

## SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

LA Name	Date Report Submitted	Signed off by S151 Officer & Director of Children's Services	Name & Email Address of Key Personnel	
Isle of Wight	28/08/2024	Ashley Whittaker	CEO:	Wendy Perera
			S151 Officer:	Chris Ward
Do you need additional support from either of our specialist SEND advisers (early years / inclusion) to support the effective delivery of your Safety Valve plan? If yes, please specify which area (early years / inclusion) you would like extra support in, giving a brief overview of how this support would be beneficial.			DCS:	Ashley Whittaker
			Other key contacts for Safety Valve:	Naomi Carter – Service Director: Education, Inclusion and Access
No thank you (we are already receiving support from Mark McCurrie and would be grateful if this can continue)				

Is your LA's Safety Valve plan on track?	Yes/No	Commentary
To achieve the Safety Valve agreement's projected deficit in the current year?	No	Whilst we believe that the strategy and action plan developed over the past seven months contains the correct and optimal system improvements, these will take time to translate into significant changes in actual expenditure, and longer than the duration of the agreement.
To achieve a £0 DSG deficit by the end of the Safety Valve agreement?	No	

Is your LA's Safety Valve capital project on track?	Yes/No	Commentary
	n/a	

### Programme Headlines

This quarter, the biggest drivers of positive change have been (up to 3):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launching our draft Education Strategy: <a href="https://www.iow.gov.uk/education-strategy">Education Strategy (iow.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>• Working towards the opening on 1<sup>st</sup> September of the new SEMH provision.</li> <li>• Launching our education online portal for schools to access resources and training.</li> </ul>
This quarter, the biggest barrier(s) to successful implementation of the Safety Valve plan have been (up to 3):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal staff capacity. However, recruitment underway.</li> <li>• Educational Psychology, capacity due to the number of days within contract being spent. Recruitment for new team underway.</li> <li>• Ongoing high rates of requests for EHC needs assessments</li> </ul>
This quarter, the best examples of stakeholder engagement around the Safety Valve plan have been (up to 3):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive meetings with IOW Parent Voice steering group and agreed future events</li> <li>• Publication on the details of our plan on the IOW council website to improve transparency and trust: <a href="https://www.iow.gov.uk/improving-special-educational-needs">Improving Special Educational Needs (iow.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>• Engagement of headteachers in Safety Valve ownership and delivery</li> </ul>

Alongside your Safety Valve financial and narrative monitoring reports, please share with us the latest strategic data dashboard utilised by your governance oversight board for Safety Valve.

**NB** This should not be something created for the DfE Safety Valve monitoring process; if you do not have a strategic data dashboard, just let us know.

## SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME DETAILED UPDATE

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
<b>Condition 1:</b> 3.1. Create greater clarity of 'Ordinarily Available Provision' (OAP) through further dissemination of recently produced Special Educational Needs (SEN) support guidance and offering training to headteachers and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) about what constitutes OAP	Update 1 (May) <b>RAG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working group continues to develop the new Ordinarily Available document. However, due to staff, we may need to re-consider the develop of and then launch otherwise it may not embed.</li> <li>Transforming Education online platform has been launched to schools. Schools can now access all training modules and resources.</li> <li>SEN Phone line is not being used by schools,. Need to promote far more and encourage use. Unclear on its on-going access as its hosted by Hampshire.</li> <li>EY SENCO network – are currently delivered virtually, uptake is generally 20% - to improve attendance it is planned during the next academic year to reinstate face to face meetings on a termly basis – the networks will be promoted.</li> <li>VSEND tool being used in schools. Need to analyse impact.</li> <li>Due to staffing capacity we have adjusted our expectations on the impact of this workstream with growth remaining at 9% until September 2026, instead of September 2025 as first anticipated.</li> </ul>
	Update 2 (August) <b>RAG</b>	
	Update 3 (November) <b>RAG</b>	
	<b>RAG</b>	
<b>Condition 2:</b> 3.2. Improve the quality of annual reviews of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) through training, greater Local Authority (LA) engagement and improved processing to ensure timescales are met, so that children and young people meet the outcomes in their EHCPs, which should lead to a step-down in provision over time	Update 1 (May) <b>RAG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role of SEND Manager has been successfully recruited to, this will provide operational oversight of the Statutory &amp; Assessment Review Team. The postholder will start on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 and preliminary discussions have taken place with the new postholder with regards to training and development of annual reviews in the autumn term.</li> <li>Training has been devised, incorporating the outcomes of the review by Hampshire's transformational team and will be ready for roll out when the SEND Manager is in post.</li> <li>A soft approach to internal training with the Statutory Assessment &amp; Review team has taken place to aid learning from external correspondence/complaints and feedback from schools with a decision to delay the devised annual review training until the SEND manager arrives. This decision was taken to ensure the training can be embedded and the implementation monitored closely for impact.</li> <li>Attendance at all phase transfer annual reviews for mainland INMSS placements (non LAC) in the summer term/autumn term is scheduled to ensure appropriate provision is secured for September 2025 and where appropriate secure education on the island (potential 13 cases).</li> <li>Strengthening partnership working with the adult transition</li> </ul>
	Update 2 (August) <b>RAG</b>	
	Update 3 (November) <b>RAG</b>	
	<b>RAG</b>	

