

# Haringey Safety Valve Programme Progress Update

March 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 (EHCPs) 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 SEND 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 two new resource provisions as well as expanding special school places.

# Safety Valve Programme Approach

We have developed capital proposals aimed at reducing unit costs within the SEND system by creating in-borough provision for an additional **126** children and young people within mainstream education settings as part of the Safety Valve Phase 1 programme. Additionally, we are planning to add **40** more places within our Safety Valve Phase 2 programme for secondary school children.

Last year, Haringey successfully opened two provisions. We created a resource provision for **15** pupils at Earlsmead Primary, which is currently supporting three children, with plans to scale up and increase the number of children in the provision. Additionally, we expanded the number of places at Riverside School by **15**.

This initiative is 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 implemented new banding descriptors of children's needs, and the support required, alongside increased funding for mainstream schools to ensure equitable funding for children and young people with SEND, wherever they choose to learn. Additionally, we are working to ensure effective commissioning arrangements for our out-of-borough placements.

We have taken an early intervention approach, supporting schools and developing a graduated response and interventions 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. As the Safety Valve project is entering its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, a number of these workstreams have now closed.

**Workstream A:** Relates to Demand Management within the SEND system. By embedding early intervention approaches to meet needs earlier. For some children and young people, this means meeting their needs without an EHCP. By undertaking this work, we foresee that we will be able to bring the amount of EHCPs in Haringey in line with London and National averages. These projects include:

- Creating and embedding a pathway of support for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs in Early Years and key stages one through three.
- Reviewing pathways of support for Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and investing in the Autism Team to provide support pro-actively to prevent needs from escalating and requiring specialist support.
- Ensuring that young adults can develop employability skills to enable them transition into employment with our supported internship programme.
- We are also focusing on the effective use of Annual Reviews to reflect children and young people's needs, to inform the support required, identify where children might require health and social care funding and support and cease accurately.

# Background Information: Safety Valve Workstreams

**Workstream B** concentrates 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:

- Reviewing and subsequently rolling out our new funding and bandings for children with EHC plans.
- Increasing capital investment in SEND placement sufficiency to create a minimum of 125 new education placements for children with SEND.
- We have started projects to address the prolonged use of spot purchase and better support co-ordination between Annual Review processes and individual child arrangements.

**Workstream C** enabled the strategic adjustments needed to create culture change in SEND services. We committed to;

- Work more closely with parents, carers and schools to coproduce processes, training, effective communication and engagement.
- We have undertaken a lean process mapping of SEND services and have prioritised 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

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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	

