



Dedicated Schools Grant 'Safety Valve' Agreement: Barnsley

1. This agreement is between the Department for Education and Barnsley Council, and covers the financial years from 2022-23 to 2026-27.
2. The authority undertakes to reach a positive in-year balance on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) account by the end of 2025-26 and in each subsequent year. The authority undertakes to control and reduce the cumulative deficit as follows, not including any contribution made by the department through this agreement:

Year	Forecast DSG Deficit Profile at year end £m
2022-23	£22.1m
2023-24	£24.7m
2024-25	£25.5m
2025-26	£24.8m
2026-27	£22.9m

3. The authority agrees to implement the DSG management plan that it has set out. This includes action to:
 - 3.1. Provide effective system wide governance, accountability and challenge through the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Oversight Board, including the Parent/Carer Forum, Barnsley Schools Alliance and Integrated Care Board;
 - 3.2. Commission new local SEND provision and places, to ensure sufficient

placements for children and young people locally, thus reducing the reliance on high cost Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS);

- 3.3. Continue working with parents and carers to formulate a strategy to transition pupils from INMSS to local provision, where suitable;
 - 3.4. Review the effectiveness of the current notional SEND budget in schools;
 - 3.5. Review the current Alternative Provision (AP) model to provide effective and efficient provision;
 - 3.6. Encourage and support schools/settings and the wider SEND system to be inclusive, through early identification and increase in SEND support in mainstream schools, and in line with the local area SEND and Education Strategies;
 - 3.7. Review the provision and accessing of the Education other than at school (EOTAS) contract, thus increasing oversight, length of time accessing the support, improved transition back into school by delivering provision in school settings and in communities, and working as a partnership with schools, settings and stakeholders;
 - 3.8. Maintain a needs-led approach, working with parents and carers to consider securing provision in borough.
4. The authority also agrees to ongoing monitoring of its performance in fulfilling this agreement. The authority will:
- 4.1. Report tri-annually (as a minimum) in writing to the Department (Funding Policy Unit) on its progress towards implementing the plan as per the conditions set out in paragraphs 2 and 3;
 - 4.2. The monitoring reports should include progress against the conditions of grant and a financial dashboard detailing various metrics relating to demand and cost. DfE will provide a template for this;
 - 4.3. Inform the Department (Funding Policy Unit) of any unforeseen

difficulties or impacts of carrying out the agreement, or any significant risks to reaching the agreed financial position as soon as they arise;

- 4.4. Meet with the Department at any time when the Department deems it necessary to discuss progress towards the agreement.
5. The Department agrees to pay to the authority an additional **£9.16 million** of DSG before the end of the financial year 2022-23. In subsequent financial years, subject to compliance with the conditions set out in paragraph 3, the Department will pay DSG sums as follows. This funding will be provided in instalments and subject to continued satisfactory progress. Subject to full compliance, Barnsley should therefore eliminate their cumulative deficit no later than 2026-27.

Year	The Department agrees to pay to the authority an additional £m of DSG by year end
2022-23	£9.16m
2023-24	£2.75m
2024-25	£2.75m
2025-26	£2.75m
2026-27	£5.50m

6. The Department has also sent a commission relating to the authority's capital plans for the creation of new places for children and young people with SEND or those requiring AP. It is critical that the authority considers its revenue and capital plans holistically. The Department will assess and review proposals against set criteria which have been outlined in the commission. Subject to that assessment, the Department will consider making a capital contribution to these plans in 2023-24 as a top-up to the local authority's High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA), which will be announced in spring. Progress against delivery of those capital plans should then be integrated into the tri-annual reporting to the Department as part of the monitoring of this agreement.
7. This agreement is subject to review at any time, for example as a result of the

following events:

- 7.1. Higher or lower DSG formula funding levels for the authority in future financial years than those the authority has assumed;
- 7.2. Significant changes to national SEND policy which impact on elements of the plan;
- 7.3. Insufficient progress being made towards the authority reaching and sustaining an in-year balance on its DSG account as set out in the plan;
- 7.4. Whether Barnsley is awarded additional capital funding support following the capital application process;
- 7.5. Whether Barnsley is successful in their bid for a free school.

The review process will include an assessment of the impact of the change in circumstances.

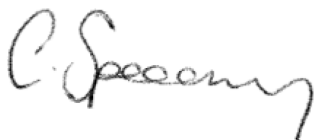
On behalf of Barnsley Council, signed by:



Sarah Norman - LA Chief Executive



Neil Copley - Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)



Carly Speechley - Director of Children's Services

On behalf of the Department for Education, signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'T' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal tail.

Tom Goldman – Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit