### Appendix 1

### Summary of Cheshire East Council Reprofiled DSG Management Plan 2024/25 to 2030/31

### **Introduction**

- 1. This appendix provides a summary of the council's reprofiled Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan for the period 2024/25 to 2030/31, which has been shared with the DfE Safety Valve intervention programme on 4 October 2024.
- 2. The DSG management plan has been reprofiled to take in to account of the reduced growth of EHCP numbers (13.5% EHCP growth 5.5% lower than anticipated) and a considerably lower deficit position than forecast on 31 March 2024 (£10.1m reduction in the deficit position giving a position of £79m).
- **3.** Mitigations have been updated to reflect any update information and intelligence. For example, the timing of new specialist provision.
- 4. Forecast are based on the January 2024 education, health and care plan (EHCP) numbers from the SEN2 statutory return.
- **5.** The DSG Management Plan is based on a very detailed spreadsheet template issued by the DfE. This Appendix provides a summary.
- **6.** The DSG management plan provides an unmitigated and mitigated forecast for the period 2024/25 to 2030/31.
- 7. Where changes to provision are identified they remain subject to necessary consultations, sufficient capital funding where applicable and local approval.
- **8.** 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.
- **9.** The average costs of provision ranges from £7,593 for a pupil supported in mainstream to £25,000 for a special school to over £64,000 for independent specialist provision.
- 10. The High Needs Allocation for 2024-25 is £57.5 million

#### **Provision Types**

- 11. 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**

- **12.** The number of EHCPs in the system has increased by 547 during the year, bringing the total of EHCPs as of January 2024 to 4,576. This represents a growth in the total of EHCPs of 13.6% compared with 18% the previous year. This included 715 first/new EHCPs.
- 13. National growth as at January 2024 is 11.4%, in the previous year this level of growth was been 9.3%.
- **14.** It is difficult to identify trends from the table below. We can see that the placement of children and young people within the independent sector has increased at considerably different rates; 30% 2022, 62% 2023 and 12% 2023.

All EHCPS by provision type	Jan- 22	EHCP Increase	% Increase	Jan-23	EHCP Increase	% Increase	Jan-24	EHCP Increase	% Increase
Mainstream schools inc. Nursery/PVI	1,830	261	17%	2,084	254	14%	2,368	284	14%
RP	88	-6	-6%	132	44	50%	148	16	12%
LA Special	706	44	7%	778	72	10%	817	39	5%
Special Independent schools + SPIs and NMSS (pre & post 16)	337	78	30%	545	208	62%	613	68	12%

AP/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	11	2	225	19	8	73%	19	0	0%
FE/Post 16	440	99	29%	471	31	7%	611	140	30%
Total	3,412	478	16%	4,029	617	18%	4,576	547	13.6%

- **15.** The table below shows the number of new/first EHCPs issued in the calendar year 2023. The number of new/first EHCPs issued reduced by 3.64% compared with EHCPs issued in 2022 (The increase of first EHCPs in the calendar year 2022 was 13.5% on the previous year).
- **16.** National growth as at January 2024 is 26.6%. Education, health and care plans, Reporting year 2024 Explore education statistics GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk) "With regards to new EHC plans in particular, we have seen a large increase compared to last year's figures (7.3%). Based on historic data trends, we expect some of this increase to be reflective of the number of new plans, however some is expected to be as a result of improved data quality and coverage".

NEW/FIRST PLANS by Provision	Jan-22	% Increase 2022	Proportion of new plans 2022	Jan-23	% Increase 2023	Proportion of new plans 2023	Jan-24	% Increase 2024	Proportion of new plans 2024
Mainstream schools inc. Nursery/PVI	578	3%	88%	602	4%	81%	628	4%	88%
RP	8	100%	1%	24	200%	3%	9	-63%	1%
LA Special	30	11%	5%	42	40%	6%	24	-43%	3%
Special Independent schools + SPIs and NMSS (pre & post 16)	15	-35%	2%	47	213%	6%	19	-60%	3%
AP/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	7	75%	1%	10	43%	1%	9	-10%	1%
FE/Post 16	16	-24%	2%	17	6%	2%	26	53%	4%
Total	654	2%	100%	742	13.50%	100%	715	-3.64%	100%

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

- **17.** The council has to submit a SEN 2 return in January each year setting out the latest information on EHCP numbers. The data from the January 2024 SEN2 return is the basis for forecasting in this plan.
  - The table below shows the original DSG management plan forecast position, compared with the SEN2 January 2024 outturn position. At the end of 2023/24, there were 196 less EHCPs than anticipated, representing a growth of 13.6% compared to the previous year. This shows that the outturn was better than forecast, overall by 4%. The biggest variance relates to non-maintained special schools, independent special schools and post 16 specialist institutes, this area is also responsible for the significantly lower deficit position.

