

## Safety Valve Monitoring template

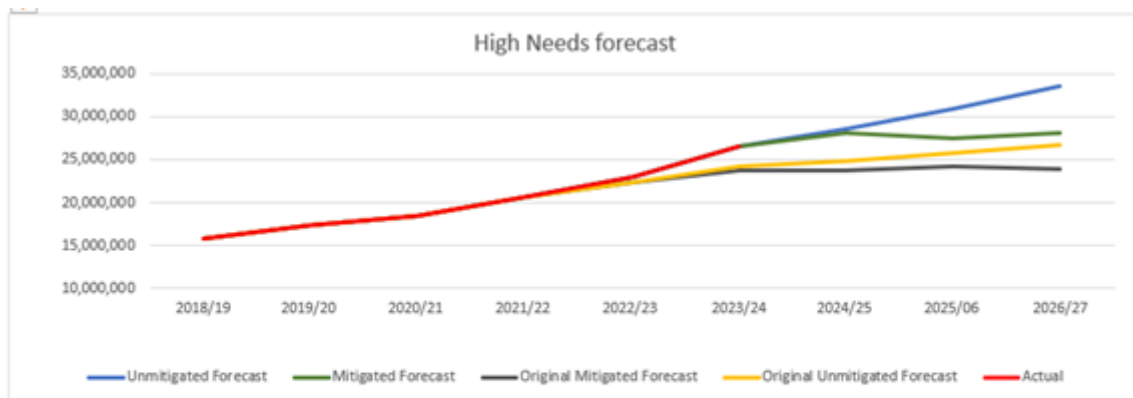
Date Submitted	31 May 2024
Signed off by S151 Officer / Director of Children's Services	Ashley Whittaker

### Pre-amble & Context

The partnership between the Isle of Wight Council and Hampshire County Council, to run the Isle of Wight's Children's Services Department officially came to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The Isle of Wight Council decided to set up its own Children's Services Department, which came into fruition on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

The new department has internally re-profiled the workstreams associated related to each condition of the Safety Valve agreement. Reasons for re-profiling workstreams were due to:

- Size and capacity of new team, compared with previously within partnership, which impacts upon the team's ability to deliver on workstreams.
- A more forensic analysis of the High Needs Block budget, line by line.
- Aligning workstreams more tightly to original agreement.
- Lack of progress with Free School bid and need to increase additional SEN places.
- Previous work was based on assumptions that the new team considered too ambitious and not based on any clear methodology (unrealistic assumption of 2% EHCP growth rate).



HIGH NEEDS	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/06	2026/27
Unmitigated Forecast	15,797,550	17,313,056	18,446,637	20,702,971	22,896,183	26,484,037	28,550,407	30,900,943	33,500,898
Mitigated Forecast	15,797,550	17,313,056	18,446,637	20,702,971	22,896,183	26,484,037	28,154,948	27,543,245	28,076,544
Original Mitigated Forecast	15,797,550	17,313,056	18,446,637	20,702,971	22,364,974	23,814,439	23,736,474	24,194,760	23,849,745
Original Unmitigated Forecast	15,797,550	17,313,056	18,446,637	20,702,971	22,364,974	24,259,995	24,784,486	25,801,239	26,724,195
Actual	15,797,550	17,313,056	18,446,637	20,702,971	22,896,183	26,484,037			

The previous workstreams sat under three headings, these have now been removed and the new workstreams are directly aligned under the 7 conditions of the original Safety Valve agreement and are reported on at a monthly Safety Valve Board Meetings and within this submission.

There are a number of external factors that will affect the successful implementation of the Safety Valve workstream. The most significant are the removal of surplus primary school places across the Isle of Wight. This is already causing anxiety across the school system, and this will impact on our ability to successful implement some of the work we are planning and inclusion across the Island.

Another factor to consider is the number of services the Isle of Wight current 'owns'. Due to the short timeframe in setting up a Children's Services Department, some services within could not be set up in the time, meaning the IOW council has SLA's with Hampshire for a number of services. One of these is the EP service, which we have already been given notice on. Meaning we will need to investigate options regarding EP service.

## RAG definition

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 currently off target, with no current mitigation in place

### Summary:

To include, a) whether LA is on track to achieve a £0 DSG deficit at the end of its Safety Valve agreement? and

b) whether LA is on track to achieve its Safety Valve agreement in the current year?

