number of EP assessments from now to February half-term, to assist with budgeting. HM agreed to send this to IR.

**Action: HM to send IR the expected number of EP assessments between now and February half-term.**

NC advised that work on the Local Offer has paused.

## **5. Appendices**

NC and IR ran through the appendices. IR confirmed that they have been amended based on the budget and the biggest pressures are INMSS, EOTAS and the ILC. NC stated that anything sitting on the High Needs Block needs to have an impact. She noted that the DfE's stance is that schools need to be more inclusive, and the new Ofsted framework will say the same.

## **6. Discussion**

RW asked about Section 19 and EHCP's and HM advised that it is a part of the OAP and outreach model, and the next 6 to 12 months will be critical for planning. NC advised that it is a main focus and there will be work with secondary schools to look at vocational pathways, and she said that it is crucial that JL is tied in. NC suggested that they look at a scoping exercise to get a better understanding of the needs of children.

NC thanked attendees for their time and hard work.

**Meeting closed 3.05pm**