

# Special Educational Needs & Disabilities & Safety Valve Programme

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*Summary Update for Children's Services Overview  
& Scrutiny Committee - 06/09/2023*



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Agenda Item 37.

- 1. Safety Valve - Progress Update**
- 2. Special Free Schools - Progress Update**
- 3. High Needs Capital Bid – Announcement**
- 4. SEND Strategy Refresh – Update**
- 5. Programme Delivery & Governance – Update**

# Safety Valve Programme Update



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	Report Produced By	Core Group Sign Off By	DCS, FD, and CEO Sign Off By	Submission Deadline	Submitted?
Report 1	08-Jun	09-Jun	15-Jun	<b>16 June 2023</b>	
Report 2	07-Sep	08-Sep	14-Sep	<b>15 September 2023</b>	<b>On course for timely submission</b>
Report 3	07-Dec	08-Dec	14-Dec	<b>15 December 2023</b>	

- Submission of first report has resulted in re-profiling exercise for programme finances, as there was a higher level of deficit than previously anticipated
- New profile has been accepted by the DfE – many of the financial benefits will take some time to be realised but there has been positive feedback regarding progress on activities

Financial Year	Value	Received?
22/23	£8.04m	✓
23/24	£1.72m	
25/26	£1.72m	
26/27	£1.72m	
27/28	£1.72m	
28/29	£3.45m	

Workstream	Project	Project Lead	June RAG	July RAG
Early Intervention	1.1 Local Offer Website & Support	Mark Gray		
	1.2 Early Years Strategy	Elaine Munro		
	1.3 Implement New SEN Support Service (Inc. Recommission Spec. Outreach)	Jonathan Wilding		
	1.4 Vulnerable Learners Panel	Jamie Conran		
Sufficiency & New Provision	2.1 Resource Base Re-Configuration & New SEND Units	Carey Tulloch		
	2.2 Addington Special School Expansion	Colin McKenzie		
	2.3 Oak Tree Special School	Colin McKenzie		
	2.4 Special School Free Bids and Implementation	Colin McKenzie		
	2.5 AP & EOTAS Review	Carey Tulloch		
	2.6 Post 16 / PFA Strategy	Mark Gray		
Commissioning	3.1 Joint Commissioning of Therapeutic Services & Ordinarily Available Health Provision	Hayley Rees		
	3.2 INMSS Commissioning, QA & Contract Management	Carey Tulloch		
System and Operations	4.1 Revise Banding Framework	Jamie Conran		
	4.2 Digital Improvement	Sudeshna Banerjee		
	4.3 Strengthen Multi-Agency Panel Decision Making	Jamie Conran		

**Note: these ratings are accurate as of the 31<sup>st</sup> July Programme Board Meeting**

# Safety Valve Programme-Wide Risk Register

Ref	Risk Description	RAG	Owner	Mitigations
1	Higher than anticipated 22/23 deficit impacts ability to achieve Safety Valve assumptions/targets		MZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational governance/decision-making protocols changed</li> <li>Re-modelling of SV assumptions and consideration of stretch/brought forward assumptions</li> <li>Development of finance monitoring tool to support root-cause analysis of expenditure</li> </ul>
2	Inability to secure 1% DSG block transfer to High Needs Block		MZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted conversations with influential and supportive Head Teachers</li> <li>One year mitigation – meeting to secure school surplus budgets</li> <li>Engagement with BEP and Primary/Secondary Federation meetings</li> </ul>
3	Delay in achieving early intervention/demand management milestones and impact assumptions in 23/24		MZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued focus on accelerated delivery of WS1 (Early Intervention) projects</li> </ul>
4 107	Issues with data reliability/integrity impact on ability to evidence impact on programme and/or implement corrective action		MZ/SB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment of additional capacity to lead reporting activity</li> <li>Redefined scope of project to fully reflect priority focus</li> <li>Data cleansing exercise by SEND team to be conducted in summer</li> </ul>
5	Broader DSG (non-High Needs Block) pressures impact ability to deliver balanced DSG budget by 28/29		MZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued focus on school place planning needs and plans</li> <li>Robust financial planning and monitoring across four blocks of DSG</li> </ul>
6	Partnership buy-in, ownership, and commitment to programme impacts ability to deliver required change		HW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement with partners on individual basis to secure buy-in</li> <li>Re-focus SEND Partnership Board to ensure oversight of Safety Valve</li> <li>Ensure appropriate representation of partners in relevant project groups</li> </ul>
7	Operational changes increase challenge from parents, including tribunals and mediations		JC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced reporting to identify themes from mediations and tribunals</li> <li>Enhanced management oversight of decision-making</li> </ul>
8	Plans and capacity are not in place to mainstream programme within WBC resources following external/consultancy support		HW/MZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify temporary/external resourcing and related activities</li> <li>Develop and agree phased plan to ensure smooth handover</li> </ul>
9	Budget mitigation delivery, assumptions not met – INMSS inflation rises above 2.5%, AP review does not reduce spend as forecasted, Tri-partite funding is not secured.		MZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of project 2.5 'Implement Alternative Provision and EOTAS Review'</li> <li>Delivery of project 3.2 'INMSS Commissioning, QA, and Contract Management'</li> <li>Enhanced monitoring of these projects at Programme Board meetings.</li> </ul>

