

# Minutes

## Safety Valve Board Meeting

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 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  
Julie Lambert (JL) – Post 16 Lead  
Rachael Williams (RW) – Inclusion Manager  
Nichola Smith (NS) – SEND Manager  
Debbie Williams (DW) – Team Manager, Data and Performance  
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
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Action: HM to look at multiagency planning across social care.
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### 1. Welcome

NC welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

The actions from the last meeting were reviewed and agreed correct, and it was confirmed that all actions have been completed.

### 2. Chairs Update

NC gave an update and shared that she is working on a revised DfE plan, and DaIT and finance are going through projection and data for modelling.

NC reported that capacity, whilst hugely improved, needs to be acknowledged as with any potential staff changes, a loss of momentum could occur. Recruitment is underway, however key positions are not progressing as initially planned. NC stated that the positions are crucial to the success of the terms of the safety valve agreement.

Half termly parent voice sessions were set up following a session early October, however the group has now folded. NC confirmed that the LA are working to establish a new group, as it is a statutory function. HM advised that this was discussed at the Local Partnership Board meeting yesterday and there will be follow-up meetings with the Chair. She added

that the board suggested that they could hold a conference in early January and invite parents, to establish what they want moving forward and identify any potential members.

NC shared that conversations around the expansion of SEN places have been paused whilst we undertake the school place planning work, as this is a priority.

NC confirmed that the EIA department have been consulted on their thoughts regarding Safety Valve and how we can work together as a team.

### **3. Performance Impact**

The group ran through the current performance data. HM reported that timeliness continues to drop and explained that we have exhausted the contracted hours of the SLA with Hampshire, and there is now a waiting list. She added that a business case for an interim offer until the recruitment has been completed is currently with approvers, and she has carried out a scoping piece of work around three companies.

HM reported that mediations and tribunals are continuing to grow. She explained that there has been a change in panel and how we are addressing those in the system, which she hopes will enable us to become more consistent.

### **4. Workstream Update**

The colleagues responsible for each workstream gave updates and NC asked that the group ensure that the RAG ratings are kept updated.

#### 3.1

TW suggested amendments to the RAG ratings, which NC made a note of. The OAP/SEN Support working group has pulled together the first section of a guidance document with comments and are now looking at the broad area of needs. They hope to have a completed draft by January.

SENCO networks have been reprofiled and TW has received good feedback; Marie is highly respected across the island, across all phases. 23 SENCO's (55%) attended the last session.

The VSEND tool and phonenumber resources are not being used; there were 2 VSEND tool users between July and November, and 8 phonenumber users in September but none in October. NC expressed her concern that schools are not accessing these free resources and suggested some push back. RL asked if details could be circulated to LA managers so that they can push them when they are out in schools. RL suggested a flyer and NC confirmed that she is going to promote the resources in Education Matters and has them listed in her email signature. RL suggested that professionals are relational, and we need to build up confidence and trust, and suggested that a reason schools may not be using the phonenumber is because they don't know the person on the other side. NS confirmed that when the SEN team receive assessments, they defer decisions and ask for further evidence of what has been utilised so far, and this change of narrative has happened in the last 4 weeks. DW asked if there could be a section on the resources at the SENCO network meetings and NC confirmed that the networks are aligned to the VSEND tool, and they have also presented to the HT Forum.

The 5 e-learning module and Transforming Education portal are also not being used and HM stressed the importance of a “one council” approach and holding schools and stakeholders to account. TW reported that 9 people have enrolled onto the module but have not completed it.

TW confirmed that Early Years briefings are continuing and are well-attended.

### 3.2

NS confirmed that training has taken place around expectations and what assessment reviews are and their purpose. Pupils in phased transfer groups have been prioritised and have been transferred onto the Hub, with the long-term vision that all reviews will take place on there. NS added that she has created a roadmap and has spoken to HM about using Invision for toolkits. HM advised that at the partnership meeting yesterday, the NHS were talking about commissioning the software and she suggested linking in Anthony Harper. RL noted that the Virtual School are also looking at it. HM confirmed that the review of NHS therapies has concluded, and the NHS have written a report that is going to their board.

### 3.3

HM reported that there have been changes to the statutory process and expectations of panel members. They are continuing to challenge parental requests and work with parties to hold to account. HM noted that participation in the RISE project has been paused as Parents Voice were hosting with the DfE. HM suggested that 3.3 could now be green as there is a multi-agency panel, and RL explained a recent situation where 3 children were placed in potential inappropriate provision. She acknowledged that there is a panel, but questioned whether there are enough voices on there. HM advised that this workstream is specific to statutory assessments and said that Social Care make decisions outside of this process. HM agreed to look at multiagency planning across social care.

**Action: HM to look at multiagency planning across social care.**

HM noted that she has seen positive practice in high-profile cases.

### 3.4

JK confirmed that public notices are ready to go. She explained that a conversation with Medina and Carisbrooke is needed in the new year, and they have not yet taken place as they were given time to settle. JK advised that she met with a school briefly to discuss the creation of a sensory RP, but further work is needed to establish the needs. She has ongoing dialogue with the headteacher, who is very good at supporting and working with the LA. JK confirmed that the governing body have said that they will support the RP.

### 3.5

RW confirmed that suspensions are down across the board. HM advised that there will be a review of services funded through the High Needs Block, which will link in with OAP and go hand-in-hand with School Improvement and EP recruitment. Moving forward, we want a single front door for outreach services, to support early intervention. RW reported that there has been an increased demand in provision under Section 19 and she explained the AV1 telepresence robots. They allow individualised education offers for pupils who have a school place but cannot access education. HM confirmed that case studies have been carried out and they are supported nationally and by the DfE. It was agreed that the robots

would be added to workstream 3.3. IR asked if the scheme will prevent places at the PRU and HM confirmed this is correct, and it will reduce the need for online tutors etc.

### 3.6

JL confirmed that she is building key relationships and reported that the pilot of the DFN project in November involved 7 pupils and is going well. She added that there are talks about the IWC forming part of the work rotation. An employer event is planned for February, which will promote supported internships and the NHS will do a talk. HM advised that she is in early conversations with the IW College regarding pupils at St George's with severe learning difficulties continuing into Post 16 and moving to the College Post 19. She has also been working with the adult transition team around meaningful pathways, and felt that it would be useful for JL to be a part of the conversation.

### 3.7

HM advised that SEN do not have admin staff to work on finance and commissioning and acknowledged that there is a risk as there is no robust process in place to manage spend. JK asked if they could utilise other service areas and said that other areas typically have a monitoring post which oversees finance. NC suggested this conversation is taken offline.

## **5. Appendices**

IR talked through the figures and explained that we have seen further increases as we now have the new academic year data. A gap of £3.5 million is being projected.

NC shared the feedback from Parent Voice.

NC advised that she will do the same activity with governors tonight.

NC thanked attendees for their time and hard work.

**Meeting closed 3.35pm**