

NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday, 19 September 2024
Title of report:	High Needs Block Summary
Type of report: Delete as required	For Information
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	Highlights the projected financial pressure in the High Needs Block in 2024/25 and subsequent years, and the specific challenges facing the local authority and North Yorkshire schools and academies. The report provides information on SEND trends particularly around Education, Health and Care Plans and exclusions.
Budget / Risk implications:	N/A
Recommendations:	That members of the Schools Forum note the contents of the report
Voting requirements:	None
Appendices: To be attached	None
Report originator and contact details:	Howard Emmett – AD - Resources (CYPS) Howard.Emmett@northyorks.gov.uk
Presenting officer: If not the originator	

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

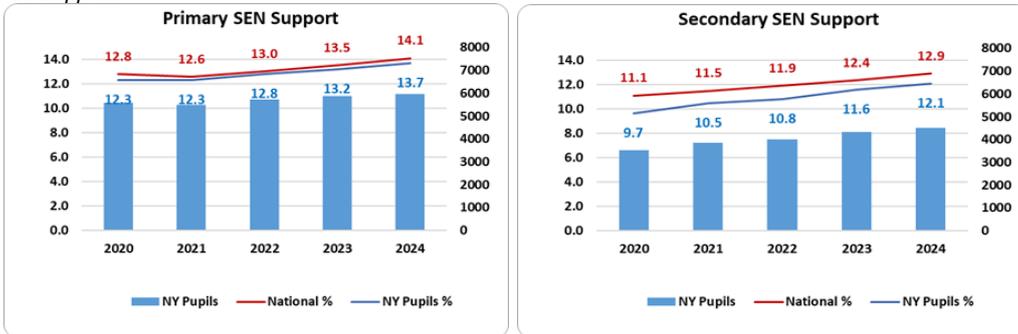
1.1 The paper provides information on trends with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) giving rise to projected financial pressures. It summarises the current budget and outlines progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for SEND 0-25 and the local authority’s response to participation in the Department for Education’s Delivering Better Value in SEND programme.

2.0 IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND

Children at SEN Support

2.1 Between January 2020 and January 2024, North Yorkshire has seen a 1.4 percentage point (pp) increase in the number of primary school pupils in receipt of SEN Support (up from 12.3% to 13.7%), against a national increase of just 1.3 pp (from 12.8% to 14.1%). Similarly, between January 2020 and January 2024, we have seen a 2.4pp increase in the proportion of secondary pupils in receipt of SEN Support in North Yorkshire (from 9.7% to 12.1%). Whilst across both phases, North Yorkshire rates remain below the national level, over the past 4 years the ‘gap’ has continued to close as North Yorkshire’s rate continues to increase faster than the national rate.

Chart 1: SEN Support



2.2 As can be seen from **Chart 1** above, there continues to be a significant difference between the proportion of primary school pupils receiving SEN Support and the proportion of secondary school pupils receiving SEN Support. The table below shows the breakdown of primary and secondary schools based on the proportion of pupils on roll in receipt of SEN Support.

Table 1: SEN support – school analysis

	North Yorkshire Overall	Number of schools <5%	Number of schools 5- 9.9%	Number of schools 10-14.9%	Number of schools between 15-19.9%	Number of schools >20%
Primary	13.7%	7	66	117	56	49
Secondary	12.1%	2	9	18	7	7

Children with EHC Plans/statements

2.3 The number of requests for Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments increased by +247% between 2015 and 2023 (calendar years). The 2023 calendar year has seen a substantial increase of +345 to 1,316 new plans, up from 971 in the previous year. This represents the most requests for assessment received in a calendar year in North Yorkshire.

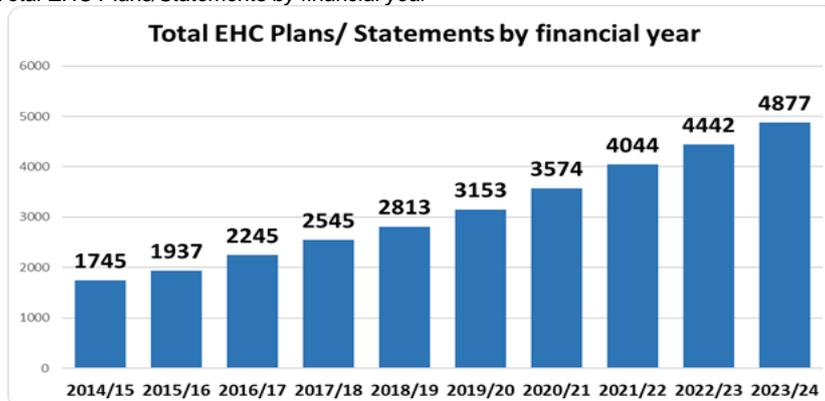
Table 2: Requests for EHC assessment by calendar year

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
379	566	454	662	706	669	729	971	1316

2.4 Furthermore, 14.7% of EHC assessments resulted in a decision not to issue an EHC plan. This is down from the 19.2% reported last year but remains significantly above the national benchmark of 5.1%.

