



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

SCHOOLS FORUM

June 2023

Q1 Update: High Needs Block 2023/24

Open

Classification - For Scrutiny Review & Comment

Key Decision: No

Wards Affected: (All Wards): All

Accountable Director: Jacqui McShannon, Strategic Director of Children's Services

Report Authors:

Peter Haylock – Operational Director of Education and SEND

Joe Gunning - Programme Lead, Children's Commissioning

Purpose of the report

This report provides an update on the High Needs Block programmes of work and performance against the Department for Education Safety Valve Agreement at Q1.


Recommendations:

1. Schools Forum to note the current position and progress of the transformation programme across the High Needs Block (HNB).

HIGH LEVEL FORECAST

	21/22 Final Outturn	22/23 Final Outturn	23/24	24/25	25/26
HNB allocation	29,082,078	32,992,213	36,714,054	37,815,476	38,855,355
Block Transfer	(528,000)	0	0	0	0
HNB Expenditure before savings	33,767,970	38,285,884	41,153,539	42,861,909	44,465,815
Investment	166,250	486,410	2,625,621	2,902,020	3,288,136
Total savings (Schedule A)	(599,772)	(1,319,465)	(1,809,485)	(1,919,001)	(2,040,045)
HNB after savings	32,806,448	37,452,829	41,969,675	43,844,928	45,713,906
Sub total - Deficit / (Surplus)	3,724,370	4,460,616	5,255,621	6,029,452	6,858,551
Variance from original safety valve agreement to mitigate	3,292,177	4,804,126	4,874,575	7,084,325	8,914,012
Further savings to mitigate movement (Schedule B)	(4,027,674)	(4,532,000)	(5,657,051)	(6,284,972)	(6,961,984)
Additional Efficiency Target (Schedule C)	0	0	0	0	0
Variance from original safety valve after all mitigations	(735,497)	272,126	(782,476)	799,354	1,952,028
Total deficit / (surplus) after all mitigations	(303,304)	(71,384)	(401,430)	(255,520)	(103,433)
Safety Valve Payment	4,555,600	7,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	0
Retained Deficit	11,820,076	4,748,692	2,847,262	1,091,742	988,309

Delivered / Low Risk	Some risk – closely monitor	Not delivered / undeliverable
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Workstream:	Early Intervention and development of robust Local Offer
Safety Valve 	

Review of Ordinarily Available Guidance and Profile of Need

An early iteration of the Ordinarily Available provision was coproduced with families and key stakeholders, however, following the implementation of several new early intervention programmes there was a need to ensure the guidance reflected the current landscape and expectations.

The Ordinarily Available Provision and Profile of Need sets out the description of the provision that should be ordinarily available for pupils in education settings in H&F. These provisions should be made within the existing structures of funding for:

- Early Years education settings
- LA maintained schools, academies, and free schools
- Colleges of further education

The descriptions and examples in the document define ordinarily or normally available educational provision for pupils and students who have SEND. Setting this out formally provides everyone concerned with a shared understanding and set of expectations about provision that should be made for most children and young people with SEND.

The Profile of Need is a key document that works alongside the Ordinarily Available guidance and provides a profiling tool with a general indication of the level of provision that may be required through universal, targeted and specialist provision: this aligns to our graduated approach to meeting needs in H&F.


The draft guidance and profile of need were developed by several professionals and public consultation was launched in February to gather the contributions from children and young people, parents and carers and practitioners who work with children and young people with SEND.

A series of roadshows were held with key stakeholders during the consultation to promote engagement. This included sessions with parent/carers, school partners, early years providers and Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENCO's). Information was shared on the consultation via Parentsactive, SchoolZone, the Integrated Care Board, Health providers and the Children's Services staff newsletter.

Officers are currently progressing the final version through internal Governance due for Cabinet sign off in June.

