

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



please ask for Bernard Carter

direct line 0300 300 4175

date 4 April 2012

NOTICE OF MEETING

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 17 April 2012 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Cllrs Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman), N B Costin (Vice-Chairman), P N Aldis, D Bowater, Mrs S Clark, A L Dodwell, P Hollick, K Janes, I A MacKilligan and R B Pepworth

[Named Substitutes:

P A Duckett, Mrs S A Goodchild, Ms C Maudlin, A Shadbolt and N J Sheppard]

Co-optees: Mrs Beattie (Parent Governor), Ms Copley (Parent Governor), Ms Image (Roman Catholic Diocese), Mr Landman (Parent Governor) and Mr Reynolds (Church of England Diocese)

All other Members of the Council - on request

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members.

2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 28 February 2012 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations and the nature thereof in relation to:-

- (a) personal interests in any agenda item
- (b) personal and prejudicial interests in any agenda item
- (c) any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

4. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

5. **Petitions**

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

6. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution.

7. **Call-In**

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.10 of Part D2.

8. **Requested Items**

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

Reports

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
9	<p>Executive Member Update</p> <p>To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.</p>	*
10	<p>Medium Term Objectives Consultation</p> <p>To consider the Council's draft Medium Term Objectives relating to Children's Services.</p>	* 11 - 28
11	<p>Children's Social Care</p> <p>To receive a presentation regarding the implications of the Munro Review of Children's Social Care.</p>	*
12	<p>Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring</p> <p>To consider performance monitoring information for the third quarter of 2011/12.</p>	* 29 - 36
13	<p>Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring (Revenue)</p> <p>To consider the directorate's revenue budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2011/12.</p>	* 37 - 56
14	<p>Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring (Capital)</p> <p>To consider the directorate's capital budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2011/12.</p>	* 57 - 66
15	<p>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</p> <p>To consider the final version of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</p>	* 67 - 74
16	<p>Work Programme 2011 - 2012 & Executive Forward Plan</p> <p>The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.</p>	* 75 - 94

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 28 February 2012

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman)
Cllr N B Costin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:	P N Aldis D Bowater A L Dodwell P Hollick	Councillors:	K Janes I A MacKilligan R B Pepworth
Parental Co-optees:	Mrs S Beattie H Copley D Landman		
Church of England Co-optee: Roman Catholic Co-optee:	J Reynolds		
Apologies for Absence:	Cllrs	Mrs S Clark Mrs F Image	
Substitutes:	Cllrs	A Shadbolt	
Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	Mrs A Barker A R Bastable A D Brown Mrs S A Goodchild D Jones K C Matthews Ms C Maudlin D McVicar Mrs P E Turner M BE M A G Versallion J N Young	Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Chairman of Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee Executive Member for Economic Partnerships Executive Member for Children's Services Deputy Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic

		Development
Officers in Attendance:	Mr K Armstead	Senior Education Officer (Planning)
	Mr B Carter	Corporate Policy & Scrutiny Manager
	Mr P Dudley	Assistant Director Children's Services (Learning & Strategic Commissioning)
	Mrs E Grant	Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
	Ms K McFarlane	Head of Community Regeneration & Adult Skills
	Mr R Parsons	Head of School Organisation and Capital Planning
	Mr B Pearson	Head of Children's Services Commissioning
	Mrs L Wade	Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration

CS/11/96 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 January 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CS/11/97 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

Councillors D Bowater, A Dodwell, P Hollick, D Jones & S Goodchild declared a personal interest due to their position as Chairman of Governors at respective Central Bedfordshire schools.

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

CS/11/98 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman had no announcements.

CS/11/99 **Petitions**

No petitions were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part D2 of the Constitution.

CS/11/100 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

No questions, statements or deputations were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

CS/11/101 **Call-In**

The Panel was advised that no decisions of the Executive had been referred to the Panel under the Call-in Procedures set out in Appendix "A" to Rule No. S18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

CS/11/102 **Requested Items**

No items were referred to the Committee for consideration at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

CS/11/103 **Executive Member Update**

The Executive Member for Children's Services provided the Committee with an update on current activities pertaining to his portfolio, which were not already included on today's agenda. These covered the following issues:-

- The Ofsted inspection of the Council's provision for safeguarding children and supporting "looked after" children; and
- The recent appointment of a new Children's Services Assistant Director managing Children's Services Operations;

CS/11/104 **All Age Skills Strategy**

The Executive Member for Sustainable Communities (Strategic Planning & Economic Development) introduced the Council's draft All Age Skills Strategy, which set the strategic direction for the Council and its partners in addressing the skills needs of employers and individuals within the area. His introduction was supplemented by a joint presentation from the Assistant Director, Economic Growth, Skills & Regeneration and the Head of Joint Strategic Commissioning (Children's Services), which covered the following issues:-

- The rationale for developing an All Age Skills Strategy;
- Strategic priorities;
- The skills link with Children's Services;
- The role of the Council, both internally and externally; and
- Practical examples of successes to date;

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised the following key issues:

- The Committee expressed some concern about the aspirational nature of the Strategy, which in its current form would benefit from a robust timeframe for delivery, SMART outcomes, performance indicators and greater detail regarding accountability;

- The need to ensure effective business engagement on the borders of Central Bedfordshire by making full use of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP);
- The need to ensure the Strategy reflected the needs of all ages, particularly the over 60's and those people in their 40's and 50's requiring support and retraining as a result of redundancy;
- The importance of recognising schools (and Children's Centres) as agents of adult education, for example when parents first join the PTA or undertaken some voluntary work and then move on to become a Teaching Assistant and potentially a Teacher;
- The importance of recognising schools as community resources with valuable assets such as libraries and technical rooms, which could be made available to support education and training to the general public;
- The need to encourage the community to educate itself via initiatives such as community skills exchange;
- The Committee expressed some concern about the recently published prospectus of the Committee of the University Technical College, which seemed to cloud its primary role in delivering practical, technically orientated courses of study;
- The need to ensure the Strategy linked with work regarding the needs of those children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN), particularly those who find themselves not in education, employment or training (NEET);
- The need to ensure the Strategy supported the work to encourage schools to strive towards the emerging political priority of educational attainment i.e. 5 A* - C GCSEs including English and Maths, as a base for young people to springboard into adulthood;
- The need to acknowledge the emerging major changes to the national curriculum. In this respect, the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services confirmed her intention to bring a presentation to a future meeting of the Committee outlining these changes;
- The need to acknowledge the fundamental importance of parents in encouraging and supporting students through the education system and the difficulties experienced by children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in accessing appropriate education;
- The importance of work experience schemes and the need to encourage and support the business sector to embrace such schemes;

(Note: Due to the cross cutting nature of the Strategy, the Chairman of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee allowed the Chairman of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (whose Members had also been invited to attend) to lead discussion on this item.)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That the draft All Age Skills Strategy (and related Member comments outlined above) be endorsed by the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration by the Executive, subject to the inclusion of a robust timeframe for delivery, SMART**

outcomes, performance indicators and greater detail regarding accountability.

- 2. That a progress report be submitted to the Children's Services and Sustainable Communities Committees (as a joint Committee) within one year, allowing Members to comment on the delivery of the Strategy against stated objectives and outcomes.**

CS/11/105 **2011 Test and Examination Results**

The Executive Member for Children's Services introduced his report, which outlined the 2011 test and examination results for Central Bedfordshire schools compared against national indicators and statistical neighbours. The Executive Member drew the Committee's attention specifically to the actions to support improvement, particularly in relation to Key Stage 2 performance. The report was supplemented by a presentation from the Assistant Director, Learning & Strategic Commissioning, which covered the following topics:-

- Early years and Key Stage 1 results;
- Key Stage 2 results;
- Key Stage 4 and 5 results;
- Actions for improvement; and
- The Ofsted Local Area Assessment;

Members of the Committee were pleased to note the improvement in performance at Key Stage 4 and 5 and acknowledged the strategies in place to improve performance at Key Stage 2, which was currently not where it should be when compared to peer authorities and national indicators. There was also an acknowledgement from Members that, whilst educational achievement was crucial and quite rightly a political priority, pupil attitudes, values and behaviours were also a key component of the education system.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the action to support improvement in educational attainment be endorsed.