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		<p>team with a dedicated officer in attendance is creating earlier planning to support annual reviews to discuss young people eligible to access adult services, developing appropriate pathways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners across education, health and care have reviewed internal processes in place regarding providing advice for statutory assessments, the outcome is inconsistent and will be addressed by partnership working to devise training for service managers to deliver in individual areas to improve the quality and audit.</li> <li>An external peer challenge is taking place 9 – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 by the Local Government Association – a sample of plans will be subject to scrutiny to support development in the quality of EHCP and advice.</li> </ul>
<b>Condition 3:</b> 3.3. Ensure more robust oversight of decision making during the assessment and co-production of EHCPs, so that <b>children are placed in most suitable provision</b> that can meet their needs	Update 1 (May)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A multiagency panel meeting to support the EHC new assessment takes place weekly to support decisions to assess and whether to award an EHCP following statutory assessment – this panel is well attended by partners across schools, EP, EY, inclusion, health, and care.</li> <li>Where it is a decision not to assess/award an EHCP telephone contact is now made with families/school to explain how the decision was reached and to provide recommendations – there has been a slight reduction in mediations/tribunals of decision not to assess/issue (this data is in its infancy and needs further analysis, performance in this area will be reported in future boards).</li> <li>Discretionary spending is reducing through targeted work with schools and robust decision making when referrals are received – this is developing consistency in allocation of additional resource in exceptional circumstances only and is supporting casework officers to positively challenge expectations prior to a referral being made.</li> <li>High need placement costs are made in a different panel, this is not multi-agency panel and attended by the SEND Team and finance team with partners invited if the decision impacts on budgets other than the high needs.</li> </ul>
	<b>RAG</b>	
	Update 2 (August)	
	<b>RAG</b>	
	Update 3 (November)	
	<b>RAG</b>	
<b>Condition 4:</b> 3.4. Increase <b>maintained/academy specialist placements</b> available on the Isle of Wight to minimise the need for more expensive placements	Update 1 (May)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an increase in EOTAS packages, parents/LA view is mainstream is not an appropriate placement and this is an alternative to securing mainland placements (in line with parental preference who do not want their child travelling to the mainland).</li> <li>The expansion of St Georges Studio (SEMH) and Greenmount Resourced Provision are ready to host learners</li> </ul>
	<b>RAG</b>	
	Update 2 (August)	
	<b>RAG</b>	
	Update 3 (November)	

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Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
	RAG	<p>from September 2024 as planned – all building work has been complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shahana Knight (TPC Therapy), has completed her work with St George’s School and Greenmount School to deliver on a 'trauma informed' environment.</li> <li>Secondary RP expansion work will commence in line with the review of school place provision. Proposals to expand will be published in September 2024.</li> <li>A deep dive has been completed around young people with Social Emotional Mental Health needs (high anxiety) identifying year groups of young people and how their educational offer is currently being supported through a tailored package. This will inform Phase 2 of SEND provision expansion from September 24.</li> <li>There is an increase in EOTAS packages, parents/LA view is mainstream is not an appropriate placement and this is an alternative to securing mainland placements (in line with parental preference who do not want their child travelling to the mainland).</li> <li>Approval has been granted to expand specialist provision at Medina House from 111 to 138. This will accommodate children who are inappropriately placed in mainstream provision.</li> <li>45 appeals were lodged with the first-tier tribunal in 2023, 70% of which were requesting a placement in a specialist provision (LA does not oppose placement, at a specialist school on the island, is inappropriate but placement would be incompatible with the education of others due to overcapacity). In the first 6 months of 2024 32 appeals have been lodged with the first-tier tribunal of which 46% are relating to Section I of the plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Condition 5:</b> 3.5. Create an early intervention '<b>Primary Behaviour Service</b>' to replace the primary provision at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) on the island, to reduce the number of permanent exclusions and meet needs earlier</p>	Update 1 (May)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Primary Behaviour Service was established in September 2024 and since that time they have engaged with several schools to provide consultation, training, individual pupil support and specialist advice.</li> <li>22 schools (58%) have signed up to at least one of the training sessions on offer in the new academic year – schools not yet to engage will be contacted at the start of the new term.</li> <li>Whilst suspensions in primary are higher overall compared to the previous academic year there is a downward trend throughout the year whereas in the previous year there</li> </ul>
	RAG	
	Update 2 (August)	
	RAG	

