

Delivering Better Value programme

The DBV programme, which launched almost a year ago, with 15 pilot projects across the county, will close at the end of this academic year. The DfE initiative aimed to support local areas in addressing the financial challenges within the SEND system, while ensuring better outcomes and experiences for families of children and young people with additional needs. Projects focused on a range of areas, including a co-produced and revised OAIP guidance document, Special School outreach for mainstream settings, and new ways of working which facilitated and delivered whole school approach solutions to identified needs in a range of mainstream settings.

We are now moving into the **evaluation phase of the programme**. Once all pilots conclude in July, we will focus on assessing the impact of the pilot projects, gathering feedback from stakeholders, and identifying what has worked well. The insights gained will help shape future planning of services and inform sustainable improvements in SEND and Inclusion support across the County. In addition to this, we are hoping to continue some of the DBV pilots across to the Change Programme at the start of the next academic year. More information about this will be shared in the Autumn term when we are able to commit to what that will look like.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved — from parent carers and schools to health colleagues and of course, all of the dedicated staff from within our SEND & Inclusions services, not only for your time and expertise, but for your unwavering support and commitment throughout the programme. Your contributions have been invaluable.

Further updates and key findings from the evaluation will be shared in the Autumn term.