



Agenda Item Introduction

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| Committee | POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS |
| Date | 2 MARCH 2023 |
| Topic | SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS STRATEGY AND SAFETY VALVE BID |

BACKGROUND

During 2020/21 the Department for Education (DfE) introduced the 'safety valve' intervention programme working with those authorities with the very highest percentage Dedicated School Grant (DSG) deficits, continuing to work with further local authorities during 2021/22 supporting and challenging the development of substantial plans of reforms to high needs systems with the departments expert team.

These conversations are detailed and complex, and if an authority can demonstrate sufficiently reaching lasting sustainability the department will consider helping local authorities with additional funding over time to contribute to eliminating the historic deficit.

In February 2022, the Isle of Wight Council was invited by the DfE to take part in the 2022/23 programme.

The committee to receive a presentation which will outline the future strategy for improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs on the Island. This is subject to a Safety Valve bid to the DfE which would potentially deliver the additional finance needed to allow for implementation.

FOCUS FOR SCRUTINY

- What financial impact will the Safety Valve programme have?
- What impact will there be on SEND services by joining the Safety Valve programme?
- What proposed solutions and measures are already in place?
- Has it been demonstrated that the Council have sufficiently reached lasting sustainability?
- What communication has taken place with schools and school governors regarding the Safety Valve programme and any impact on SEND services?

APPROACH

A verbal update to be provided.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

N/A

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