

# Transforming SEND Hampshire

Presentation to the Education Advisory Panel

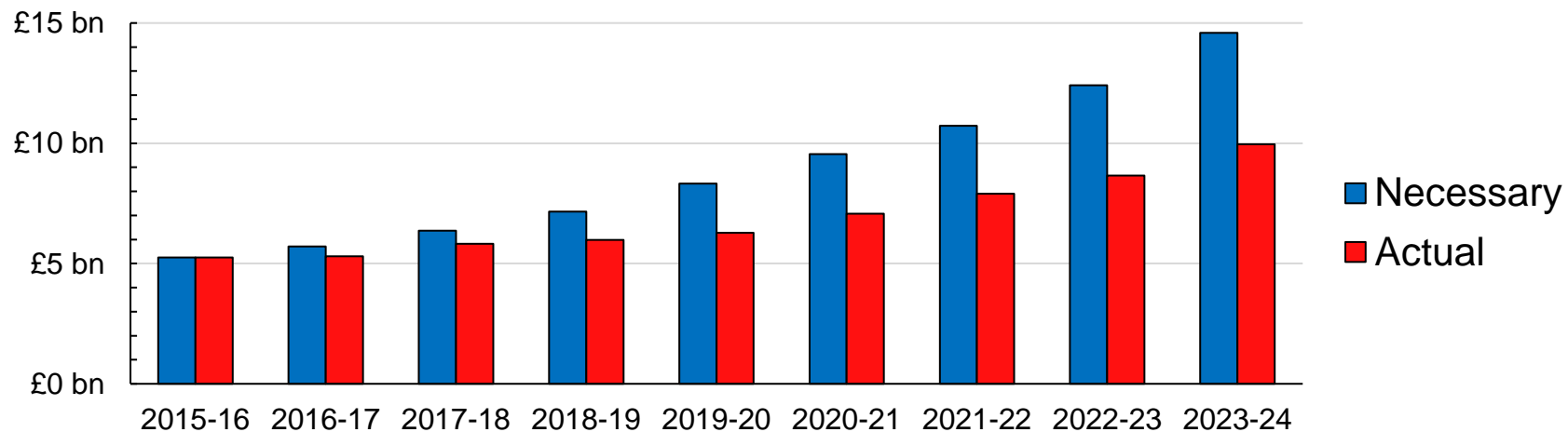
March 2024

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# National context

- Nationally, we have seen the number of children with an EHCP double since legislative change in 2015, but the funding increases provided to pay for the extra support has not.
- Considering inflation and the growth in the number of EHCPs since 2015, it is estimated that an additional £4.6bn is required nationally to meet current need.
- EHCPs are funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). A DSG statutory override keeps the DSG cumulative deficit separate on the Council's balance sheet. This arrangement is due to end in 2026/27.
- The Department for Education has established two programmes to assist Local authorities to bring down their deficits, the Safety Valve and Delivering Better Value.

## High Needs Funding



# Transforming SEND Hampshire Scope 2023/4

## Right Support, Right Time

The right support is provided at the right time and meets need effectively.

Scope: Early identification and intervention to meet need at the earlier stages of the SEND pathway.

## Improve Outcomes, Control Costs

Strength's based, person-centred approaches are maximised to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people with an EHCP and control high needs costs.

Scope: When an EHCP is in place.

## Continuous Improvement

LA performance against SEND statutory obligations and the quality of our work is continuously improving.

Scope: performance against statutory obligations and improvement activity.

# Right Support, Right Time

## Established projects

- Schools led projects to support high-quality SEN support.
- Developing an improved outreach offer to schools.
- A review of Education Centres.
- A new project to build parental confidence in SEN support.
- A review of early years SEN provision.

## Workstreams added in 2023/4

- Piloting key interventions
    - Person-centred planning meetings following a 'no to assess' decision to improve parental confidence in SEN support.
    - Extending LA portage expertise to support effective transition to school.
    - Providing access to therapy to avoid escalation to an EHCP.
  - Establishing new services and training
    - A new SENCO helpline and SEN Support toolkit, providing access to advice and tools.
    - Funded Person-Centred Planning training for schools and LA professionals
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# Improve Outcomes, Control Costs

## Established projects

- Sufficiency Strategy, to plan additional specialist placements including planned special schools and new resource provisions in mainstream schools.
- Commissioning frameworks that ensure cost effective commissioning of INMSS and Alternative Provision.
- Working with colleges to ensure that pathways are in place that prepare young people with SEND for independent living and employment.
- The introduction of a consistent and equitable special school funding framework.
- Work to improve transitions, leading to lower cost placements.