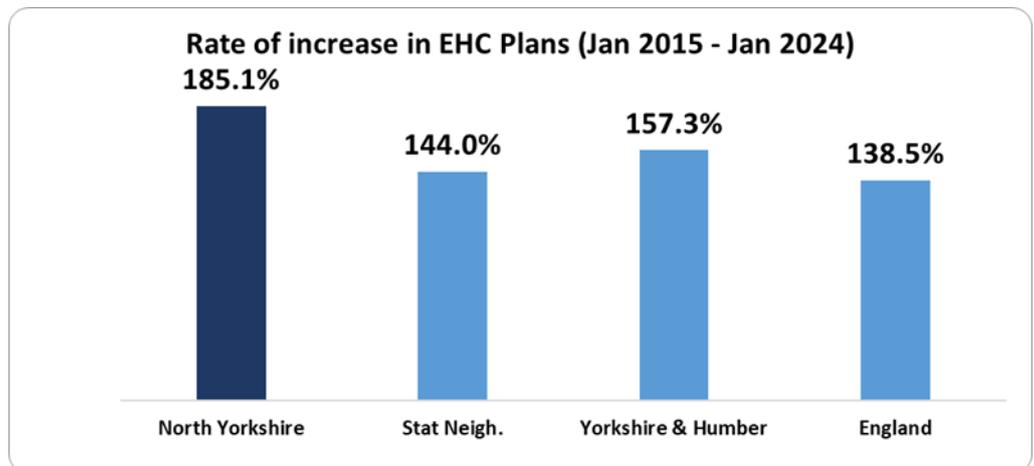
2.5 Similarly, we have seen a considerable and sustained increase in the number of children receiving support via an EHC plan. By the end of the 2023/24 financial year, there were 4,877 children and young people receiving support via an EHC Plan. This is up by 9.8% on the end of last financial year, and represents a longer-term increase compared to the position at the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

Chart 2: Total EHC Plans/Statements by financial year



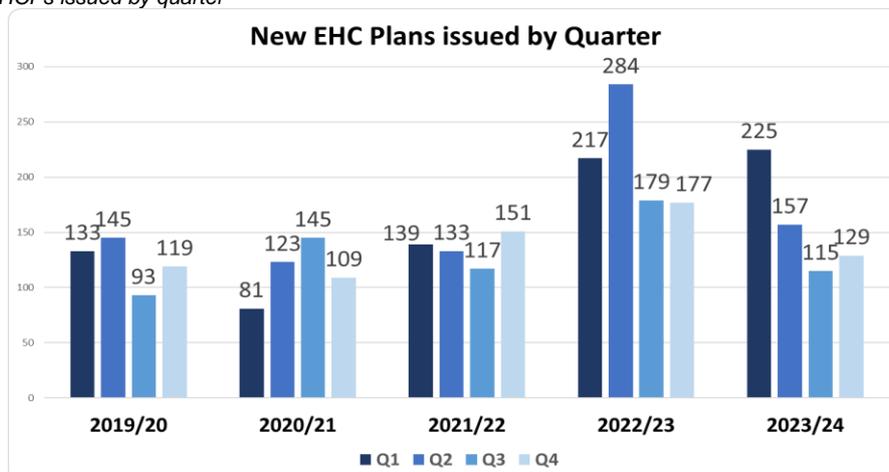
2.6 During the period between January 2015 and January 2024, the number of children receiving support under an EHC Plan (or Statement of SEND before their introduction in 2015), has increased by +185%. This is a notably higher increase than has been seen across the Yorkshire & Humber region (+157%) and is significantly higher than the national increase (+139%).

Chart 3: Rate of increase in EHC plans (Jan 2015-Jan 2024)



2.7 2022/23 saw our largest number of new EHC plans issued per quarter. This was an average of 214 per quarter. 2023/24 saw the number of average new plans issued per quarter reduce to 157. Whilst this is a significant drop, it should be noted that this is still the second highest average in recent years and has been achieved in the context of a national shortage of Educational Psychologists.

Chart 4: New EHCPs issued by quarter



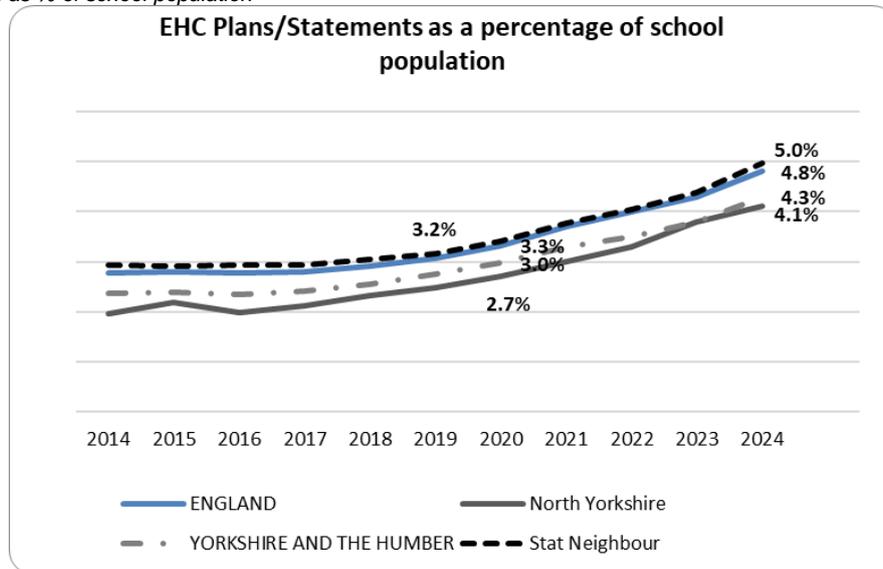
2.8 The number of ceased EHC plans (228) in 2023 were 158 fewer than the 386 ceased in 2022. A reduced number of ceased plans contributes to the increasing total of North Yorkshire EHC plans.