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
	Update 1 (May/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
Condition 1: 3.1. Create greater clarity of ' <b>Ordinarily Available Provision</b> ' (OAP) through further dissemination of recently produced Special Educational Needs (SEN) support guidance and offering <b>training to headteachers and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs)</b> about what constitutes OAP	RAG	RAG	RAG

### Progress Update:

- Working group scheduled for 20 May/7 June/26 June and 18 July to develop a new **Ordinarily Available** document with partners and will range from early years to post 16.
- **Transforming Education** online platform is being tested on EIA department, before being launched with schools. Will be launched in the second part of the summer term. **E-learning modules** have been transferred onto the new Transforming Education platform (not launched with schools).
- **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.
- All schools were invited to attend **VSEND training** in person or via a virtual platform in the Spring term. Schools are using the tool to explore needs and help with identification.
- **SEN Phone line** in place and being used more 17 calls have been recorded. IOW is beholden to Hampshire for reporting.
- The **SEN Toolkit** has been accessed by 926 unique IP addresses.
- Transition packs are being revised to ensure parents are being informed regarding school readiness. These will be published on the IOW website. Transition packs are being revised to ensure Early Years Practitioners and YR Teachers are working closely to

ensure all children's needs are being met. A range of training to support Y1 teachers/ LSA's will be delivered in the Autumn term to ensure YR children transition into Y1 are ready to learn. Early Years HT briefing will focus on YR transitions into Y1 in the summer term – June 24.

We expect to begin seeing the impact of this workstream after September 2025, with our growth model resit now at 9% but dropping for September 2025 to 4.5%. The reason for the delay is due to school place planning and time to create and embed new OAP guidance materials. We will continue to work on embedding the range of approaches to support a growing culture of inclusion across all Island schools.

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
Condition 2: 3.2. Improve the quality of <b>annual reviews</b> 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/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG

Progress Update:

- The statutory assessment and review team are at full capacity, there is a recruitment process underway due to a member of the team leaving in the summer it has been agreed that a service manager post can be recruited to (providing operational oversight).
- Hampshire transformation team conducted a review of the EHCNA/Review process with the SEN Team and have provided a report concluding their findings of the transformation piece of work around streamlining processes and systems – this now needs to be captured in to planning and development.
- Strategic manager is currently composing training in line with the transformation report and engagement with officers – specific to annual reviews for delivery in summer term 2 - Training package developed for SEND Officers around the purpose of an annual review to support consistency at the point of induction for new staff and as an annual refresher course for all staff to consolidate knowledge and skills (created and delivered to all officers by July 2024).
- Training should focus on developing confidence within the statutory process and legislation ensuring evidence is available to support views and to inform potential outcomes following a review, including celebrating success when a plan is no longer required.
- Training will 'mythbust' misconceptions around EHCP – this will be disseminated across partners to support a consistent narrative and manage expectations (potentially through training at team briefs of services across education, health and care).
- Weekly opportunity for casework officers to engage in complex cases, to provide sound advice and share knowledge/problem solve in line with statutory duties together.
- Presentation at Children's Services, Social Care away day took place in February 2024 to highlight key statutory processes and the role of care services in this process. It was also

used to myth bust, feedback was positive, and engagement will continue.

- The expansion of the Studio School at St George's has been agreed for September 2024, profiling of young people can now officially take place – this will include 4 year 6 pupils earmarked for mainland INMS and 11 pupils accessing discretionary funded or inappropriately placed (secondary).
- Arrange attendance at all phase transfer annual reviews for mainland INMSS placements (non LAC) in the summer term/autumn term to ensure appropriate provision is secured for September 2025 and where appropriate secure education on the island (potential 13 cases).
- Deep dive of secured provision across the island of pupils with an EHCP – to identify inappropriately placed pupils, the increase in EOTAS and the use of discretionary funding – this has informed school place planning and proposal of expansion (cost avoidance).
- Regular adult transition planning meetings to discuss young people eligible to access adult services, the format and representation of SEND Officers is under review to ensure the most appropriate officer is in attendance (planning meeting between strategic lead/adult transition team May 24).
- An initial meeting to support the creation of a multiagency panel to support high-cost placements, incorporating commissioning, joint funding and approval has taken place (07/05/24) actions identified to develop panel and terms of reference.
- Contact with lead practitioners across education, health and care to identify if there are training guides in circulation – deadline for response 29/05/24 to inform next steps, securing sign up from appropriate leads.
- Contact with lead practitioners across education, health and care to identify advice templates and internal processes for development/discussion - deadline for response 29/05/24.
- Contact with lead practitioners across education, health and care to identify how they currently internally audit advice as part of the statutory process – deadline for response 29/05/24 to support the development of a Contact with lead practitioners across education, health and care to identify.
- Evidence is available prior to the annual review taking place, the advice is informative, and evidence focussed to identify escalation in needs/celebrating progress – advice must demonstrate appropriate change to needs and provision overtime to enable casework officers to co-ordinate potential amendments.