Next steps:

- Cabinet sign off of final versions.
- Recruitment to Local Area SENDCo role to support implementation. This is a new General Fund role supporting schools to meet a higher level of need and harness the local area SEND economy to make better use of the resources in schools. The new role of Local Area SENDCo will support SEN Support planning and advice for schools and will also lead on SENDCo and school leadership SEND development.
- Roll out and ongoing workforce development programme.


Workstream:		SLCN Early Intervention Offer				
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1
		£47,073	£0	£139,297	£137,644	£237,285

Progress update:

- Continued roll out of the Joint Communication Team offer.
- As of March 2023, 60% of schools across H&F have engaged. Further targeted work is underway to engage with those who have not yet accessed the JCT including mapping where these settings may be accessing other SLCN services to support meeting needs locally.
- Following staff training in early identification and assessment, 85 children have been assessed using the Progression Tools.
- Schools are subsequently engaging in targeted trainings to support meeting the identified needs.
- Positive early indications from the first primary school to have rescreened their cohort post two terms of implementing targeted interventions, which demonstrated a 27% positive movement from amber to green RAG rating across key domains of speech, language, and communication skills.
- The % of the total EHCP population where SLCN is the primary need (22%) has remained static between January 2022 and January 2023 which is demonstrating an early indication of the positive early intervention approach.
- The rate of growth of EHCP's where SLCN is the primary need in 2022 (8%) was also below the average over the prior 4 years (16%), demonstrating cost avoidance in line with our intended objectives of the programme.

Key next steps:

- Continued roll out of universal trainings and targeted interventions.
- Progress targeted comms programme to support parent/carers understanding of the JCT.
- Ongoing impact/data review.

Workstream:		SLCN Special School Offer				
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1
		£250,000	£64,072	£250,000	£184,000	£250,000

Progress update:

- Contract variation finalised with the Integrated Care Board and health provider.
- Part year delivery of saving in 2022/23 of £163,164 with full year effect firm for 2023/24.

Key next steps:


- No further actions – complete.

Workstream:	Autism Education Trust (AET) Early Intervention Offer
Progress update:	

- Continued roll out of the Autism Education Trust programme - Making Sense of Autism and Good Autism Practice modules - 34 sessions across Early Years and Schools.
- Targeted work with schools who had not previously engaged (3)
- Positive feedback via AET monitoring:
 - *Really helpful course, it made us understand the words "Different Not Less, children and adults with autism look at world differently.*
 - *I think the training was excellent, it helped me become more empathetic towards individuals with autism and increased my knowledge.*
 - *This training was very useful and also inspiring with lots of ideas to do in the nursery with the SEN children.*
 - *I will make changes to my classroom.*
 - *I will be more considerate of hyper / hypo sensitivity. I would love to do more work in school around acceptance of Autism and help children to feel more confident and proud of the differences and strengths their Autism provides. Inspiring, practical and supportive training that helps to develop understanding of Autism with an emphasis on love and care.*
 - *The reasonable adjustments is the most useful tip for my setting it's worked very well with our children in nursery to help them calm down*
 - *The first thing I will change is the use of distressed behaviour to name the emotional distress children go through as opposed to meltdowns as it changes the way you address the situation*
- The % of the total EHCP population where ASC is the primary need (44%) has remained static between January 2022 and January 2023 which is demonstrating an early indication of the positive early intervention approach.

Next steps:

- Continued roll out of the AET Making Sense of Autism module – focus on Post 16 module during the summer term.
- Continued delivery of AET Good Autism Practice module.
- Delivery of INSPIRE Emotional Regulation EYFS & Primary training sessions.
- Delivery of INSPIRE Zone the home training for parents and caregivers.

Workstream:	SEND Case Management, Reporting and Quality Assurance (QA)
Safety Valve 	
Progress update	
<u>Case Management</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance module implemented within the EHC Service. • Ongoing resolution of Finance module output queries between Service and Finance team to improve the quality of reporting. • SEN case management system now fully implemented. 	
<u>Reporting and Quality Assurance</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Intelligence have generated a quarterly performance report in relation to EHC Needs Assessments / EHC Plans activity. • Ongoing implementation by BI of operational reporting suite. • Session held with Business Intelligence to scope out the integration of Finance data and modelling in the workplan to support improving the data quality and automation of processes. 	