Туре	Original forecast 2023/24	SEN2 Jan 24	Variance	Variance %
Mainstream	2,460	2368	-92	-4%
RP / SEN Units	156	148	-4	-5%
Special Schools	828	817	-11	-1%
NMSS & Independent	757	613	-144	-19%
AP/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	19	19	0	0%
FE/Post 16	556	611	55	10%
Total EHCPs	4,776	4,576	-200	-4%

- **18.** The reprofiled DSG management plan and associated EHCP forecasts have been based on the SEN2 Jan 24 EHCP data.
- 19. Prior to the Safety Valve programme involvement, previous versions of the DSG management plan, forecast the unmitigated number of EHCPs by using a flat rate increase of number plans each year. Following discussions and seeking advice from DfE Safety Valve colleagues, we have used a percentage increase each year to represent the growth of future EHCPs. The percentage reduces each year until it reaches 11% increase, which is the national level of EHCP growth seen in 2023 (January 24 SEN2 data).

- **20.** The two tables below show the original forecasts (submitted to the Safety Valve programme in December 2023) and the reprofiled forecast (September 2024) for both unmitigated EHCPs and mitigated EHCPs. The main differences between the two versions are: the level of growth of the unmitigated forecast (due to the change of growth national this has been increased to 11% from 10%), and the number of EHCPs at the start (2023/24) is 200 EHCPs lower that originally forecast.
- 21. The mitigated EHCP forecast, shows that there will inevitably be growth in the first couple of years but the level of EHCPs will decline over the later years of the plan and the proportions of EHCPs in provision types will differ. Ensuring that children and young people are placed in the right type of provision has a significant impact on the overall affordability and sustainability of the financial forecast and will allow services to be provided with in budget.
- **22.** In terms of EHCP numbers, the original submission and the reprofiled forecast are similar. In year 7 (2030/31), we expect to have 99 fewer plans if all mitigations are implemented and are successful.

Original submission December 2023	Forecast 2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Unmitigated	4,776	5,484	6,247	7,051	7,892	8,756	9,626	10,585
Mitigated	4,776	5,164	5,300	5,240	5,197	5,061	4,769	4,413
% Unmitigated growth of EHCPs	19%	15%	14%	13%	12%	11%	10%	10%
% Mitigated growth of EHCPs	19%	8%	3%	-1%	-1%	-3%	-6%	-7%
Impact of mitigations		-320	-947	-1,811	-2,695	-3,695	-4,857	-6,172

Reprofiled September 2024	Jan 24 SEN2	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Unmitigated	4,576	5,216	5,941	6,713	7,581	8,489	9,422	10,455
Mitigated	4,576	4,937	5,115	5,138	5,014	4,815	4,643	4,314
% Unmitigated growth of EHCPs	13.6%	14%	14%	13%	13%	12%	11%	11%
% Mitigated growth of EHCPs	13.6%	8%	4%	0%	-2%	-4%	-4%	-7%
Impact of mitigations		-279	-826	-1,575	-2,567	-3,674	-4,779	-6,141

## **Unmitigated Forecasts**

**23.** The tables below show the unmitigated forecasts for both the original submission and the reprofiled submission split between provision type. As previously mentioned, the two forecasts are similar but the profiles of where pupils are placed are slightly different, which does impact on the financial forecasts.

Original Submission December 2023		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
	Unmitigate	d Forecast						
Туре	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Mainstream	2,460	2,828	3,225	3,643	4,079	4,529	4,981	5,480
RP / SEN Units	156	156	156	156	156	156	156	156
Special Schools	828	828	828	828	828	828	828	828
NMSS & Independent	757	1,013	1,291	1,583	1,889	2,202	2,518	2,866
AP/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
Post 16 & FE	556	640	728	822	921	1,022	1,124	1,236
Total EHCPs	4,776	5,484	6,247	7,051	7,892	8,756	9,626	10,585
	19%	15%	14%	13%	12%	11%	10%	10%

Reprofiled September 2024		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
	Unmitigate	d Forecast						
Туре	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
Mainstream	2,368	2,699	3,076	3,477	3,929	4,400	4,884	5,420
RP / SEN Units	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148
Special Schools	817	815	815	815	815	815	815	815
NMSS & Independent	613	837	1,088	1,355	1,655	1,970	2,293	2,651
AP/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
Post 16 & FE	611	698	795	899	1,015	1,137	1,263	1,402
Total EHCPs	4,576	5,216	5,941	6,713	7,581	8,489	9,422	10,455
	13.6%	14%	14%	13%	13%	12%	11%	11%

