
Delivering Better Value Update – November 2024

Produced for:	Schools Forum
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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This covering report is intended to draw attention to the progress and the risks associated with the Delivering Better Value programme (DBV). The appendices provide the detail on the progress over the period April – October 2024.

2 Background

- 2.1 At Appendix 1, there is a table summarising engagement and impact of key DBV work, up to 20 November 2024.
- 2.2 The status of delivery can be seen in the dynamic Gantt Chart attached to this report: Appendix 2.
- 2.3 The current risks associated with the programme are detailed in the Risk Log attached to this report as Appendix 3.

3 Appendices

- 3.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of Engagement and Impact
- 3.2 Appendix 2 – DBV Gantt Chart – April 2024 – March 2025
- 3.3 Appendix 3 - DBV Risk Register

Appendix 1 – Summary of Engagement and Impact

Activity	Evidence
<p>DBV Workstream 1 - Clear communications with families and wider local area partners to support access to services and the SEND system when they need it.</p>	<p>1. Innovation in SEND Blog:</p> <p>6 items published:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation in Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) – Introduction -15/7/2024. 2. Engaging with SEND Parents and Carers -15/7/2024. 3. West Berkshire SEND Local Offer - Have your say! 18/7/2024. 4. West Berkshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2029 12/9/2024. 5. SEND Inclusion strategy Short Breaks Statement Publication -17/9/2024. 6. Response to West Berkshire SEND Local Offer Survey 4/11/2024.
	<p>1. Engagement of the Coram Parent Champion Programme to support parental engagement with SEND – 10 parent champions recruited</p>
	<p>2. Proactive Support of Existing Parent Carer Forum through DBV Communication and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in PCF member from 4 (April) to 42 (November) e.g. use of Community Hub events
	<p>3. Publication of SEND and Inclusion Strategy – 2024 – 2029 - Available on the Local Offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed Delivery Plan sits behind this.

Activity	Evidence
<p>DBV Workstream 2 - Enabling settings, schools and colleges to meet the diverse needs of their communities locally including complex emotional and mental health needs of CYP.</p>	<p>1. Early Years Transition Support Programme Funded by DBV: (From April 2024) The DBV funding was given for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 extra days per week for school transition support – given at a much higher level than is usually possible. Impact: 63 children supported into school. 100% of settings and schools were offered an in-person transition meeting and follow-up. 86% took up this offer. 1 extra day per week to provide targeted support and 2 training sessions per term, for FS1 and FS2 staff. Impact: 24 Targeted Support Visits made to date. Ability of settings to continue to include the child and staff confidence has increased according to 100% of responses. A total of 40-50 members of staff per session from FS1 and FS2 settings have been trained on six topics. 100% of staff have rated the training good or above in all categories on their evaluations. 76.5% have rated the training as excellent across all categories. • 0.5 of an extra day per week for parent support for queries that come in through parents using the local offer and joint working with the family hubs and health visiting service. Impact: Fourteen families have been supported towards their next steps. Four children who would otherwise have come to us later or not at all have now been taken onto EDIT caseload <p><i>Some of the savings made through EDIT Early Intervention: Looking only at children who started this September 2024, 14 children whose families initially expressed their preference for special school were actually supported to go to mainstream primary school. <u>This represents a saving of £392,000 for one year based on costs of West Berkshire special schools (£28,000 per place per year - costs would be far higher for a private placement).</u> Looking only at the 63 children on EDIT caseload who started school in September 2024, EDIT intervention led to these children being supported in ways other than an EHCP for an average of 11.5 months per child during their inclusion in FS1, a saving of 335 months of</i></p>

*payments via EHCPs.
Looking only at children who started school in September 2024, 21 EHCPNA's were avoided completely due to the progress children made while being supported by EDIT, a saving of a minimum of £142,716 for their FS2 year alone (based on average EHCP rate of £12,796 per child with school contributing the first £6000.*

Transitions Support Programme – Primary -Secondary – operating from Jan 2025 - Dec 2025

- 50 children in Year 6 identified as at risk for failing to transfer successfully from their mainstream primary to secondary and support services will be used to target resources to further support transition.
- Additional SEMH and ASD practitioners are being recruited to further support programme (posts advertised)
- Additional Resourcing for Annual Review Processing for Transitions in place.

2. Mental Health Support Programme Pilot Commenced October 2024.

10 Schools have been recruited to the pilot and have embarked on the programme.

School	Type
Theale Green	Secondary - mainstream
The Downs	Secondary - mainstream
Falkland	Primary -mainstream

	St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation	Primary mainstream Federated	
	Lambourn	Primary – mainstream - Excalibur Academies Trust	
	Kintbury	Primary – mainstream	
	Robert Sandilands	Primary , mainstream	
	Curridge/ Woolhampton	Primary/mainstream	
	Streatley	Primary, mainstream foundation	
	Hungerford	Primary/mainstream	
	<p>3. SEND Data Dashboard - A Data Dashboard is now available for the SEND strategic Improvement Board and work is ongoing to incorporate health data into the dashboard.</p> <p>The Inclusion Dashboard is currently being developed and it is intended to be published on the revised Local Offer site in December 2024.</p>		
	<p>4. A draft Sufficiency Plan now provides evidence and informs the business case for the development of further SEND provision (Ratification Nov 2024)</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that there is sufficient capital funding to support proposed and future developments of additional resourced provision over the next 10 years, a single “SEND Strategy – Infrastructure Delivery revised Infrastructure Development” business case was submitted for approval by the Council in August 2024, to facilitate draw down to deliver our priority SEND projects as they become defined. There is a detailed process for approval, including presentation at Capital Strategy Group (November) and then through our committee process from January to February/March, culminating in Full Council in late Feb/early March 2025. • Paper to Corporate Board to be presented on Mitigation of Specialist Placements – 26/11/2024 with detailed proposals to develop SEND placement capacity and enhance the continuum of provision in West Berkshire • A High -Cost Placement funding review was undertaken in August by senior Local Authority Officers.
	<p>5. SEND Funding Review – Phase 1 completed August 2024. Co -produced Phase 2 of review underway. School membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headteacher, Kintbury St Mary's CE Primary School • Headteacher, Streatley Primary School • Assistant Headteacher, The Castle School • Assistant Headteacher, I College • Headteacher, The Winchcombe School (primary) • Assistant Headteacher, St Bart's Secondary School • Headteacher, Brookfields School • Headteacher, Brightwalton Primary School • Assistant Headteacher, Denefield • Headteacher, Long Lane Primary • SENDCO, St Bart's • Headteacher, Thatcham Park Primary • Headteacher, Springfield Primary • Headteacher, The Castle School