

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE POSITION AS MONTH 6

Revenue:

	Month 6 forecast £000
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CS	-15
SOCIAL CARE COMMUNITY and HOUSING	-182
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	1,705
CULTURAL SERVICES	-150
Total	1,358

Director's Summary

Overview

The Month 6 position reports a forecast overspend at year end for the Directorate of £1.358m.

Adult Social Care

The overspend position is due to factors in Adult Social Care. A number of factors need to be understood to explain this position:

1. Investment 2011/12

The service received £3.2m of additional cost funding for the 2011/12 financial year. This was split, with just over half being utilised for preceding year's overspends and their accompanying pressures and £1.5m for known additional costs in the 2011/12 financial year. Following a retrospective review of the clients, and their associated cost of care package as at the 1st April 2011, the service commenced the year with a number of pressures on its budget. This was primarily driven by increased costs in Learning Disability services partly due to higher commissioning costs which started in Quarter 4 due to young people leaving the parental home, being placed in supported living and care home and therefore incurring greater costs. This unexpected pressure emerged after the 2011/12 budget build was finalised.

2. Learning Disability Services

There is a forecast overspend on Learning Disability commissioning costs (£1,370k). However the service commenced the year with a potential underlying overspend of circa £750k per the reason identified above.

Management actions are in place to mitigate costs during 2011.12, but with further high need cases being identified in the first 5 months of this financial year and the Ordinary Residence pressure identified previously (£150k), an outturn position of £1,370k overspent on LD commissioning is forecast.

3. Reablement Services

The other contributing factor to the Adult Social Care position is the decision to stop charging for in-house reablement (pressure of £75k). This was flagged as a potential pressure in the risk register but was not included in 2011.12 budgets.

4. Older Persons and Physical Disability

Older Persons and Physical Disability budgets are forecast to be £400k overspent resulting from the changes in service delivery to meet the Day Centre closures and the increased use of Personal Budgets.

5. Supporting People contracts

Proposals are currently being discussed to make changes to the Supporting People sheltered housing contracts.

It is expected that MVF will be achieved across the Directorate although this will involve delaying recruitment on key posts.

Pressures on the 2011-12 budget

Pressures have already been identified with regard to commissioning budgets, specifically in relation to Ordinary Residence and in-house reablement. There are further emerging pressures in connection with:-

1. NHS Foundation Trust Fines for Delayed Transfers of Care

Currently in the RBH delays vary between 3 and 5 weeks which ensures we avoid any fines. However, if delays increase and pressure builds up RBH may change their position. The Royal Hants and North Hants will continue to fine on any delay. The new community health provider BHCFT may also consider fining for the delays in West Berkshire Community Hospital and Prospect Park although there are no indications of this currently. WBC has between 7-9 delays per week in WBCH usually due to lack of beds.

2. Southern Cross

These homes are being transferred in phases to new owners; whilst the local homes are full, it is not yet clear whether a new owner will seek to renegotiate fee levels.

3. Continuing Healthcare

The NHS continues to take a robust position in its review of those funded by the NHS by rejecting new requests or deciding an individual is no longer eligible for CHC funding. Those individuals with CHC funding are those with the most complex needs and thus the most expensive care costs. Currently one dispute is over £100,000 per annum. A new worker is in place with clear targets to achieve savings in this area. Actions may need to include refusing to move people from hospital until an NHS

contribution to their care is agreed; this may then impact (albeit at lower cost) on the funding situation for delayed transfers of care.

Two further pressures concerning capital depleters and limited bed capacity forcing up prices are currently controlled in terms of overspending but the risk remains.

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, although it is too early for this to be reflected in the M6 figures.

- The Resource Panel has been instructed to manage new commissioning within freed-up budgets, with a 30% reduction applied prior to reallocation, to set against unexpected high cost demand, and possible winter pressures.
- The 'Critical' eligibility threshold is rigorously applied.
- Robust contract negotiations are ongoing with providers to reduce prices using the Care Funding Calculator
- A specialist Continuing Health Care (CHC) worker joined in August to ensure assertive take up of NHS CHC
- It is proposed to convert Walnut Close long stay beds (12 in total) into residential beds by October 2011. This will allow the Council to collect extra income assuming the occupants are self funders, and ease pressure on delayed transfers of care;
- Robust audit of Direct Payments to release unspent monies; potential savings
- Capping the cost of high cost domiciliary care packages. Currently out to consultation for decision;
- Vacancies kept vacant for the latter half of the year will achieve £87k in savings
- A further 5% deflator added from mid October (10% in total) to PB allocations which are based on the RAS.

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 difficult.

CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12 QUARTER 2– COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. Summary of Overall Position for the Community Services Directorate

Service	2011/12 capital programme £000	Amount Spent/ Committed to 30-9-11 £000	Forecast Spend in Year £000	Forecast Under/ Over Spend in Year £000
Adult Social Care	209	85	209	0
Housing and Performance	2,371	974	2,291	-80
Cultural Services	881	422	731	-150
Total	3,461	1,481	3,231	-230

Approximately 43% of the Community Services programme has been committed so far this year. In addition approximately £840,000 housing grants have been allocated to clients, which do not yet show as commitments on Agresso.

A one off saving of £80,000 is also anticipated from discretionary housing grants and the £50,000 budget for maintenance of Shaw House will be reprofiled to future years in line with the agreed maintenance schedule.

Preliminary designs have been completed for the Museum Redevelopment Project. The project is on budget for the current year and applications for planning permission and Heritage Lottery Funding are now being prepared.