CS/11/106 **School Organisation Plan: New School Places Programme 2011/12 - 2016/17**

The Executive Member for Children's Services introduced his report, which outlined the proposed rolling programme to provide new school places in Central Bedfordshire from 2012/13 to 2016/17. The report was supplemented by a presentation from the Head of School Organisation and Capital Planning, which covered the following topics:-

- The Council's duties with regard to pupil place planning;
- An overview of the School Organisation Plan (SOP);
- Funding arrangements;
- The new places programme; and
- The options available for new places;

A further presentation was delivered by the Senior Education Officer (Planning), which used satellite imagery to map sites forming part of the SOP 5 year rolling programme.

Members of the Committee discussed the contents of the report in detail and raised the following issues:

- Specific concerns regarding growth in and around Houghton Regis and the need for the new school places programme to accommodate such, be delivered in a timely fashion and have regard to existing catchment areas;
- The need to ensure decisions regarding new places were taken on the basis of the most up to date information available (i.e. real time data);
- The criteria for selection/admission to Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools and the impact on local children;
- Financial considerations regarding new schools, the use of S106 monies and the obligation on the Council to fund any shortfall;
- The need to consider cross border issues; and
- The support and advice available to academies when establishing new schools.

At the end of the debate the Committee unanimously agreed to endorse the Programme and all four recommendations contained within the draft Executive report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the New School Places Programme 2012/13 to 2016/17 be endorsed for consideration by the Executive.

CS/11/107

Work Programme 2011 - 2012 & Executive Forward Plan

The Committee considered its current Work Programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

With regard the 12 June meeting, the Committee agreed to receive a report regarding the draft outcomes from the Ofsted inspection, and a presentation covering the key issues in children's health.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Children's Services OSC Work Programme be noted.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 1.00 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17 April 2012

Subject: Medium Term Plan (MTP) – Consultation document

Report of: Cllr James Jamieson, Leader and Cllr Maurice Jones, Deputy Leader and Executive Member, Corporate Resources

Summary: The report proposes Overview and Scrutiny consider the content of the emerging MTP prior to its adoption by Full Council on 21 June 2012.

Advising Officer: Richard Carr, Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Gillian Dent, Programme Manager

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The emerging MTP 2012-2016 sets out the councils proposed priorities for the next 4 years. If Full Council adopt the MTP in June, the new priorities will replace the old. The developing priorities are:
 - Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
 - Improved education attainment.
 - Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.
 - Better infrastructure – improved roads, broadband reach and transport.
 - Great universal services – bins, leisure and libraries.
 - Value for money – freezing council tax.

Financial:

2. There are currently no additional financial implications in delivering the emerging priorities within the MTP. The Medium Term Financial Plan was developed to take account of the emerging priorities and once adopted by Full Council, the MTP will continue to form the basis of its future development.

Legal:

3. There are no specific legal implications in delivering the emerging priorities within the MTP.

Risk Management:

4. If the MTP is adopted by Full Council in June 2012, a full risk assessment of the impact of delivering the new priorities will be undertaken and the Strategic and Directorate risk registers will be reviewed and updated to reflect the outcome.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. Through the duration of the delivery of the plan to 2016 staffing issues may arise as a result of delivering the priorities. As they arise, consultation will take place with the trade unions and affected staff in accordance with the Council's Managing Change policy.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

As part of the development of the strategies which underpin the Medium Term Plan, Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken and a variety of specific objectives designed to promote equality have been approved.

Public Health

7. There are a significant number of priorities and targets that will have an impact and will make a difference to the wider determinants of health e.g. priorities in relation to employment and NEETs.

Community Safety:

8. There are some targets within the MTP which are relevant with regard to Community Safety. The targets under the priority of Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow are:
 - To reduce the levels of crime e.g. burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and theft from 3312 in 2010/11 by 10% to 2980 by 2016.
 - To decrease the levels of anti social behaviour from the 2011/12 recorded incident figures by 10%.

These will be delivered by working with the new Police and Crime Commissioner and Bedfordshire Police and our Community Safety Partnership.

Sustainability:

9. There are a number of targets where sustainability is relevant. e.g:
- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire - creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
- The Councils emerging Development Strategy will address issues of sustainability, for the relevant targets and the risk assessment referred to in paragraph 4 will address all areas where sustainability is a risk.

Procurement:

10. There are no specific issues in delivering the emerging issues in relation to procurement.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:-

- 1. Consider and comment on the emerging priorities and targets within the MTP.**
- 2. Agree to the approach for adopting the Medium Term Plan 2012-2016.**

Medium Term Plan – Delivering our Priorities

11. Following the election of the Leader of the Council in 2011, a review of the Council's existing priorities has been undertaken. As a result it was agreed to develop a Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the Council for the next four years setting out priorities which matter most to residents and a delivery plan. A survey of residents was undertaken in Autumn 2011 which formed the basis of the priorities set out in the MTP. Overview and Scrutiny and key partners are asked to comment on the MTP which will be considered by the Executive before final recommendations are made to Council in June. If agreed the MTP will be launched to the public, staff and partners in the most appropriate format.

The Medium Term Plan – Delivering our Priorities

12. The Council agreed, in late 2011, to develop a Medium Term Plan to articulate its priorities from 2012-2016 with targets and plans for delivery.
13. The MTP has been compiled reflecting the needs and views of Central Bedfordshire residents and is attached for consideration.
14. The draft plan has been developed for a variety of external audiences including partners in both the public and private sectors and Central Bedfordshire residents. Its current format can be adapted so it is presented/available in the most appropriate format for each audience.

15. The following timetable sets out how the MTP will be finalised and presented through Executive for its consideration and agreement prior to recommending its adoption by Full Council.

Date	Where	Reason
10-17 April	Overview and Scrutiny Committees	For comment
Through April	LSP and Shadow Health and Well Being Board	For comment
15 May	Executive	Final plan including comments for consideration and recommendation to present to Full Council for adoption.
21 June	Full Council	Final MTP presented to Full Council for adoption

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the content of the Medium Term Plan and make any comments. Comments will be included in the report to Executive 15 May.

Conclusion

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider and comment on the content of the MTP for consultation prior to consideration by Executive.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Medium Term Plan – Delivering the Priorities

Appendix **A**

Draft for consultation

Delivering your Priorities

Our Plan for Central Bedfordshire

2012-2016



Security classification:
Not Protected:

Contents (to be included once Plan is finalised)

Our ambitions for Central Bedfordshire

I chose to become a Councillor because I felt passionately about the community in which I lived. I'm not a native Bedfordshire man. I moved here about 25 years ago with my wife because of its proximity to London. We've stayed, raised our family and have enjoyed the advantages of Bedfordshire life. We love it here and I know my friends and neighbours share this view. I was delighted to be elected as the Leader of Central Bedfordshire last year, and since then have been reflecting on how we as a council can make sure that we are able to keep Central Bedfordshire as a great place to live and work.

We've been listening to the public, getting feedback about what matters most and what needs to be improved. We've also been reviewing our finances. In the context of cuts in our resources and increasing demands on our services, we've been considering how we can balance our spending and savings to maintain critical services without putting additional financial pressures on the public.

This document, together with our medium term financial strategy, represents the culmination of the work we've done. We now have clear and explicit ambitions for Central Bedfordshire, informed by residents' views. We're committed to a series of priorities, which collectively will help our communities to progress and prosper.

This will not happen without the co-ordinated effort of all of us who work in and for the Council. This document is designed to clarify exactly what we are seeking to achieve, our approach and, crucially, our plan of action.

We will be rightly held to account by the public of Central Bedfordshire if we fail to deliver our priorities, but with our focus and shared commitment, I'm confident we'll succeed.

James Jamieson, Leader of the Council

Central Bedfordshire – Key facts and challenges for the area

The Facts

Central Bedfordshire is a unitary authority serving a growing population of around 255,000. It is a largely rural area with over half the population living in the countryside and the rest in a number of market towns. The largest of these are Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Biggleswade, Flitwick, Sandy and Ampthill.

The area is generally prosperous, with above average levels of employment. This could mask the few areas where we do have pockets of deprivation and, greater need (some households in Dunstable and Houghton Regis for example).

The area has excellent transport links with the A1 and M1 running through it, three main rail lines and two international airports, Luton and Stansted, on our doorstep.

It is in the centre of an academic 'golden triangle' between Oxford, Cambridge and London Universities and also benefits from its own academic institutions at Cranfield University, the University of Bedfordshire and other further education colleges.

It is a great place to live and work. It is a relatively safe, green and affluent area which has attracted major investment. People living in Central Bedfordshire earn more than the national average; this is in part influenced by some residents commuting out of the area – primarily to London, Luton, Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire.

