

Minutes

Safety Valve Board Meeting

Thursday 25th April 2024, 9am

Meeting Room 3D/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present:

Naomi Carter (NC) – Service Director, Education, Inclusion and Access
Heather Morris (HM) – Strategic Manager, SEN and Inclusion
Dean Prodomo (DP) – Service Manager, Education and Post 16
Jade Kennett (JK) – Service Manager, Strategic Development
Ashley Jefferies (AJ) – Service Manager, Access and Resources
Irina Rowan (IR) – Senior Finance Business Partner
Jodi Smith (JS) – Senior Accounting Technician
Margarida Ressurreicao (MR) – Data Analyst
Theresa Wall (TW) – Senior Early Years Advisory Teacher
Rachael Williams (RW) – Education and Inclusion Manager
Charlotte Heard (CH) – Business Services Officer

Summary of Actions
Action: Attendees to send NC any mitigations and update their areas.
Action: IR to check that the ILC is receiving the relevant funding from schools.
Action: CH to invite Rosie to future meetings.

1. Welcome

NC welcomed everyone and explained that the purpose of today's meeting is to look at the reprofiled safety valve and ensure that workstreams are aligned to the original agreement. She, HM and TW met yesterday, and today's meeting will be for information sharing and looking at next steps. NC confirmed that next month, the meetings will return to looking through each workstream.

2. Chairs Update

NC noted that this is the first meeting without Hampshire and confirmed that the term "TSEND" is no longer being used and should be replaced by "Safety Valve".

NC confirmed that she has a meeting with the DfE in the Summer term and has to submit quarterly reports to them.

NC reported that up until yesterday, the agreement was based on a 2% growth in EHCP's, but currently the IOW is more like 9% and this impacts upon our projected deficits.

3. Programme Update

NC shared the seven actions from the original safety valve agreement.

RW advised that the measure of the impact of the Primary Behaviour Service is a reduction in permanent exclusions, however she reported that in the last 5 years there have only been two primary PX's, and in the last 3 years there have been zero. JK added that they have also removed the element of primary aged pupils going to the PRU.

NC discussed financial information.

NC shared an overview of the reprofiled work and explained that she has taken all of the work that is being done and assigned it to the seven points. She spoke through the seven points and noted:

- 3.1 – does not refer to improving provision in schools.
- 3.2 – HM and NC need to sit down and look at this.
- 3.3 – is similar to 3.4. QA of the process and provisions will be carried out.
- 3.5 – the PBS has been set up and needs to be embedded.
- 3.6 – there is an issue as DP has no senior staff underneath him, and this is a huge part of the agreement.
- 3.7 – NC discussed the high needs spend and asked attendees to think about what can be put in place to mitigate spend.

Action: Attendees to send NC any mitigations and update their areas.

4. Workstream Update

NC spoke through the workstreams, explaining that she has added strategies.

For 3.4, she shared a table which showed the plan to create additional SEN places. NC noted that the plans for additional SEN places are due to be complete by September 2025.

5. Update on High Needs Block and revised forecasting methodology

IR confirmed that the cumulative gap going forward is £3.092 million.

NC advised that IR and MR will work together to look at the projections moving forward.

IR spoke through the different areas and advised:

INMSS - £22k decrease since last month.

Discretionary spend - £22k increase since last month. Mainstream, RP and PRU are the biggest pressures. NC suggested that forecasting moving forward is needed.

Primary Behaviour Service - £40k decrease since last month. HM advised that it is supporting both and will need to be looked at as part of the outreach model and be realigned into their thinking.

Mainstream top-up - £10k decrease since last month.

ILC - £40k increase since last month.

EOTAS - £143k increase since last month. HM said the increase is due to pupils now being appropriately placed.

Special schools and top-up - £7k increase since last month.

Post 16 - £2k decrease since last month.

6. Discussion on reprofiled workstreams

RW asked if the LA are confident that the ILC is getting the money they should be getting from schools for dual-registered pupils, as she is aware that in the past, they didn't charge for the first few weeks. IR explained that she has had discussions with their SBM and there are measures in place to ensure they appropriately charge schools.

Action: IR to check that the ILC is receiving the relevant funding from schools.

NC asked if attendees feel like there is anything missing from the workstreams. HM suggested that from a data perspective, they need to be clear where data is being pulled from and when it is being pulled.

NC asked if TW had anything to add around Early Years and TW confirmed that they have changed their banding.

RW confirmed that the PBS is rolling out their training offer to EY and TW felt this was a good idea. HM advised that Hannah Pye's team have created a training offer for schools.

NC asked if there are any other aspects being funded from the high needs block that have not been mentioned. IR advised that specialist advisory teachers and the transformation post are funded from the block.

NC suggested they need to look at the toolkit and e-learning modules and thought that they had been funded from a small surplus in the school improvement budget.

7. Any other business

HM asked how attendees should support their staff regarding sharing high level messages. She feels like there is a gap in staff knowledge and 'safety valve' has become a buzzword and people are not sure what it means. NC advised that she will present a piece on the safety valve at the next EIA day. By this time, she feels like the language will be right and they can develop a comms plan for the whole department.

TW asked if what is already being offered (helpline etc) is having an impact and working. NC advised that in February, only one school used the phonenumber and she stated that every workstream needs to show impact. DP said that he hopes the new SEN networks will help proliferate the messages. He explained that the advisors are the same as the VSEND and phonenumber advisors, and it is a standing agenda item at networks. NC noted that the phonenumber is completely free to schools.

TW asked about the SLA with the speech and language therapy team and reported that whenever she contacts Becca Burr, there is never any capacity. HM said that she doesn't know what the agreement looks like and suggested that it needs to be unpicked. She added that there is a new commissioner from Health who will hopefully be sitting on the third floor, and they can build better connections.

DP suggested that some Virtual School work may feed into the workstreams, and NC asked that Rosie Lister is invited to future meetings.

Action: CH to invite Rosie to future meetings.

NC thanked attendees for their time.

Meeting closed: 10.35am