

Appendix 1

Summary of Cheshire East Council DSG Management Plan 2023/24 to 2027/28

Introduction

1. This Appendix provides a summary of the council's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28, which has been updated based on the January 2023 education, health and care plan (EHCP) numbers from the SEN2 statutory return and the latest forecasts for the mitigations.
2. The DSG Management Plan is based on a very detailed spreadsheet template issued by the DfE. This Appendix provides an analysis on EHCP numbers and outlines the basis for the calculations within the plan and provides a summary of the results.
3. The DSG management plan provides an unmitigated and mitigated forecast for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28.
4. Where changes to provision are identified they remain subject to necessary consultations, sufficient capital funding where applicable and local approval.
5. The Management Plan is based on average costs for the placement of additional pupils. This has to be used for modelling as the destination of each new child and their needs cannot be determined at this stage.
6. The average costs of provision ranges from £7,536 for a pupil supported in mainstream to £25,000 for a special school to over £60,000 for independent specialist provision.
7. Findings and opportunities from the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme have been built into mitigations within the new DSG mgmt. plan.
8. The High Needs Allocation for 2023-24 is £56.2m

Provision Types

9. Children and young people with an EHCP are supported in a variety of education setting types:
 - Mainstream schools and early years setting

- Further education colleges (FE)
- Enhanced Mainstream Provision (EMP) – within a mainstream school
- Resource Provision (RP) – within a mainstream school
- Special Schools – maintained, academy, free schools, independent both within and outside of Cheshire East
- Non-maintained special schools, Independent special schools and Specialist post 16 institutes (NMSS/ISS/SPIs)
- Alternative provision (AP)

EHCP data analysis

- 10.** The number of EHCPs in the system has increased by 617 during the year, bringing the total of EHCPs as of January 2023 to 4,029. This included 742 first/new EHCPs, 80 transfers into the local authority less 205 which were either ceased or transferred out of the local authority. This represents a growth in the total of EHCPs of 18% (16% the previous year).
- 11.** From the spread of EHCPs across different provision types, the provision type of independent special schools, non-maintained special schools and specialist post 16 institutes, has increased by 62%. 32% above the number of EHCPs in this setting type the previous year. This has impacted on the forecast of EHCPs and the overall DSG management plan, as the average financial cost of this type of provision is £60,000 pa.

All EHCPs by provision type	Jan 2022	EHCP Increase	% Increase	Jan 2023	EHCP Increase	% Increase
Mainstream schools inc. Nursery/Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI)	1,830	261	17%	2,084	254	14%
Resource Provision	88	-6	-6%	132	44	50%
Special Schools	706	44	7%	778	72	10%
NMSS/ISS/SPIs	337	78	30%	545	208	62%

Alternative Provision (AP) and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	11	2	225	19	8	73%
FE college & sixth form	440	99	29%	471	31	7%
Total	3,412	478	16%	4,029	617	18%

- 12.** New/first EHCPs issued in the calendar year 2022 increased by 13.5% compared with EHCPs issued in 2021 (The increase of first EHCPs in the calendar year 2021 was 2% on the previous year). The table below details the number of new/first plans by provision type. This shows that for the new/first EHCPs issued during calendar year 2022 (shown in column Jan 2023), there is an increase in the number of EHCP in independent special schools, non-maintained special schools and specialist post 16 institutes.

NEW/FIRST PLANS	Jan 22	% Increase 2022	Proportion of new plans 2022	Jan 23	% Increase 2023	Proportion of new plans 2023
Mainstream schools inc. Nursery/PVI	578	3%	88%	602	4%	81%
RP	8	100%	1%	24	200%	3%
LA Special	30	11%	5%	42	40%	6%
Special Independent schools + SPIs and NMSS (pre & post 16)	15	-35%	2%	47	213%	6%
AP/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	7	75%	1%	10	43%	1%
FE/Post 16	16	-24%	2%	17	6%	2%
Total	654	2%	100%	742	13.5%	100%

Forecasting Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

- 13.** The council has to submit a SEN 2 return in January each year setting out the latest information on EHCP numbers. This return is used as the basis for the DSG management plan. The data from the January 2023 SEN2 return is the basis for forecasting in this plan.

14. The unmitigated forecast is based on a flat rate increase of 617 (net: new less ceased) more plans each and every year. This change reflects local experience of the annual change and a review of needs assessments.
15. The plan assumes that service and placement spend rises accordingly, that new places are filled and other mitigations apply to the increased number.
16. The growth in EHCPs is forecast to reduce from 76.6% to 36.7% after mitigations are applied equating to 5,506 EHCPs by 2027/28. This is set out in the table below.

