# Director's Update
# Reena Bhogal-Welsh

# March 2024

- Thank you to all leaders who have worked closely with officers regarding the unprecedented times and loss of young people across out City.  I would like to acknowledge my gratitude.

- Acknowledgement of the appointment and start of: Head of Service for Inclusion – Emma Lloyd.  Welcome to the team.

- Thank you to Councillor Asher Craig, this would be Councillor Craig's final Schools Forum, thank you for your support, challenge and significant contribution over a number of years enabling Education and Skills to move in an agile and dynamic way to serve the children, young people and families of Bristol.  I am grateful for your leadership and guidance.

- Matters Arising

**1. Inclusion Hub query: Details of when Heads and/or SENCOs were briefed about the introduction of the Inclusion Hub and what opportunities were provided for input into the creation of the project.**

- Discussion regarding Bristol Inclusion and Fair Access panel (BIFAP) and Bristol Inclusion Panel (BIP) have been progressive with leaders across the city.

- There is a BIFAP steering groups to discuss the strategic direction of how leaders can work together

- The evolution of the alternative learning provision into the Inclusion Hub has been organic to meet the needs in the city and for the Local Authority to reflect a more holistic way of working together with leaders and for the children and young people we serve.

- A number of briefings have occurred since May 2023 up to February 2024 internally as well as steering group dates from January 2023 up to and including February 2024.

- Specific feedback has been requested and received through Primary Heads, Bristol Secondary Heads and the Fair Access Panel steering groups.  Feedback was received from 14 secondary schools and 23 primary schools.

**2. To provide contact details of the key project leaders, to be provided to Forum in the first instance and then disseminated out to settings & leaders.**

Mark Kennedy and Natasha Spence.

The new head of service: Inclusion – Emma Lloyd: Emma.Lloyd2@bristol.gov.uk

# Towards a sustainable and inclusive SEND system in Bristol

## Who?

**LAs with the highest DSG Deficits are invited to Safety Valve**

**LAs with less severe DSG Deficits are invited to Delivering Better Value (DBV)**

## What?

**5-year plan and agreement between the DfE and individual LAs**

**To hold LAs to account on SEND reforms and becoming financially sustainable**

## When?

**Participating LAs are expected to quickly reach an in-year balance**

**There is a further expectation to eliminate deficits over time**

## How?

**6-year transformation plan, investment costs and BCC strategy**

**Build on the DSG Deficit Management Plan and DBV Programme**

## Why?

**Unsustainable current funding model – Forecasted £16m in year deficit for 2023/2024**

**Forecasted cumulative deficit of £56m at the end of 2023/2024**

# Safety Valve

**Successful SEND systems require a culture of shared responsibility, accountability, and learning – underpinned by trust. We intend to build a system where good education outcomes and sustainable finances are balanced**

**1**. Creating a SEND system where more CYP with SEND can remain in mainstream provision for longer, by providing schools and early years settings with the support to strengthen practice and improve physical spaces

**2.** Ensuring we have the right mix and level of provision to meet the needs of all children and young people when a specialist place is required

**3.** Designing efficient and effective systems ensuring CYP with SEND receive timely support, and that schools receive the right level of funding to meet those needs

**4.** Continuing to build, strengthen, and sustain relationships with key stakeholders engaging them in genuine collaboration and co-design