The Challenges

There are significant challenges to the Council and our residents which will impact on the way we deliver our services in the future:

- We anticipate continued reductions in Government grant to the Council over the coming years.
- We predict further economic difficulties as the national economic climate is driven by UK debt and weak recovery from recession.

Demographic Pressures

- As our population is set to grow (from 255,000 to 276,500 by 2016) we need to ensure we are able to provide for this 8.5% increase by supporting affordable housing developments and working with businesses to help them to create local jobs.
- As our residents are enjoying longer lives, rising numbers of older people will need our services.
- We have had a 65% increase in the numbers of children requiring a child protection plan.
- Technology is transforming the way that our customers want to access services, 73% of our households already have access to the web and this will increase as the area becomes a hub for faster broadband.
- And there are significant changes to the services the Council will manage now and in the future.
 - Over 50% of pupils will be educated in schools that are Academies by September 2012 with more moving to this new model by March 2013, resulting in 90% being educated in an Academy at some stage in their school education in

Central Bedfordshire. The overall aim will be for most schools to become Academies during the lifetime of this plan.

- The implications of the Health and Social Care Bill, which will see responsibility for public health transferring from NHS Bedfordshire to the Council by March 2013.

The Customer Perspective:

In developing this plan, the views and priorities of the public have been central. More than 2,000 residents took part in market research which included a survey and workshops in the autumn of 2012. We asked for their feedback on the area, what is important to them and what needs improving. We also asked for their views on the Council and its services.

Feedback from this exercise demonstrated that high levels of satisfaction with the area as a place to live, with 81% responding positively.

Residents do have strong views about areas for improvement:

- 49% believe that roads and pavement repairs are necessary,
- almost twice as many residents expressed a need for improved job prospects compared to respondents to the last survey in 2008,
- satisfaction levels with the Council are improving
- value for money remains a concern and a majority of residents (76%) would prefer for Council Tax to be frozen, with any savings being found from the costs of running the Council rather than front line services,
- the importance of tackling crime and anti social behaviour was a priority,
- there was a strongly held view that services for vulnerable people should be protected from reductions,

Respondents were supportive of proposals to change the way the Council delivers services, such as combining services with other public sector organisations, outsourcing and inviting Town and Parishes Councils to provide local services.

Responding to these challenges

The Council's response to the economic and service challenges is set out in this plan. This document explains how our resources and our services must be aligned to deliver the priorities that matter most to you.

We intend to build on our strong track record of delivering efficiency savings as we have done year on year since the Council was created. Since 2009 the Council has saved £42m and we plan to save a further £36m by 2016.

Our Priorities

Our residents have given the Council clear and consistent feedback about their attitudes to the authority and the area.

In response to this, Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to six key priorities which are;

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
- Improved education attainment.
- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.
- Better infrastructure – improved roads, broadband reach and transport.
- Great universal services – bins, leisure and libraries.
- Value for money – freezing council tax.

To deliver this with fewer resources we need to change – both what we do and how we do it.

Our Approach

To deliver our priorities with fewer resources we need to change – both what we do and how we do it. A series of principles underpin how we will manage change at Central Bedfordshire.

As a Council we will

- Be focused on customer experience
- Be open and transparent
- Value our people
- Work as one organisation
- Excel at partnerships
- Focus on efficiency and value
- Adopt a "can do" culture
- Recognise the impact of our work on others

Working with our partners

Central Bedfordshire Council recognises that we will not be able to deliver our priorities unless we work collaboratively with other organisations with an interest in our communities.

So whilst this plan is explicit about how Central Bedfordshire Council will deliver its priorities, we recognise that it doesn't stand in isolation.

Our Plan

The Council already operates a wide range of plans and strategies, many of which will contribute to the delivery of the priorities.

However, this document brings all such existing strategies together.

It explains:

- how the plans work together to support the delivery of the priorities
- how the success of the plans will be measured
- what targets we are aiming to achieve
- timescales for delivery.

A new operating model is also proposed which will see the shape of the Council change considerably.

Public accountability at the front line is imperative so the Council will focus on direct management of the customer experience at their initial point of contact. As we transform our on line services, more and more customers will be incentivised to do business with us on line and will experience a seamless service, based on our knowledge of our residents and the area.

At the core of the Council, a streamlined team of officers will enable delivery of our priorities and key services.

Services will be delivered in the way which is most fit for purpose and appropriate to deliver value for money and quality, with a focus on innovation.



The following pages present our priorities with the targets we will be seeking to achieve over the next four years and the impact you will see.

If you want further information on any of the priorities or on the plans for delivery please contact us at: *contacts to be added*.

Enhancing your local community – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow:

Targets

- To increase the percentage of residents who find Central Bedfordshire a nice place to live. Currently 81%, we want 85% of you to be satisfied with the area by 2016.
- To ensure the current employment rate of central Bedfordshire remains 5% higher than the national average (currently 72.6%).
- To ensure the availability of high quality, appropriate housing, supported by suitable infrastructures.
- To ensure 100% of approved applications for residential developments of 10 or more units have excellent design (measured against the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) building for life design criteria).
- To reduce the levels of crime e.g. burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and theft from 3312 in 2010/2011 by 10% to 2980 by 2016.
- To decrease the levels of anti social behaviour from the 2011/12 recorded incident figures by 10%.

The difference you will see over the next 4 years

We will increase satisfaction with the area as a nice place to live year on year and we will continue our programme of enhancements to the area.

We will maintain the current rate of employment by working with local businesses.

Our developing Economic Development Plan will outline our strategy for growth in the area.

Our planning policy quality standards will ensure that no applications will go forward for 10 or more houses which don't meet the CABE design criteria.

We will work with the new Police and Crime Commissioner and Bedfordshire Police to deliver our Community Safety Partnership priorities to:

- Reduce anti social behaviour year on year until we reach our target.
- Reduce reoffending through the sustainability of the Integrated Management Offender Programme, which will lead to a reduction of crime and reoffending of prolific offenders.
- Increase support given to Domestic Abuse victims and ensuring there is an increase of cases presented at the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.

Improved Educational Attainment

Targets:

- To be in the top 25% nationally of key stage 4 results for the measure 5 x A* - C outcomes including English and Maths at GCSE.
- To limit the number of young people on a year by year basis who are not in education or employment (NEET).
- To make public annually the number of education and training opportunities made available by our partners during the crucial autumn period, and the number of young people actively accessing them.

The difference you will see over the next 4 years

We have a robust Children and Young People's plan 2011-2014 (CYPP) that was the subject of consultation with all schools, governors and over 4000 young people. The targets in that plan are challenging to the Council and its partners and we aim to achieve them.

We have schools that are making the transfer to become academies to reflect local and national political ambitions and we will offer those schools support to make the conversion.

We will continue to work alongside schools to ensure that we meet our priority of being in the top 25% nationally for 5 x A* - C GCSE outcomes including English and Maths for the next 4 years.

We agreed an education vision with Central Bedfordshire schools to drive improvement. This involves:

- The development of a teaching school to lead good practice in the Central Bedfordshire area.
- School to school support through groups of academy chains, learning partnerships and federations and a talent map of support on our Council website that schools can commission.
- Development of an alternative provision school led by headteachers for those middle and upper age pupils who find the school environment difficult, which will help these pupils, find alternative pathways to learning, training and employment and reduce permanent exclusions.
- The role of the Council as a champion for vulnerable pupils will be strongly supported.
- The role of school governors as school and community leaders will be developed.

We have agreed our All Age Skills Strategy which will see us increase the opportunities for learning for young people.

Through the implementation of our strategy from Poverty to Prosperity we will be working with local businesses to increase the number of apprenticeships available for young people which will enable us to continue to keep our NEETs below the national average.

We will work with our partners to increase the number of apprenticeships and support school and college governors to meet their responsibilities to provide careers advice to young people.

Promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable.

Targets

- We are committed to a zero tolerance approach to those who abuse vulnerable adults and we will continue to report our involvement in safeguarding activity.
- Provide an additional 50 extra care flats by 2014.
- Maintain the decent homes standard at 100% for the Council's landlord service.
- All 40 - 70 year olds will have been offered a health check by 2017.
- 30 (100% coverage) Village Care schemes in operation by 2014.
- 60% of Council commissioned dementia care should be of 'good' or 'excellent' by 2014,
- Statutory performance indicators on children's safeguarding are consistently in the upper quartile compared to national statistics
- Proposed new Government targets to be introduced in 2012 on speed of adoption procedures are met.
- Actions identified in the Ofsted Report published in April (2012/2013) are subject to an action plan, agreed with the Children's Trust, the Central Bedfordshire Children's Safeguarding Board and relevant health organisations for the re-inspection of children's safeguarding late 2013.
- The annual report of the Local Safeguarding Board will be presented as required in the soon to be published 'Working Together' national guidance on children's safeguarding.