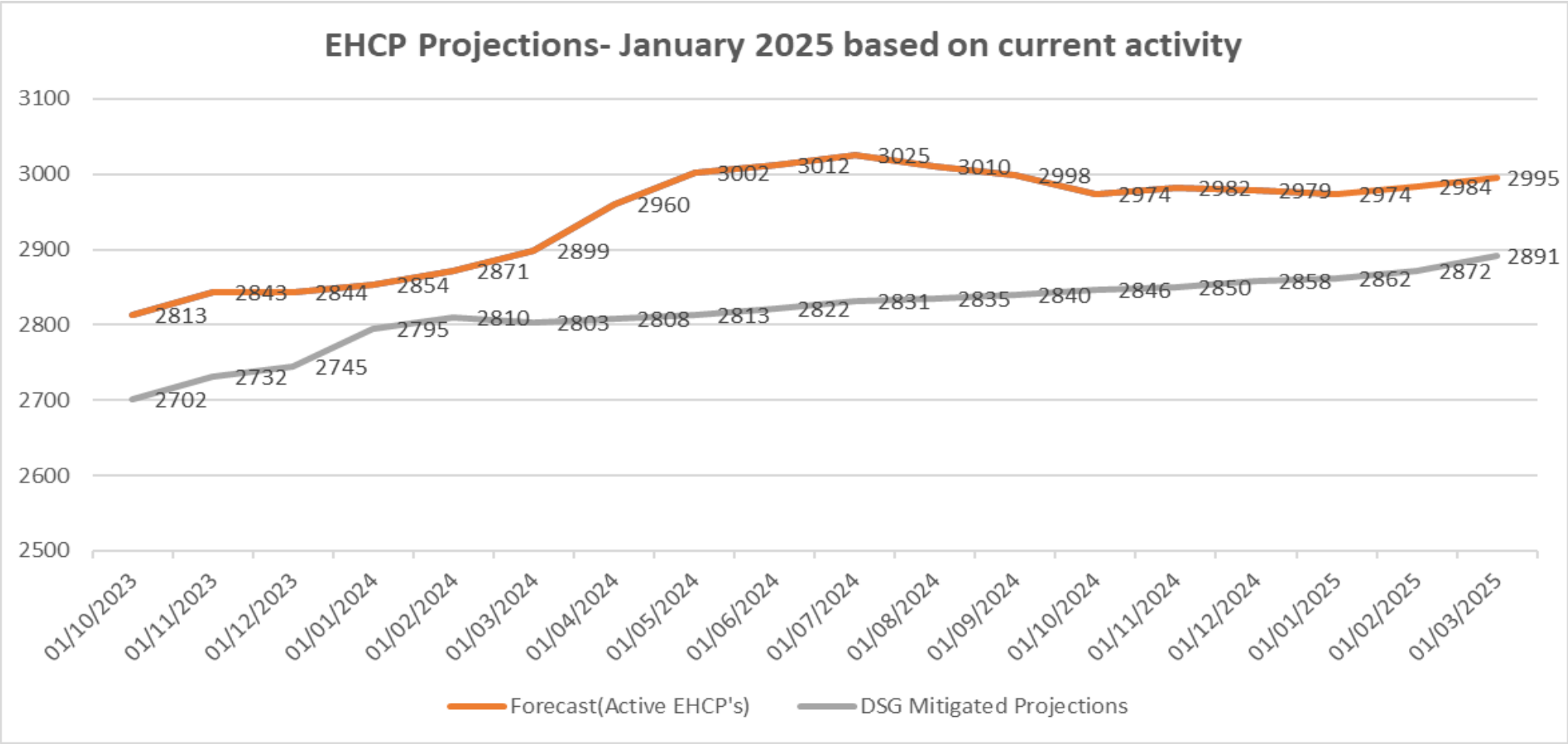
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[Safety Valve Programme: summary of 18 projects April 2023 \(pdf, 16 page\(s\), 174.32 KB\)](#)

# Safety Valve Measure- Forecast EHCP's to 28 February 2025

Our updated projections forecast there should be 2,891 EHCP's by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The estimated forecast based on current demand indicates by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, Haringey will have 3,017, this being 126 above the Dedicated Schools Management (DSG) plan target.

As of February 2025, Haringey had 2,974 active EHC Plans which is 83 EHCP's over the DSG plan target but it is a reduction from December 2024 forecast where it was reported that Haringey was 121 active EHCP's over target.



# Overall progress to date

Project	Updates
<b>Project A1.</b>  Review Therapeutic Support for Speech & Language	A clear plan as to the work to be delivered for 2025/2026 has been agreed across all aspects of SLCN to include a focus on ensuring inclusion of children and young people with long term limited verbal skills and developing a secondary offer across Key Stage 3. This work will happen alongside further embedding of the SLCN pathway to ensure a consistent approach in all settings.
<b>Project A.2</b>  Increase capacity of mainstream schools to meet the needs of autistic children	This project has supported keeping young people in mainstream placements who otherwise may need an independent school placement. The service also developed an identification tool / indicator to support the cohort of children who are to benefit from the new support in place that went live in November 2023. The Delivery of Autism Education Trust (AET) training has been delivered to all schools across the Borough.
<b>Project A.3</b>  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: <a href="#"><u>Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) Guidance for Schools</u></a>
<b>Project A.4</b>  Thresholds and Annual Reviews of EHCP's	We are due to increase capacity in this area with the onboarding of new staff in April 2025. This will drive up our completion rate and improve timeliness of annual reviews.