**Bristol City Council's Strategic Approach**

**We will achieve this for Bristol by focusing on the following four themes, which underpin our programme plan**
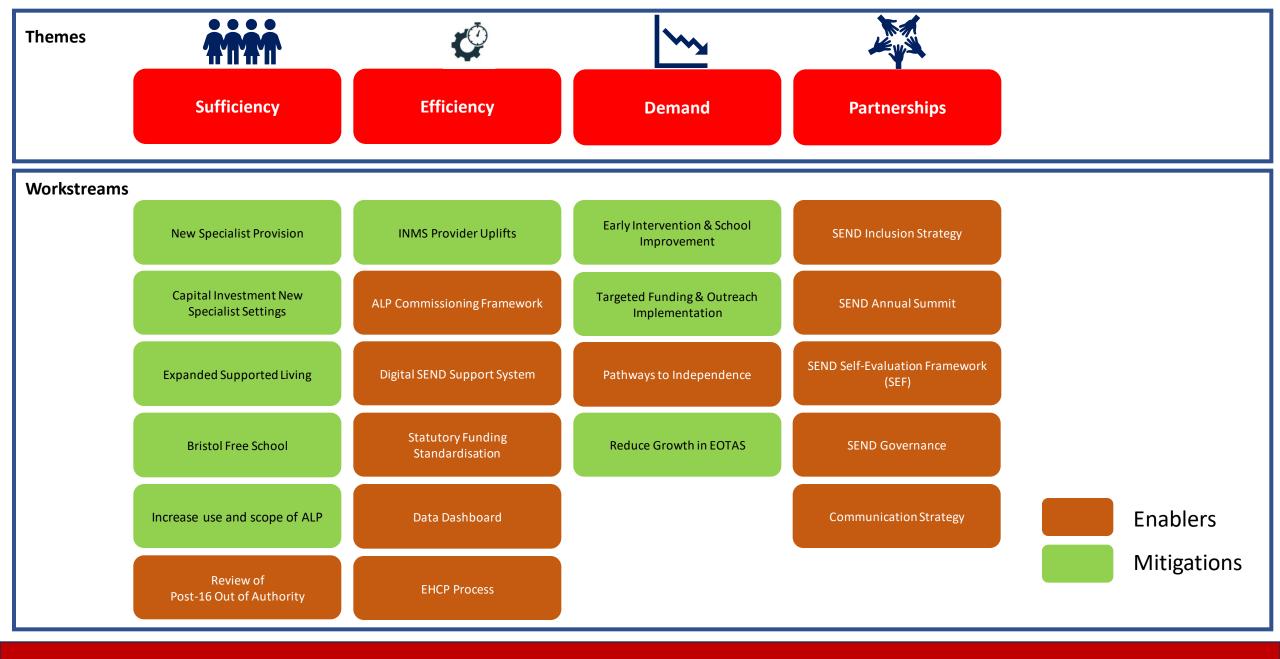
## Sufficiency

Ensure we have the right mix and level of provision to meet the needs of all children and young people when a specialist place is required

## Demand

Create a system where more CYP with SEND can remain in mainstream provision for longer, where needs can be met by providing schools & early years settings with the support to strengthen practice and improve physical spaces

## Efficiency

Design efficient and effective systems ensuring CYP with SEND receive timely support, and that schools receive the right level of funding, at the right time, to meet those needs

## Partnerships

Continue to build, strengthen, and sustain relationships with key stakeholders engaging them in genuine collaboration, co-design and coproduction