The difference you will see over the next 4 years

We will be developing an accommodation and care strategies for older people to provide a wider range of support services, such as extra care schemes, and a focus on dementia support.

We will work with our partners in health to improve the health and well being of our local communities.

There will be an expanded adult social care market that provides choice for local people in how their care and support needs are met.

We will have addressed the concerns raised in the Ofsted Report on Looked After Children and Safeguarding of 2012 via an action plan in 2012/2013.

We will have had an improved Children's Services re-inspection of safeguarding in autumn 2013. This inspection will have criteria linked to impact and outcomes and will be different to the criteria used in 2012 to assess the Council and its partners.

We will have met any additional performance indicators issued by the Government and will have measured the impact of our activities and published progress on outcomes for our children, young people and their families.

The Safeguarding Board of both adults and children will continue with their programmes of work.

Better infrastructure - Improved roads, broadband reach and transport

Targets

- By 2016 to complete the delivery of a series of infrastructure projects and set out aspirations for further significant transport improvements.
 - Luton – Dunstable Guided bus way to be in service by Spring 2013.
 - Biggleswade South roundabout and feeder roads completed by end 2013.
 - M1- A5 link construction commenced Spring 2014 and completed by 2016.
(subject to a planning enquiry)
- To complete the production of all Town Centre Master Plans and demonstrate delivery on the ground of all 5.
- To achieve above national average satisfaction with road and pavement repairs from 26% to 36% by 2016.
- To achieve 90% access to superfast broadband by 2015/16.
- To achieve 100% access to at least 2MB broadband by 2015/2016.

The difference you will see over the next 4 years

Works are already underway on the Luton – Dunstable Guided bus way to enable it to be in service by April 2013.

By 2015 there will be significant improvements as a result of the implementation of Town Centre Plans. Including:

- Dunstable development of a new health centre.
- Biggleswade completion of street improvements. New transport interchange at the station and market street.
- Leighton Buzzard development at land south of high street.
- Flitwick development underway on land at Steppingley Road.
- Houghton Regis completion of High Street improvements.

We will be investing heavily in our roads over the next 4 years we have agreed to invest an additional £4m each year until 2016.

Plans are in place to implement broadband to achieve our targets.

Great Universal services – Bins, leisure and libraries

Targets

- To fully deliver our BEaR project which will include the renovation and rebuilding of all Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) by 2016.
- To maintain high rate of recycling and make progress towards 60% target by 2020.
- To ensure the number of adults in Central Bedfordshire taking part in sport and physical activity remains above the national average (Active people Survey CBC 22.6% and national 22%)
- Maintain 93% satisfaction of adults with the library service
- Increase the usage of libraries by 20%.

The difference you will see over the next 4 years

To deliver the top two targets we have a programme for our HRWC sites at Ampthill, Biggleswade, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard by 2016. We are in the process of appointing a contractor and will be seeking planning permission in 2013 ready to begin building works in 2014.

We are developing a leisure strategy to help increase take up in sport and physical recreation focussing on our leisure facilities, including greater use of our countryside and participation in the arts supporting active lifestyles and improving public health.

An £8 million investment in leisure facilities (on an invest to save basis) and activities over the next 4 years.

We have programmes in place to increase participation including walking and cycling.

We have just completed the “Big Library debate” with the public and have agreed a programme of improvements which should help us to meet our targets. We will be changing the way we provide services including:

- moving to self service;
- undertaking a programme of remodelling of our libraries in the next two years to improve the standard of our service and to meet your expectations;
- in the next 3 years we will be looking to relocate some of our libraries in Dunstable, Flitwick and Biggleswade.

Value for Money – freezing council tax

Targets

- We will endeavour not raise council tax for the next three years
- We will work hard with our staff to ensure they provide high quality service and are proud of the organisation they work for.

The difference you will see over the next 4 years

Council payments will be the same for all Central Bedfordshire residents.

No increase in your council tax payments levied by the Council.

We will continue to work on making efficiency savings, limiting impact on existing services by exploring different ways of providing services.

Planning Assumptions

The ambitions expressed through the priorities and targets in this plan have been developed on the basis of some planning assumptions. In other words, we've based the plan on what we expect to happen over the next four years in the economy, in our own finances and in society.

On the economy, we have assumed that interest rates will remain low with growth limited to between 1% and 2%. We also anticipate inflation to be pegged at 1% on pay and 2% on our supplies, services and income.

On our own resources, we have assumed that government will continue with its grant to support local authorities to freeze council tax until 2015/16 and that it will not reduce further other grants or put additional responsibilities on us.

Beyond this, we have based the plan on current predictions about the nature of our population, in terms of size and nature.

Should our projections turn out to be inaccurate or the government change its plans, the nature of our targets may also need to change.

Contact us...

by telephone: 0300 300 4656

by email: customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

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Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 17 April 2012
Subject: Quarter 3 Performance Report
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report highlights the Quarter Three performance for the Children's Services Directorate.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Head of Partnerships, Performance and Workforce Development
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The Quarterly Performance Report ensures that progress on the delivery of the Council's priorities is monitored.

Financial:

2. There are a number of performance indicators within the full corporate suite that have a financial link.
3. It will be important to consider any financial implications in addressing ongoing areas of under performance.

Legal:

4. Not applicable

Risk Management:

5. Areas of ongoing underperformance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. Not applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. This report highlights performance against a range of indicators which seek to measure how services impact across all communities in Central Bedfordshire, so that specific areas of underperformance can be highlighted for further analysis.

8. As such it does not include detailed performance information relating to the Council's stated intention to tackle inequalities and deliver services so that people whose circumstances make them vulnerable are not disadvantaged. The interrogation of performance data across vulnerable groups is a legal requirement and is an integral part of the Council's equalities and performance culture which seeks to ensure that, through a programme of ongoing impact assessments, underlying patterns and trends for different sections of the community identify areas where further action is required to improve outcomes for vulnerable groups.

Community Safety:

9. There are Children's Services indicators that relate to ensuring children and young people are kept safe.

Sustainability:

10. Not applicable.

Procurement:

11. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes and reviews Quarter Three performance.

Background

12. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
13. An overview of performance in Quarter 3 2011/12 and Director's summaries are set out below. This is supported by the detailed performance in Appendix A.

Performance Summary

14. The Council's performance in protecting vulnerable children and young people has remained good this quarter. Three of the four key indicators measuring social care assessment, timeliness and review are on track to achieve targets at the end of 2011/12.

15. Performance in relation to the children with three or more placements during the year is off target this quarter at 11.2%, however performance is good compared to average statistical neighbours' performance of 11.8% in 2010/11. Of the 197 looked after children who make up this cohort, 22 have had three or more placements during the year. This is a volatile indicator and can change markedly from quarter to quarter. These children often have complex needs and challenging behaviours and decisions to place a child in an alternative placement are always taken to improve outcomes for the child rather than to meet the target and double checked by managers. It should be noted that a move to adoption is counted as a move.
16. The demand on frontline teams continues to increase with high numbers of children subject to child protection plans. This multi-agency work is resource intensive but regular monitoring ensures that access to services and assessments for children in need and those in need of protection, is maintained, rather than solely pursuing targets.
17. Key Stage 4 2011 standards have risen substantially for the second year in a row. The gap between Central Bedfordshire and similar authorities has been halved and no schools are below the Government's Floor Standards. Central Bedfordshire achieved a 5.2% increase this year.
18. Queensbury Upper School was inspected on the 13 and 14 October and was judged to require special measures. Action is being taken to move the school towards sponsored academy status and Ministerial approval has been given to sponsorship by CfBT Education Trust. The Local Authority Statement of Action has been written and sent to Ofsted. Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on 9 February 2011. A Local Authority monitoring meeting with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors on 10 November made adjustments to the Local Authority support plan to have a particular focus on enabling the school to become self sustaining, on securing effective leadership of governance and on setting the vision and direction for the school going forward.
19. A verbal update on progress and any significant inspections since the close of quarter three will be provided at the meeting.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Performance Indicators