Table 3: Ceased EHC Plans

2022	2023
386	228

2.9 The rate of EHC Plans as a percentage of the school population has increased broadly in line with a national increase since 2015 but remains below all comparators. We have seen the gap between North Yorkshire’s rate and the regional rate narrow to be almost the same rate since 2023.

Chart 5: EHCPs as % of school population



2.10 The EHC Plan forecast to 2028 - based on historic trends since the implementation of the SEND code of practice - is shown in the table below (forecast numbers for the beginning of January in each year). The forecast takes into account new plans issued and plans ceased. North Yorkshire has seen increased requests for assessment in recent years with numbers of plans ceasing remaining low. We therefore expect the growth in EHC plans to continue, at least until 2028.

Table 4: EHC Plan forecast

2025	2026	2027	2028
5,492	5,989	6,458	6,899

11-15 continues to be the age group with the most plans. However, 16-19 (+18%) and 20 plus (+45%) saw the largest increase since the previous year.

Table 4: Count of North Yorkshire funded Statements and EHC plans by age group.

Beginning of Calendar Year:	Under 5	5 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 19	20 plus	Total
2015	60	593	798	277	0	1,728
2016	70	612	799	418	3	1,902
2017	50	679	859	526	86	2,200
2018	91	865	917	532	101	2,506
2019	141	1,040	1,016	523	105	2,825
2020	126	1,034	1,115	649	178	3,102
2021	125	1,165	1,246	748	256	3,540
2022	114	1,249	1,442	869	326	4,000
2023	181	1,434	1,712	851	249	4,427
2024	191	1,496	1,872	1,007	361	4,927

Placement of children with an EHC Plan

2.11 The number of pupils (Reception to Year 11) with an Education, Health and Care Plan in North Yorkshire mainstream schools (maintained and academy) has increased by +147% since 2016, from 831 in 2016 to 2,051 in 2024. Similarly, the number of pupils with an EHC Plan in North Yorkshire special schools (maintained and academy) has increased by +80%.

Chart 6: Placement of children with EHC Plans

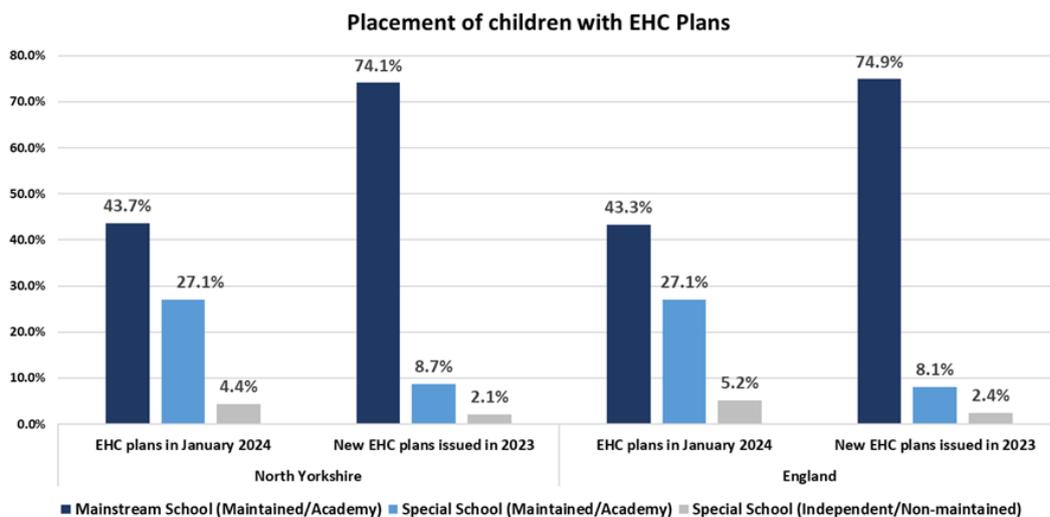
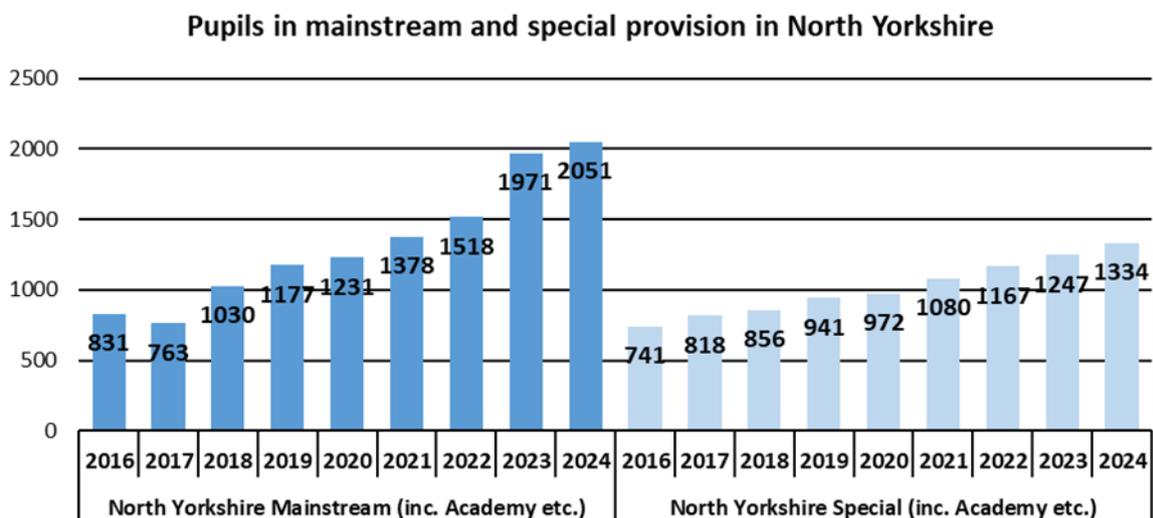
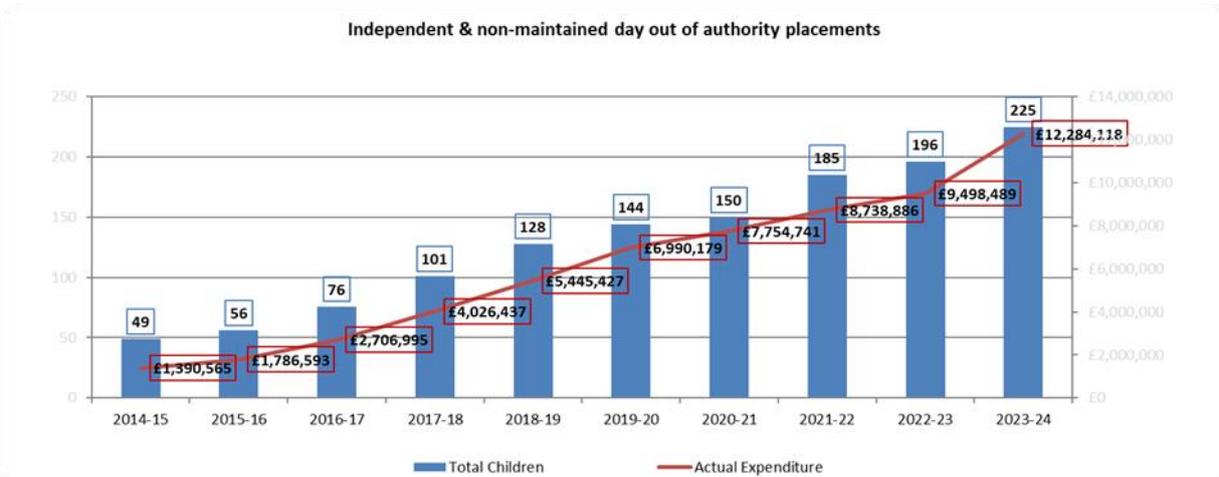


