

Transforming SEND Hampshire

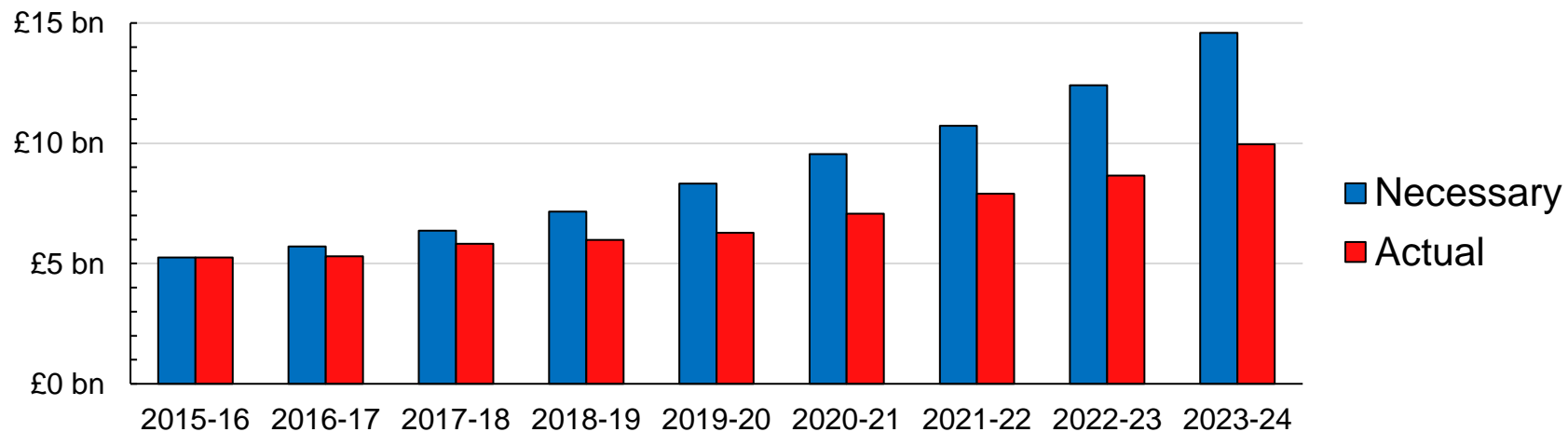
Presentation to the Education Advisory Panel

March 2024

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.

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 31st 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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