

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE POSITION AS AT MONTH 6

	Month 6 forecast £000
CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CS	-102
HOUSING & PERFORMANCE	-58
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	1,997
CULTURAL SERVICES	-124
Total	1,713

Director's Summary

Overview

The Month 6 position reports a forecast overspend of £1.7m. This is entirely due to factors in adult social care: a combination of issues of which we became aware at the beginning of year and newly emerging pressures.

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 £830k. 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:

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 ten this year. Estimated pressure is currently £170k based on ten capital depleters. We know that there are another four 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.

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.

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.

Capital Summary

The directorate is anticipated the majority of its capital budget to be allocated during the financial year 2010-11. There are potential delays to capital expenditure in Cultural and Housing services.