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Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
	Update 3 (November) <b>RAG</b>	<p>was an upward trend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data around outreach/in-reach and training to schools needs to be refined, a survey was sent to all primary schools at the end of the summer term and once closed the information will be analysed to support future planning.</li> <li>The Primary Behaviour Service has contributed to the wider outreach review to develop a whole island review, supporting what is ordinarily available to schools.</li> <li>Survey by current outreach offers has concluded, prior to schools closing to understand the impact of interventions - the outcome of this will be analysed to assist future planning.</li> <li>In line with proposed expansion of specialist provision the outreach model will be developed to ensure development is in line with needs across the island and not generic</li> </ul>
<b>Condition 6:</b> 3.6. Improve the <b>Post-16</b> offer on the island, encouraging take up of supported internships and supported apprenticeships, improving preparation for adulthood outcomes, and reducing demand on High Needs funds	Update 1 (May) <b>AG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This workstream is affected by the resignation of the service manager overseeing this area.</li> <li>A temporary team leader, is being investigated, while overall staffing structure is explored.</li> <li>DFN project is underway, still need to confirm number of placements and liaise with SEN regarding EHCP of those involved. (DFN is the name, not acronym of a national organisation).</li> <li>Creation of new is underway Solent Careers hub, meaning more bespoke options for IOW young people. Oversight of this needs to be considered.</li> </ul>
	Update 2 (August) <b>AG</b>	
	Update 3 (November) <b>RAG</b>	
	<b>RAG</b>	
	<b>RAG</b>	
<b>Condition 7:</b> 3.7. Review the <b>governance of the High Needs</b> Performance and Oversight Board with the intention to include a reference group which will include stakeholders, partners, and children and young people, to help inform planning in the local area.	Update 1 (May) <b>RAG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New boards being chaired and led by IOW officers and ICB seniors including well attended multi agency Local Area SEND Partnership Board, including children and young people representative, PCF, DfE and NHSE. This now provide IOW strategic direction and focus on needs of the Island.</li> <li>Investment in additional finance resource (1 x extra post).</li> <li>Local Government Association Peer Review of SEND Strategy agreed for October 2024.</li> <li>Local Government Association Scrutiny of Education Strategy in September 2024.</li> </ul>
	Update 2 (August) <b>RAG</b>	
	Update 3 (November) <b>RAG</b>	
	<b>RAG</b>	
	<b>RAG</b>	

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Agreement Condition	Assurance Level	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
RAG	Definition	
		Savings/cost avoidance and/or workstream(s) complete
		Savings/cost avoidance and/or workstream(s) remains on target
		Savings/cost avoidance and/or workstream(s) are currently off target, with plans to mitigate
		Savings/cost avoidance and/or workstream(s) are off target

## SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME RISK REGISTER

Risk	Assurance Level	Mitigation	Progress Update from this Quarter <i>Please include/refer to relevant data and evidence to support your rating and explain the scale of any impacts</i>
Risk 1: Capacity of LA officers to deliver on the PFA workstream	Update 1 (May)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A temporary role will be created to add capacity and pull workstream together.</li> <li>A review of the overall staffing structure is taking place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service manager overseeing this area has left this post, exacerbating this risk to delivery of this workstream.</li> <li>Seeking a temporary post to cover Post 16 work.</li> </ul>
	AG		
	Update 2 (August)		
	AG		
	Update 3 (November)		
RAG			
Risk 2: Capacity of LA officers to deliver on expansion work, whilst undertaking a school place planning work across the Island	Update 1 (May)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A temporary role may be needed to add capacity and pull workstream together.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the last submission a post holder was re-graded to a higher post.</li> <li>Two senior leaders have left post, meaning other senior leaders have had to temporary take on additional responsibilities.</li> <li>Additional support from the council has been provided for project support, comms, HR and other areas.</li> </ul>
	AG		
	Update 2 (August)		
	AG		
	Update 3 (November)		
RAG			
Risk 3: Need to build confidence in the education system to bring children and young people back from EOTAS packages.	Update 1 (May)	Need to exploit all channels to engage with parents/carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A group of senior LA officers have meet with IOW Parent Voice, to build a new relationship with.</li> <li>Service Director has reached out to meet with another influential parent group, to share LA's plans.</li> <li>Comms plan to celebrate the positive news stories around increasing the number of specialist places.</li> <li>Need to scope out parents to start confidence building with.</li> </ul>
	AG		
	Update 2 (August)		
	AG		
	Update 3 (November)		
RAG			
Risk 4: External partners do not contribute cost towards their statutory duties in line with EHCP's	Update 1 (May)	Partners do not contribute.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular meetings now being held with senior NHS colleagues.</li> <li>Strategic Manager SEN &amp; Inclusion working alongside NHS on pilot to identify contributory costs.</li> </ul>
	RAG		
	Update 2 (August)		
	RAG		
	Update 3 (November)		
RAG			