# SEND Strategy Refresh & SEF Development



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- SEF working group established – engaging a wider group of stakeholders in updating and maintaining this document
- New SEND Strategy development underway
- Developing in close conjunction with other key strategies including the Autism Strategy
- Surveys of schools, parents and young people with SEND complete or underway to cross check and verify their priorities
- Fast pace of Safety Valve programme development has placed strain on relationships with partners
- SEND Strategy refresh is being fully co-produced with support from SEND Voices and with the SEND youth groups to ensure all stakeholders voices are included
- First draft on schedule for initial consultation in Autumn 2023 for a formal launch in the Spring 2024 for implementation

# Stakeholder Engagement & Governance

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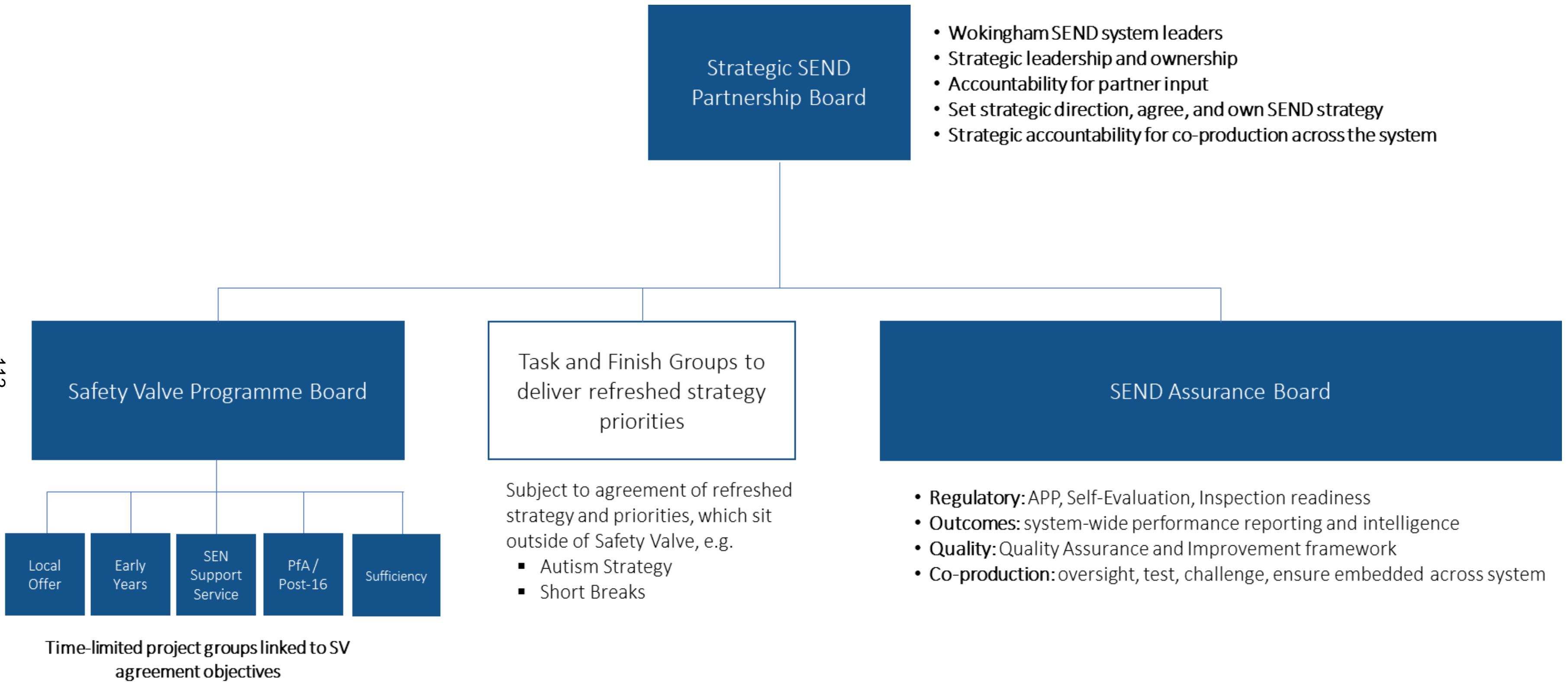
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# Co-Produced SEND Partnership arrangements