Number of EHCPs	2023 Actual	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	% change
Unmitigated	4,029	4,646	5,263	5,880	6,497	7,114	76.6%
Mitigated	4,029	4,504	4,852	5,156	5,338	5,506	36.7%
Impact of mitigations	-	(142)	(411)	(724)	(1,159)	(1,608)	

DSG Management Plan 2023/24 to 2027/28

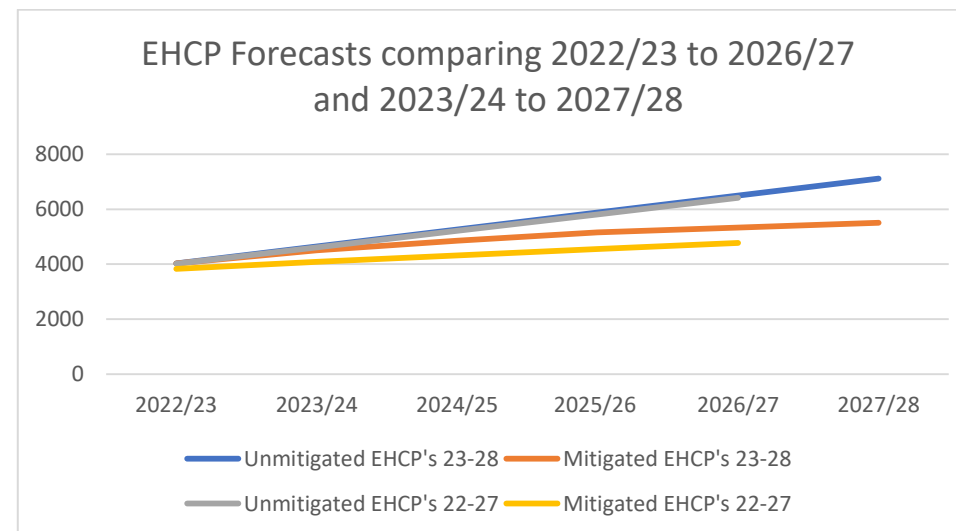
Forecast

		MITIGATED Forecast					UNMITIGATED Forecast				
Type	2023 Actual	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Mainstream	2,084	2,245	2,392	2,457	2,549	2,583	2,339	2,594	2,849	3,104	3,359
RP / SEN Units	132	180	204	211	218	218	132	132	132	132	132
Special Schools	778	848	916	986	1056	1096	778	778	778	778	778
MNSS & Independent	545	718	810	963	972	1067	868	1191	1514	1837	2160

Post 16 & FE	471	486	495	496	492	483	502	533	564	595	626
Hosp Schools / AP	19	27	35	43	51	59	27	35	43	51	59
Total EHCPs	4,029	4,504	4,852	5,156	5,338	5,506	4,646	5,263	5,880	6,497	7,114

Comparison to last year's forecast EHCPs

17. The graph below compares the EHCP forecast for both the unmitigated and mitigated position for 2022/23 to 2026/27 and 2023/24 to 2027/28. We can see that the unmitigated trajectory in both the old and the new DSG mgmt. plan is similar. However the mitigated position is higher, this is due to the increase in EHCPs in calendar year 2022. The baseline/starting position is higher. We can see that this gap does not increase significantly due to mitigations in place.



18. The table below details the variance from between the actual EHCPs (January 2023), compared with the original unmitigated and mitigated position reported in the DSG management plan 2022/23 to 2026/27.

All EHCPs	Actual EHCP's Jan 2023	DSG mgmt. plan 2022 Forecast MITIGATED	% of ALL plans	Variance to MITIGATED	Variance to MITIGATED	DSG mgmt. plan 2022 Forecast UNMITIGATED	% of ALL plans	Variance to UNMITIGATED	Variance to UNMITIGATED
Mainstream schools inc Nursery/PVI	2084	2074	54%	-10	-0.5%	2225	55%	141	7%
Resource Provision	132	177	5%	45	34.1%	88	2%	-44	-33%
Special Schools	778	741	19%	-37	-4.8%	706	18%	-72	-9%
NMSS/ISS/SPIs	545	330	9%	-215	-39.4%	469	12%	-76	-14%
FE colleges and sixth form	471	495	13%	24	5.1%	513	13%	42	9%
AP	19	11	0%	-8	-42.1%	11	0%	-8	-42%
Total	4029	3828	100%	-201	-5.0%	4012	100%	-17	-0.4%

Overall Financial Summary of the DSG Management Plan

Starting Point and Income Forecasts

- 19.** The DSG reserve deficit balance is -£46.9m as of 31 March 2023 (this includes £25.7m DSG deficit carried forward from the previous year). This is based on high needs funding for 2022/23 of £50.7 and EHCPs of 4,029
- 20.** The high needs funding for 2023/24 is £56.2m which includes additional high needs funding of £2.3m.
- 21.** The high needs funding has been forecasted using DfE guidance as 3% growth each year. The additional high needs supplement, received in both 2022/23 and 2023/24 has also been included in the baseline.

