

## **Statement: CS30.01**

**Cabinet – 5 MARCH 2024**

**Re: Agenda item 30 – Safety Valve Programme**

**Statement submitted by: Cllr Christine Townsend**

### **Cabinet Statement Safety Valve Paper 5/3/24**

This Decision Pathway Report paper under the heading 'Consultation Details' lists the following public meetings with the implication that they were in some way involved in this process: -

Audit Committee, 20/11/23 2.

Scrutiny - Finance Task Group, 23/11/23, 05/01/24 4.

School's Forum Meeting, 16/01/24 5.

As the author of this report, other senior managers and politicians will know safety valve and delivering better value SEND are not one and the same.

There is no evidence from the papers of the above meetings that this is the case. The words 'safety valve' do not appear in any documentation from any of these meetings so how will the author of this report evidence these claims as being part of a 'consultation' when required to do so a bit later down the line?

The Audit Committee had a paper that gave an update on the Delivering Better Value SEND which is of course not the 'safety valve' as these are two entirely different pathways from the DfE. The Finance Scrutiny meeting listed had zero reference to the safety valve as does the Schools Forum meeting of 16/01/24.

To make formal claims in a paper than cannot be evidenced is not acceptable practice, as, in the absence of any evidence it clearly did not happen.

The contract this Labour Administration is wanting to enter with the DfE has a timeline of six years – well beyond the period of the next national government - political commentators are having us believe the Labour Party is likely to win the next general election.

That this administration feels it necessary for this contract to be entered into this close to the next general election is a message for anyone interested in education and the funding plans of any future Labour government in relation to public services – despite 14 years of real terms cuts, something this administration continually points at when the day to day functions of this council break down under its' administration, that it wants to enter such a contract tells us that under a Labour government education will not receive the funds it needs and those with SEND are to be subject to plans constructed by this current Conservative government for at least six years.