

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE POSITION AS AT MONTH 10

	Month 10 forecast £000
CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CS	-102
HOUSING & PERFORMANCE	-172
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	1,761
CULTURAL SERVICES	-188
Total	1,299

Director's Summary

Overview

The Month 9 position reports a forecast overspend of £1.3m, almost identical to 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 £1.05m and Older People's and Physical Disability services £0.5m.

In January the Department of Health recently announced 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, and this was included in the forecasting in the last two months.

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. An invoice has now been received for £22,500 which is being checked to verify the claim falls within the category of official delays.

The North Hampshire Hospital was not a party to any agreement with the Council, but over the years we have avoided fines. However the recent financial pressures and lack of bed capacity has meant fines of £14,000 were paid earlier this year and a further invoice for £3000 has been received which we are also checking.

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 13 this year, although 2 have now died with 3 pending. Estimated pressure is currently £240k.

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.