Overall Financial Summary

- 22.** The tables below summarise the financial forecast in the DSG Management Plan in terms of the unmitigated position, the mitigated position and the difference between the two.

	Mitigated forecast				
Provision Type	2023/ 24 £m	2024/ 25 £m	2025/ 26 £m	2026/ 27 £m	2027/ 28 £m
Mainstream	20.3	22.3	23.1	23.7	24.1
Resource Provision	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.6
Special Schools	20.1	21.1	23.0	24.6	26.0
NMSS & Independent Special Schools	40.7	45.4	52.8	54.9	60.7
FE Colleges	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6
Alternative Provision	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.1
Sensory & Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.8
Pay & Pensions	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total Expenditure	95.1	103.5	114.0	118.8	126.7
Total DSG Income	(56.2)	(57.9)	(59.6)	(61.4)	(63.2)
In Year Surplus -/ Deficit +	38.9	45.7	54.4	57.4	63.5
Surplus / Deficit Brought Forward	46.9	85.9	131.6	186.0	243.5
Total Deficit Reserve Balance	85.9	131.6	186.0	243.5	306.9

Unmitigated Forecast				
2023/2 4 £m	2024/2 5 £m	2025/2 6 £m	2026/2 7 £m	2027/2 8 £m
20.5	22.4	24.3	26.2	28.1
2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1
47.2	70.8	96.7	125.0	155.9
4.8	5.1	5.4	5.7	6.0
3.5	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.1
2.0	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.8
0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
100.4	126.5	154.9	185.8	219.3
(56.2)	(57.9)	(59.6)	(61.4)	(63.2)
44.2	68.7	95.4	124.4	156.1
46.9	91.2	159.8	255.2	379.6
91.2	159.8	255.2	379.6	535.7

Variance between unmitigated and mitigated				
2023/2 4 £m	2024/2 5 £m	2025/2 6 £m	2026/2 7 £m	2027/2 8 £m
(0.2)	(0.1)	(1.2)	(2.5)	(4.0)
0.6	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0
1.0	2.0	3.9	5.5	6.9
(6.6)	(25.4)	(43.9)	(70.1)	(95.2)
(0.1)	(0.4)	(0.6)	(1.0)	(1.4)
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
(5.3)	(23.0)	(40.9)	(67.0)	(92.6)
-	-	-	-	-
(5.3)	(23.0)	(40.9)	(67.0)	(92.6)
-	(5.3)	(28.3)	(69.2)	(136.2)
(5.3)	(28.3)	(69.2)	(136.2)	(228.8)

23. Without mitigations the funding gap is forecast to be £532.8m by March 2028. This reduces to £304m by March 2028 after mitigations are applied.

24. Expenditure is exceeding the funding allocation in both unmitigated and mitigated forecasts, which in turn increases the deficit reserve position.

25. These figures form the deficit balance on the council's DSG reserve that would be carried into 2028/29.

26. To manage that level of expenditure the council is working to introduce a number of mitigations.

27. The following table demonstrates the change of in year expenditure for both the unmitigated position and mitigated position. In year expenditure continues to rise.

Mitigated Expenditure					Unmitigated Expenditure				
2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m
24.10	8.40	10.50	4.80	7.90	29.40	26.10	28.40	30.90	33.50

