



SCHOOLS' FORUM

1st February 2024

DELIVERING BETTER VALUE (DBV)

SEND PROGRAMME UPDATE

Report from Kulwinder Bola, SEND Improvement Programme Manager

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools' Forum:

1. Notes the report.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update members of the Schools' Forum on the progress of the Delivering Better Value Programme (DBV) for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Recovery Plan initiatives and projects designed to reduce the pressure on the Designated School Grant (DSG) High Needs Block:
 - To update on the progress with DfE Delivering Better Value programme, and emerging themes and initiatives
 - To highlight related risks and issues.

2. Delivering Better Value in SEND Services Review

- 2.1 The DfE Delivering Better Value Review of SEND arrangements in Rutland as part of Tranche 2 continues. Rutland is one of 55 authorities taking part and activities to analyse local trends, examine future expected children's needs and predict demand and best use of available funding, have continued apace. Activities have included parental and education practitioner surveys, listening forums with small groups of parents and professionals and reviews of cases to focus thinking of outcomes.
- 2.2 Key themes are emerging and projects that follow this deep examination will add additional transformation resources that could help make Rutland's SEND systems more inclusive and meet the DfE Green Paper intentions and learning and opportunities identified from the recent Ofsted inspection.
- 2.3 Any projects considered will be set out in an updated SEND Recovery Plan and the Children and Young Peoples' Partnership Plan associated with Rutland's SEND and Inclusion Strategy.

3. Financial Modelling

- 3.1 Rutland County Council continues to see a steep rise in the volume of EHCP's which in turn impacts on the High Needs overspend. The DBV program is expected to make savings over time as shown below:

2024/25	£400k
2025/26	£730k
2026/27	£1,234k
2027/28	£1,849k
2028/29	£2,773k
2029/30	£2,773k

- 2.2. Despite these savings, the deficit is anticipated to be £1.9m at the end of *this financial year*, and the deficit is expected to rise to £15.8m by 2029/30. This assumes £2.8m pounds worth of ‘in-year’ savings from 2028/29 shown above.

4. DBV SEND Programme Update

- 4.1 The DBV Programme will cover three key areas: Parental Confidence, Specialist Teams and Early Help. The presentation slides attached provide more details - please see Appendix A.
- 4.2 With reference to the Specialist Teams Work Stream, we aim to further grow skills, expertise and confidence in supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), through practitioner skills enhancement and a common understanding to the graduated response so that needs are not missed, misunderstood or misinterpreted.

The work in this area will be supported by Advisors for Teaching and Learning. These colleagues will aim to support schools’ SENDCo so that children/young people with SEND, can thrive in mainstream school as far as possible without the need of EHCP and remain within their community and reach their own full potential.

The role of the Advisor for Teaching and Learning will be to support schools by acting as mentor and advise on how best to meet need. The Schools Support Partnership (SSP) evidence shows that children’s outcomes into adulthood are improved by maintaining local networks, family and peer groups without the need for an EHCP or where appropriate to provide support as the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) process is expedited. Success is demonstrated through education practitioners exhibiting and expressing confident inclusive practice over time and supporting children effectively at an earlier stage where their needs change or emerge.

5. SEND Programme Update – SEND Governance

- 5.1 On the 1st November 2023, the SEND Strategic Area Partnership Board was created. This was one of the requirements of the SEND Improvement Plan and will be the board to which the DBV and the Change Programme will report to. The Board is made up of multi-agency partners with colleagues from Rutland County Council (Children and Families, SEND & Inclusion), Public Health, Schools’ Forum, Health (ICB and LPT) and the Rutland Parent Carer Voice. The Board is chaired by an independent chair from the Schools Development and Support Agency (SDSA). The Board will meet four times a year.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – DBV Programme