



# Finance Board

# Safety Valve Agreement Report May 2024

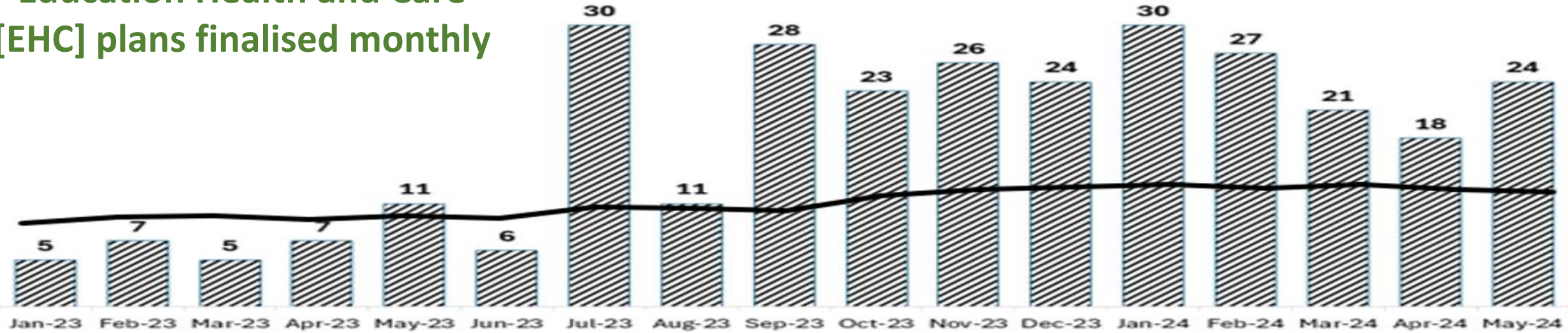
- ❑ An exercise has been undertaken to review the accounting treatment and financial controls as well as improving transparency and reporting.
- ❑ The reported position and bought forward values for 2022/23 are being validated which may result in a re-alignment of the bought forward value. The net outturn in 2023/24 is an overspend of £0.228m, compared to a forecast surplus of £0.155m in Period 8.
- ❑ There have been discussions around the requirement for an EHC plan transformation team to oversee the DSG Recovery Plan and the Safety Valve Agreement.
- ❑ Additional costs are anticipated in 2024/5 in respect of therapeutic support, particularly speech and language therapy [SALT] and the continued reliance on interim staff.
- ❑ The first Agreement Condition, Managing demand for EHC plans has been moved to Amber because the level of backlog cases and recent staffing changes. Additional case officer resource has been requested to mitigate this risk.
- ❑ Currently other risks relating to the shortage of special school places and other inflationary pressures are being suitably managed.

# SEND Update

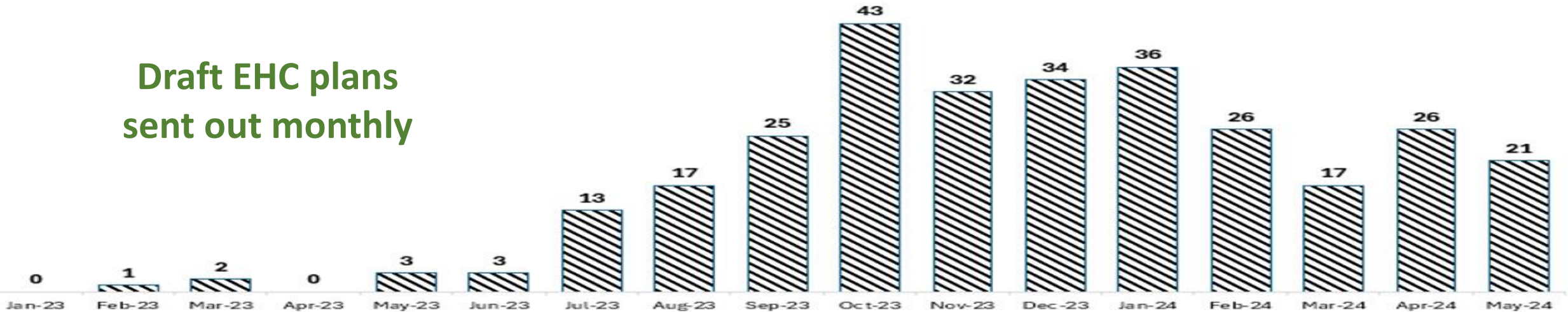
- ❑ The SEND service has a long way to go, but the resilience shown during the recent of staffing changes is encouraging based on strong panel processes, an established team of educational psychologists, accurate case tracking and refreshed operational processes.
- ❑ May meeting considered the role of a new Strategic (Improvement) Board moving forwards to focus on business as usual [BAU] for CYP with SEND and their families. Updated WSoA tracker includes BRAG ratings more focused on impact, next steps planning and updated timescales.
- ❑ Following a successful Inclusion Conference in January 2024, an Ordinarily Available Provision document has been co-designed and Inclusion Champions are being trained to support practice.
- ❑ A Preparation for Adulthood [PFA] Toolkit and Strategy have been co-designed building on a document entitled “Capturing the Journey” which set out our aspirations
- ❑ East Berkshire Integrated Therapies procurement exercise will begin after 4<sup>th</sup> July.
- ❑ LGA support activities include preparing for the next Local Area inspection, a new Communications Strategy and a Multi-Agency EHC Plan Audit toolkit.

# SEND 0-25 Statutory Team Update

Education Health and Care  
[EHC] plans finalised monthly



Draft EHC plans  
sent out monthly



# Immediate Actions & Priorities

1. A stable SEND leadership team, with support from their partners, has re-energised their high ambition for getting things right for SEND services in Slough. This is beginning to improve the delivery of SEND support to schools and outcomes for CYP and families.
2. Greater corporate and local synergy and buy in is determining that higher outcomes for CYP with SEND are a local area responsibility, not just schools and SEND services.
3. To further increase the impact on outcomes for CYP, future SEND Strategies are being realigned and updated by all multi-agency partners, CYP and their families.
4. These strategies will be informed by lived experiences of CYP and their families with leaders swiftly improving the engagement and participation of CYP and their families in all the current and ongoing development activities.
5. Improved sufficiency planning, capital projects and commissioning (in partnership with health) will ensure appropriate places and therapies are available when required.