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Executive 27 March 2012- (Quarter 3 Performance Report)

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

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Performance Report Appendix A
Quarter 3 2011/12

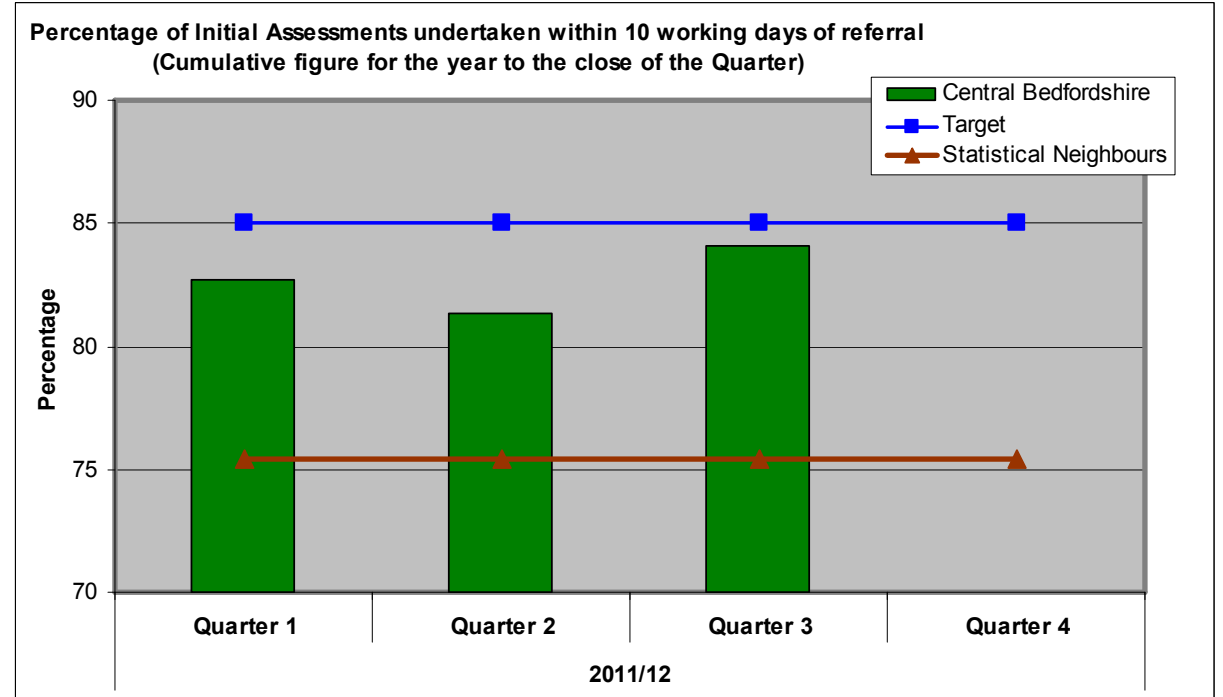
Report comparison - Depends on the nature of the indicator		Performance Judgement			
		Direction of travel (DoT)		RAG score (Standard scoring rules unless the indicator specifies alternative scoring arrangements)	
Seasonal	Compared to the same time in the previous year		Performance is reducing	R	RED - target missed / off target - Performance at least 10% below the required level of improvement
Quarter on quarter	Compared to the previous quarter		Performance remains unchanged	A	AMBER - target missed / off target - Performance less than 10% below the required level of improvement

Children's Services
Director: Edwina Grant

Executive Member for Children's Services - Councillor Mark A G Versallion
Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services - Cllr Mrs Angela Barker
Deputy Executive Member for Children's Services - Cllr Anthony D Brown

Seasonal = Compared to the same time in the previous year
Quarter on quarter = Compared to the previous quarter
Annual = Compared to one fixed point in the previous year

CS 1		Percentage of initial assessments undertaken within ten working days of referral (NI 59 Revised) (Cumulative year to close of Quarter)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	75.4 NFER (2010/11)	Report Comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	æ	G
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
%	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	85.0	82.7	81.3	84.1									
<p>Comment: Performance for this quarter is green. Central Bedfordshire Council set challenging targets against statistical neighbours and performance is good when compared to the 75.4% average achieved by statistical neighbours. It is expected that the target of 85% will be achieved by the end of the year.</p> <p>Initial assessments are a brief assessment of any child who has been referred to social services. They are an important indicator of how quickly services can respond when a child is thought to be at risk of serious harm. Assessments involve a range of local agencies so this indicator also shows how well multi-agency arrangements are working.</p>																					



CS 2		Percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year (NI 62)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	11.8 NFER (2010/11)	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement		R
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
%	Low	9.2	10.0	1.1	2.3	4.1	5.7	6.3	10.0	2.2	6.2	11.2									

Comment: Performance for this indicator has gone from amber to red and the target will not be met at year end. However performance is still in line with statistical neighbours (11.2% compared to 11.8%).

The number of children in this cohort is 197 and the number with three or more placements during the year is 22. The current cohort includes children with complex needs and challenging behaviours. Work continues to ensure they receive appropriate support and care. Key factors that have a bearing on this performance include the range of placement choices, the enhanced levels of social care support needed for the young person and the effectiveness of multi-agency working. These are currently being reviewed to assess what changes can be made to improve stability. The decision whether a child or young person needs an alternative placement is paramount and this action will be taken to improve outcomes for the child rather than meeting the target.

Numbers for this indicator are so low that graphical comparison with statistical neighbours is not relevant.

CS 3		Percentage of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year that were reviewed (NI 67)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	95.9 NFER (2010/11)	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement		G
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
%	High	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100									

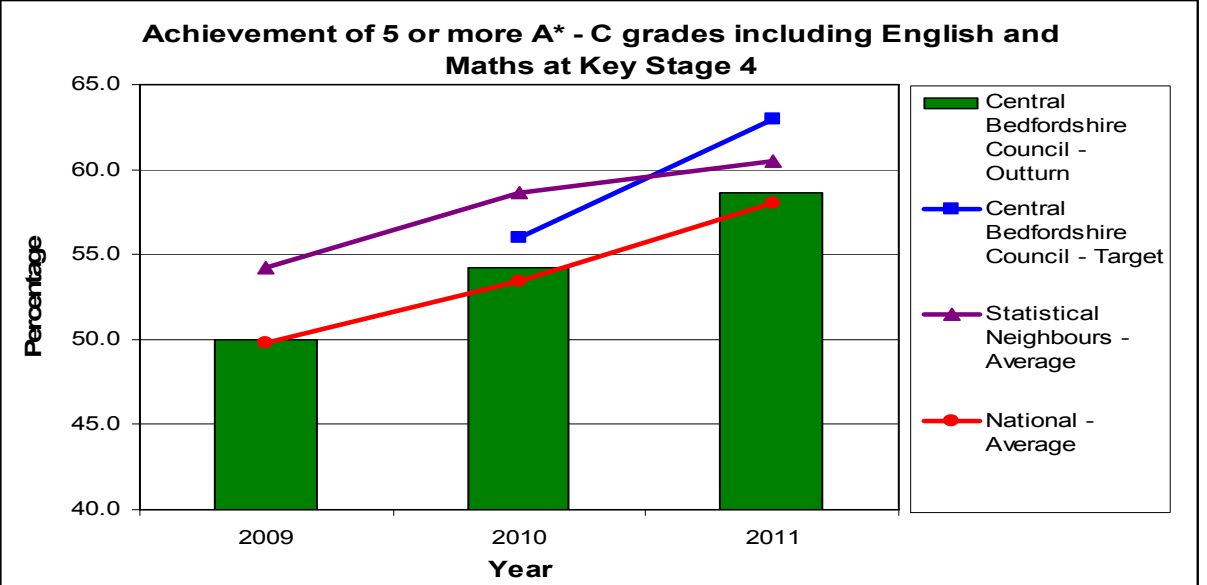
Comment: Performance remains on target. Reviews are a key element in delivering Child Protection Plans and effective reviews should ensure the provision of good quality interventions to keep children safe and protected. This target should remain on 100% and graphical representation is not relevant.