**Strategic Focus – 4 Themes**

Scenario shows the cumaltive deficit position **with** the Schools Block Contribution 0.5% to HNB, backlog, inflation, project resource cost of delivery & stretched targets from financial year 2024-25 to 2029-30
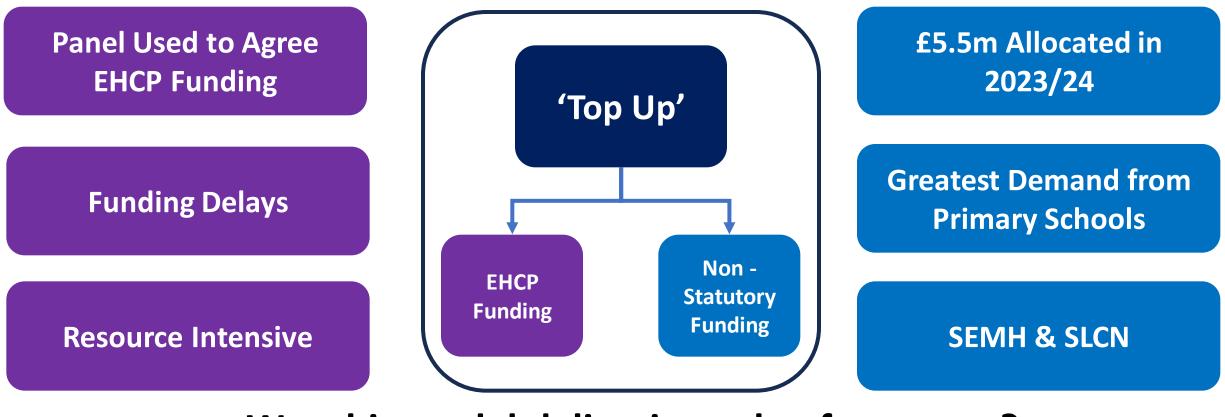
| Scenario | 2022-23 £,000s | 2023-24 £,000s | 2024-25 £,000s | 2025-26 £,000s | 2026-27 £,000s | 2027-28 £,000s | 2028-29 £,000s | 2029-30 £,000s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mitigated Planned DSG position (surplus)/deficit | £39,577 | £56,077 | £76,179 | £96,023 | £108,444 | £114,213 | £111,184 | £100,290 |
| Unmitigated Planned DSG position (surplus)/deficit | £39,577 | £58,189 | £90,505 | £133,110 | £181,483 | £236,554 | £296,577 | £360,661 |
| **Total DSG Grant Allocations (Based on 2024-25 Allocations Published December 2023)** | | (£452,302) | (£490,014) | (£502,978) | (£516,331) | (£53...) | | £560,838) |
| Unmitigated expenditure forecast | | £470,915 | £518,211 | £537,084 | £552,810 | £56... | | £600,598 |
| Uncontainable Inflation | | £0 | £3,455 | £7,282 | £11,245 | £1... | | £23,926 |
| Project Resource - Cost of Delivery | | £0 | £663 | £1,218 | £649 | £399 | £399 | £399 |
| Total Unmitgated Expenditure | | £470,915 | £522,329 | £545,584 | £564,704 | £585,156 | £604,274 | £624,923 |
| ...cast | | £18,612 | £32,315 | £42,606 | £48,373 | £55,071 | £60,023 | £64,084 |
| ...to annual Budget approval) | | £0 | (£1,722) | (£1,773) | (£1,826) | (£1,881) | (£1,938) | £0 |
| Additional Funding for new Maintained Specialist Provision Places | | £0 | (£933) | (£1,358) | (£1,878) | (£2,225) | (£2,537) | (£2,699) |
| Total Other Income | | £0 | (£2,655) | (£3,131) | (£3,704) | (£4,106) | (£4,475) | (£2,699) |
| Savings forecast | | (£2,112) | (£9,491) | (£17,883) | (£28,148) | (£38,540) | (£49,190) | (£60,361) |
| Stretched Target - Optimistic Scenario | | £0 | (£69) | (£1,748) | (£4,100) | (£6,656) | (£9,387) | (£11,918) |
| Total Savings Forecast | | (£2,112) | (£9,560) | (£19,631) | (£32,247) | (£45,196) | (£58,577) | (£72,279) |
| Total Scenario (Annual Deficit) excluding LA Contributions | | £16,500 | £20,101 | £19,844 | £12,421 | £5,769 | (£3,029) | (£10,893) |
| **Additional Council Contributions** | | | | | | | | |
| Council General Fund contribution Project Resource - Cost of Delivery | | £0 | (£663) | (£1,218) | (£649) | (£399) | (£399) | (£...) |
| Council General Fund contribution | | £0 | (£3,500) | (£3,500) | (£3,500) | (£3,500) | (£3,500) | (£3...) |
| Council General Fund contribution - Reserves | | £0 | (£7,837) | (£7,282) | (£6,655) | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Total Council Contributions | | £0 | (£12,000) | (£12,000) | (£10,804) | (£3,...) | (£...899) | (£46,500) |
| Grand Total Scenario (Annual Deficit) | | £16,500 | £8,101 | £7,844 | £1,617 | £1... | | ...792) |
| Cumulative Mitigated Planned DSG position (surplus)/deficit after Council Contribution | | £56,077 | £64,179 | £72,023 | £73,640 | £75,510 | £68,582 | £53,790 |

Callouts:
- Break Even Point
- Inflation – Significant Cost Pressure
- BCC Contributions
- DfE Contribution

# Financial Sustainability

# Future Funding Model

1. Current 'Top-Up' model phased out – Funding at point of EHCP Completion

2. February & June Panels Limited to 1 Year Funding – June Panel will be the last 'Top-Up' Panel – single panel

3. Current non-statutory funding commitments will continue in line with agreements – up to three years.

4. Delivery Partner & Head of Inclusion will Lead on Co-Design of New 'Non-Statutory' Offer
   - Targeted Funding Model (£1m)
   - Outreach Support (£1m)

5. Development Period April – July. Scheduled to be operational from September 2024

6. Funding and support will be outcome focused & time bound – demonstrate impact and improved outcomes

**Targeted Funding & Outreach Services**

BCC SEND Support Offer