

Statement: PS30.02

Cabinet – 5 MARCH 2024

Re: Agenda item 30 – Safety Valve Programme

Statement submitted by: Jai Breitnauer

Bristol City Council have been in secret talks with the DfE since July 2023, and applied for Safety Valve in secret on 12th Jan 2024.

Yet the report was only published yesterday with no time for questions and limited time for statements.

This decision will have a huge impact on vulnerable young people - especially as the cessation of High Needs Block funding was announced on 6th Feb.

BCC is going to drive up the need for EHCNAs while at the same time doing a back door deal with DfE to restrict access to statutory funding. This hasn't been handled transparently or democratically. The

Safety Valve report needs to be deferred so proper consultation and co-creation can take place with stakeholders. Anything less is dictatorial and disrespectful to the people of Bristol.

Allow democracy to run its course.