- External EHCP audit report undertaken to evaluate the quality of a sample of EHCP's. Draft report produced and shared with Education Department Leadership Team for review, to agree recommendations and share learning.
- Implementation of a multi-agency Education Health and Care Plan Quality Assurance Framework to systematically monitor and evaluate the quality of our EHC needs assessment, planning and review processes and use this learning to improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs, as well as improve families' experiences of our health, social care and education services. First audit completed and moderated in March 2023 QA panel.

Key next steps:

Reporting and Quality Assurance

- Review the findings of the half-termly audit of EHCPs, agree recommendations and share learning.
- Circulate selected cases for next audit.
- Review the findings of the external audit of EHCPs, agree recommendations and share learning via the next SEND Delivery Group
- Further develop and enhance the EHC performance dashboard.

Workstream:

Panels, needs assessments and new plans

Progress update:

Current performance on needs assessments and new plans

- Our timeliness of issuing plans within 20 weeks has significantly improved since 2021. In 2022 our performance was 82.1% compared to 2021 London average of 59.9% and England 63.9%. Our performance year to date is 86.7%.

Next steps:

- We are currently progressing work to integrate our SEND Support offer through a single front door for SEND Services. Business Analysts are currently undertaking scoping work and determining system requirements to inform the timeline for implementation and next steps.

Workstream:

Annual Reviews

Annual Review progress update:

- SEN case management annual review workflow fully embedded.
- Draft Annual review dashboard is now live. This will be used to drive improvements in performance.
- Annual review guidance for education settings and professionals currently being produced.

Preparing for Adulthood targeted actions progress update:

Strategic

- Shared Corporate ownership around transition. Fortnightly task and finish group established with senior officers across Children's Services and Adults Social Care to progress agreed actions.
- Transitions lead appointed in Adult Social Care.
- Programme management capacity.


- Working with ASC to articulate resources required to secure tangible transitions pathways.


Casework


- There were 30 cases identified for transition by July 2022 and 28 case identified for transition pending annual review and an identified transition pathway. This resulted in 58 YP cases in total.
- Out of the 30 cases identified for transition, 22 EHC Plans have transitioned. The remaining 8 cases require ongoing casework with the view to transition by the end of this academic year (if appropriate). This aspect of casework will be supported and monitored by Team Leaders.
- Transition pending pathway: In regard to these cases transition pathways were identified as follows:
 - Employment/ work based opportunities
 - Social care provision
 - CHC provision
 - Higher Education (University/Level 4 and above)
- Out of the 28 cases where transition into another service or opportunity was identified, 7 EHC Plans have transitioned. The remaining 21 cases require ongoing joint casework services and monitoring by Team Leaders during supervision. They will also be discussed at the ongoing monthly transition tracking meetings.
- In total, out of the 58 identified cases 29 EHC Plans have transitioned, 29 have casework ongoing.

Key next steps:


- Implement the annual review dashboard.
- Finalise the annual review guidance for education settings and professionals.


Workstream:		Alternative Provision Reduction of Place Commissioning				
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1
	0	0	£128,456	£128,456	£225,000	£225,000
Progress update:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving firm. No further actions required. 						

Workstream:		Alternative Provision Funding Recoupment				
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1
	£43,750	£53,000	£75,000	£68,793	£75,000	£75,000
Progress update:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving firm - no further action required. 						

Workstream:		Alternative Provision – Short Term Intervention				
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1
	£141,167	£52,500	£242,000	£192,000	£242,000	£242,000
Progress update:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving firm. No further action required. 						

- Full saving target will be achieved in 2023/24.

