

Haringey Safety Valve Programme Progress Update

January 2025



Safety Valve Programme Approach

Haringey Council has developed a comprehensive plan to reduce its deficit, which will support its goal of improving the overall SEND system.

The plan aims to manage the demand for Education, Health, and Care Plans and use cost-effective resources while maintaining high standards for all children and young people with SEND.

Haringey has agreed a Safety Valve Programme with the Department for Education which achieves a balanced budget in 2027-2028 and a cumulative deficit of £29.9m.

Haringey's Safety Valve portfolio of projects will reduce costs by £47.8M over five years.

We will address demand management within the SEND system, through implementing robust early intervention approaches to meet the needs of children with SEN earlier, reducing 611 EHCPs to align with London averages by 2027-28.

We are now in Year 3 of the Programme and have delivered a range of the Projects across the Borough including opening a new resource provision as well as expanding special school places.

Safety Valve Programme Approach

We have developed capital proposals to reduce unit costs within the SEND system by developing in-borough provision for an additional 125 children and young people within mainstream education settings. The first of these have opened last term supporting more children to go to school in Haringey.

This is a stand-alone area of work as part of the Safety Valve programme that interfaces with the wider Schools Estates programme and will not impact future pupil place planning as they are for small cohorts of pupils.

We have completed a review of bandings and top-ups and have implemented our new funding bandings for children with EHC Plans. We are also undertaking work to ensure we have effective commissioning arrangements for our out of borough placements.

We have taken an early intervention approach, supporting schools and developing a graduated response to meet demand and reduce the need for specialist support.

Background Information: Safety Valve Workstreams

The Haringey Safety Valve Programme is made up of three workstreams: demand management, commissioning, and leadership culture and governance across 18 projects:

Workstream A: is addressing demand management within the SEND system by embedding early intervention approaches to meet needs at an earlier stage and for some children and young people to meet their needs without an EHCP. We envisage that this will bring the number of EHCPs in Haringey in line with London and National averages. These projects include:

- We are making additional Investments in early intervention in Speech and Language Therapy.
- We have reviewed our Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) pathways with support and investment in the Autism Team to provide pro-active support.
- Projects to ensure that preparation for adulthood is prioritised with an ambitious programme and have been creating new supported internships.
- Within this suite of projects, there will also be a focus on the effective use of Annual Reviews to cease plans as appropriate and to identify where children might require health and social care funding and support.

Background Information: Safety Valve Workstreams

Workstream B is concentrating on reducing the overall budget pressure created by bandings and funding costs, particularly those in relation to independent non-maintained school (INMS) placements. These include:

- We have reviewed and have now rolled out our new funding and bandings for children with EHC plans.
- We are increasing capital investment in SEND placement sufficiency to create 118 new education placements for children with SEND and have opened our first resource provision.
- We have started projects to address the prolonged use of spot purchase and lack of co-ordination between Annual Review processes and individual child arrangements.

Workstream C: are enabling the strategic changes necessary to create culture change in SEND services. We have committed to;

- Working more closely with parents, carers and schools.
- We have undertaken lean process mapping of SEND services and are prioritising wider workforce development.
- We have coproduced our SEND core standards, and communication of the ordinarily available offer of education to our schools and families.

