



Dedicated Schools Grant ‘Safety Valve’ Agreement: Kirklees

1. This agreement is between the Department for Education and Kirklees Council, and covers the financial years from 2021-22 to 2029-30.
2. The authority undertakes to reach a positive in-year balance on its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) account by the end of 2026-27 and in each subsequent year. The authority undertakes to control and reduce the cumulative deficit as follows:

Year	Maximum Forecast DSG Deficit Profile at Year End ¹ £m
2021-22	£35.8m
2022-23	£46.4m
2023-24	£56.1m
2024-25	£63.3m
2025-26	£63.6m
2026-27	£52.1m
2027-28	£48.0m
2028-29	£40.1m
2029-30	£33.0m

3. The authority agrees to implement the action plan that it has set out. This includes action to:
 - 3.1 Ensure inclusive co-production and engagement is and will be central in approach to understand children’s, young people’s and family needs and how these are best met by a range of settings, services, local schools and at home;
 - 3.2 Implement joint commissioning and sufficiency strategies, re-balancing the range of placements, services and provision locally. These will include rebuilding and creating additional SEMH and Complex ASD special school places and increasing additionally resourced provision, to ensure a sufficient

¹ This profile includes contributions that the council will make from its own resources to reduce the DSG deficit.

mix of flexible services and local placements for children and young people. Kirklees will have sufficient local education places that meet the needs of their population. This includes re-building 2 schools that will create an additional 100+ places;

- 3.3 Ensure that children, young people and families have the right help and support, at the earliest possible opportunity, at a time that is right for them. This includes supporting children with SEND in mainstream schools by continuing to develop and implement the graduated approach, outreach support model and inclusion strategies, Kirklees will work with their schools in clusters that will further develop the skills, expertise and capacity of the workforce;
- 3.4 Ensure that children and young people are being prepared for adulthood throughout their life course, promoting a focus on independence and transition as early as possible in a child's and family's journey;
- 3.5 Continue to review assessment and decision-making processes to ensure decisions are made transparently, in a timely manner and in partnership with children young people and families. This will include recruiting additional educational psychologists and the implementation of a range of holistic assessments tools engaging professionals and families and consolidating improvements and timeliness in our EHCP assessments and reviews. Kirklees as a local area, will increase and improve the timeliness and quality of responses to needs of children and young people with SEND;
- 3.6 Develop and implement inclusion strategies as part of our approach to secure and develop Alternative Provision for children across all key stages and the creation of a new AP free school.

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 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;

4.3 Meet with the Department in the last quarter of each financial year covered by this agreement to discuss progress, and update on detailed plans for the subsequent financial year;

4.4 Meet with the Department at any other time when the Department deems it necessary to discuss progress towards the agreement;

4.5 Provide the Department with relevant Schools Forum papers as soon as they are issued.

5. The Department agrees to pay to the authority an additional £13.50 million of DSG before the end of the financial year 2021-22. In subsequent financial years, subject to compliance with the conditions set out in paragraph 3, the Department will pay DSG sums as below. This funding will be provided in instalments and subject to continued satisfactory progress. Subject to full compliance, Kirklees Council should therefore eliminate their cumulative deficit no later than 2029-30.

Year	The Department agrees to pay to the authority an additional £m of DSG by year end
2021-22	£13.50m
2022-23	£4.00m
2023-24	£2.20m
2024-25	£2.30m
2025-26	£2.30m
2026-27	£2.30m
2027-28	£2.30m
2028-29	£2.30m
2029-30	£2.30m

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, for example as a result of the government SEND Improvement Plan, which impact on elements of the plan;

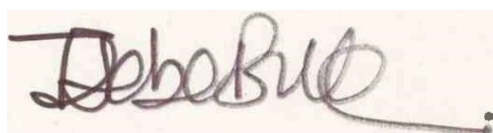
6.3 Insufficient progress being made towards the authority reaching and sustaining an in-year balance on its DSG account as set out in the plan.

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

On behalf of Kirklees Council, signed by:



Steve Mawson, LA Chief Executive (12/03/2024)



Isabel Brittain, Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) (12/03/2024)



Tom Brailsford, Strategic Director of Children and Families (12/03/2024)

On behalf of the Department for Education, signed by:



Tom Goldman – Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit