

Communities Directorate Provisional Outturn Report

All analysis completed in £/k

Table 1: Year end position by service:

Service	Net Budget	Net Outturn	Variance
Corporate Director	264	274	10
Adult Social Care	37,277	37,277	0
Care Commissioning, Housing & Safeguarding	5,720	5,621	-99
Children's Services	12,790	13,010	220
Education	12,449	12,324	-125
Education (DSG funded)	-721	-721	0
ASC Efficiency Programme	460	460	0
Total	68,239	68,245	6

Overview of the 2013-14 financial year

Directorate Summary

	Month 6	Month 9	Month 11	Year End
Variance to budget	202k	122k	239k	6k

The Directorate is showing a small over spend of £6k, which is 0.01% of the total directorate budget.

The Directorate has responded to the need to manage down spend in-year, in order to off-set the Children's Services budget pressures. To achieve this, a number of areas of activity have been slowed within Children's Services itself and other directorate services. Forecasting across the directorate has remained relatively consistent, the significant change between month 11 and the final outturn position was predominantly the result of an additional £136k unanticipated contribution from Public Health to fund Substance Misuse Services within Children's Services at the year end. Further increased savings were also generated within Education Services and Community Care, Housing and Safeguarding in order to offset the increasing placement pressures within Children's Services.

Education Services

The majority of directorate savings (£125k) were achieved within the Education service. This is approximately 1% of the £12.4m Education budget.

	Month 6	Month 9	Month 11	Year End
Variance to budget	-30k	-51k	-16k	-125k

The savings have been mainly achieved via:

1. Home to School Transport (£82k). The savings was primarily generated against non SEN services, i.e. secondary and primary school transport. It is always difficult to accurately forecast for demand led budgets, and Home to School Transport data is not reliable until the Autumn Term of the academic year. As a result the forecasting for these cost centres is often volatile. The savings are as result of effective commissioning.

Home to School Transport Forecasts

	Month 6	Month 9	Month 11	Year End
Variance to budget	-70k	-51k	-57k	-82k

2. Significant contractual savings were made in year in relation to the Area Health Contract (£42k) and CAMHs (£16k), Flexible 14-19 Partnership Funding (£29k) and PRC Dismissal (£20k).
3. There was also significant income generation with Academies relating to Education Welfare Officers (£59k).
4. Property Services generated savings through lower than anticipated repairs and maintenance costs and on energy and cleaning contracts (£24k).

These savings offset significant pressures within: Disabled Children's Placements (£66k, pressure resulting from increasing demand and complexity of children's needs), the Disabled Children's Placement Support Team (£73k, pressure resulting from increased demand for services and agency covering long term sickness absence), and the Children in Public Care budget (£22k, pressure resulting from increasing looked after children numbers).

Community Care, Housing & Safeguarding

The Community Care Housing and Safeguarding Service generated an in year under spend of £99k, approximately 1.7% of the budget of £5.7m.

	Month 6	Month 9	Month 11	Year End
Variance to budget	-102k	-56k	-60k	-99k

The significant savings across the service came mainly from a reduction in the level of Supporting People (£100k, reduced demand) and Health watch (£38k, reduced demand). Further savings have been generated in year through deliberately slowing spend on supplies and services across a number of teams and was deliberately slowed in order to offset the pressure within the Children's Services Looked after Children's budgets. The main pressures

incurred in year were: A loss of income from unusable Gypsy sites (£60k), income pressures through an increase in voids and repairs relating to temporary accommodation (£17k), and an increase in costs relating to homelessness (£17k). Further savings have been generated in year through deliberately slowing spend on supplies and services across a number of teams and was deliberately slowed in order to offset the pressure within the Children's Services Looked after Children's budgets.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care was on line at year end, having consistently forecast on line all year. The controls in place to manage the ongoing spending on commissioned services generated a number of one-off savings throughout the year. In addition, the much improved arrangements around Continuing Health Care (CHC) resulted in one-off monies being received. These monies are being used to continue to drive down waiting lists, clear backlogs of work that have built up in the service over a number of years and prepare the service for challenges being presented by both the forthcoming Care Bill and Better Care Fund.

Service	Forecast (£)
Elderly Services (inc homes)	384,384
Physical Disability	82,684
Learning Disability Services	-327,320
Mental Health Services	247,599
Access for All	-26,001
Carers Allocations	-23,615
Home Care	-187,973
Resource Centres	-177,189
Management	27,424
Total	-7

Pressures were incurred in during the year in Mental Health, Physical Disability and Elderly Care Services due to the high cost of a small number of new clients. These over spends were primarily being offset by savings being achieved on Learning Disability budgets and Provider Services.

