

Transforming SEND Isle of Wight

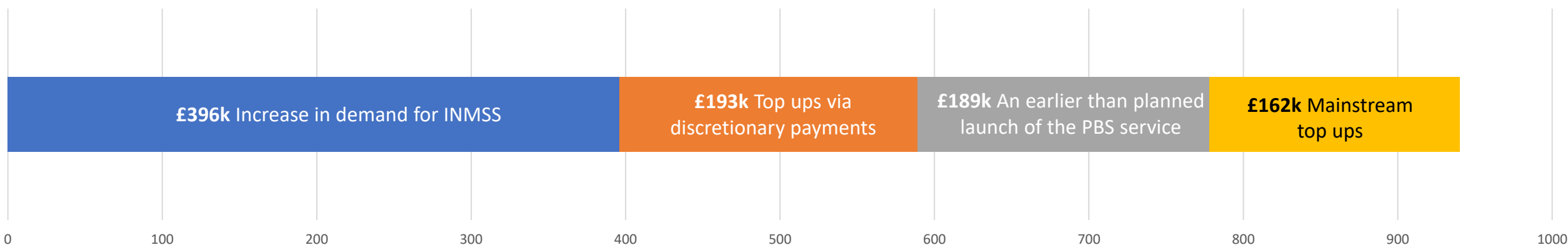
Update to Schools Forum

17 Nov 2023 – Paper G

Programme financial update

- Although the council has progressed a significant amount of work across the programme workstreams, we forecast a gap in our position on the high needs block for this financial year of **£1.6m** (representing a £0.5m difference in baseline position for the end of 2022/3, and a £1.1m gap in this financial year).
- The primary contributors to the £1.1m pressure comprises:

23/24 forecast position – primary contributors to financial pressure



- To mitigate the gap the council are progressing a number of initiatives such as investigating the potential for block commissioning where appropriate, assessing the needs of IOW schools to develop an outreach offer in line and managing parental expectations across the council and schools

Transforming SEND Isle of Wight

- Established Jan 2023, organised around three sub-programmes:

Right Support, Right Time

The right support at the right time to meet need effectively.

Scope: Early identification and intervention to meet need at the earlier stages of the SEND pathway.

Improve Outcomes, Control Costs

Maximising strengths based, person centred approaches to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people with an EHCP and control high needs costs.

Scope: When an EHCP is in place.

Continuous Improvement

Improve LA performance against SEND statutory obligations and quality of EHCPs / Annual Reviews and track the delivery of other transformation activity.

Scope: Performance against statutory obligations and improvement activity.

Workstream update: Build Capacity

Update

Working with IMPOWER, we held a successful in-person Inclusive Ambitions session on 13 September, leading work to agree a shared ambition for services for CYP with SEN on the Island. Following a successful pilot, the council has now committed to a full rollout of IMPOWER's Valuing SEND (VSEND) tool, to all mainstream schools on the Island. School-Wide Advocate for Neuro Diversity (SWAN) training has also commenced and will complete by end of December.

Expected outcomes/benefits

- Workforce skilled and confident in meeting need effectively at level of SEN Support, securing strong education and inclusion outcomes for this group, relative to statistical neighbours and national comparators.
- Workforce are collectively aware and agreed on the threshold for an EHCP, can assess themselves and CYP against the threshold and know what services they can access to help them meet need at the level of SEN support.
- Increased confidence in school staff to support neuro-divergent children and young people (including those who are autistic and have ADHD) to engage in learning (SWAN)
- Increased educational inclusivity for neuro-divergent children and young people (SWAN)
- Increase skills and knowledge of teachers in supporting neuro-divergent children and young people in class (SWAN)

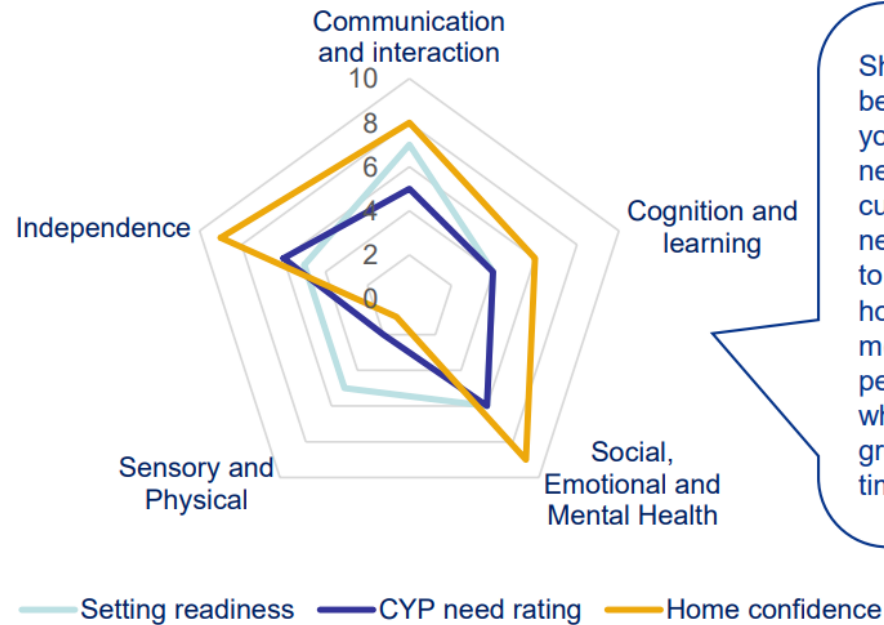
Workstream update: Build Capacity – What is Valuing SEND?

