
Update on Safety Valve Programme – Sept 2024

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 14th October 2024

Report Author: Hester Collicut

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

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the most up to date information on relation to the Safety Valve Programme.
- 1.2 The report was discussed at the last meeting of the Heads' Funding Group and is brought to the Schools' Forum for information. The Heads' Funding Group agreed that updates on the Safety Valve Programme should be limited to when there are significant changes or amendments to the Programme.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Schools' Forum note the report.

Is the Schools' Forum required to make a decision as part of this report or subsequent versions due to be considered later in the meeting cycle?	
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 In February 2024, Head Funding Group requested regular updates on the National Safety Valve Programme and the Local Authorities involved. Since then, a General Election and change of government has occurred. This paper will provide an update as to the current situation with the Safety Valve Programme as of September 2024.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 As of July 2024, there are 38 local authorities currently in the Safety Valve programme.
 - 4.2 Before the general election, the DfE appeared to be satisfied with the progress of Safety Valve. In May 2024, the DfE's Permanent Secretary told the previous House of Commons Public Accounts Committee the department was "seeing some really good progress from councils" with Safety Valve and its lighter-touch financial intervention companion, Delivering Better Value in SEND.
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- 4.3 Currently the Safety Valve Programme remains in place. As reported in SEND Jungle – July 2024:-

“We don’t know how many LAs might be invited to join Safety Valve this year, but it’s unlikely to be more than a few and not every LA invited will necessarily choose to join. If the new government decides that none will join, then none will join. And after 2024-25, any decisions made will follow a cross-government Spending Review.”

5. Proposals

- 5.1 That the Schools’ Forum note the report. Going forward updates will be limited to when there are significant changes or amendments to the Programme.

6. Appendices

NONE