- Reached a co-produced governance arrangement with the area SEND partners, parents/carers group and young people
- Former SEND IIP arrangements successfully evolved into a robust ASEND system leadership group – SEND Strategic Partnership Board, ensuring shared ownership and clear accountability
- SEND Strategic Partnership is now co-chaired by LA's DCS and BOB ICB's Director of Vulnerable Learners
- Co-production is embedded across the system, instead of being a standalone working group
- Both parents/carers' group and young people's representative sit at the Strategic Partnership Board
- ➔ Stronger partnership with schools with right representatives been elected by Secondary HT Federation and Primary HT Association
- Co-produced new SEND Partnership governance structure, which fully embeds SV
- All key partners represented at strategic and operational level
- Co-production embedded across SV project delivery (as well as strategically across the partnership)
- Extensive engagement with schools on SV programme – positive feedback received about their understanding and support to programme objectives
- ➔ Much strengthened relationships with health, including co-chairing of strategic board and new BOB ICB SEND group which we are actively influencing

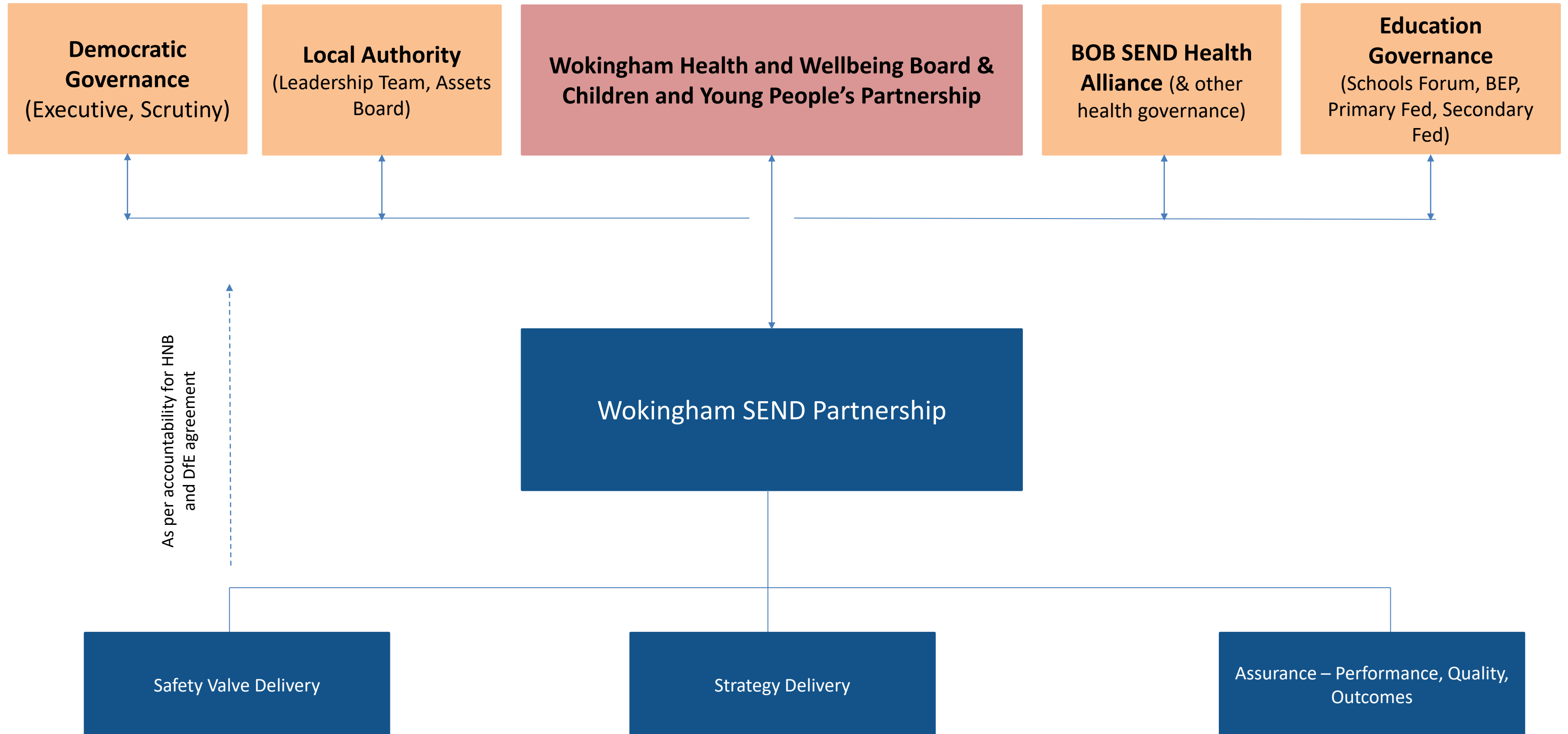
# SEND Partnership Board & Safety Valve Governance

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# Broader Governance and Performance Management

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Do you have any questions?

