



SCHOOLS' FORUM

9th May 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 linked to High Needs Funding
 - To share the findings of the Parent Collaborative 'School life' survey

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, 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, meet the DfE Green Paper intentions and reflect 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 in the last year, from 314 in Jan 2023 to 342 in Feb 2024, there has been an increase of 28 plans. This in turn impacts on the High Needs overspend. The DBV program is expected to make savings over time as shown below:

2024/25	£737k
2025/26	£1,418k
2026/27	£2,231k
2027/28	£3,126k
2028/29	£3,220k
2029/30	£3,317k

- 3.2. Despite these savings, the deficit is anticipated to be £2.3m at the end of *this financial year 2023/24* and the accumulative deficit is expected to rise to £16.9m by 2029/30. This assumes £3.3m of 'in year savings' shown above.

4. DBV SEND Programme Update

4.1 **Education Health Care Plan Data:** Education Health and Care Plans are increasing year on year. In 2019, Rutland had 197 EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan), this increased to 342 in 2024. When the Education health Care plans were reviewed for type of need, the data showed the same four needs remained consistent year on year. These were: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH), Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and Speech Language Communication Needs (SLCN). Using this data, Rutland County Council will target support to our schools and settings.

4.2 **The DBV Programme covers three key areas:**

- 1) Parental Confidence,
- 2) Specialist Teams and
- 3) Early Help and Social Support.

4.3 **Parental Confidence workstream:** this covers Inclusive Schools, Early Years, and Specialist Provision. Linked to the Inclusive Schools work, a survey has been co-produced with the Parent Collaborative and distributed through to all mainstream schools asking them to share it with all their families. The aim of the survey was to collect the experiences of school life in Rutland. The results of this survey will be shared in the meeting 9th May.

4.4 **Specialist Teams workstream:** the Advisors for Teaching & Learning - SEND have booked appointments to visit all schools and Early Years' settings in Rutland. The visits are an opportunity for the schools to share what is working well and consider what else the Local Authority can do to support them. Rutland County Council via DBV has purchased Autism Education Trust (AET) licence, and Nurture UK license. The Advisors for Teaching and Learning –SEND will be supporting the delivery of the Autism training modules to the schools in spring term. Social Emotional Mental Health Needs training will be supported by Nurture UK and will also be delivered in spring term. To meet the SLCN, a Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist will work with the Advisors for teaching & learning – SEND to create a bespoke toolkit which will be developed over the summer with a view to start the training in Autumn term. The Advisors for Teaching & Learning – SEND will also be setting up network meetings for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo) and holding 'SEND surgery' to support school is to more accurately identifying when a EHCP may be needed.

4.5 **Early Help and Social Care:** the Family Hub in Oakham has set-up an outreach service in Uppingham community hall to support families of children with SEND closer to their home community of Uppingham. These sessions start on 29th April, and will be 2hrs long from 1-3pm, running once a week. In addition, the Family Hub in Oakham will offer

learning opportunities about autism in early years for families so that they can better understand and meet Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) needs in the young.