Comparison of the Financial Summary to Previous Plan

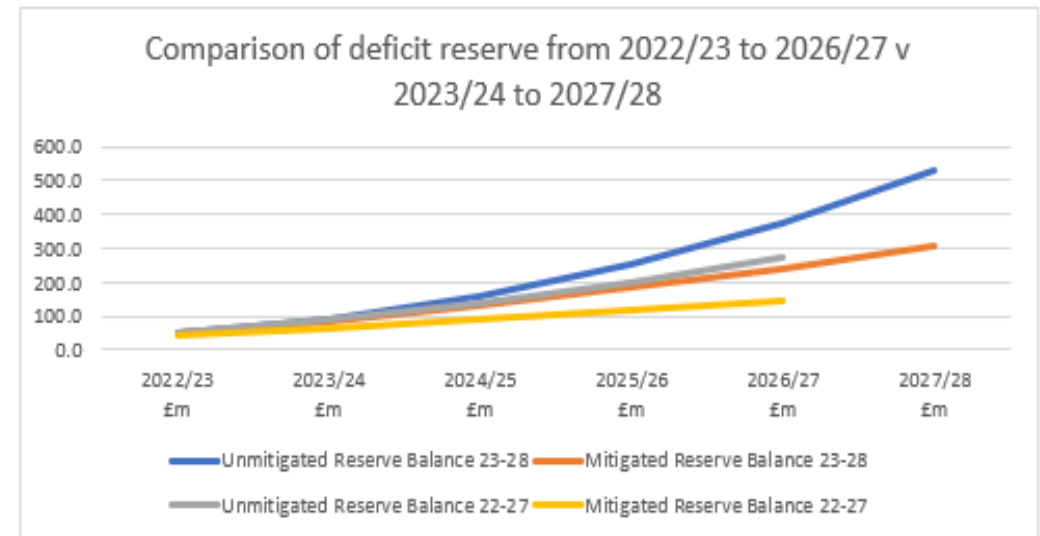
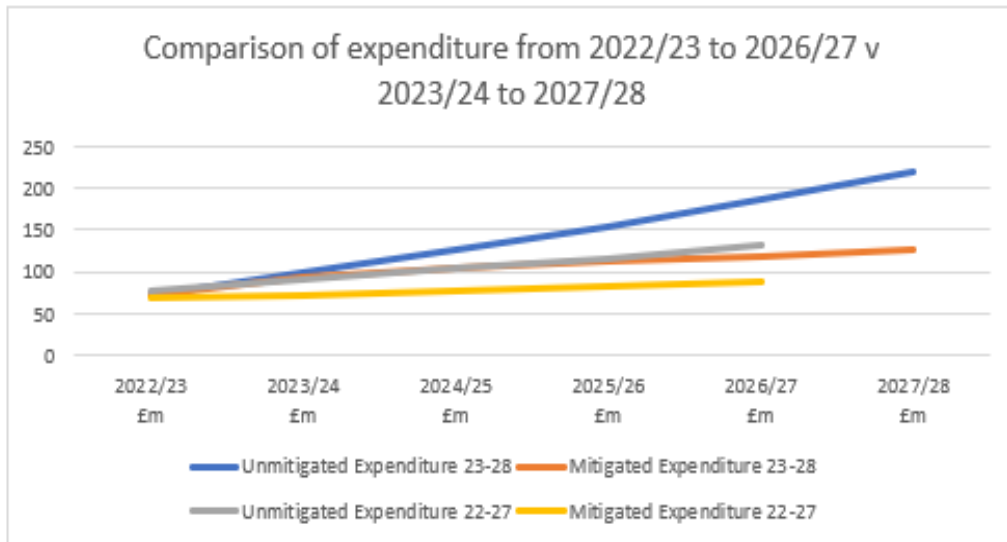
28. The graphs and tables below compare both unmitigated expenditure and mitigated expenditure for 2022/23 to 2026/27 and 2023/24 to 2027/28 by showing the difference between the two plans.

29. In the updated forecast, unmitigated expenditure has risen by £55m by 2026/27. Mitigated expenditure has risen by £29.5m by 2026/27.

30. The main reason for this relates to the NMSS/ISS/SPI provision type. We have seen an increase in the average cost and an increase in the number of children and young people placed in this provision type.

31. The number of placements in NMSS/ISS/SPI has increased by 62%, from 337 to 545 from 2022 to 2023. Therefore the starting point of the forecasts is a higher baseline figure, both in terms of EHCPs and financial amounts.

32. As a result of the increased deficit year on year, the deficit accumulates to an additional £106.8m (unmitigated) and £97.8m (mitigated) by 2026-27 to the previous plan.



Mitigated Variance	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Provision Type	£m	£m	£m	£m
Mainstream Total Expenditure	0.5	1.9	2.2	2.2
RP Total Expenditure	-	-	0.1	0.2
Special Total Expenditure	1.7	1.8	2.8	3.6
NMSS & Independent Special Schools Total Expenditure	19.9	21.4	25.6	24.0
FE Colleges Total Expenditure	(0.5)	(1.0)	(1.5)	(2.1)
Alternative Provision Total Expenditure	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9
Sensory & SALT Total Expenditure	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7
Pay & Pensions Total	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Expenditure	22.20	25.00	30.30	29.50
Total DSG Income	(3.00)	(3.10)	(3.20)	(3.30)
In Year Surplus -/ Deficit +	19.20	22.00	27.20	26.20
Surplus / Deficit Brought Forward	3.00	22.30	44.30	71.40
Total Deficit Reserve Balance	22.30	44.30	71.40	97.80