The shared ambition for the Valuing SEND tool and approach is to improve children and young people's long-term outcomes and inclusion, as well as the experience of families across the system. It was co-designed and developed by local authorities, schools and parent carers for this purpose. It aims to achieve this by:

- Developing a single, rounded picture of the needs of children and young people and the support they need to thrive;
- Using this as the foundation for planning and commissioning of support, monitoring progress and evaluating support at an individual and cohort level, to enable earlier and more co-ordinated intervention.

Valuing SEND produces an 'at a glance' radar chart which maps:

- The **readiness of the educational setting** to meet needs across the 5 domains
- A **child or young person's needs** across 5 key domains including independence
- The **confidence of the home environment** to meet needs across the 5 domains and support and reinforce educational outcomes at home



Shows the 'gaps' between the child or young person's level of need and the setting's current readiness to meet need. Can help schools to think creatively about how they can adapt to meet children and young peoples' needs and where they might need to grow and develop over time.

Workstream update: Outreach

Update

Survey to all mainstream schools has now closed. The council is now analysing the results to inform future work in this area, where appropriate.

Expected outcomes/benefits

- Appropriate and consistent support to mainstream schools is required to disseminate best practice and enable mainstream schools to meet SEN need locally and early.
- Breadth of effective outreach support which meets demand equitably and provides value for money in helping to meet children and young people's needs well across the system.
- Mainstream schools can effectively meet need and have access to specialist expertise when required.

Workstream update: Realigned Alternative Provision

Update

- An Outreach PBS service went live on Monday 11 September, from the Chillerton and Rookley site in Newport.
- An in-reach provision also launched on Monday 6 November.
- Most schools have received at least one consultation with the service already.

Expected outcomes/benefits

Complementing the wider range of strategies to meet the needs of children exhibiting challenging behaviours, leading to fewer permanent exclusions and improved inclusion in mainstream schools.
Reduced escalation of need.

Workstream update: Reducing discretionary payments

Update

- Implemented a more streamlined approach to the discretionary funding panel, improving consistency of decision making in line with legislation. Improved compliance when accessing unregistered provision.
- Meetings with Heads/SENCOs to discuss funding requests and compliance, comms sent to all schools on the review of discretionary funding. A Terms of Reference for discretionary funding panel is in draft form to outline expectations of the panel and of those referring.

Risk:

The council is currently forecast to exceed its annual budget for discretionary payments and as a result is investigating responses to remedy this, including the activities above.

Expected outcomes/benefits

- Ensure robust processes are in place for determining the requirement for discretionary payments, resulting in appropriate use of spend, containing high needs costs
- Align increased capacity within schools to meet need and reduce the need for off-site education

Workstream update: Preparing for Adulthood

Update

A range of activities have progressed on the Preparing for Adulthood workstream with various external stakeholders including exploring the possibility of an additional Supported Internship provider and an Employment Forum session.

Risk:

Employability Hubs on the Island are not yet established. The council are working with the college to progress this.

Expected outcomes/benefits

- Build the aspiration to work early, engaging young people, parents/careers, and schools from KS3 in planning for progression to 'a good job', post 16 and post 19
- Enhance employability provision at KS3 and 4 for young people with EHCPs, including employer encounters and work placements
- Utilise the demand for talent from the Island economy to expand support internship and support apprenticeship provision
- Develop a SEND independence hub and a network of up to two SEND Employability Hubs

Workstream update: Sufficiency 'Place planning'

Update

The council is working on a sufficiency strategy which will include the position of provision across the Island and provide an indication of need in the medium/long term.

Risk(s):

Risk of delay to the free school timeline due to limited interest from potential sponsors/ delay from the DfE. A sponsor must be agreed before the design and build begins (decision due Jan 2024). Any delay will impact on our Safety Valve commitments. The team are now working on an alternative option which would help to mitigate this risk.

Expected outcomes/benefits

- Ensure more on-island specialist placements are available to avoid placing children in the independent non-maintained special school sector.
- Ensure children and young people are educated in their communities, among their peers.
- Ensure children and young people are placed in local provision that meets needs and achieves good outcomes.
- Cost-effective commissioning of INMSS school places where appropriate.

Workstream update: Special School Funding Review

Update

Work now complete on a review of special school funding. Comms to schools are imminent.

Expected outcomes/benefits

- The purpose of the project is to review the existing funding model(s) and the factors affecting the variation in funding across the IOW in special schools and resourced provisions.

Workstream update: Training to support CYP in mainstream

Update

A conference is scheduled for Friday 24 November at the Riverside Centre in Newport, where the Transforming SEND programme will be officially launched. The conference will provide attendees with an outline of the Transforming SEND strategy and introduce new services to promote inclusive schools.

Expected outcomes/benefits

- Staff across all Isle of Wight schools will have access to training that provides them with the skills and confidence to support children and young people with complex needs in mainstream classrooms.
- All schools will have access to a support offer to embed the learning.
- Support is co-constructed with Heads, helping them to respond to the challenges that staff face in supporting children and young people with complex needs.

Workstream update: EHCP process improvement and Annual Reviews

Update

Process redesign work within the SEN service is now well underway and is expected to complete by end of December.

Expected outcomes/benefits

- To improve the timeliness and quality of the ECHP and Annual Review process.
- Applications for an EHCP are processed within statutory timescales, phase transfers and annual reviews are carried out on time.
- Complete high quality, person centred annual reviews that provide the CYP with specific and achievable key outcomes, supported by clearly defined, strengths-based provision to meet need.
- Enable a higher proportion of CYP with EHCPs to achieve key outcomes each year.



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