Workstream:		Outreach Services				
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1
		-	-	-	-	£145,883
Progress update:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held with Outreach provider to agree scope of graduated model and subsequent design and financial costing information required for further discussion. 						
Key next steps:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up review meeting scheduled for post Easter ahead of sharing proposals with school network. 						

Workstream:		SEN Sufficiency and High Needs Capital Allocation				
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1
		£50,000	£0	£150,000	£0	£150,000
Progress update:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The saving has been mitigated in full via the diversion of one-off Section 106 funding modelled in Section B of the forecast. • The SEND Sufficiency Review sets out Hammersmith and Fulham's local area approach to ensure sufficient provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in the borough, as well as the wider regional area in the context of what is ordinarily available. • The review sets out a series of recommendations to ensure that there is sufficiency of placements to meet needs over the medium to long term in the borough in the context of what is ordinarily available in schools. The review commits to promoting inclusion, and excellent outcomes for children with SEND and those who need additional support to achieve their full potential. • The SEND Sufficiency Review was undertaken jointly with our partners across the local area. A Reference Group was established with representation across H&F Council, the Integrated Care Board and school partners to share knowledge and expertise, support developing key lines of enquiry with the commissioned provider undertaking the review and to review and test assumptions. • A series of thematic discussions were held during the Summer 2022 which included representation from across the Council, the Integrated Care Board, Health providers and parents and carer forum members (ParentsActive) to understand the current challenges of provision, consider future projections and potential solutions to challenges and scope recommendations for provision in line with H&F's inclusion agenda and the direction of travel in relation to the Governments SEND Review Green Paper. • Draft versions of these documents were shared with our SEND Delivery Group which includes representation from schools, children centres, health providers, our Parent/Carer forum and representatives from across the Local Authority and Integrated Care Board prior to public consultation. • Public consultation ran from the 20 February 2023 to 24 March 2023. • A series of roadshows were held with key stakeholders during the consultation to promote engagement. This included sessions with parent/carers, school partners, early years providers and Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENCO's). 						

Information was shared on the consultation via Parentsactive, SchoolZone, the Integrated Care Board, Health providers and the Children's Services staff newsletter.


- Officers have reviewed the consultation feedback which was generally positive. Where amendments were required these have been made and are summarised in the We asked, You Said, We Did document below.
- Officers are currently progressing the final version through internal Governance due for Cabinet sign off in June.

Special School Organisation and SEND Capital plan

- A special school organisation and SEND capital plans are currently being developed to deliver the recommendations detailed in the SEND Sufficiency Review. Both are expected to complete internal governance in early summer.

Next steps:

- Cabinet sign off of final versions.
- Business planning meetings with Special Schools
- SLAs agreed with Special Schools and Units
- Progress Special School Org Plan through Cabinet governance


Workstream:		Medical Needs Guidance / Interim Tuition					
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1	
	£165,000	£215,000	£165,000	£165,000	£165,000	£165,000	

Progress Update:

- Significant work has been put in across the Local Area in coproducing the H&F Medical Needs Guidance. The guidance draws on national policy and legislation to develop a local approach to multi-agency working. It provides guidance on processes schools and partners should follow, key roles and responsibilities, and training and other resources available to support schools in meeting the individual needs of pupils with medical conditions in Hammersmith & Fulham.
- The document details the Local Authorities role in supporting children and young people who are unable to attend school for 15 days or more due to their medical needs and sets out the notification pathway including the support available where provision is over and above the notional SEN funding the school ordinarily receives.

Next steps:

- The final version is progressing through internal governance and will then be implemented across the local area by the Medical Needs Coordinator in conjunction with colleagues across School Effectiveness, Admissions/Attendance and EHC Planning.

Workstream:		Schools Block to High Needs Block Transfer					
Safety Valve 	21/22 Target	21/22 Delivered	22/23 Target	22/23 Delivered	23/24 Target	23/24 Q1	
	£528,000	£528,000	£0	£556,000	£0	£556,000	

Progress Update:

- Transfer and disapplication approved. No further action required.

