

DSG Management Plan: Key Workstreams

Workstream name	Start date	Estimated completion date	Description of outcomes and success criteria
Notional Inclusion Budget review	Jan-25	2025/26 financial year	Consult with schools and Schools Forum mid Jan and get agreement to move percentage threshold from 2025/26 onwards to align with national thresholds. Fewer schools access additional £6k blocks, so total quantum of funding to schools for £6k blocks reduces.
Resource Provision		Starting from September 2025 as places become available on a phased basis	Initial round of Expression of Interest (EOI) for schools to apply to expand or create Resourced Provision opens 20th January 2025 and close 12pm on Friday 7th February 2025. Evaluation of EOIs will take place from Monday 10th February 2025 until Friday 7th March 2025, which will include a site visit during this timeframe. Feedback to schools will be given from w/c Monday 17th March 2025. For September 2025 start, six new resourced provisions in Leeds schools required: Four secondary schools with Communication and Interaction (C&I) or Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) as Primary Needs. Two primary schools with Speech, Language & Communication Needs (SLCN) or Communication & Interaction (C&I) as Primary Needs. Prev update identified that this is for new demand coming in, rather than moving existing CYP.
Transition from FFI to EHCPs - understand the impact of future funding arrangements (including SSG and EYFFI)		Financial forecasting will iterate over time in response to the changing picture based on Multi Agency Panel responses - first test point to be end of April 2025 so that there is a significant evidence base upon which to carry out analyses of cost-pressures or cost avoidance	Linked to Notional Inclusion Budget review, may release funding that can be redirected towards SSG and EYFFI. Of those current FFI cases which do not proceed to EHCP issue, there will be a saving equal to the current FFI spend. Some of this saving to be used to create the School Support Grant budget, and any remainder to be used as a mitigation to continued overspend. (SP) Early Years - Funding model agreed at Steering Group 13.01.25 in principle. Admin dec for sign off due to proposed changes in funding arrangements. Planned reduced pressure in the HNB however overall there is an increased spend due to additional funding due to FEEE threshold changes.
Alternative Provision arrangements - invest to avoid costs in independent high cost placements			This workstream relates to two specific opportunities. Firstly, allowing CLA to return home, or return to the city by providing an educational offer which is stable and unlikely to break down. This then means that we reduce the cost of and dependence on external providers of care and education. In these instances, there will always be a saving to the general fund in terms of the reduction in looked after cost, and in some cases, a compensatory saving direct to the High Needs Block (where there is already an education cost associated with the residential cost). Secondly, the proposal is that we look to create bespoke opportunities in school for children who are either struggling to attend, or who are about to have high cost AP commissioned for them. In these cases, our proposition to inclusive schools in the city is: "what could you do for the same or less money"? In both cases, we are asking our network of inclusive schools to do something innovative, engaging and safe.
Audit of SEND multi agency best practice and consideration of application within Leeds		Assuming possible to convene partnership days to carry out deep dives across Spring and Summer terms. Any impact from changes made as a result to take effect from Autumn 2025 ongoing.	LCC undertakes multi agency reviews of EHCPs. Opportunities to benchmark approaches in other local authorities will be undertaken.
Joint commissioning opportunities with Health and Social Care			Ongoing discussions with Leeds based ICB, particularly in relation to children with complex needs.
Review financial benchmarking to identify opportunities	Nov-24	March 2025 for initial briefing note	This workstream will produce a refined list of areas where the council can investigate opportunities for working in different ways. These areas will be prioritised and project groups set up where needed to carry out this work.
Develop sufficiency strategy for SEND and specialist places			Using the needs analysis which has recently been carried out, a strategy based on projected need for specialist places in the city.
Review plans for central use of Early Years block retained funding		Likely to be a rolling implementation, from April 2025 pending additional budget.	Through redesign of EYFFI, use c.£1.5m of additional EY block funding, centrally retained, to continue to SENDIF+ model, thus reducing HNB pressure.
Explore invest to save opportunities			Consideration of any potential areas where immediate investment will generate long term benefits.
Increasing state-funded specialist provision			Opportunities to deliver further settings/places within Leeds.