Chart 7: Pupils in mainstream and special provision in North Yorkshire



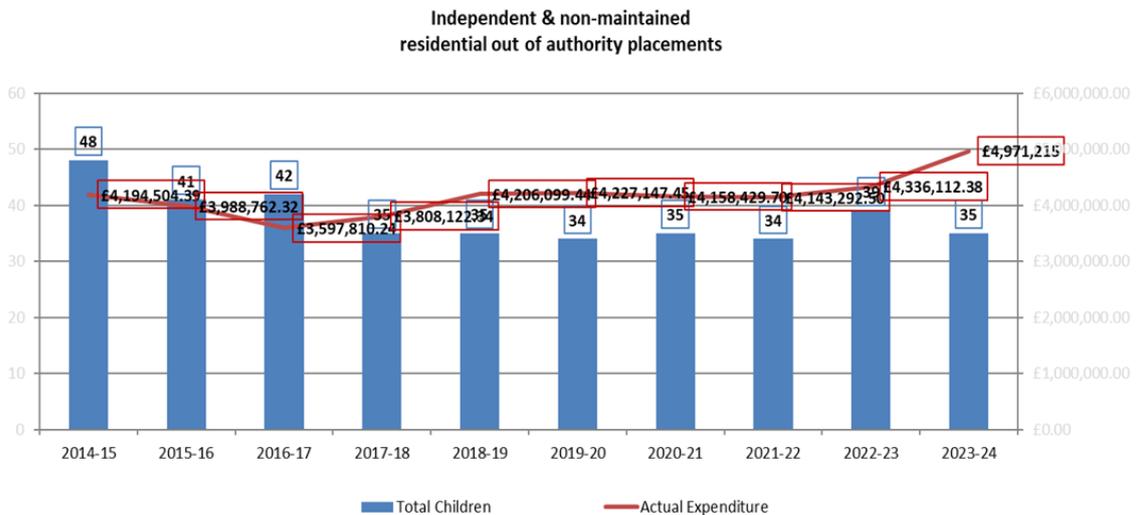
2.12 The total number of pupils in independent and non-maintained day out of authority placements (which includes independent and non-maintained providers in North Yorkshire) has shown a year-on-year increase since 2014/15. The expenditure has also increased year on year. In 2023/24, the total actual expenditure was £12,284,118, an increase in expenditure of 29% since the previous year (2022/23) and an increase of 783% since 2014/15.

Chart 8: INMSS day placements



2.13 As seen in **Chart 9**, the total pupils in independent and non-maintained residential out of authority placements (which includes independent and non-maintained providers in North Yorkshire) has remained similar over the past four years and is currently at 35. However, despite remaining fairly static between 2019/20 and 2021/22, expenditure started to increase in 2022/23 coinciding with an increase of 5 pupils. The expenditure then saw a sharper increase in 2023/24, despite a reduction of 4 pupils since the previous year.