## Workstreams added in 2023/4

- A fully funded modular, online training course for all staff in Hampshire schools, to build the expertise to support complex learners in mainstream settings.
  - An official launch of Transforming SEND Hampshire took place in November.
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# Continuous Improvement

## Established projects

- A review of the online portal for EHCPs.
- A review of SEN panels that support decision making as part of the EHCP process.
- A review of demand and the capacity of the SEN Service has been completed, ensuring that the service is right-sized to manage incoming demand.
- New guidance has been prepared and circulated to help advice givers provide high quality advice that helps the SEN Service to prepare a high quality EHCP.

## Workstreams added in 2023/4

- The LA is improving the quality and timeliness of annual reviews, through high quality guidance to advice givers, alongside additional capacity to clear overdue processing.
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# Delivering Better Value

- Delivering Better Value is led by the Department for Education.
  - Local Authorities are invited to participate if their high needs deficit is a cause for concern.
  - Newton Europe and CIPFA work with participating Local Authorities to quality assure their forecasting and diagnose areas for potential improvement.
  - Following that process, Local Authorities are invited to apply for a £1m grant which can be used to progress work to contain and/or reduce the pressure on high needs funding.
  - Local Authorities with the highest deficits are invited to join Safety Valve, which requires Local Authorities to reach an in-year balanced High Needs budget at the end of the agreed period, in exchange for funding to pay down the cumulative deficit.
  - Hampshire hasn't yet been asked to participate, though a number of Local Authorities who have been involved in Delivering Better Value have since been asked to join Safety Valve (notably BCP).
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# Hampshire participation in DBV

- Hampshire County Council participated in Tranche 1 of the Delivering Better Value programme and received a grant in 2023/4 of £1m towards delivery of the identified areas for improvement.
  - The grant funding period ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. All workstreams funded through the grant are on track.
  - The Department for Education receive quarterly progress updates from the LA. Our last update was provided in January.
  - The DfE will continue to monitor progress when the funding ends, with a particular focus on reducing the long-term forecast of high needs spend.
  - The LA is delivering this through its existing Transforming SEND programme.
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# Progress of the programme in 2023/4

In 2023/4 the programme is forecast to avoid **significant** high needs costs through its workstream activity. The workstreams that have contributed significantly to this achievement are:

- Establishing a cost effective, in-house speech and language therapy team (a workstream from 2022/3) that provides both direct therapy and capacity building in schools.
  - The new SENCO helpline and SEN Support toolkit, which has enabled higher quality SEN support and delayed or avoided escalation to an EHCP.
  - Piloting person-centred planning meetings when a child has been refused an EHC assessment, leading to improved parental confidence in SEN support and a reduction in tribunal challenges.
  - Piloting Independence and Employability hubs to support young people with SEND to transition to adulthood.
  - More cost-effective commissioning of support and placements for children and young people with an EHCP.
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# Transforming SEND Hampshire Scope for 2024/5

NEW in 2024

## Inclusion and Educational Engagement

The Hampshire SEND system keeps children safe, develops positive relationships, identifies and builds on strengths, and grows and strengthens support networks

Scope: Overarching.

## Right Support, Right Time

The right support is provided at the right time and meets need effectively.

Scope: Early identification and intervention to meet need at the earlier stages of the SEND pathway.

## Improve Outcomes, Control Costs

Strength's based, person-centred approaches are maximised to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people with an EHCP and control high needs costs.

Scope: When an EHCP is in place.

Closing

## Continuous improvement

LA performance against SEND statutory obligations and the quality of our work is continuously improving

Scope: Performance against our statutory obligations and improvement activity.

Set up to deliver DBV workstreams and improve performance, now transitioning to BAU

# Inclusion and Educational Engagement

A new sub-programme will be introduced in 2024/5.

- Agreeing and embedding a shared culture of inclusion across Hampshire schools
  - Developing an early intervention service offer to support improved educational engagement.
  - Developing and testing an Inclusion Support Panel.
  - Establishing a multi-agency panel to identify and respond effectively to hard-to-place children.
  - Piloting 'team around the school' support for schools with escalating SEND and/ or high disengagement with education.
  - Developing Inclusion and Educational Engagement hub/s.
  - Undertaking a training needs analysis across all Hampshire schools and colleges, to identify and respond to the challenges associated with inclusion, educational engagement and SEND.
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