



# SEND Update

## January 2025

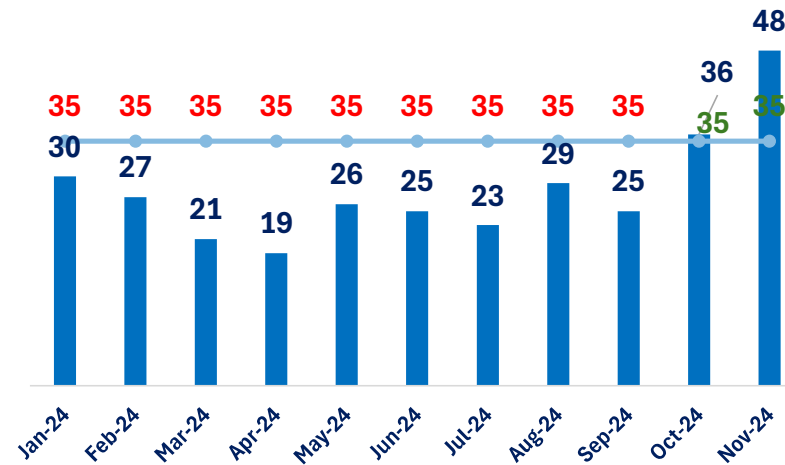
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# Current SEND Performance

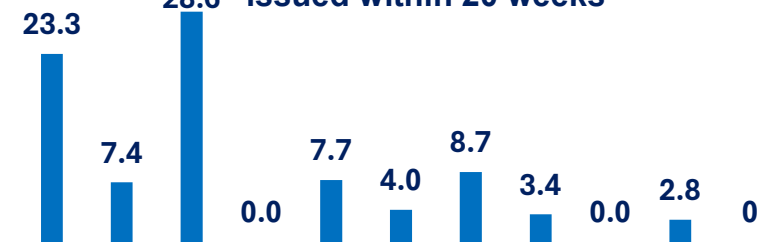


- ❑ The **Short Term Intervention Team** is impacting on the number of EHC plans completed each month and the backlog is falling steadily.
- ❑ A report is being prepared for the SEND Improvement Board showing how the percentage of EHC plans completed within 20 weeks will **consistently increase over the next 6 months** to above NA.
- ❑ The **SEND Data Dashboard** presented at every SEND Improvement Board is being reviewed to take account of the changing position e.g. more focus on timeliness, quality of EHC plans, annual reviews etc.
- ❑ The number of **overdue complaints**, that had been a significant concern early in the year, **currently is in single figures** and all new complaints will be addressed within timescale. The type of complaint is also changing to reflect improvements in the service.
- ❑ The **positive feedback from schools and families** is increasing as the level of complaints is falling.
- ❑ A **new Operations Lead**, Jay Murphy, is now in post and she is also doubling as the manager of the Annual Review Team.

Number of EHC plans issued Jan-Dec 2024



Percentage of EHC Plans issued within 20 weeks



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# Safety Valve Monitoring Report August 2024



- ❑ The Council submitted its latest **Safety Valve Agreement (SVA)** monitoring report in November. The RAG ratings have not changed since the August report with three areas still Amber (WATCH):
  - **Agreement Condition 1** (demand for EHC Needs Assessments and EHC plans)
  - **Risk 3** - Increase in Corporate complaints, dissatisfaction among stake holders, negative publicity.
  - **Risk 4** (risks of legal challenge by way of appeal, judicial review and complaints to the LGSCO)
- ❑ A **Recovery Project Team** is now in place and is using an updated **SVA Monitoring Database** including new forecast modelling.
- ❑ A request was added for support for **post 16 commissioning** to help the interim SEND Commissioner.
- ❑ No **capital funding** was allocated as part of the SVA and we asked to discuss the projects that will be needed to achieve our sufficiency and place planning needs in line with the SVA targets.
- ❑ The latest monitoring report used a new format sent out by the DFE which included sections on the biggest **drivers for improvement** and the **barriers** to achieving the SVA targets.

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# Safety Valve Monitoring Report August 2024



## Biggest drivers of improvement

- ❑ The launch of the new **Graduated Approach, Team Around the SENCo** and **Inclusion Champions** to ensure that all education settings are more able to meet SEND needs. This will be supported by the draft **SEND and Inclusion Strategy**.
- ❑ Launch of the new coproduced **Preparation for Adulthood Strategy and Toolkit** with strong engagement from children and young people.
- ❑ A capital programme to **increase Arbour Vale Special School by 40 places** with strong corporate support ensuring the new classrooms were ready for the 2024/25 academic year.

## Biggest Barriers

- ❑ **Increasing demand for EHCNAs** which is significantly higher than when the SVA was negotiated.
- ❑ **Shortage of Special School Places locally** despite the new build at Arbour Vale School and plans to increase SEMH places at Haybrook College.
- ❑ There are a number of **tribunals** where families are requesting INMSS settings coupled with LGSCO complaints linked to historic poor performance.

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