Unmitigated Variance	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Provision Type	£m	£m	£m	£m
Mainstream Total Expenditure	(2.8)	(3.7)	(4.5)	(5.4)
RP Total Expenditure	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Special Total Expenditure	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
NMSS & Independent Special Schools Total Expenditure	10.4	24.7	40.9	58.8
FE Colleges Total Expenditure	(1.0)	(1.5)	(2.1)	(2.6)
Alternative Provision Total Expenditure	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9
Sensory & SALT Total Expenditure	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Pay & Pensions Total	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Expenditure	10.00	23.00	37.80	54.50
Total DSG Income	(3.00)	(3.10)	(3.20)	(3.30)
In Year Surplus -/ Deficit +	7.00	20.00	34.80	51.20
Surplus / Deficit Brought Forward	(6.10)	0.90	20.90	55.60
Total Deficit Reserve Balance	0.90	20.90	55.60	106.80

The Mitigations

- 33.** All the mitigations within the plan have the strategic aim of RIGHT TIME, RIGHT SUPPORT, RIGHT PLACE, which is the main focus of the recent DfE green paper.
- 34.** A key element of the above strategic aim is the Graduated approach. This is a model of action and intervention in early education settings, schools and colleges to help children and young people who have special educational needs. The approach recognises that there is a continuum of special educational needs and that, where necessary, increasing specialist expertise should be brought to bear on the difficulties that a child or young person may be experiencing.
- 35.** Findings from the Delivering Better Value programme have been used to revise, re-define and shape some of the existing mitigations prior to joining the programme.
- 36.** The table below shows a summary of the cumulative impact of mitigations on the growth of EHCPs. In total over the 5 year period mitigations aim to suppress the growth of EHCPs by 1,607. Special School places aim to be increase by 318 places. The capacity of Resource Provision includes increase of places by 44 and to utilise all capacity by 42.

		DBV Inclusion, Graduated Approach, Transition	Specialist Outreach Programme	Enhanced Mainstream Provision	Resource Provision Places	New Special Places	Supported Internships	Total
	Net Change in EHCPs							
2023-24	2023-24	(25)		(83)	-	-	(34)	(142)
2023-24	Mainstream	(25)		-48	(21)			(94)
2023-24	Special Schools					70		70
2023-24	MNSS & Independent			(35)	(27)	(70)	(18)	(150)
2023-24	Post 16 & FE						(16)	(16)
2023-24	RP / SEN Units				48			48
2024-25	2024-25	(146)		(161)	-	-	(84)	(440)
2024-25	Mainstream	(126)	(12)	(96)	(28)			(262)
2024-25	Special Schools					138		138
2024-25	MNSS & Independent	(20)	(37)	(65)	(45)	(138)	(46)	(351)
2024-25	Post 16 & FE						(38)	(38)
2024-25	RP / SEN Units				73			73
2025-26	2025-26	(274)		(161)	-	-	(140)	(723)
2025-26	Mainstream	(227)	(37)	(96)	(32)			(392)
2025-26	Special Schools					208		208
2025-26	MNSS & Independent	(47)	(111)	(65)	(47)	(208)	(68)	(546)
2025-26	Post 16 & FE						(72)	(72)
2025-26	RP / SEN Units				79			79
2026-27	2026-27	(448)		(161)	-	-	(201)	(1,158)
2026-27	Mainstream	(367)	(87)	(96)	(36)			(586)
2026-27	Special Schools					278		278
2026-27	MNSS & Independent	(81)	(261)	(65)	(50)	(278)	(98)	(833)
2026-27	Post 16 & FE						(103)	(103)
2026-27	RP / SEN Units				86			86
2027-28	2027-28	(631)		(161)	-	-	(267)	(1,607)
2027-28	Mainstream	(507)	(137)	(96)	(36)			(776)
2027-28	Special Schools					318		318
2027-28	MNSS & Independent	(124)	(411)	(65)	(50)	(318)	(124)	(1,092)
2027-28	Post 16 & FE						(143)	(143)
2027-28	RP / SEN Units				86			86

A. Mitigation – Inclusivity, Graduated Approach and Transition: Reduce the growth of needs assessments and reducing growth of change of placements– Right Time, Right Support, Right Provision