Summary of Safety Valve Projects

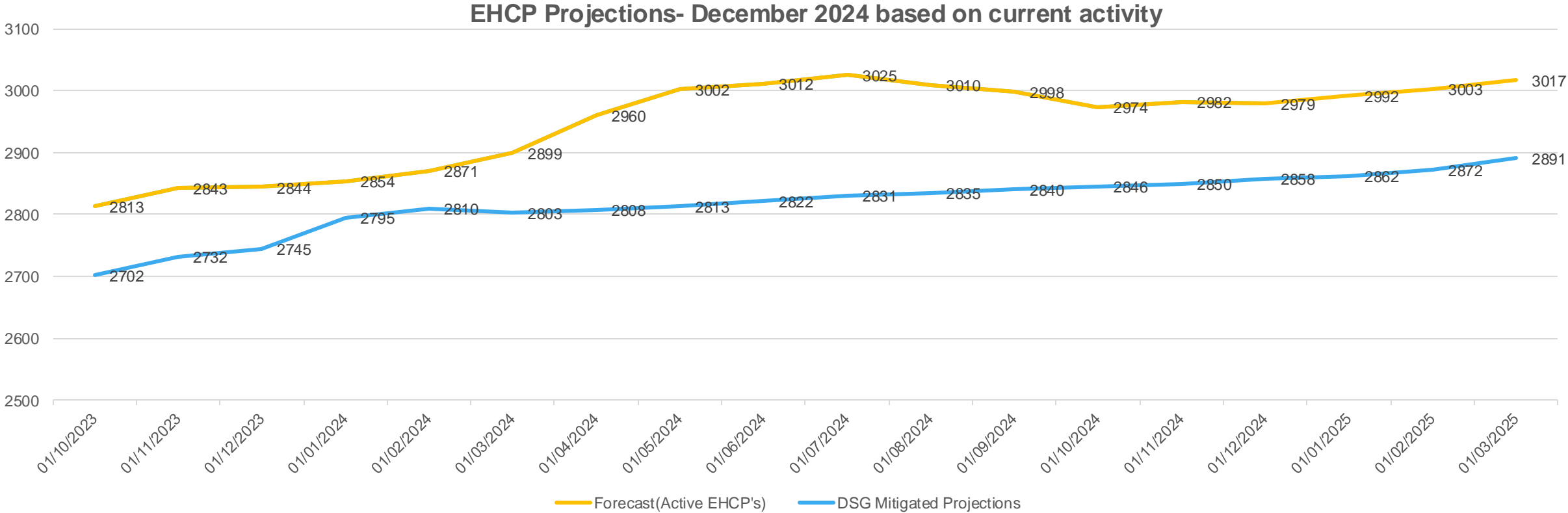
Demand management	Commissioning / Capital	Culture, Governance and Leadership
A.1 SLT	B1.1 Primary ASC capital	C.1 Core standards
A.2 Autism	B1.2 Secondary and post 16 ASC capital	C.2 Culture change
A.3 SEMH pathway	B.3 Complex needs capital	C.3 Process mapping
A.4 Thresholds and Annual Reviews	B.4 Alternative Provision (oversight)	C.4 WFD
A.5 SEND Supported Internships	B.2 and B.5 Placements (including post 16)	
A.6 Early Years	B.6 Bandings and Top Ups	

[Overview of the Safety Valve Programme \(PDF, 488KB\)](#) and [Haringey Safety Valve Project Summaries](#)

Safety Valve Measure- Forecast EHCP's to 31st December 2024

The updated DSG Plan (revised baseline) forecasts there should be 2,891 EHCP's by 31st March 2025. The estimated forecast based on current demand indicates by 31st March 2025, Haringey will have 3,017 EHCP plans.

As of December 2024, Haringey had 2,979 active EHC Plans which is a reduction from the previous reported position in October. This is largely as a result of older young people not continuing in education and their plan being ceased.



Overall progress to date

Project	Updates
Project A1. Review Therapeutic Support for Speech & Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of training is now business as usual and is constantly being monitored.• Data set now in place measuring impact of the speech, language and communication pathway (SLCN) delivery. Early findings are showing that there was a 80% improvement in childrens SLCN needs following early intervention support. There was also a 50% reduction in referrals to specialist support compared with the previous academic year.
Project A.2 Increase capacity of mainstream schools to meet the needs of autistic children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff for autism support team (LAST) are in post and children are being supported with intervention which is evidencing a reduction in placement breakdown with children being supported to remain within mainstream education.• A review is taking place in the Spring to see how effective our support offer is.
Project A.3 Increase capacity of mainstream schools to meet the needs with SEMH	A new pathway to support children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs has been established and has been operating since September in schools. You can refer to it here: Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) Guidance for Schools
Project A.4 Thresholds and Annual Reviews of EHCP's	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training for Statutory Assessment Teams have been rolled out to make EHCP assessment and annual review process for robust and in line with best practice.• Some dedicated support has been put into complete overdue EHCP Annual Reviews with an aim to complete c200 ARs per month.• Work is ongoing to support Annual Reviews to improve the timeliness of the AR process.