# Overall progress to date

Project	Updates
<b>Project A.5</b>  Supported Internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A pre-supported internship has been developed and began in September 2024- widening the suitability of the scheme.</li><li>• The service are expanding the number of disability confident employers who can offer SI placements with targeted work the focus of this workstream. The National Supported Internship Event on 27th March 2025 was well attended and the interns have provided positive feedback.</li><li>• There are currently a total of 44 young people on a Supported Internship (this remains the same as last two months).</li></ul>
<b>Project A.6</b> Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Early Years Inclusion Fund is continuing to work well. It is providing funded support for children aged under 5 without an EHCP.</li></ul>
<b>Project B.1, B.3 and B.7</b>  Capital Projects to create <b>166</b> new education places (Safety Valve Phase 1&2)	<p><u>Completed Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Earlsmead Primary: Resource Provision for autistic children (15 places)</b> - Provision was opened in September 2024, and we are phasing in placements, three pupils currently in provision with an intention to scale up and increase number of pupils.</li><li>• <b>Riverside Secondary and Post 16 provision: Expansion of school places for children with Severe Learning Difficulties (15 places)</b> - Provision was successfully opened September 2024.</li></ul> <p><u>Ongoing Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Alexandra Primary: Resource provision for children with SEMH (10 places)</b> - Building work is scheduled to start during the Easter holiday, on track to be open in September 2025.</li><li>• <b>The Brook Primary: Expansion of school places for children with Severe Learning Difficulties (18 places)</b> - Provision on track to be open by September 2025.</li><li>• <b>Park View (St Mary's Infant site): Resource provision for Secondary children with SEMH (34 places)</b> Work in progress, scheduled to open in September 2026.</li><li>• <b>Fortismere School: Secondary Provision for children with Autism</b> –Work in progress, plans to open in September 2026.</li><li>• <b>Safety Valve Phase two</b> – Phase 2 is in exploratory stage, underway to create an additional <b>24</b> secondary moderate learning difficulties and <b>16</b> primary places for children with autism.</li></ul>

# Overall progress to date

Project	Updates
<b>Project B.2</b> Cost effective commissioning and brokerage of services	Work is continuing, ensuring Haringey has access to needs led, value for money, outcome focussed commissioned services for pupils, aligning with sufficiency needs, whilst keeping them close to their communities and families. This is being achieved through redesigning of frameworks and other contractual arrangements.
<b>Project B.5</b> Commissioning Post 16 Learners	Work is underway to reshape, and redesign SEND Post-16 commissioned services. This includes partnership work with key stakeholders including; further education providers, specialist post-16 providers and providers in the voluntary sector, to meet the needs of our 16-19 cohort and post-19 cohort.
<b>Project B.6</b> Remodel financial support/ top ups to mainstream and special schools	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 has been reviewed and resulted in increased funding for children with complex needs at Band G in mainstream schools.

# 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, <a href="#">Dedicated webpage with a range of user-friendly comms materials</a> . Haringey People magazine / Haringey People Extra e-newsletter

# Ways we are engaging with stakeholders

Audience	Ways of engaging
<b>Parents and Carers via SEND Power Carer Forum (PCF)</b>	Chair of PCF is a member of the Safety Valve steering group. PCF representatives are involved in individual tasks and finish groups/projects
<b>Haringey Headteacher meetings (primary/secondary/post-16)</b>	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
<b>Chairs of Governors</b>	Head Of Service: SEND, attends Local Leaders of Governance (LLG) on request. Governor representative is a member of the Safety Valve Steering Group.
<b>Haringey Schools Forum</b>	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
<b>Haringey SEND Executive</b>	Assistant Director provides report at every meeting
<b>Members briefings</b>	Briefings circulated to Lead Member for Childrens and Finance Members are represented on the SV steering group
<b>Children and Young People and Schools Scrutiny</b>	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 [Safety Valve Programme webpage](#).

## March 2025

- Haringey Voices Day 4 Mar
- Special Headteachers Meeting 7 Mar
- SEND Supported Internship Recruitment Event 27 Mar



## Ways to get involved and learn more about the programme



- [Monthly progress reports published on Local Offer website](#)
- [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](#)