Description	<p>Cheshire East joined the Delivering Better Value Programme (DBV) in September 2022. The DBV programme has identified potential financial opportunities of cost avoidance. The following workstreams relating to Inclusivity, Graduated Approach and Transition were approved by the DfE and a grant was secured to fund them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed the graduated approach/ Cheshire East tool kit • Reviewing & defining decision-making processes, panels & forums with a view that all decisions are linked to a graduated approach • Quality assurance and interventions to develop more effective SEN support plans where a decision has been made not to assess or issue an EHCP. • Upskilling schools/setting and partners with the relevant training & resources to identify children and young people’s needs and how to effectively support them. • Re-design and enhance the transition process to reduce the escalation to an EHCP and/or to reduce the escalation of a change of placement to a specialist provision • Co-produce and deliver a two-year transition training programme for all schools and settings
Cost	Cheshire East have been award £1m in grant to fund the implementation of the workstreams/mitigations detailed in the Delivering Better Value programme.
Outcomes / Impact	<p>Children and young people attend local schools within Cheshire East. Children and young people receive the right support at the right time in the right type of provision.</p> <p>Mainstream:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction of growth of needs assessments/EHCPs by 2027-28 by 507 (cumulative) • cost avoidance approximately £3.8m in 2027/28 (cumulative £9.4m) <p>NMSS/ISS/SPI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction of growth of a change of placement by 2027-28 by 124 (cumulative)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cost avoidance approximately £8.2m in 2027/28 (cumulative £18m)
Progress of mitigation	<p>The existing SEND strategy is being refreshed to incorporate DBV findings and opportunities for mitigations.</p> <p>Work has commenced on the redesign of the panel decision making process along with an update of the Cheshire East Toolkit which is key to embedding the graduated approach.</p>

B. Mitigation – Specialist Outreach Programme – Reduce the growth of needs assessments and reduce the growth of change of placements – Right Time, Right Support, Right Provision

Description	<p>Specialist Outreach Programme</p> <p>Initial conversations have taken place with our special schools to scope a programme of specialist outreach which mainstream schools can access. The programme will provide support, guidance, training and interventions which schools and settings can adopt to support children and young people in mainstream settings without the need for escalation to an EHCP or change of placement to a specialist provision.</p> <p>The programme will be subject to a pilot.</p> <p>Please note this is a change to the mitigation which was in the previous management plan. Previously funding was to be provided direct to schools.</p>
Cost	<p>From 2022/23 an extra £500,000 invest to save has been allocated to this area from the high needs supplementary funding 2022/23. Costs of the project have yet to be worked out. If costs are less than £500,000, additional mitigations will be considered.</p> <p>Cost in the first year £0.25m, £0.5m thereafter Cumulative cost over period 2023/24 to 2027/28 £2.25m</p>

Outcomes / impact	<p>Children and young people attend local schools within Cheshire East. Children and young people receive the right support at the right time in the right type of provision.</p> <p>Impact is not anticipated until academic year (AY) 2024-25</p> <p>Mainstream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction of growth of needs assessments/EHCPs by 2027-28 by 137 (cumulative) • cost avoidance £1m in 2027/28 (£2.1m cumulative) <p>NMSS/ISS/SPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction of growth of a change of placement by 2027-28 by 411 (cumulative) • cost avoidance £27.2m in 2027/28 (£54.3m cumulative)
Progress of mitigation	Scoping of the project has commenced.

C. Mitigation - Enhanced Mainstream Provision (EMP)

Description	<p>The EMP initiative feature two types of provision where a cohort of pupils is provided with additional support. The expected outcomes are:</p> <p>Type 1: to help manage escalation to an EHCP through provision of additional support to pupils who are classed as on SEN support or near to requiring an EHCP.</p> <p>Type 2: to help manage the need for a change of placement to a higher level of provision for pupils with an EHCP. The aim is for them to continue in mainstream.</p>
Cost	The aim is to increase EMPs at mainstream schools in the borough. The annual cost of an EMP is £50,732, which is intended to provide the school with funding to implement and run the provision.

	<p>Type 1: The cost incurred will be recovered if at least 8 pupils do not escalate to requiring an EHCP. If it is more than 8 pupils, further savings would be achieved. This is not a cumulative total as the enhanced mainstream provision will be supporting the pupils during their time at school.</p> <p>In addition to reducing the need for an EHCP, this model can support on average 40 pupils across the school, which in turn will improve attendance and permanent exclusion support.</p> <p>Type 2: This model does not create any savings from EHCPs in mainstream settings. However, it does increase the costs of funding an EMP with the benefit of significantly reducing the costs incurred in Independent / NMSS (see section below).</p> <p>Cumulative cost over period 2023/24 to 2027/28 £5.7 cumulative £1.2m in 2027/28</p>
Outcomes / impact	<p>Children and young people attend local schools within Cheshire East. Children and young people receive the right support at the right time in the right type of provision.</p> <p>Mainstream:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction of growth of needs assessments/EHCPs by 2027-28 by 96 (cumulative) • Cost avoidance £0.7m in 2027/28 (cumulative £3.3m) <p>NMSS/ISS/SPI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction of growth of a change of placement by 2027-28 by 65 • cost avoidance £4.3m in 2027/28 (cumulative £19.6m)
Progress of Mitigation	<p>We are currently supporting 13 EMPs within our mainstream schools.</p> <p>The mitigation still anticipates a further 12 EMPs, remains subject to review.</p>

