

Priority 1 Strategic Objectives - Updates on Q4 Exception Report

1.3.1 Improve Disadvantaged Educational Outcomes Programme (IDEOP) to commission work to provide intensive support for children eligible for free school meals, Children Looked After (CLA), SEND and BAME to support them to achieve better outcomes at school RED

*Update - We have commissioned **Big Education** to deliver a project supporting our schools to improve the educational outcomes of disadvantaged children.*

To date the project has:

- *Produced B&NES Data Report re Disadvantage & Attainment*
- *B&NES Survey Responses re Inequality in Education*
- *Recruited and trained 6 school leaders to lead action learning sets across 13 schools. Each school is supported to design an intervention or change to practice to address the attainment gap, according to their context and based on best evidence.*
- *Impact evaluation data will be collected and analysed during March & April '25 and a final report issued.*

The project will culminate with a B&NES conference in May'25 to present the findings from the ALS with the aim of leaving a legacy of best practice.

1.3.2 Continue to work alongside schools and social care to reduce exclusions and suspensions for all children open to social care but with a specific focus on CLA and Children with Protection Plans (CPP) in place. AMBER

Update - In terms of the 'Actions' we are delivering so this is now green but figures will fluctuate so continuing to work with schools to reduce exclusions and monitor those pupils at risk of suspension remains the focus for the work of the Virtual School.

1.4.1 Retain commissioned services AMBER

The revised Safety Valve plan focuses on three broad areas –

- (i) strengthening the system of SEN support, to build capacity and help at a pre-statutory level and ensure needs can be identified and met in a timely fashion;*
- (ii) pro-actively developing local specialist provision that reflects local needs;*
- (iii) strengthening statutory decision-making to ensure consistent, high-quality decisions about access to support and the use of resources.*

Verbal updates from Laura Ambler to be presented at the meeting

1.2.2 New Family Therapy AWP provision AMBER

1.4.2 Influence ICA to invest and take action to address emotional wellbeing and mental health. AMBER

Verbal update from Mary Kearney-Knowles to be presented at the meeting

1.4.4 Improve transition processes between children and young people and adult services (Physical and MH provision) - relating to resourcing of Designated Social Care Officer (DSCO) as recommended in the SEND Review.