

Statement: PS30.01

Cabinet – 5 MARCH 2024

Re: Agenda item 30 – Safety Valve Programme

Statement submitted by: Joanna Booth

The safety valve intervention the cabinet is trying to pass with no scrutiny or engagement with other political parties is very worrying. The Department is offering £53m over six years.

This is not just a gift, however, as noted by IPSEA when it warned of safety valve arrangements in a recent article, "in exchange for this financial assistance, local authorities have agreed to contain their spending on provision for children and young people with SEND, to avoid deficits building up again." <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/news/ipsea-writes-to-local-authorities-over-concerns-with-safety-valve-agreements>

This action portends future cuts in spending for the most vulnerable population. The outgoing Labour administration should not be binding the hands of future Bristol governance for six years.