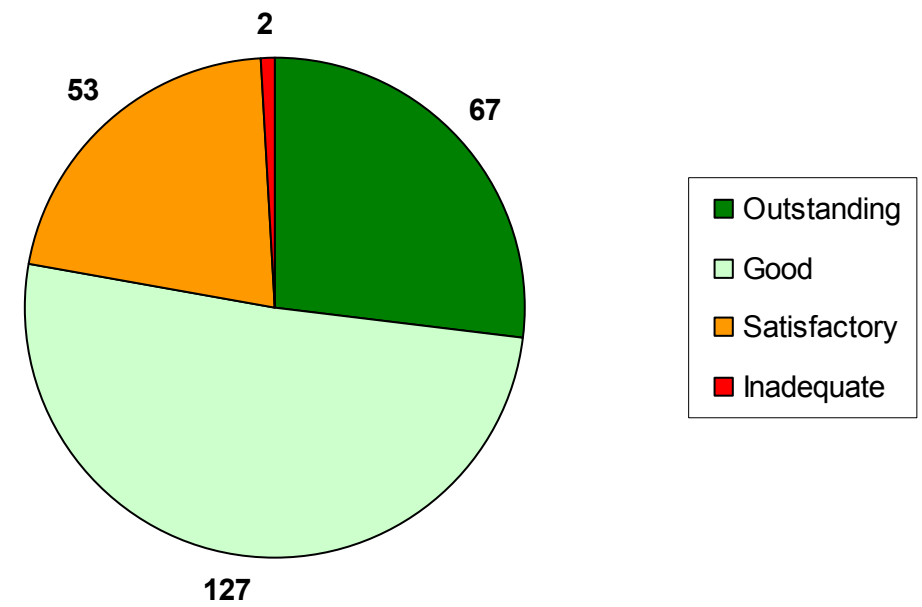
CS 4		Percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments (NI 68) (Cumulative)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	75.1 NFER (2010/11)	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	æ	G
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
%	High	68.2	65	52.1	59.5	59.1	56.2	56.0	60	60.2	67.2	71.5									

Comment: Performance for this indicator continues to improve and is currently exceeding the target. This indicator gives a picture of the appropriateness of referrals coming into children's social care (which can show whether local agencies are working well together) and the thresholds which are being applied in Children's Social Care at a local level. The number of assessments completed has gone up by over 30% compared to last year. Performance is kept under review and the target will be reviewed for 2012/13 to take account of national guidance, our performance and the performance of statistical neighbours. As the levels of referrals across statistical neighbours are yet to stabilise nationally, graphical comparisons are not relevant.

CS 5 Achievement at Level 4 and above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (NI 73) (Annual) This annual indicator was reported in Quarter 2 ,so is not included in this report.

CS 6		Achievement of 5 or more A* - C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (Key Stage 4) (NI 75) (Annual report)					Latest comparator group average	61 (DfE) 2011	Report comparison	Annual	Performance Judgement	æ	R
Unit	Good is	2009	2010		2011								
		Outturn	Target	Outturn	Target	Outturn							
%	High	50	56	54	63	59							
<p>Comment: Provisional 2011 standards have risen substantially for the second year in a row; however the Council's target was not met. It should be noted that schools were expected to set aspirational targets and the Council was required to set a target which did not fall below the aggregated schools' target. The requirement for the Council to set targets for Key Stage 4 has now been withdrawn as the School Improvement Partners that set targets have now been removed. No school falls below the Government's floor standards.</p>													



CS 7		Published Ofsted school and college classifications (New inspections during the quarter are shown by the figure in brackets)							Latest comparator group average	N/A	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	G									
Ofsted category	Unit	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12																			
		Outturn	Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn															
Total	Number of schools	248 (57)	247 (62)	247 (11)	247 (2)	249 (27)																	
Outstanding	Number of schools	56 (10)	63 (11)	64 (1)	64 (0)	67 (4)																	
Good	Number of schools	140 (32)	132 (35)	131 (7)	131 (1)	127 (8)																	
Satisfactory	Number of schools	51 (14)	50 (14)	51 (3)	51 (1)	53 (14)																	
Inadequate	Number of schools	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (1)																	
<p>Comment: During this quarter there have been twenty seven inspections. This included All Saints Academy that was inspected for the first time.</p> <p>Queensbury Upper School was inspected on 13 & 14 October and was judged to require special measures. Action is being taken to move the school towards sponsored academy status. Ministerial approval has been given to sponsorship by CfBT. The school has been re-designated as a red school and the Local Authority Statement of Action has been written and sent to Ofsted.</p> <p>Ashton Middle School was given a Notice to Improve on 9 February 2011. A Local Authority monitoring meeting with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors on 10 November made adjustments to the Local Authority support plan to have a particular focus on enabling the school to become self sustaining, on securing effective leadership of governance and on setting the vision and direction for the school going forward.</p>																							
<p style="text-align: center;">Published Ofsted Inspections (Quarter 3 2011/12)</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Published Ofsted Inspections (Quarter 3 2011/12)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td> <td>67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good</td> <td>127</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Satisfactory</td> <td>53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inadequate</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>														Category	Count	Outstanding	67	Good	127	Satisfactory	53	Inadequate	2
Category	Count																						
Outstanding	67																						
Good	127																						
Satisfactory	53																						
Inadequate	2																						

Final

Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 April 2012
Subject: Budget Management Report Quarter ended 31st December 2011
Report of: Cllr Mark A G Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report sets out the projected full year forecast as at 31st December 2011

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Senior Finance Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. Sound financial management contributes to the delivery of the Council's value for money, enabling the Council to successfully deliver its priorities.
These are:
 - Supporting and caring for an ageing population
 - Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
 - Managing growth effectively
 - Creating safer communities
 - Promoting healthier lifestyles.

Financial:

2. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Legal:

3. Not applicable

Risk Management:

4. Not applicable

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. Any staffing reductions as a result of compensatory efficiencies or grant reductions are being carried out in accordance with the Council's Managing Change Policy and in consultation with the Trade Unions.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. Equality Impact Assessments were undertaken prior to the allocation of the 2010/2011 budgets and each Directorate was advised of significant equality implications relating to their budget proposals. Many of the pressures outlined in this report are in relation to those needs led services which support the most vulnerable children in our communities.

Community Safety:

7. Any savings of efficiency proposals and reduction in grant that remove or change the level of service provided may have an impact on the community safety priorities and potentially result in an increase in crime, anti social behaviour, fear of crime and public confidence.

Sustainability:

8. Not applicable.

Procurement:

9. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:-

1. **Note and consider this report.**

Introduction and Key Highlights (Appendices A2)

10. Children's Services annual expenditure budget is £68.9M and income budget, including transport, is £33.4M which leaves a net expenditure budget of £35.5M. The full year projected outturn position for quarter three 2011/12 is £1.362M under spend. Quarter two reported an underspend of £0.167M, a favourable movement of £1.2M. It should be noted that one off contributions of £975K from the Dedicated Schools Grant, with School Forums agreement, has contributed to Children's Services budgets. This contribution has only been possible in 2011/12 due to unspent centrally held DSG set aside for School Redundancies and the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG), that in future years will be paid directly to Schools. The under spend had this contribution not been available would have been £387K.
11. The cumulative budget for December is £26.174M compared to actual spend of £23.229M, below budget by £2.945M. The spend to date variance relates to the profile of education spend through the year, to transport and to the year end forecast under spend.
12. Within Children's Services Operations, the overall forecast variance is an over spend of £575K (£382K quarter two). This pressure is mainly due to additional expensive specialist children placements, increase in leaving care accommodation and the cost of agency workers covering qualified posts. The development of qualified social workers to fill vacancies is an ongoing key activity. This is due to increasing child protection cases, validated against recent national publications of comparable data that social care staffing establishment will need to be further resourced. This has been noted in risk assessments in previous months.
13. Within Learning, Commissioning and Partnerships (LC & P), the overall forecast variance is an under spend of £1.938M (£549K Quarter two). The improvement and variance to Quarter 2 (£1.389M) is mainly due to School Forum's agreement to contribute Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport and a review of transport forecasts in line with schedules provided by Sustainable Communities. In addition posts are being held to allow for early implementation of efficiencies planned for 2012/13.

14. As in previous months there has been an increase in needs led budgets within Child Protection and Looked After Children.

Resources continue to be deployed to address the additional impact of recent OFSTED inspection recommendations about child protection, which increases the need for qualified social workers not only for front line work but to also enhance regulatory quality assurance and to secure a safe level of supervision at team manager level (see section 10).

The number of schools converting to Academy status continues to impact on budgets and budget profiling and work is ongoing to prepare for the required savings on the CCMS (previously known as ICS project).

