

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE POSITION AS AT MONTH 9**

	Month 9 forecast £000
CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CS	-102
HOUSING & PERFORMANCE	-169
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	1,762
CULTURAL SERVICES	-162
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,330</b>

### **Director's Summary**

#### **Overview**

The Month 9 position reports a forecast overspend of £1.33m, a significant improvement on last month. The overspend is entirely due to factors in adult social care: a combination of issues of which we became aware of at the beginning of year as well as newly emerging pressures. The overspending is broadly split across two main areas of Learning Disability services £1m and Older People's services £0.8m.

The improvement is due to the Department of Health recently announcing a further £162m for Councils of in year funding for Adult Social Care to assist with winter pressures across the health and social care system. The funding for West Berks Council to be transferred from the PCT via a Section 256 agreement is an additional £326k

#### **Pressures on the 2010 -11 budget**

It was recognised that the 2010-11 financial year would be a challenging one for Adult Social Care budgets, based on the ability to maintain demand through the resource panel at a static level and achievement of 'best case' outcomes of negotiations with the NHS over some Continuing Health Care (CHC) cases. However, the demand management targets proved extremely challenging due to the severity of cases coming through and the slow down in death rates, leading to additional pressures of £1,080k. The CHC negotiations did not achieve best case, therefore not realising the headroom that may have helped alleviate pressures.

In addition, identified pressures on the Learning Disability transitions budget were taken as risk during the budget build process, as this budget has been a volatile one to predict in previous years. It is now known that this pressure is in the region of £356k.

Emerging pressures include:

Fines for delayed transfers of care. The Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust has declared an intention to start fining for official delayed transfers. Previously

there has been an agreement across the Berkshire West health and social care economy that acute hospitals would not fine and investments had been made by WBC in joint intermediate care teams on this basis. However, as the pressure builds up across the system, the RBHFT has proposed this course of action and this could mean fines of £100 per patient per day. Current estimates are that this could apply to up to 5 people in any one week.

Loss of Independent Living Fund (ILF) income. The ILF was set up as a national resource within the Department of Work and Pensions dedicated to the financial support of disabled people, to enable them to live in the community rather than residential care. It was announced nationally in April 2010 that from 1 May 2010, as care package costs rise and the ILF is coming under greater pressure, that in order to safeguard existing users' awards, the ILF will not be accepting any new applications for the remainder of the 2010 -11 financial year. Loss of benefits for individual care packages in West Berkshire is currently estimated as £144k.

There has been an increase this year in the number of people who were previously self funding whose capital has depleted but who are eligible for support. In 2009/10 there were eight in total but we already have 14 this year with 6 pending. Estimated pressure is currently £200k based on these 14 capital depleters. We know that there are another two or more expected to come through the system over the next few months.

### **Progress against the recruitment freeze**

The Directorate is on track to achieve the required saving.

The decision was taken to move budget to the Directors cost centre and account for the recruitment freeze saving in the Directors budget as an underspend, rather than splitting the saving across staffing budgets, where monitoring of the saving would be lost amongst other over and under spends. This is why the Directors cost centre is forecasting a £102k underspend.

### **Management action to address the emerging pressures**

The Directorate is examining all of its budgets to identify any items which could be used to mitigate the forecast overspend. Adult Social Care continues to monitor spend at the resource allocation panel to ensure that the critical eligibility criteria is consistently applied.

The Council is also working to ensure that delayed transfers of care are kept to minimum levels.

### **Risks identified**

It should be noted that the forecast position holds a large risk in that it is based on the ability to hold demand at a static level, which experience has proved to be unlikely. Therefore any additional identified in year savings may be needed in order to hold the forecast to current levels.

## **Director's Summary**

### **Capital summary:**

67% of the Community Services budget is uncommitted at the end of quarter 3. However this figure does not include sums which have been allocated for occupational health equipment (in Adult Social Care) and Disabled Facilities Grants (in Housing and Performance).

Underspends are predicted against the current year's budget of £500,000 on temporary housing accommodation and £383,000 on the programmes for home repair assistance, discretionary assistance and empty homes which will be carried forward to help fund the 2011/12 programme. The project to redevelop the Newbury Museum is now expected to start in 2011/12 (subject to lottery funding being confirmed), so £343,000 of the 2011/12 spend on this project is now expected to be re-profiled into next financial year.