Children's Services

Children's Services generated a year end pressure of £220k, 1.7% of the Children's Services service budget of £12.7m.

	Month 6	Month 9	Month 11	Year End
Variance to budget	324k	230k	316k	220k

The Children's Social care budget continues to be one of the financial pressure points for the Council. £4.3m of the £12.7m budget is allocated to Children's placements. The year end placement pressure was £876k.

	Month 6	Month 9	Month 11	Year End
Placements	550	771	772	877
Variance to budget				

The placement budgets are demand led. Fostering services have incurred higher demand over and beyond that anticipated for the financial year. During the course of the year the number of children admitted into the care service increased which coincided with the complexity of needs for individual children also increasing. The pattern of higher numbers of teenagers with severe behavioural problems who cannot be placed within mainstream foster care has continued in year. Although as many Looked After Children as possible are placed in local foster placements, on occasions these are all full, or the needs of particular children require specialist care, as a result the Independent and In House Fostering (£461k overspend and £270k overspend respectively), services have come under increasing pressure during the year.

Placement Year End Figures

Placements	Budget	Number of Children	Year End (Under)/ Over spend
Residential care	1,870,360	9	-117,933
In House Fostering	1,193,361	87	269,697
Kinship Carers	178,760	18	103,562
Independent Fostering	588,150	29	460,994
Special Guardianship	161,970	33	182,156
Adoption & Allowances	110,690	19	4,161
Residence Orders	253,580	39	-25,999
Totals	4,356,871	234	876,638

The total placements budget of £4.3m meets the needs of approximately 170 – 200 children in any twelve month period. Between the financial years 2010 and 2012 the number of looked after children at year end was 125, this rose to 144 at the end of 2012-13, at the end of 2013-14, 161 children were deemed looked after and factored into the Children's Services forecast over spend.

Total Current Looked After Children across the Authority (i.e. Children's and Education Services)

Service	Placement	Number of Children
Children's Services	Residential Care	9
Children's Services	In-House Fostering	78
Children's Services	Kinship Carers	18
Children's Services	Independent Fostering	26
Children's Services	Care Leavers	2
Children's Services	Adopted	4
Children's Services	Living with Parents	6
Children's Services	Youth Offending Institute	1
Children's Services	Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	7
Total LAC within Children's Services placement budgets		151
Education Services	Out of County Placements (funded through the DSG not revenue budgets).	5
Education Services	Disability Support	5
Total LAC within Education Services and DSG placement budgets		10
Total LAC		161

Alongside the placement pressure, high agency spend was incurred over the year (£906k) was primarily due to the difficulty in recruiting to the vacant posts across the Locality Teams and the R&A Team. Also high turnover of staff has meant more reliance on agency staff across the service during the course of the year. The year end pressure on agency spend was approximately £800k, this has been met partially by establishment savings of £600k on the vacant posts. As part of the Children's Improvement Programme, a project has been underway to review career structures and pay across social workers designed to address issues in recruiting and retaining staff. This is expected to help with staff retention and place downward pressure on the service's current high usage of agency staff. Further work is already underway to identify a longer term solution to the current high dependency on agency staff.

Overall with the exception of placement cost centres with a collective year end pressure of £876k and agency pressures within the R&A and two Locality Teams (collective pressure £242k), all services within Children's Services were under spent at the year end as part of a deliberate slowing of expenditure to absorb emerging pressures. The main under spends were: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Childrens (£91k, lower than anticipated numbers of children), Short Breaks for Disabled Children (£46k, lower than anticipated demand), Youth Services (£87k), Youth Offending Team (£135k), Connexions (Targeted £66k), Family Placement Services (£53k), the overarching Children's Services management functions (£244k). The service also benefited from an additional £136k unanticipated contribution from Public Health to fund Substance Misuse Services (previously unforecast).

It is important to note in both the current year and historically, non placement cost centres have been relied upon to generate savings to offset increasing agency pressures as the result of increasing numbers of children accessing the care system. In financial year 14-15, the non placement cost centres are required to generate £455k of savings which will significantly impact on the service's ability to absorb placement pressures which given current trend are likely to rise.

In Summary:

Adult Social Care

Adult Social care was online at year end.

Community Care Housing and Safeguarding

Community Care Housing and Safeguarding generated an under spend of £99k, 1.7% of the Community Care Housing and Safeguarding budget.

Children's Services

Children's Services generated a year end pressure of £220k, 1.7% of the Children's Services service budget.

Education Services

The Education service generated savings of £125k. This is just over 1% of the Education budget.

All services achieved their MVF targets.