

## **Directorate summary – CYP**

### **Director's summary: Revenue**

CYP are forecasting an overspend of £156k.

The overspend forecasted includes the cut in ABG funding of £219k, and also the Directorate recruitment freeze target of £200k.

Overspends in Education mainly relate to Ongoing Pension Costs arising from teacher's premature retirement, agency staff costs within Disabled Children's Team and Speech and Language Therapy. These overspends have been partly offset by savings on Home to School transport.

Children's Services overspend mainly relates to Residential Placements and Agency staff costs. These are reduced by savings in Kinship Carers, Special Guardianship, Adoption Placements and In-house Fostering.

Youth Services & Commissioning overspend relates to relocation of two centres and reduced income arising from the current economic climate.

Customer Services are predicting a small overspend due to increased off-site office costs.

The MVF for the Directorate is £688,690 and MVF for all services areas is on track, other than the Director's cost centre where there has been no staff turnover. There has been a clear MVF strategy in place for profiling and monitoring the delivery of the MVF. Managers have been aware of the savings required and all vacancies were scrutinised by the relevant Head of Service before they were filled.

### ***Recruitment Freeze***

There is also now a Council wide recruitment freeze, in order to deliver 10/11 in-year savings following central Government's announcements re cuts in funding.

All posts in CYP which fall vacant are scrutinised not only by Head of Service but also SMT, Director and Portfolio Holders as well as BUMP before they can be filled. A number of posts remain vacant as a result of this process. The 200k recruitment freeze target remains a challenge.

### **Action taken**

Heads of Service are looking across all budgets to find savings to meet the overspends in their area and at this stage it is expected that the Directorate budget will balance at year end. Grants are being reviewed to see whether additional costs could be grant funded. It is difficult to reduce the pressures on Speech and Language therapy, as this is a statutory requirement and failing to meet these costs could lead to judicial review. A recruitment freeze is in place.

### **Director's summary: Capital (month 3)**

The 2010/11 financial year is going to be particularly challenging due to the considerable uncertainty around in-year and future funding levels from both government and West Berkshire. The new government strategy on Academies and the uncertainty around take up may also contribute to the challenges faced by the directorate, although initial levels of interest have been low. These factors have already contributed to delays in projects progressing this year, which will impact upon spend.

There are a total of five feasibility studies being carried this year, nine projects are in pre-construction or are about to start and six projects are in construction.