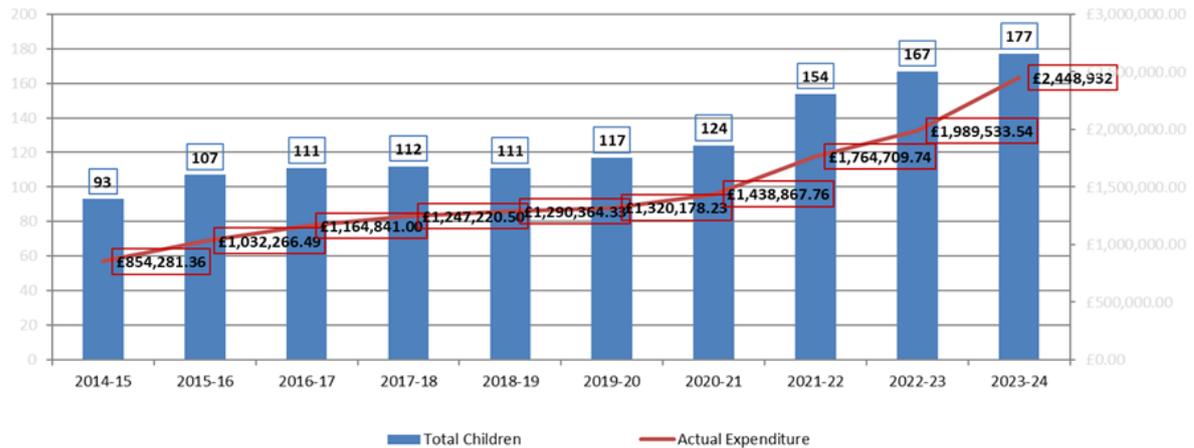
Chart 9: INMSS residential out of authority placements



2.14 The total pupils in other Local Authority maintained special school and special academy day placements had shown relatively small fluctuations between 2014/15 and 2019/20, averaging 109 pupils in that period. This has since increased to 177 pupils in 2023/24. This sharper uptake in pupils from 2020/21 onwards has resulted in expenditure also growing at a much sharper rate. The total annual expenditure in 2023/24 of £2,448,932, an increase of 23% compared to 2022/23 expenditure.

Chart 10: Other LA maintained special school and special academy day placements

Other LA maintained special school & special academy day placements



3.0 EARLY YEARS - SEND

3.1 The DfE has introduced changes to the Early Years entitlement following announcements in 2023. The new early years entitlements are:

- 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children (new entitlement from 1 April 2024)
- 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of children from 9 months to 2 years old (new entitlement from 1 September 2024)

The new early years entitlements are additional to the existing entitlements which are:-

- 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds
- additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds

3.2 The Early Years Entitlements Guidance 2024-25 sets out the requirements that LAs are required to have Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funds (SENIFs) for all children with SEN eligible for or taking up the entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken. This SENIF should:

- Focus on children at the lower levels of SEND (not those with EHCPs)
- Support children attending settings in the county regardless of home address
- The value of the fund should consider the number of children with SEN in the local area, their level of need, and the overall capacity of the local childcare market to support these children.
- Local authorities should consult with early years providers to set the value of their local SENIF.
- Be established using funding from the early years block and/or the high needs block of their DSG allocation.
- Publish the eligibility criteria for the fund, the planned value of the fund at the start of the financial year, and the process for allocating the fund to providers in the Local Offer

- 3.3 In North Yorkshire, the SENIF available to settings for individuals is locally known as Early Years Element 2 funding and is available to all children taking up a funded place. As of March 2024, there were 459 children accessing Early Years Element 2 funding - this is equivalent to 139 full time places. Most of these children took up their place at the age of 3 for an average of 15.7 weeks.
- 3.4 The Element 2 funding is currently fixed at £3,000 for 15 hours a week for each child, up to a maximum of £6,000 for 30 hours a week. The total spend in 2023-2024 amounted to £772k.
- 3.5 As can be seen in the table below, there has been a steady increase in the number of children accessing this funding across the last 3 years and commensurate increase in spend. The increase in 2-year-olds accessing this funding since April 2024, when more funded places became available can also be seen.

Age	Spring term 2023	Summer term 2023	Autumn term 2023	Spring term 2024	Summer term 2024
2	30 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 of the 30 turned 3 during the term 11 second half term only 	30 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 of which turned 3 during the term 7 second half term only 	34 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 of which turn/turned 3 during the term 10 second half term only 	39 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 of which turned 3 during this term 10 second half term only 	49 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28 of the 49 turned 3 during this term 10 second half term only
3/4	240 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 189 both terms 15 first half term only 36 second half term only 	237 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 198 both terms 21 first half term only 18 second half term only 	176 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 122 both terms 15 first half term only 39 second half term only 	238 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 189 both half terms 24 first half term only 25 second half term only 	231 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 181 both terms 24 first half term only 26 second half term only
Total	270	Year end : 267	210	277	280

- 3.6 The expansion of early year's entitlement may impact upon both the number of children accessing places in Early Years settings, and the number of children rendered eligible for E2 funding, as the guidance states SENIF should be eligible to all children entitled to funded places.
- 3.7 There may also be an increase in the number of hours taken for each place with the further roll out of the early years' expansion.
- 3.8 The number of 3- and 4-year-old children in receipt of Disability Access Funding (DAF) for 2023 (table below) also shows steady increase in the number of eligible children with higher needs that are attending EY settings.