Overall progress to date

Project	Updates
<p>Project A.5</p> <p>Supported Internships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 41 young people who are currently on a supported internship. • A specialist role (NEET Co-ordinator) is now in post to support both young people and employers with this programme. • The service are expanding the number of disability confident employers who can offer placements.
<p>Project A.6</p> <p>Early Years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of the Early Years Inclusion Fund is working well, providing funded support for children aged under 5 without an EHCP.
<p>Project B.1, B.3 and B.7</p> <p>Capital Projects to create 166 new education places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Primary provision for children with SEMH (10 places) –Building work is due to start in the Easter holidays, on track to be open for Sept 25. • Earlsmead Primary provision for autistic children (15 places) – We have now opened our new Resource Provision at Earlsmead and phasing in placements with three children attending to start with. The Brook Primary Provision for autistic children with complex needs On track to be open for September 25. • Park View (St Mary' site) secondary provision for children with SEMH (34 places) – Work in progress, plans to open Sept 2026. • Riverside Secondary and Post 16 provision for autistic children with complex needs (15 places) – We have opened our new provision with all 15 places filled. • Fortismere Secondary Provision for autistic children –Work in progress, plans to open Sept 2026. • Phase two is underway to create an additional 40 places.

Overall progress to date

Project	Updates
Project B.2 Cost effective commissioning and brokerage of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are rolling out more formalised agreements for places for out of borough places for children with SEND.• Development of SEND Marketplace for places for EHC Learners.• A review of Tuition services for children and young people with SEND is underway, a workshop was held with SEND Power in January to hear families experience of the current offer and inform priorities going forward.• Placements review for out of borough / high costs provision for SEND Learners is underway.
Project B.5 Commissioning Post 16 Learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approach to review of current placement costs for 16s is confirmed and underway. Breaking down and reviewing costs by provider and by post-16 learner. Initiating conversations with high-volume / high-cost providers. Initial meeting with the highest volume/cost provider.
Project B.6 Remodel financial support/ top ups to mainstream and special schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our new bandings model is in place from this academic year ensuring we have an equitable funding system for children to be supported wherever they choose to learn. This will be reviewed in 18 months time.

Ways we are engaging with stakeholders

Audience	Ways of engaging
Overview and Scrutiny	Update will be provided as part of the finance report
Young People via the SEND Youth Forum 'Elevated Youth'	Chair of Elevated Youth is a member of the SEND Executive.
Relevant Governance boards: Start Well Board, Health and Well Being Board	Reports have been taken to all relevant boards, further reports on request.
Partners and Stakeholders: Health, Integrated Care Board (ICB), Whittington, Barnet Enfield Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEH MHT), Markfield, Voluntary Community Sector (VCS), Council staff	SEND Executive Board members provide updates to wider partners SV Operational Group and subgroups, staff service meetings
Public information	Monthly SEND newsletter and social media updates, Dedicated webpage with a range of user-friendly comms materials . Haringey People magazine / Haringey People Extra e-newsletter

Ways we are engaging with stakeholders

Audience	Ways of engaging
Parents and Carers via SEND Power Carer Forum (PCF)	Chair of PCF is a member of the Safety Valve steering group. PCF representatives are involved in individual tasks and finish groups/projects
Haringey Headteacher meetings (primary/secondary/post-16)	Head Of Service: SEND attends a range of school meetings with the Haringey Early Years Primary and Special Heads Association (HEPSEA) Schools and SEND Partnership Form Assistant Director: Early Help and Prevention: SEND attends Special Heads
Chairs of Governors	Head Of Service: SEND, attends Local Leaders of Governance (LLG) on request. Governor representative is a member of the Safety Valve Steering Group.
Haringey Schools Forum	The Director, Assistant Director and Head Of Service attend forums, with a report provided at every meeting. The chair and High Needs Subgroup chair are members of the SV steering group
Haringey SEND Executive	Assistant Director provides report at every meeting
Members briefings	Briefings circulated to Lead Member for Childrens and Finance Members are represented on the SV steering group
Children and Young People and Schools Scrutiny	Formal reports provided and updates on request

Stakeholder and Comms Engagement

The latest updates on key milestone events and timelines regarding the Safety Valve programme can be accessed on the public domain:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer>

January 2025

- Special Heads 10 Jan
- Commissioning event with SEND Power 14 Jan
- Haringey Schools Forum 16 Jan

The full calendar of events for 2025 is being profiled on progress for the Safety Valve.



Ways to get involved and learn more about the programme



- [Overview of the Safety Valve Programme which supports children and young people with SEND in Haringey](#)
- [Monthly Highlight reports published on Local Offer](#)
- [Sign up to our SEND newsletter for regular updates](#)
- [Give us your feedback by emailing: `sendcomms@haringey.gov.uk`](#)
- [Join SEND Power, your local parent carer forum](#)
- If you would like to be part of developing this programme going forward, please register your interest at [sendcomms@haringey.gov.uk](#)