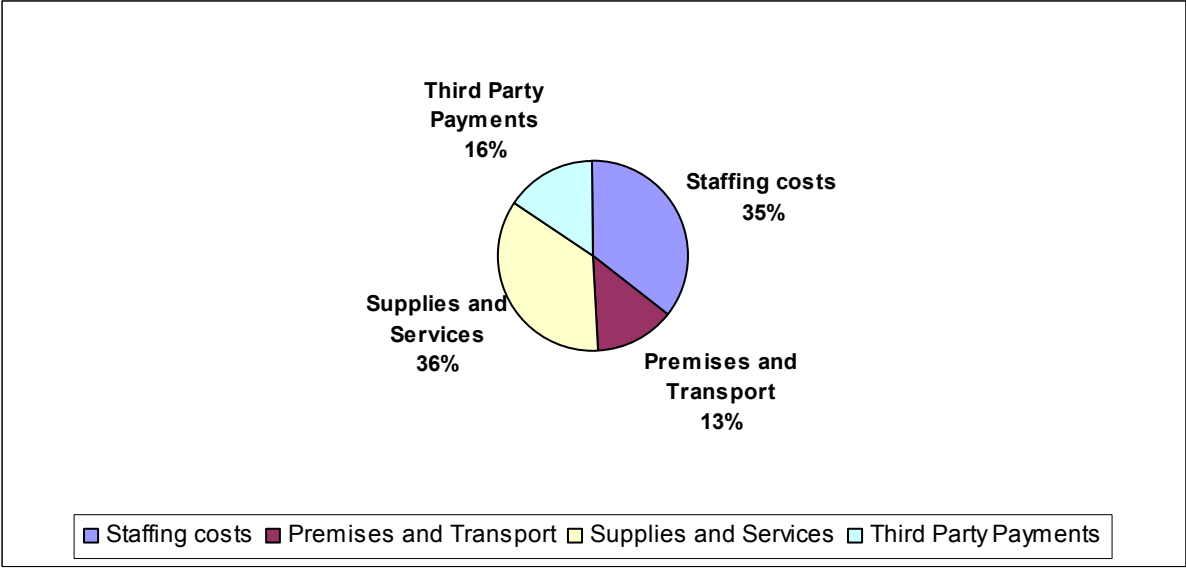
Summary Table A: Directorate Overall position

	Approved Budget	Provisional Outturn Spend for Year	Full Year Forecast Variance (-under)/ over	Full Year Forecast Variance after Reserves (under)/over
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Director CS	300	300	0	0
AD - CSO	20,422	21,010	588	575
AD – LCP	8,037	6,842	(1,194)	(1,538)
Transport	7,935	7,535	(400)	(400)
Partnerships	609	660	52	0
Total (Non Schools)	37,302	36,348	(955)	(1,362)
Schools/ DSG	(1,817)	(1,817)	0	0
Total Director of Children's Services	35,485	34,531	(955)	(1,362)

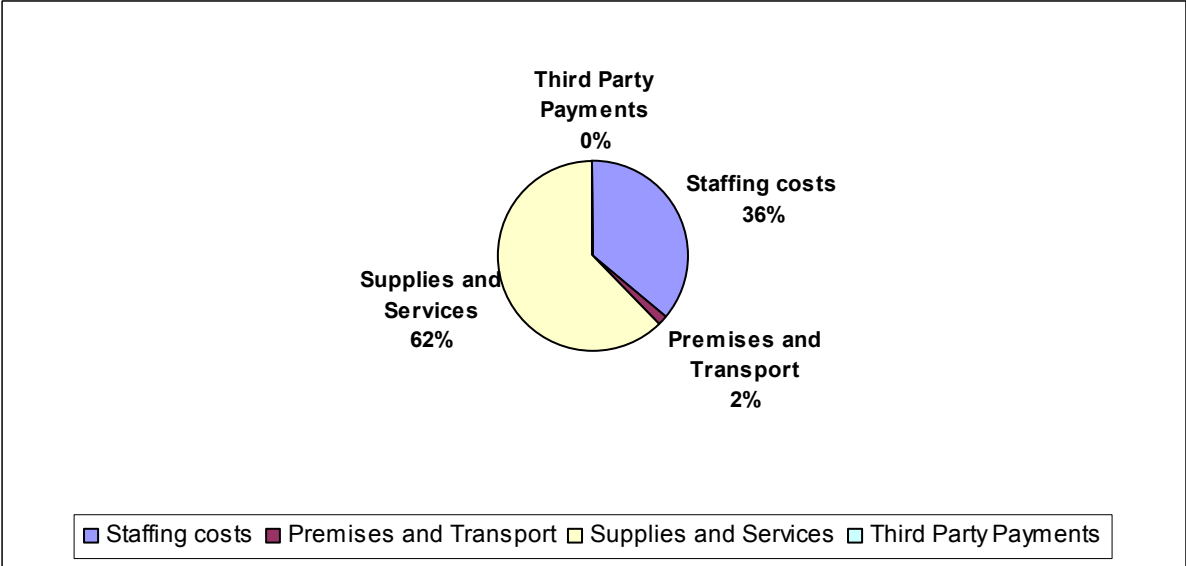
Table B – Subjective Analysis (Based on Forecast Outturn)

Expenditure type (Excluding Schools)	Forecast Outturn excluding Partnerships (Before Reserves) £000	Forecast Outturn Partnerships (Before Reserves) £000
Staffing Costs	24,351	239
Premises and Transport	9,132	11
Supplies and Services	24,278	410
Third Party Payments	10,614	0
Total Expenditure	68,375	660
Income	9,881	0
Grants*	24,623	0
Total Income	34,504	0
Net Expenditure	33,871	660

Subjective Analysis excluding Partnerships



Subjective Analysis - Partnerships Only



Subjective Analysis – Total Income

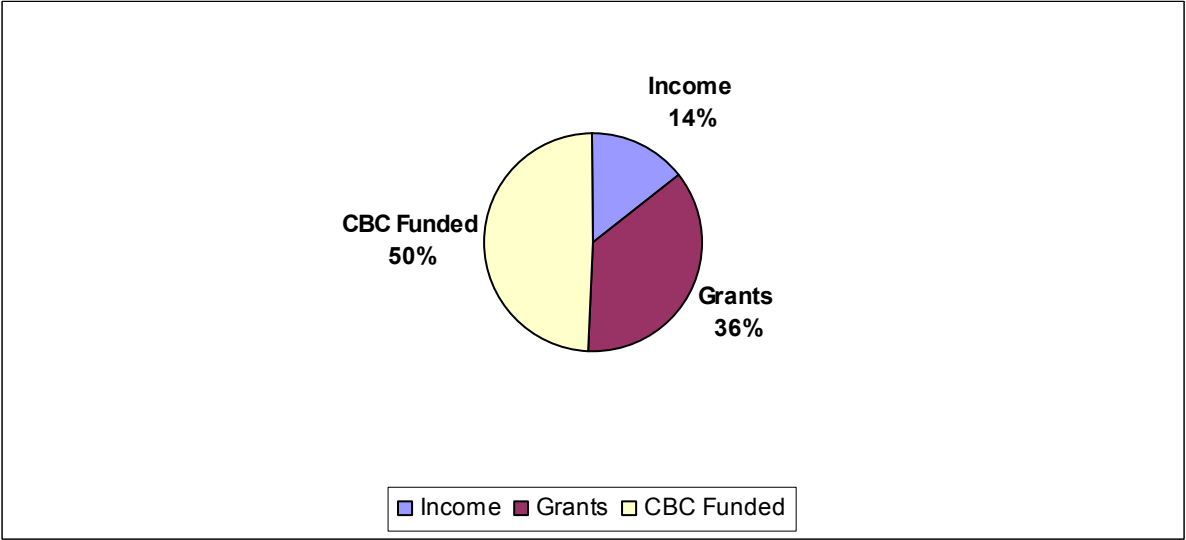


Table C – Grant Analysis

The majority of Grants listed in the table below are ringfenced and have corresponding direct expenditure.

