



Agenda Item Introduction

Committee	POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SKILLS
Date	7 MARCH 2024
Topic	SAFETY VALVE PROGRAMME

Background

1. During 2020/21 the Department for Education (DfE) introduced the 'Safety Valve' intervention programme working with authorities with the very highest percentage Dedicated School Grant (DSG) deficits.
2. The programme is designed to help local authorities tackle overspending on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services. If an authority can demonstrate sufficiently reaching lasting sustainability the DfE will consider helping local authorities with additional funding over time to contribute to eliminating the historic deficit.
3. In February 2022, the Isle of Wight Council was invited by the DfE to take part in the 2022/23 programme.
4. The committee are to consider an update on progress made on the Isle of Wight Council's Safety Valve agreement.

Focus for Scrutiny

5. Are the DfE satisfied with progress made under the Safety Valve Programme?
6. Who retains oversight of the Safety Valve Programme now that the Children's Services transition from Hampshire to Isle of Wight Council control has taken place?
7. How is the deficit being monitored and recorded?
8. What adjustments or amendments can be made to the agreement, for example, if costs were to increase?
9. What safeguards are in place to ensure engagement and wider dialogue is taking place with parents?

Document(s) Attached

10. Appendix 1 – Safety Valve Update March 2024

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