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
Condition 3: 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/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG

Progress Update:

- 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.

- 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 – it is hoped this will reduce the number of mediations/tribunal appeals.
- Currently 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.

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
Condition 4: 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/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG

Progress Update:

- Carefully executed expansion plan has been created using intel from annual reviews, LA view of most appropriate placement, suspensions and tribunal hearings and young people in the assessment process as well as actual growth of EHCP over the last five years.
- A deep dive has been completed around the category of need, year group of young person and tailored packages of support currently in place to identify the most appropriate educational offer moving forward.
- 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).
- Expansion at St George's, Studio School and Greenmount Resourced Provision have been approved by the Lead Member for Children's Services on 03/05/24 - activity is now underway to ensure provisions are ready for September opening including recruitment, building work and profiling of pupils.
- Engagement sessions have taken place with members of the public, Governors, families and school/council staff.
- Shahana Knight (TPC Therapy), has been commissioned to work with St George's School and Greenmount School during the half term holidays in May to scope and develop a 'trauma informed' environment.
- Secondary RP expansion work will commence in line with the review of school place provision. Proposals to expand will be published in September 2024.
- 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.
- 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).
- Work has been completed at the ILC who currently host pupils with complex medical needs to develop provision that is appropriate to needs and separates the different learners accommodated, this will provide a positive impact on reducing the spend on

alternative provision.

- Analysis of children inappropriately placed in mainstream schools has concluded that there are over 75 pupils that the LA have determined require specialist provision, but this has not been able to be secured due to lack of capacity in our specialist provision, specifically Medina House.
- Transparent engagement with Headteachers has taken place via Headteacher forums to explain the analysis work underway to keep them well informed, to listen to the pressures on mainstream school in placing complex children and to share the pressures on the local authority to find solutions together in the best interest of the pupil and their families.
- Medina House staff have conducted an internal review of all placements to identify any pupils inappropriately placed, this has identified two pupils who have made significant progress and no longer require placement to be secured. Through the annual review process both children will have a new school secured for September 2024.
- 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).
- Model Memorandum of Understanding and Resourced Provision guide to be completed and given out to schools.

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
Condition 5: 3.5. Create an early intervention 'Primary Behaviour Service' 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	Update 1 (May/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG

**Progress Update:**

- PBS was established in September 2024 and since that time they have engaged with a number of schools.
- Number of suspensions and PEX since PBS introduction has increased.
- PBS are currently supporting several inappropriately placed pupils with an EHCP placed in mainstream to avoid PEX and to support a tailored package of support where the pupil is not able to attend their named school full time, this has added pressure on the service due to the high-end complexity of SEMH needs presented – this model of intervention has allowed the LA to secure more appropriate, long-term placements and has avoided securing INMS on the mainland (in line with parental preference).
- Data around outreach/in-reach and training to schools needs to be refined.
- The service was not budgeted for in 2023/24 due to anticipated start in April 2024.
- Launch of the service brought forward to September 2023, resulting in the pressure of £288k in 2023/24, an improvement of £40k since last month following submission of final invoice from HCC to January 2024 and actual spend for February and March.

- Introduction of PBS service contributes towards the reduction in spend at ILC due to the cessation of primary provision. Estimated reduction in spend at ILC is £226k for 20 FTEs.
- PBS will be part of the wider outreach review to develop a whole island review, supporting what is ordinarily available to schools.
- There is a clearer understanding of how services are currently being funded via the high needs block - there is currently no central oversight/governance of services and so key performance indicators will be established with all services funded via the high needs block to measure impact.
- A template will be created for all outreach services to complete to indicate how they currently support settings in an outreach capacity to identify the current offer available and identify potential gaps - implementation by 2025.
- The SOS outreach offer will be disbanded from 24th May 2024 following mutual agreement with Medina House – this was a traded offer that some schools commissioned.
- SOS Outreach (Medina House) has been discontinued from 24/05/24 - funding from health stopped which has led to the ASC admin support officer fixed term contract coming to an end. Schools are no longer buying in to the service, this means the ASC officer (employed by the council) will need to be funded through the high needs block rather than via traded model.