### **Mitigations**

#### **24.** The mitigations focus on:

- Supporting mainstream schools to adopt inclusive practice to enable more children and young people to remain in mainstream settings where appropriate, and embedding a graduated approach which sets clear guidance on support that should be available in mainstream settings.
- Strengthening the SEN support offer available in mainstream schools to reduce escalation of children and young people's needs and manage demand for EHCPs. This should include targeted investment on effective early intervention.
- Strengthening the professional networks across mainstream settings to promote learning and confidence in meeting children and young people's needs, including articulating school level inclusion standards.
- Expanding specialist provision within the LA appropriately in order to meet the needs of children and young people within the authority.
- Securing collaboration and financial commitment from partner agencies where appropriate, ensuring health partners make adequate contributions to provision.
- Developing and implementing a clear planning and decision-making process for placements, in line with the sufficiency strategy.
- Strengthening oversight and contracting with independent and non-maintained schools to ensure value for money, including reviewing approval routes of expensive placements.
- Strengthening the EHCP annual review process so EHCPs can be stepped down where children and young people's needs have been met appropriately and we can appropriately celebrate success.
- Reviewing and developing a clear SEND financial strategy that ensures case level decision making is strategic and appropriate.

#### **Mitigated Forecasts**

**25.** The mitigated forecast has been produced by using the unmitigated forecast and applying mitigations. Mitigations have been adjusted since the original submission to recognise any information/intelligence previously not known. For example, profiling of new special school places.

# **Original Submission**

December 2023		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7			
	Mitigated For	Mitigated Forecast									
Туре	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31			
Mainstream	2,460	2,649	2,735	2,641	2,612	2,488	2,257	1,925			
RP / SEN Units	156	172	254	308	335	362	389	409			
Special Schools	828	922	1,016	1,116	1,206	1,266	1,286	1,306			
NMSS & Independent	757	814	652	507	354	239	120	53			
AP/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19			
Post 16 & FE	556	588	624	649	671	687	698	701			
Total EHCPs	4,776	5,164	5,300	5,240	5,197	5,061	4,769	4,413			
·		8%	3%	-1%	-1%	-3%	-6%	-7%			

Reprofiled September 2024		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7		
	Mitigated Fo	Mitigated Forecast								
Туре	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31		
Mainstream	2,368	2,546	2,647	2,656	2,465	2,260	2,106	1,855		
RP / SEN Units	148	180	263	366	401	401	401	401		
Special Schools	817	927	994	1,056	1,132	1,208	1,276	1,276		
NMSS & Independent	613	639	532	360	295	207	121	54		
AP/Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	19	19	29	39	49	59	59	59		
Post 16 & FE	611	626	650	661	672	680	680	669		
Total EHCPs	4,576	4,937	5,115	5,138	5,014	4,815	4,643	4,314		
		8%	4%	0%	-2%	-4%	-4%	-7%		

- **26.** The tables below detail the reprofiled non-cumulative growth/decrease required each year by provision type (Table 1: EHCP numbers and Table 2: percentage change in EHCPs)
- **27.** By 2026/27 we are aiming to have 0% growth in EHCPs, followed by a target of negative growth in the remaining years to 2030/31.

reprofiled depletified 2024 real of re	Reprofiled September 2024	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
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	Mitigated Forecast								
Type	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	
Mainstream	284	179	101	9	-191	-205	-154	-251	
Special Schools	16	112	67	62	76	76	68	0	
RP / SEN Units	39	28	83	103	35	0	0	0	
NMSS & Independent	68	24	-107	-172	-65	-88	-86	-67	
Hosp Schools / AP	0	0	10	10	10	10	0	0	
Post 16 & FE	140	14	24	11	11	8	0	-11	
Total EHCPs	547	357	178	23	-124	-199	-172	-329	

Reprofiled September 2024		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	
	Mitigated F	Mitigated Forecast							
Type	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	
Mainstream	14%	8%	4%	0%	-7%	-8%	-7%	-12%	
RP / SEN Units	15%	18%	46%	39%	10%	0%	0%	0%	
Special Schools	5%	14%	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%	0%	
NMSS & Independent	13%	4%	-17%	-32%	-18%	-30%	-42%	-55%	
Hosp Schools / AP	0%	0%	53%	34%	26%	20%	0%	0%	
Post 16 & FE	30%	2%	4%	2%	2%	1%	0%	-2%	
Total EHCPs	13.6%	8%	4%	0%	-2%	-4%	-4%	-7%	

# **Financial Summary of the Reprofiled DSG Management Plan**

- 28. The DSG reserve deficit balance is £78.7 million at 31 March 2024.
- 29. The high needs funding has been forecasted using DfE guidance as 3% growth each year.