D. Mitigation - additional Resource Provision (RP) places and places fully occupied

Description	<p>Additional RP places to bring the total number of RP places to 218 within the period of the DSG management plan. The mitigation also assumes full occupancy in all RPs.</p> <p>This will provide placements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils currently being managed in mainstream – so their top up funding would cease – replaced by RP funding. - Pupils who would otherwise be placed in independent special provision (as CEC special schools are full) – so the cost of independent provision would reduce. <p>The costs associated with RP and also the number of pupils with an EHCP will increase as we will have more places available, however pupils will not need to attend Independent special/NMSS, resulting in a cost avoidance.</p>
Cost	<p>44 additional RP places</p> <p>42 existing places to be occupied</p> <p>The additional top up cost of filling all unoccupied places would be £3.9m cumulative over the 5-year period</p> <p>The cost of place funding relating to both new and occupying existing places, resulting in cost avoidance of £0.55m cumulative over the 5-year period</p>
Outcomes	<p>Children and young people attend local schools within Cheshire East.</p> <p>Children and young people receive the right support at the right time in the right type of provision.</p> <p>Mainstream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pupils placed in the correct provision type to meet needs by 36 (reducing mainstream top up funding as pupils are placed in the RP) • cost avoidance £0.3 in 2027/28 (cumulative £1.2m) <p>NMSS/ISS/SPI</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction of growth of a change of placement by 2027-28 by 50 • cost avoidance £3.3m in 2027/28 (cumulative £14.4m)
Progress of Mitigations	<p>45 additional places were established in AY 2022/23, Holmes Chapel Comprehensive 14, Macclesfield Academy 14, Wilmslow High School 2 (in addition to existing 20 places), Marlfields Primary 7, Wistaston Academy 8 (SEN unit).</p> <p>Further places are planned for the following years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 places - Wistaston Academy in 2023-24 • 10 places - Wistaston Academy in 2024-25 • 14 places – Shavington Academy in 2024-25 • 7 places – Kingsbourne Academy in 2026-27 • 7 places – Kingsbourne Academy in 2027-28 <p>Total 44 additional places have been built into the plan from 2023/ to 2027-28.</p>

E. Mitigation – Increase of special school places

Description	<p>Cheshire East currently has six special schools: Springfield School; Park Lane School; Adelaide School; Adelaide Heath; Church Lawton School and Axis School, supporting 575 pupils with an EHCP. 203 local children with an EHCP attend a special school in other local authorities. The reason for this key mitigation of growing our own provision, is to reduce the demand on Independent / NMSS settings which are of a considerably higher cost. In addition to the cost element, children and young people will not be required to travel as far to attend a specialist provision if more spaces are available within Cheshire East.</p> <p>To increase the capacity in number of places within existing sites and create two new DfE special free schools giving 318 places in total over the 5 year period.</p>
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Cost	<p>The cost of place funding is partially accounted for within DSG income adjustments (although on a lagged basis). Place funding costs £10,340 per place, £4,000 of this is accounted for within the DSG income adjustments, therefore the additional cost to CEC is £6,340 per place. 318 additional places on average would cost approximately £2.2m in the final year. Cumulative costs for the period £6.1m</p> <p>Top up funding (pupil funding) is an increased cost as there will be more children and young people placed in this type of provision. Top up funding (for new schools and expanding schools) ranges from £12,701 to £20,000. 318 additional pupils on average would cost approximately £4.7m in the final year. Cumulative costs are £13.4m</p> <p>The plan assumes no change to the number of CE pupils in other LA special schools.</p>
Outcomes	<p>Children and young people attend local schools within Cheshire East. Children and young people receive the right support at the right time in the right type of provision.</p> <p>NMSS/ISS/SPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the growth by 318 (cumulative) • cost avoidance £21.1m in 2027/28 (cumulative £67.1m)
Progress of Mitigation	<p>CEC recently won bids for 2 new free special schools. Sites have been identified. These will be funded by the DfE. Although these schools were included within the plan last year, the bid outcome was not known and sites had not been identified.</p> <p>There have been delays to the progression of both Springfield sites, which has resulted in the timing of available places. This has been reflected in the updated plan for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28</p>

F. Mitigation – Supported Internships Programme

Description	<p>A supported internship is a type of study programme that is specifically aimed at young people aged 16 to 24 who have an EHCP and want to move into employment and need extra support to do so.</p> <p>The mitigation to grow the supported Internship (SI) offer provides young people with a clear pathway to adulthood and into employment, which in turn reduces overall EHCP numbers and will positively impact on adult social care budgets.</p> <p>The mitigation assumes supported internships across a number of providers across Cheshire East including special schools, SPI and FE Colleges</p>
Cost	<p>Costs are included within the placement costs within top up funding for both colleges and SPI provisions</p>
Outcomes	<p>Children and young people attend local schools/settings within Cheshire East. Children and young people receive the right support at the right time in the right type of provision. Children and young people have the skills and ability to be employed Children and young people if successful are employed</p> <p>Further Education College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of number of 143 EHCPs over the 5-year period • Cost avoidance £2.2m over 5-year period (£0.9m in 2027/28) <p>NMSS/ISS/SPI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of number of 124 EHCPs over the 5-year period • Cost avoidance £23.5m (£8.2m in 2027/28) <p>The EHCP is expected to cease after one year, therefore education beyond 19 does not continue, resulting in a reduction of EHCP numbers entering the non- maintained and independent sector.</p>

