



## Dedicated Schools Grant ‘Safety Valve’ Agreement: Bath and North East Somerset

This agreement is currently subject to review. Payments of grant have been suspended but will be made up if a revised agreement is reached. The total paid under the agreement in the financial year 2023-24 was £0.55m.

1. This agreement is between the Department for Education and Bath and North East Somerset Council, and covers the financial years from 2022-23 to 2028-29.
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, not including any contribution made by the department through this agreement:

Year	Maximum Forecast DSG Deficit Profile at Year End <sup>1</sup> £m
2022-23	£19.6m
2023-24	£23.4m
2024-25	£25.9m
2025-26	£26.6m
2026-27	£25.5m
2027-28	£23.1m
2028-29	£19.2m

3. The authority agrees to implement the action plan that it has set out. This includes action to:

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

- 3.1 Create an 'Ordinarily Available Provision' (OAP) document for all schools, with parental involvement to improve access to provision and support to ease the reliance on Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs);
  - 3.2 Work with Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) senior leaders, headteachers and Parent/Carer forum to expand Resource Base provision in primary and secondary schools;
  - 3.3 Review current pupil placements to ensure needs are being met and ascertain if children could be educated successfully in mainstream schools or new Resource Bases;
  - 3.4 Continue reviewing the Joint Agency Panel (who commission, monitor and review packages and placements for children with Complex, Multiple and High-Level Needs);
  - 3.5 Continue to review data and needs to ensure best decisions are being made, in relation to increasing sufficiency of places;
  - 3.6 Continue to improve the experience of young people in their transition beyond children's services, focusing on those who are likely to transition into adult services;
  - 3.7 Implement an improved system of support to ensure an effective graduated approach for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in all educational sectors;
  - 3.8 Increase provision within the special school sector to minimise the reliance on Independent Non-Maintained Provision.
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 £7.68 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, Bath and North East Somerset should therefore eliminate their cumulative deficit no later than 2028-29.

<b>Year</b>	<b>The Department agrees to pay the authority an additional £m of DSG by year end</b>
2022-23	£7.68m
2023-24	£1.65m
2024-25	£1.65m
2025-26	£1.65m
2026-27	£1.65m
2027-28	£1.65m
2028-29	£3.29m

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;

6.4 Whether Bath and North East Somerset are successful in their bid for a free school.

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

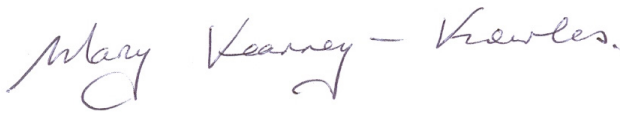
On behalf of Bath and North East Somerset Council, signed by:



Will Godfrey - LA Chief Executive



Andy Rothery - Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)



Mary Kearney-Knowles - Director of Children's Services

On behalf of the Department for Education, signed by:



Tom Goldman – Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit