

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE POSITION AS AT QUARTER 1

Revenue:

	Quarter 1 forecast £000
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES	-5
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	0
CARE COMMISSIONING, HOUSING AND SAFEGUARDING	-18
CHILDRENS SERVICES	0
EDUCATION	-29
ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHANGE PROGRAMME	0
Total	-52

Corporate Director's summary:

Overview

The forecast position at the end of quarter 1 is an under spend of £52k.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care is forecasting that the Service will come in on budget at year end.

There are forecast pressures in Mental Health and Learning Disability budgets due to additional clients and client costs. These overspends are offset by savings being achieved on Older People's budgets.

The ASC Risk Fund was built up in 12-13 through the one off commissioning savings, supported by the ASC Risk Register. Based on the current Risk Register, the Service has an ASC Risk Fund of £1m in order to meet the 'most likely' outcome of the current risks.

In order to achieve the savings in the ASC Change Programme, additional support is required in areas such as Continuing Health Care (CHC), contracts, LD and PD, EIA and procurement. These will be funded from the one-off savings in commissioning and the Service is currently forecasting £250k spend on this, which is overseen by the Programme Board.

Care Commissioning, Housing and Safeguarding

Care Commissioning, Housing and Safeguarding is forecasting an £18k under spend at year end.

The main area within the service responsible for generating the under spend is the supporting people budget for Learning Disability. In year savings of £50k are

anticipated against the Learning Disability Support People Budget this is through reduced numbers of users accessing the service.

The savings identified within supporting people budgets are offsetting pressures identified for repairs and maintenance on temporary housing accommodation.

Children's Services

Children's Services is forecasting that the service will come in on budget at the year end.

There are pressures forecast within Fostering Services and non residential placements, these are currently being offset by savings within residential placements as a result of three high cost placements ending at the start of the financial year. The placement budgets are demand led, if a child with complex high cost needs is admitted into the care system, the current under on line forecast would turn into an over spend.

The service is also incurring increased pressure on the Referral & Assessment and Locality Team budgets through increasing agency costs (forecast £256k), as a result of covering sickness, vacancies and increasing workloads. This pressure is being offset through deliberately reducing expenditure in non placement budgets, under spends are being forecast against Youth Services, Youth Offending, Family Placement Services and Connexions.

Education

Education Services is forecasting an under spend of £29k at year end.

Children's Centres and Early Years provision are forecasting a year end overspend of approximately £85k as a result of the implementation of the new Family Information Service project.

These pressures are being offset through contract savings identified for health related therapies (£50k) and 14-19 Flexible Partnership arrangements (£30k), in addition to increased academy income for Education Welfare Officers (£45k).

MVF

The Directorate is forecasting that MVF will be achieved across all services.

Pressures on the 2013-14 budget

Placements (Children's)

There is a total Placements budget of £4 million meeting the needs of approx 170 - 200 children who are looked after in any twelve month period. Of this, £1.15 million is allocated to residential placements, but we would normally expect any overspends

on this line to be offset by under-spends elsewhere in the overall Placements budget. Generally speaking, there are around +130 children in the Council's care at any one time, with approx 9 living in residential care.

Management action to address the emerging pressures

The Directorate has put a number of actions in place to control spend, and these will have an impact over time.

Children's Services

Tight controls are maintained on children entering the care system, but overall numbers cannot be controlled and court-ordered remands and large siblings groups cannot always be managed in local placements. This year has seen average costs per child increasing due to complexity of need requiring external residential and fostering placements. With regard to Children's Services, precise forecasts cannot be made in respect of looked after numbers and the consequent pressure on placement budgets.

A summary of the main risks identified for Children's Services are as follows:

		Most Likely £	Worst Case £
1	Looked After Children's Placements increasing	400,000	1,000,000
2	Continuing spend on agency staff until new staffing arrangements are embedded	300,000	600,000
3	Young person placed on remand (average cost of a single placement is £200k)	0	200,000
	Total	700,000	1,800,000

Adult Social Care

The ASC Efficiency Programme Board has a programme of actions in place to manage spend within budget.

An overview is taken of budgets and expenditure across the Directorate as a whole, and spend curtailed in as many areas as possible in order to identify ways of offsetting overspends on those budgets which are under particular pressure.

Risks identified

Adult Social Care:

ASC maintains a Risk Register to identify potential budget pressures. This is reviewed regularly by the Head of ASC and the Finance Manager: Communities. The key risks include:

NHS Continuing Healthcare

Work to implement the Action plan following the South Central Health Authority independent review into the implementation of the CHC Framework in Berkshire continues with joint (WBC and NHS) staff training now underway. The risk remains that existing funding for complex care packages may be withdrawn if the NHS believes it is no longer applicable.

Ordinary Residence

There are always risks surrounding ordinary residence with claims made by other local authorities that WBC should be funding a person's care package. WBC has no means to identify when further claims will be made but is ensuring that it has chased up all WB residents living in supported living in other areas and made OR claims where appropriate.

Learning Disability – unknown clients presenting

Whilst young people with learning disabilities living in our area are carefully monitored, there are on occasions clients that present for whom we had no prior knowledge.

Learning Disability clients at risk

There are currently 26 clients at risk of their circumstances changing due to carers becoming frail or unstable family homes. If the risk materialises, there would be significant pressure on the Service.

It should be noted that the overall forecast position holds a large risk in that it is based on the ability to hold demand at a static level. This has proved to be difficult in the past. New management controls are in place but the service is always vulnerable to sudden spikes in demand or new, very high cost clients appearing.

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2013/14 QUARTER 1 –COMMUNITIES**1. Summary of Overall Position for the Communities Directorate**

Service	2013/14 capital programme £000	Amount Spent/ Committed to 30-6-13 £000	Forecast Spend in Year £000	Forecast Under/ Over Spend in Year £000
Adult Social Care	756	249	656	-100
Care Commissioning, Housing and Safeguarding	2,213	198	2,213	0
Childrens Services	91	13	91	0
Education Services	10,985	6,021	10,985	0
Total	14,045	6,481	13,945	-100

The communities budget is 46% committed at the end of quarter 1.

In Adult Social care the care home refurbishment programme is progressing well. Approximately £100,000 Department of Health Grant funding for other projects including telecare and prepayment cards is planned to be reprofiled to 2014/15.

Capital expenditure in Care Commissioning Housing and Safeguarding is currently forecast to be on budget, but there is a risk of slippage of the scheme to improve the Gypsy and Travellers site at Four Houses Corner because of land contamination.

The Education programme has been significantly revised to take account of the latest pupil number forecasts. This has resulted in a reduction in the current year's programme from £14.3m to £10.9m.