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level		
Condition 6: 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/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG

**Progress Update:**

- This area has not progressed as expected due to staffing levels set up by exiting administration and currently staffing level not having capacity to drive this area forward. This is a risk to this aspects of the programme.
- 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).
- Creation of new Solent Careers hub, meaning more bespoke options for IOW young people.
- LA senior leaders chairing of SEND employability forum.
- Actual activity in 2023/24 is 4% higher than budgeted resulting in the pressure of £88k. The main increase is in Island VI form and at IOW college in the new Academic year.

Agreement Condition	Assurance Level
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Condition 7: 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	Update 1 (May/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG

Progress Update:

- New 'Safety Valve' Board set up, post partnership. This has re-profiled the workstreams and aligned them more to the High Needs Block, to ensure we bring the programme back on target.
- Strategic leadership approach with establishment of multi- agency SEND Partnership Board (every two months) co-chaired by DCS and ICB's Deputy Director for Children's Care, including representation from DfE and NHS England, reporting from governance perspective into Island's Health and Care Partnership (every six months).
- Investment in additional finance resource (1 x extra post).
- Actions in response to IOW audit of recommendations in DfE's "High Needs Budgets: effective management in local authorities" April 2022 (see slide deck).
- Local Government Association Peer Review of SEND Strategy agreed for October 2024.
- Local Government Association Scrutiny of Education Strategy in September 2024.
- South East Sector Led Improvement Programme agreement to:
  - Audit multi agency decision making process relating to EHC assessments and EHCP issuance.
  - Audit alignment of placement cost allocations to statutory duties ie education / Health / care.
  - Audit joint agency commissioning process.
- Case studies of what has been delivered since we started:
  - Identified a post 16 pupil with PMLD, as part of transition planning with adult social care determined transition into the community to be most appropriate rather than transition to college (post 19) - agreed EHCP will cease.
  - Studio school – 4 pupils would have gone off Island on 250k placements each. However, the creation of the Studio School at 25k each placements has saved 900K per year.

Risk	Assurance Level		
Risk 1: Capacity of LA officers to deliver	Update 1 (May/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)



on the PfA workstream	RAG	RAG	RAG
Mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to build pathways which all parties are clear on and have meaningful routes into adulthood.</li> <li>Need to cultivate links with adult to ensure the links are stronger.</li> </ul>			
Progress update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work is progressing but at a much slower rate.</li> </ul>			
Risk	Assurance Level		
Risk 2: Capacity of LA officers to deliver on expansion work, whilst undertaking a school place planning work across the Island	Update 1 (May/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
Mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase one post holder to higher grade, agreement is in place for a higher grade role which could be advertised.</li> <li>Request internal support for project management.</li> <li>Increase capacity in the team with a temp post.</li> </ul>			
Progress update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional support for project management has been agreed.</li> <li>Job evaluation have declined the post holder to increase grade.</li> </ul>			
Risk	Assurance Level		
Risk 3: Need to build confidence in the education system to bring children and young people back from EOTAS packages.	Update 1 (May/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG
Mitigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A programme of parental engagement to build confidence in expansion plans, informing them of the benefits of newly created provision.</li> </ul>			
Progress update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not started yet.</li> </ul>			
Risk	Assurance Level		
Risk 4: External partners do not contribute cost towards their statutory duties in line with EHCP's	Update 1 (May/June 2024)	Update 2 (September 2024)	Update 3 (December 2024)
	RAG	RAG	RAG

Mitigation:

- New SEN board is established.
- Audit of EHCP, with work implemented, costing and time to share with NHS partners.

Progress update:

- Initial conversations have been had with NHS managers who agree they are not contributing costs to health statutory duties.

The Safety Valve programme has SEND advisors with particular specialisms; an early years SEND specialist and an inclusion specialist.

Do you need additional support from either of our specialist SEND advisers to support the effective delivery of your Safety Valve plan?

If yes, please specify which area you would like extra support in, and give a brief overview of how this support would be beneficial.