- **30.** The tables below summarise the financial forecast in the DSG management plan for both the unmitigated position and the mitigated position along with the difference between the two. The forecasts are broken down over provisions types and detail the expenditure, DSG income, school block transfer, the in year deficit position, the deficit reserve brought forward from the previous year, resulting in the total deficit reserve position.
- **31.** The unmitigated financial forecast is without mitigations, the do-nothing position. Whereas the mitigated financial forecast includes mitigations which are detailed within the Safety Valve Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) Interventions mitigations section in this appendix. Cumulatively mitigations are forecast to amount to £836.3 million.
- **32.** The unmitigated forecast position for 2030-31 shows total expenditure of £321.6 million against an expected grant of £68.6 million, resulting in an in-year deficit of £253 million and a total deficit reserve position of £1.07 billion.
- **33.** The mitigated forecast position for 2030-31 shows total expenditure of £70.1 million against an expected grant and school block transfer of £70.7 million, resulting in an in-year surplus of £0.6 million and a total deficit position of £236.7 million.

	UNMITIGATED FORECAST							
Provision Type	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Mainstream	24.2	27.4	30.4	33.8	37.4	41.2	45.2	
Resource Provision	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	
Special Schools	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	
NMSS & Independent Special Schools	52.2	72.1	95.8	123.8	156.2	192.5	234.3	
FE Colleges	7	7.9	9	10.1	11.4	12.6	14	
Alternative Provision	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	
Sensory & SALT	2.1	2	2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	
Total Expenditure	111.4	135.3	163.1	195.8	233.1	274.4	321.6	
Total DSG Income	-57.5	-59.2	-61	-62.8	-64.7	-66.6	-68.6	
Block Transfer	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	
In Year Surplus -/ Deficit +	53.9	76.1	102.1	133.0	168.4	207.8	253	

Surplus / Deficit Brought Forward	78.7	132.6	208.7	310.8	443.8	612.2	820.0
Total Deficit Reserve Balance	132.6	208.7	310.8	443.8	612.2	820.0	1073.0

	MITIGATED FORECAST							
Provision Type	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Mainstream	23.2	23.4	22.5	20.4	18.4	17.2	15.9	
Resource Provision	3.1	4.4	6.1	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	
Special Schools	21.2	22.3	24	25.5	26.7	28	28.6	
NMSS & Independent Special Schools	40.9	38.9	30.4	23.5	18.3	12.3	6.7	
FE Colleges	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	
Alternative Provision	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.9	4	4	
Sensory & SALT	2	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	
Total Expenditure	100.3	100.4	94.6	88.1	82.4	76.5	70.1	
Total DSG Income	-57.5	-59.2	-61	-62.8	-64.7	-66.6	-68.6	
Block Transfer	-1.4	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	-2.1	
In Year Surplus -/ Deficit +	41.4	39.1	31.5	23.2	15.6	7.8	-0.6	
Surplus / Deficit Brought Forward	78.7	120.1	159.1	190.7	213.9	229.5	237.3	
Total Deficit Reserve Balance	120.1	159.2	190.7	213.9	229.5	237.3	236.7	

## Reprofiled Financial Summary Compared with the Original Submission

- **34.** The following two tables show the unmitigated deficit forecast and the mitigated deficit forecast and highlights the monetary value of the impact of mitigations. The first table shows the original plan and the second table shows the reprofiled plan.
- 35. The mitigated deficit position in 2030/31 has reduced from £284.8 million to £236.7 million, a £48.1 million reduction.
- **36.** As previously reported, we are able to achieve an in year balanced position in the 7th year with a small in year surplus.

Original Submission December 2023	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
	£m						
Unmitigated cumulative deficit	154.6	244.6	363.5	514.8	702.2	929.1	1,200.9
Mitigated cumulative deficit	140.9	189.0	227.7	256.5	276.2	285.4	284.8
Impact of mitigations	-13.7	-55.6	-135.8	-258.3	-426.0	-643.7	-916.1

Reprofiled September 2024	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
	£m						
Unmitigated cumulative deficit	132.6	208.7	310.8	443.8	612.2	820.0	1073.0
Mitigated cumulative deficit	120.1	159.2	190.7	213.9	229.5	237.3	236.7
Impact of mitigations	-12.5	-49.5	-120.1	-229.9	-382.7	-582.7	-836.3

# 37. 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	Non-maintained special schools
ISS SPIs	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
PID	Project Initiation Document
EOTAS	Educated Other Than At School