Progress of Mitigation	From AY 2020-21 to AY 2022-23 (despite covid interruptions), 93 SI's have been supported by the programme. The programme is continuing to grow, with new providers coming on board.
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G. Mitigation – Independent Fee Challenge

Description	In addition to reducing overall numbers, a further mitigation focuses on fee challenge. The mitigated position assumes an increase of 3.4% each year, where the unmitigated position assumes a fee increase of 7.5% in year 1 and 5% thereafter. Average costs in 2022-23 £60k, these rise to £78k in 2027/28 (unmitigated) and £71k (mitigated)
Cost of implementing	No cost implications
Outcomes	If we achieve the mitigated fee increase of 3.4% this will result in cost avoidance of £40.9m cumulative (£16.1m in the final year)
Progress of Mitigations	Commissioning continue to working hard to challenge, but providers are seeing significant increases in costs and therefore passing this on to CEC as the commissioner of places.

Capital

Capital – Resource Provision

37. Setting up of new resource provisions in our mainstream schools has an impact on the capital budget. The table below shows the estimated place numbers, date of completion / opening and the status of capital expenditure.

New Places – Specialist	Places From	Estimated Number of Places	Place To	Estimated Date of build completion	Capital Expenditure Required	Estimated Date of Phased Opening (to from)
Wistaston Primary (RP)	0	24	24	Sept 24	Secured	Sept 23 – Sept 25
Shavington Secondary (RP)	0	14	14	Sept 24	Secured	Sept 24-Sept 25
Kingsbourne Academy (RP)	0	14	14	Sept 24	Secured subject to C&F committee approval September 2023 for additional funding or the contract	Sept 24-Sept 25

Capital – Special School

38. Expansion/new build of special schools has an impact on the capital budget. The table below shows the estimated place numbers, date of completion / opening and the status of capital expenditure.

New Places – Specialist	Places From	Estimated Number of Places	Place To	Estimated Date of build completion	Capital Expenditure Required	Estimated Date of Phased Opening (to from)
Park Lane	86	40	126	Sept 22	Secured	Sept 22 – Sept 24
Park Lane	126	24	150	N/A	N/A	Sept 22- Sept 24
Axis	48	20	68	Sept 22	N/A	Sept 22 – Sept 23

New Places – Specialist	Places From	Estimated Number of Places	Place To	Estimated Date of build completion	Capital Expenditure Required	Estimated Date of Phased Opening (to from)
Springfield Expansion or New Crewe Site	170	80	250	Sept 24	Secured	Sept 24 – Sept 27
Dean Row	0	60	60	Sept 23	Secured	Sept 23 – Sept 26
Free School Bid (age range, primary need, size of school to be determined)	0	48	48	Sept 25	Not Secured (forms part of free school wave)	Sept 25 - Sept 28 (estimate) No dates for work on actual build provided by the DfE
Free school Bid (age range, primary need, size of school to be determined)	0	48	48	Sept 25	Not Secured (assumption this forms part of free school wave)	Sept 25- Sept 28 (estimate) No dates for work on actual build provided by the DfE
Adelaide Heath	67	20	87	Sept 24	Secured subject to C&F committee approval Sept 23	Sept 24- Sept 26

39. Note the council has updated its SEN sufficiency statement which has identified further additional local provision that is needed. This has not been reflected in this plan. It will be necessary to pursue additional capital projects to support the ambition. Proposals for such projects will be subject to the normal approval process.

40. Glossary

Term	Meaning
DSG Management Plan	Dedicated Schools Grant Management Plan
DBV	Delivering Better Value programme
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SEN2	Special Educational Needs Survey
AY	Academic Year
NA	Needs Assessment
DfE	Department for Education
RP	Resource Provision - within a mainstream school
SEN Units	Special Education Needs Units
Special Schools	Maintained, academy, free schools, independent both within and outside of Cheshire East
NMSS ISS SPIs	Non-maintained special schools Independent special schools Specialist post 16 institutes
AP	Alternative provision
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent
SALT	Sensory & Speech and Language Therapy

PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
EMP	Enhanced Mainstream Provision
SI	Supported Internships