Term	Number children in receipt of DAF	Term	Number of children in receipt of DAF	Term	Number of children in receipt of DAF	Difference 22-24
Spring 2022	32	Spring 2023	38	Spring 2024	42	+10

Summer 2022	54	Summer 2023	50	Summer 2024	65	+11
Autumn 2022	35	Autumn 2023	58			

4.0 DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION BENCHMARKING

4.1 Benchmarking analysis has been drawn from the DfE high needs benchmarking dataset – available to review on the DfE website. The advantages in deploying this dataset are that all local authorities complete it and there should be a reasonable degree of consistency in its completion.

4.2 In terms of numbers of EHCPs, benchmarking indicates that North Yorkshire is currently ranked 123rd amongst all authorities with 38.79 EHCPs per 1,000 young people aged 2-18 – the equivalent rank in 2016-17 was 137th.

Number per 1000 of 2 to 18 population with an EHCP and the placement of these pupils

	A) North Yorkshire 2023-24	B) England 2023- 24	C) YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER 2023-24	D) Ten closest statistical neighbours of North Yorkshire 2023-24
Population	114,195	11,564,350	1,132,371	751,504
1. No. aged up to 25 with SEN statement or EHCP	38.8	44.7	40.6	44.5
of these, placements in:				
2. Mainstream schools or academies	17.3	16.2	15.2	14.7
3. Resourced provision or SEN units	0.4	1.7	1.4	1.3
4. Maintained special schools or special academies	10.9	12.6	11.0	12.5
5. NMSS or independent schools	2.0	2.8	1.9	3.1
6. Hospital schools or alternative provision	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3
7. Post 16	3.6	6.2	6.0	5.9
8. Other	4.3	4.8	4.4	6.6

4.3 The rate per 1000 of the 2-18 population with an EHC Plan in a mainstream school is higher than, all three comparators, this may be as a result of North Yorkshire having a lower total rate of EHC Plans. When looking at the rate of children in special schools, or independent schools North Yorkshire has a similar, but slightly lower rate than the comparators in all areas apart from the regional rate for children in independent schools. Again, this may relate to the lower overall rate, but may also suggest that sufficiency is being well provided in North Yorkshire and can be argued that this is an achievement given the low SPFC grant that the authority receives.

High needs budget reported in section 251 and amounts per head of 2-18 population

	A) North Yorkshire 2022-23 Budget	B) England 2022- 23 Budget	C) YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER 2022-23 Budget	D) Ten closest statistical neighbours of North Yorkshire 2022-23 Budget
Population	114,119	11,564,350	1,127,375	747,974
9. Total place funding for special schools and AP/PRUs	£111	£149	£133	£163
10. Early Years (mainstream)	£0	£1	£0	£1
11. Primary (mainstream)	£2	£10	£5	£6
12. Secondary (mainstream)	£3	£7	£7	£8
13. Special schools and academies	£98	£127	£110	£145
14. PRUs and AP academies	£12	£22	£23	£18
15. Post School (mainstream)	£0	£0	£0	£0
16. Top up funding (maintained schools, academies, free schools and colleges)	£282	£357	£316	£301
<i>of which</i>				
17. Early Years (mainstream)	£3	£2	£2	£2
18. Primary (mainstream)	£53	£88	£78	£67
19. Secondary (mainstream)	£36	£49	£50	£58
20. Special schools and academies	£142	£172	£143	£145
21. PRUs and AP academies	£12	£19	£22	£12
22. Post School (mainstream)	£35	£28	£22	£18
23. Income	£0	£1	£0	£1
24. Top up funding (non- maintained and independent schools and colleges)	£155	£160	£132	£169
<i>of which</i>				
25. Early Years (mainstream)	£0	£1	£2	£0
26. Primary (mainstream)	£0	£8	£0	£4
27. Secondary (mainstream)	£0	£8	£0	£13
28. Special schools and academies	£122	£119	£103	£111
29. PRUs and AP academies	£0	£4	£12	£13
30. Post School (mainstream)	£32	£21	£16	£28
31. Income	£0	£0	£1	£0
32. SEN support and inclusion services	£40	£64	£74	£44
33. Alternative provision services	£10	£18	£16	£18
34. Hospital education services	£8	£5	£5	£5
35. Therapies and other health related services	£6	£5	£1	£3

- 4.4 North Yorkshire's funding per head for total place funding for special schools and APs and PRUs budget is significantly lower than the national, regional and statistical neighbour comparators.
- 4.5 North Yorkshire's budget (per head) for top up funding (maintained schools, academies, free schools and colleges) is lower than all comparators overall.
- 4.6 North Yorkshire's top-up funding (per head) for non-maintained and independent schools and colleges is similar to, but slightly lower than, the national and statistical neighbour rate. However, it is higher than the regional average. When we look at the breakdown, we can see that North Yorkshire's budget for Special Schools and academies is higher than all comparators.
- 4.7 North Yorkshire's budgets for SEN Support and inclusion services and Alternative Provision services are lower than all comparators.

