



Dedicated Schools Grant 'Safety Valve' Agreement: Croydon

1. This agreement is between the Department for Education and Croydon 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
2022-23	£26.3m
2023-24	£27.0m
2024-25	£27.6m
2025-26	£27.5m
2026-27	£27.4m

3. The authority agrees to implement the DSG management plan that it has set out. This includes action to:
 - 3.1. Fully implement the local authority's (LA's) "Locality Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Support" model to support school-owned, continuous improvement of inclusive SEND provision in schools, provide early intervention for SEND pupils;
 - 3.2. Increase leadership capacity in schools to support pupils with SEND and their families;

- 3.3. Develop partnerships and networks that support school-led improvement and inclusive practice;
 - 3.4. Increase local provision for local children and young people with SEND. For example, by increasing capacity in Addington Valley Academy, St Nicholas Primary School and across Croydon's education estate. Reduce requirement for out of borough and independent placements;
 - 3.5. Increase usage of Alternative Provision (AP) by right sizing the commissioning of placement numbers at Croydon's pupil referral unit (PRU) and other AP;
 - 3.6. Develop a combined programme of local SEND College Pathways for 19–25-year-old students delivered in partnership between Coulsdon College Croydon and Waddon Youth Disability Service.
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 **£10.96 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, Croydon 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	£10.96m
2023-24	£3.29m
2024-25	£3.29m
2025-26	£3.29m
2026-27	£6.58m

6. This agreement is subject to review at any time, for example as a result of the following events:
 - 6.1. Higher or lower DSG formula funding levels for the authority in future financial years than those the authority has assumed;
 - 6.2. Significant changes to national SEND policy which impact on elements of the plan;
 - 6.3. Insufficient progress being made towards the authority reaching and sustaining an in-year balance on its DSG account as set out in the plan.

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

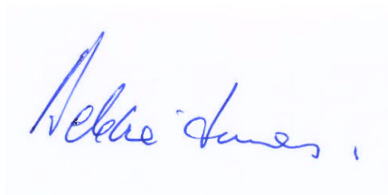
On behalf of Croydon Council, signed by:

Kathie Kerswell.

Katherine Kerswell - LA Chief Executive

Jane West

Jane West - Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)



Deborah Jones (Interim) - Director of Children's Services

On behalf of the Department for Education, signed by:



Tom Goldman – Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit