

Subject Heading:

Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND programme

Report Author:

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Eligibility to vote:

All members

SUMMARY

Representatives of the company appointed to enact the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme on behalf of the Department for Education have met with the Director for Children's Services and the Assistant Director for Education to discuss the launch of the programme in Havering in the new year. A verbal report on the meeting will be given to the Schools Funding Forum.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum notes the report.

REPORT DETAIL

Introduction

The Department for Education introduced a 'Safety Value' programme in 2020-21 for the 17 local authorities with the highest deficits. They are now introducing a 'Delivering Better Value' (DBV) programme in which they will work with a further 55 authorities with less severe deficit issues. Havering has been invited to take part in the DBV programme. Havering is due to join the programme in the new year.

Addressing historic deficits is not the key purpose of the DBV programme, rather it is to support LAs to return to in-year balance whilst delivering high quality services. Efficiencies

that flow from this may allow LAs to release funds to address historic deficits. A total of £85m is available for the programme across 55 local authorities.

An overview of the programme was included on the agenda for the meeting of the Schools Funding Forum on 16th June 2022.

Implementation of the programme

Newton Europe have been appointed by the DfE to help deliver the programme. Representatives from the company have met with Robert South, Director for Children's Services and Trevor Cook, Assistant Director for Education, for an initial discussion ahead of Havering joining the programme in January. A verbal report on the meeting will be given to the Forum.