5.0 IMPACT ON HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FUNDING

- 5.1 The current allocated High Needs Block for North Yorkshire for 2024-25 amounts to £81.4 million; following adjustments, this is reduced to £71.0m in cash terms. There has been a reduction from the HN Block allocation reported in March 2024 by £133k, driven mainly by a change in the import/export calculation. Changes in income and anticipated expenditure are shown in the table below:

Budget Area	Budget as per March 2024 (£k)	Change since Original Budget (£k)	Revised Budget (£k)	%
High Needs Commissioning	75,024	66	75,090	90.7
Alternative Provision (PRUs, Hospital Provision)	1,842	(77)	1,765	2.1
Inclusion & AD Inclusion	1,781	(13)	1,606	2.1
Hubs & SEN Provision	3,709	4	3,875	4.5
Financial Support	54	0	54	0.1
DSG Overheads	420	0	420	0.5
Estimated Spending	82,830	20	82,810	100
Estimated Funding	74,748	(697)	74,051	

School's Block Transfer (0.5%)	2,183	(3)	2,180	
Estimated In-year Deficit	5,899	0	6,579	

5.2 The High Needs Commissioning Budget amounts to £75m and can be further broken down to illustrate areas of deployment of funding

Budget Line	£k	%
North Yorkshire Special Schools	24,823	33.1
Independent and Non-maintained Special Schools	16,145	21.5
North Yorkshire Mainstream School E3 Top-up Funding	12,255	16.3
Other Local Authority provision	3,408	4.5
PRU's	3,329	4.4
Pooled Budget	3,217	4.3
Special Provision Institutions	2,777	3.7
FE Colleges	2,416	3.2
Personalised Learning Pathways	2,143	2.9
Targeted Mainstream Provision	1,336	1.8
Early Years	1,263	1.7
Independent Learning Providers (ILPs)	812	1.1
Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)	941	1.3
Other	225	0.3
TOTAL	75,090	100

5.3 The estimated financial pressure in 2024-25 is in the order of £6.5m. If confirmed, this will add to the accumulated High Needs Deficit built up from financial pressure in previous years, which already stands at £13m.

5.4 Demand predictions outlined in section 2 indicate that, other things being equal, the underlying financial pressure of £6.5m will grow in each of the next four financial

years resulting in an underlying in-year financial pressure of £38m in 2027-28 and an accumulated deficit of £101m. This is an unmitigated forecast and, if left unchecked, represents an unsustainable financial position.

- 5.5 A number of measures are being undertaken to try to mitigate the current underlying financial pressure. In total these measures could potentially reduce this accumulated pressure by £50m.
- 5.6 North Yorkshire is ranked 148th out of 151 local authorities in terms of High Needs Block revenue funding per head. North Yorkshire receives £713.64 per head (2-18 population) compared with Sutton which receives £1,281.43 per head. Middlesbrough, as the second highest-funded local authority receives £1,253.28 per head. Lincolnshire County Council – which is similar to North Yorkshire in terms of population and geography - are funded 74th and are funded at £903.85 per head. If North Yorkshire were to be funded at this level, this would equate to an additional £21m per annum.

6.0 MITIGATING ACTIONS AND DELIVERING BETTER VALUE IN SEND

- 6.1 As reported to Schools Forum in March 2024 and May 2024, a number of mitigating actions have been identified to address the projected increase in costs. This paper addresses some of those mitigating actions.

Block Transfer – from Schools Block to High Needs Block

- 6.2 As part of the annual School Funding arrangements for the financial year 2024-25, and following consultation with all schools and academies, and subsequent discussion with the North Yorkshire Schools Forum, the local authority agreed a 0.5% transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. This amounted to £2.18m in 2024-25. Whilst this does not increase the overall funding availability within North Yorkshire, this was a fundamentally important decision within the overall approach, in re-focussing resources within schools to meet the needs of children assessed as requiring SEN support or an Education, Health and Care Plan.
- 6.3 The School funding paper indicates that the local authority will consult schools and academies in North Yorkshire of a proposed 0.5% block transfer for 2025-26. It is anticipated that Forum members – as leaders within the North Yorkshire school funding and SEND systems – will be asked to consider further block transfers on an annual basis, unless significant additional funding is announced by the Department for Education.

PROVISION

- 6.4 Part of the council's mitigations include investment in the development of new special school places and further targeted mainstream provisions, funded through an agreed £20.5m SEND Capital Investment Programme.
- 6.5 The focus of the capital investment programme has been on delivering additional place capacity. However, a secondary benefit to many of the schemes is through improvement in special school facilities. A number of the schemes have been

prioritised to provide a more cost-effective local offer for children that might otherwise have to travel to high-cost Independent Special Schools.

Investing in more local specialist provision will provide an opportunity for children in Independent Special School placements to consider new local options as they become available. The council will be supporting those discussions through the annual review process. Utilising new capacity effectively will be critical to realising an essential cost benefit to the High Needs Block and the local system.

As part of the ongoing SEND provision development the operating model for the Medical Education Service is being reviewed, as is the work of the Locality Boards. A summary of this was provided to schools in the summer term and further details will be provided as the work continues.

7.0 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 Partnership arrangements are well-established in North Yorkshire with a SEND and AP Partnership Board which includes representatives from the local authority, schools and academies, Heath and Parent Carer Voice. North Yorkshire Schools Forum typically meets five times a year and receives regular reports on High Needs funding and related issues. This is augmented by a High Needs Funding sub-group that supports more detailed discussions around these important issues.

7.2 Locality Boards are operating in all localities comprising leaders from local schools, colleges and the LA to work in partnership to identify and address Inclusion priorities.

8.0 SPECIAL SCHOOLS and PRS

8.1 At the time of writing, it is unclear regarding the DfE's proposed Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for special schools for 2025-26. The LA will consider options available to balance special school sustainability issues with general affordability within the High Needs Block overall and will consult special schools and special academies on this issue.

8.2 An appropriate inflationary uplift will be applied to E3 top-up funding for the 2025-26 financial year. This is viewed as a financial procedural process rather than a consultation issue.

