
Delivering Better Value Programme

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 19th June 2023

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Item for: Information **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform the Schools' Forum about the Delivering Better Value Programme.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the report is noted.

3. Introduction/Background

3.1 Overspending of High Needs Block budgets is an issue of national concern. The Government has introduced two programmes to address this problem. The Safety Valve Programme involves the 20 Local Authorities with the highest HNB overspend. A further 55 Local Authorities will be involved in the Delivering Better Value Programme. There are three tranches of the DBV Programme based on the level of overspend, with LAs with the higher overspends in tranche 1. West Berkshire will be in tranche 3.

3.2 The DfE has engaged Newton and CIPFA as its delivery partners to deliver the DBV programme.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 The DBV Programme has requested detailed pupil level data which has been submitted.

4.2 The DBV Team has organised a set up meeting with relevant LA staff, including Finance and Data colleagues, on 15th June 2023.

4.3 There will also be conferences for key staff in August and September 2023.

4.4 The data which has been submitted will feed in to a diagnostic process which will predict future spend and identify key drivers of rising HNB costs.

4.5 Case studies will then be looked at in detail, at case review workshops involving local stakeholders, to identify in more detail the key drivers of rising costs.

4.6 A programme of activities will then be developed as an implementation plan, with the opportunity to bid for up to £1,000,000 subject to the plan meeting grant conditions. This stage should be reached by December 2023.

4.7 Additional capacity is being sought to lead on this programme using the £45,000 grant which has been allocated by the DfE for this purpose.