9.0 COMMISSIONED NUMBERS FOR SCHOOLS

9.1 Commissioned places in special schools and the Independent/Non-Maintained sector continue to rise.

9.2 In 2024/25 the council have committed to commissioning 1,291 special school places from maintained and academy special schools in North Yorkshire. This is supplemented by a further 165 places commissioned from special schools in other Local Authority areas. In total, that is an increase in special school places of 76% since 2018. The council continues to commission 169 secondary places within AP for

the purpose of early support for those at risk of permanent exclusion as well as fulfilling the duty to provide full time education from day 6 of a permanent exclusion.

- 9.3 Places in the Independent Sector currently stand at 204 as of September 2024. Cost pressure will further increase whilst the local area continues to utilise such a high volume of places in the independent sector.
- 9.4 A significant issue which further exacerbates the resource allocated to high-cost placements is the volume of children assessed as being band 6 and below taking places within local special schools. Currently there are 322 children at Band 6 and below in North Yorkshire special schools. Utilising specialist provision in this way is a significant factor in driving the increased use of high-cost independent special school places and therefore diverting resources away from the local schools.

10.0 SEND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

- 10.1 The SEND Capital Investment Programme has been agreed in line with the priorities reported to the forum in 2023/24. These priorities were:
- Secure and develop additional specialist capacity for children with SEMH needs in the north of the county.
 - Increase the availability of specialist places for children with Autism and who require a low stimulus environment and an academic curriculum and associated accreditation.
 - Continue the development of Targeted Mainstream Provisions.
 - Moderate investment in creating further capacity through existing special schools.
 - Ensuring the Selby Free School is delivered by the Department for Education.
- 10.2 In order to address those priorities a programme totalling an estimated £20.5m was agreed. The programme was underwritten by the council with £4m to ensure schemes could progress, on the understanding that any future settlements of High Needs Provision Capital Allocation repaid this underwriting. In 2024 a further allocation of HNPCA was announced with the council receiving £7.8m. Work is underway to review the capital programme taking into account changes in costs as schemes have progressed and the remaining HNPCA of c.£3.8m.
- 10.3 The following schemes within the programme are progressing towards delivery:
- Selby Free School
 - SEMH Special School in Northallerton
 - Harrogate Special School (Woodfield)
 - Significant expansion of Springwater School
 - Dedicated 6th Form site for Brooklands School at the former Ings School site
 - Roll out of TMPs at Cambrai, Dishforth Airfield and Norton Primary Schools
 - Condition improvements at Welburn Hall School
- 10.4 The council are currently undertaking a review of all commitments in the programme. On completion of that review, any remaining funding (including from the 2024/25 HNPCA allocation), will be allocated to support further expansion of existing special schools, TMP's and specialist post 16/19 provision.

11.0 CONCLUSIONS

11.1 The scale of the financial pressure facing the High Needs Block is significant and exceeds the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant. Moving into 2025-26, it is important that the systems leaders including schools, academies, health and the local authority work together to implement the identified mitigating actions to achieve a financially sustainable position.

11.2 The financial pressure is not unique to North Yorkshire and reflects the national trend. SEND trends and data point to further potential financial pressure, both in terms of increasing demands and deficit recovery. This financial pressure is anticipated to continue in 2025-26. The LA will continue to lobby for a fairer funding deal for schools and children with SEND.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 That Schools Forum:

- Receive the report and notes the financial implications.

STUART CARLTON

Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service

APPENDIX 1: DfE Benchmarking Dataset

	Performance Indicator from DfE High Needs Benchmarking Dataset	NYC	NYCC Rank	National Average
Measure 1	level of EHCPs per 000 population 23-24	38.8	134	44.7
Measure 2	level of EHCPs per 000 population 16-17	16.84	137	23.81
Measure 3	level of EHCPs growth 16-17 to 23-24	130.4		87.7
Measure 11	Special Schools and Units per 000 population 23-24	10.9	128	12.73
Measure 12	Special Schools and Units per 000 population 16-17	6.87	133	10.43
Measure 13	Special Schools and Units per 000 population growth 16-17 to 23-24	25.58		22.02
Measure 21	Inclusivity :- special schools and units as % of total EHCPs - 20-21	39.68	39	34.08
Measure 22	Inclusivity :- special schools and units as % of total EHCPs - 16-17	43.68	61	41.26
Measure 23	Inclusivity :- special schools and units as % of total EHCPs - movement 16-17 to 20-21	-9.16		-17.39
Measure 31	NMSS and Independent Placements per 000 Population - 19-20	1.52	97	2.06
Measure 32	NMSS and Independent Placements per 000 Population - 16-17	0.97	101	1.57
Measure 33	NMSS and Independent Placements per 000 Population - growth 16-17 to 20-21	56.03		31.07

Measure 34	NMSS and Independent spend 19-20 (£s per head)	122.94	43.00	104.59
Measure 35	NMSS and Independent spend 16-17 (£s per head)	62.72	107	95.61
Measure 36	NMSS and Independent spend 16-17 to 19-20	96.03		9.40
Measure 37	NMSS and Independent spend relative to Population 19-20 (£s per head)	80.83		50.69
Measure 38	NMSS and Independent spend relative to Population 16-17 (£s per head)	64.34		60.74
Measure 39	Increase in NMSS and Independent Spend relative to population during period 16-17 to 19-20	25.63		-16.54
Measure 41	Overall level of spend - High Needs budget 2016-17 (£s per head)	408.62	111	484.37
Measure 42	Overall level of spend - High Needs budget 2019-20 (£s per head)	503.70	116	563.42
Measure 43	Overall level of spend - % change 2016-17 to 2019-20	23.27		16.32