Grant	£000's	Ring fenced / Non ring fenced
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)*	11,496	Ring fenced
Early Intervention Grant	8,933	Non Ring fenced
PFI Grant	1,886	Ring fenced
Asylum Seekers Grant	756	Ring fenced
Music Grant	394	Ring fenced
YPLA Grant	430	Ring fenced
Succession Planning Grant	239	Ring fenced
Pupil Premium (LAC)	34	Ring fenced
Workforce Development Income	165	Income
School ICT Buy Back	118	Income
Children Social Services Income	18	Income
Misc	154	Income
Total Grants*	24,623	

15. The distribution of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is in accordance with The School Finance (England) Regulations 2011 which prescribes in Schedule two the purposes that the LA may hold funding to contribute to central services. The DSG reported in Table C (£11.50M) can be further analysed as below:

	£000's
Special Education Provision	4,456
Special Education Needs Transport	400
DSG Contribution to Central Overheads	1,817*
School Contingency	404
Pupil Referral Unit	1,729
School Individual Budgets	308
14 – 19 Practical Learning	581
Access to Education	562
Academies Statements / Early Years	458
Other School Budgets	328
Advanced Skills Teachers	256
Teachers Unions and Professional Associations	97
Other Expenditure	101
Total	11,496

16. The Central Overheads* that are apportioned to Children's Services at year end are supported by £1.817M of Dedicated Schools Grant. The table below details the central overheads that have been included on Central Bedfordshire's Section 251 Budget Statement for 2011/12 and that DSG will contribute to.

Table D – Budgeted Central Support Overheads

	£000's
Customer Services	1,132
Legal Services	707
Internal Audit	381
ICT	3,427
Risk Management	426
Corporate Finance	662
Business Support	915
Procurement	455
HR	923
Communications	744
Business Transformation	421
Property	1,444
Policy and Performance	650
Office Accommodation to Services	634
Total	12,921

17. Central expenditure must not increase as a proportion of the overall Schools' Budget. This mechanism is known as the Central Expenditure Limit (CEL) and can only be breached in exceptional circumstances and with the specific approval of the Schools' Forum.

Director of Children's Services

18. Full year forecast for the Director is expected to be on budget, there are no significant issues to report.

Children's Services Operations

19. AD Children's Services Operations

AD Children's Services is £61K under spent due to savings in salary costs and discretionary spend. Children and adolescent mental health budget is now included under the AD reporting.

20. Child Protection & Children In Care

Full year forecast is £1,014K over budget, an increase from £592K in quarter two. Although there has been an increase due to additional specialist children placements and the level of agency workers required currently to cover qualified social worker posts, this has been offset by savings from the closure of a children's home. The development of qualified social workers continues to be supported. The Asylum budget is currently under budget but it is recognised that it is difficult to monitor given the unpredictability of service user numbers and challenges of the Home Office Grant processes. The retendering of High Level Family Support commissions has also offset pressures. The vulnerability and volatility of these needs-led budgets is well managed, with budget risks being addressed as soon as they occur. It is recognised that potential demand on external contracts including residential provision and supervised contact may generate a pressure in this area.

21. Children with Disabilities Service

Full year forecast is £411K under budget (£70K under budget in quarter two), this is due to Short Break expenditure being charged against the Early Intervention Grant to release core budget and additional CWD respite recharge income. Work is ongoing around short breaks for disabled children and the costs are being profiled to ensure the authority is in line with new legislation and guidance.

22. Quality Assurance CRS Service

Full year forecast is currently £3K over budget, a marginal change from quarter two. However the increased numbers of Looked after children and children subject to child protection plans will require increased review manager capacity (£150K) to ensure the service remains statutorily compliant and will be managed within existing budget provision.

23. Fostering & Adoption Service

Full year forecast is £144K over spend (£18K over spend quarter two). Pressure in the Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) budget of £290K has arisen due to new legislation and guidance which precludes the use of in house carers outside their approvals. This has resulted in children being placed in IFA much earlier. Costs have been offset by the corresponding savings in 'In House' carers that cannot be used for placements of a child in an emergency or outside their approvals, which amounts to £88K.

These pressures have been partially offset by savings made in other demand led budgets within Fostering and Adoption and in particular Youth Carer Fees.

24. Local Safeguarding Children's Board

Full year forecast is currently on budget (no change to quarter two).

25. Early Intervention and Prevention

Full year forecast is £115K under budget (a marginal change from quarter two). This will align to the base budget build saving for the parenting service.

Learning, Commissioning and Partnerships

26. AD Learning, Commissioning and Partnerships

Full year forecast is £284k under budget (a marginal change from quarter two). This saving has arisen mainly due to contributions from DSG, with School Forum agreement to fund the Academy recoupment process, releasing council funds. Actual spend to date is currently under budget in line with the forecast under spend.

27. Children's Services Commissioning/Youth Service

Full year forecast is £77K under budget (£62K in quarter two). This is mainly due to salary savings as a result of vacancies held against anticipated pressures and budget reductions in 2012/13.

28. School Support Service

Full year forecast is £324K under budget (£222K under budget in quarter two). This saving has arisen due to contributions from DSG, with School Forum agreement to contribute to Out of County placements, releasing council funds. Pressures may emerge in 2011/12 from the re-commissioning of the PRU. It is anticipated that Bedford Borough will pass over the DSG related to Central Bedfordshire's sole registered pupils as at census date (January 2011). SEN Recoupment remains a concern as disputes on charging levels with Bedford are not resolved.

The variance of spend to date relates to the profile of education spend through the year which is not linear.

29. Other School Budgets

The full year forecast is currently on budget following a use of reserves of £73K. There is no pressure to arise from this area as these budgets are fully funded by the DSG in agreement with School Forum.

30. Partnerships and Workforce Development

Full year forecast position reflects a £532K under spend (£245K under spend quarter two). The under spend is due to the savings associated with one off discretionary spend from 2010/11 (£245K) held to provide for further pressures in Child Protection and Children in Care (see paragraph 20) and savings attributable to the restructure of the service that will contribute to the 12/13 efficiencies. A required increase in social care establishment will be funded in year from savings within this area.

31. School Improvement

Full year forecast is £171K under spend. (£100K under spend quarter two). This has been made possible due to held vacancies. It may be possible to implement the savings planned for this team in 2013/2014 in the next financial year.

The variance of spend to date relates to the profile of education spend through the year which is not linear and the year end forecast under spend.

32. Standards Fund

The Standards Fund budgets managed by School Improvement were fully spent by the 31st August 2011 in line with grant conditions.

33. School Organisation & Capital Planning

The full year forecast reflects an under spend of £76K, an increase from the quarter two under spend of £16K. The expected increase to PFI contributions from Schools, reducing the affordability gap for the council has not arisen causing a £46K pressure. This pressure has arisen due to the corporate removal of the 'Sinking Fund' in previous financial years. This has been offset by savings arising from the ending of the ITEC Services contract reflected in the base budget review (£100K) and savings within Management Support (£21K).

Transport

34. The full year forecast is £400K under spend, a change from quarter two where a forecast of £377K overspend was reported. The variance is due in part (£109K) to the implementation of the Post 16 Transport Policy and the contribution of DSG, with School Forum agreement, to SEN Transport (£400K). This is an area of high risk with a cross cutting efficiency target of £1,054K. Now that transport costs have been reviewed in line with schedules provided by Sustainable Communities a further saving has now been reported.

Partnerships

35. The full year forecast is on budget following a use of reserves of £52K.

Schools

36. The budget allocation of DSG for 2011/12 is the full time equivalent (FTE) number of pupils as at Jan 11 of 37,044 multiplied by the Guaranteed Unit of Funding (GUF) £4,658 to give £172.555M. This amount is adjusted for Academies and has been revised to £146.183M. The allocation is continually revised as Schools convert to academy status during the financial year. The table below represents the distribution of the DSG based on current number of academies as at end of December 2011.

DSG	Academies 2008/12	Revised DSG	Individual Schools Budgets	Central Services
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
172,555	26,372	146,183	134,687	11,496

37. The Revenue carry forward for Schools to 2011/12 is £10.5M a rise of £2.7M from the previous financial year. Schools converting to Academy status will reduce this revenue carry forward to £8.6M. The balance control mechanism has been removed from the Scheme for Financing Schools for 2011/12 and along with the consultation on future funding for schools, may have influenced the increase in school reserves. The Capital reserves fell by £1.6M to £4.4M.
38. There are six agreed licensed deficits in 2011/12 with a value of £350K and a further four under review. Schools have been assessed against a risk matrix highlighting one school currently rated red and of concern.
39. Academy conversions continue with recoupment of DSG currently forecast at £536K. It is anticipated that 53.5% of pupils will be attending Academies by the end of the financial year, 22% currently.

Virements

40. There have been five cross directorate virements in quarter three. The 2% Terms and Conditions reduction of £244K, the transfer into Children's Services of the Partnerships budget of £609K, a temporary virement of £30K to School Organisation and Capital Planning to fund removal costs in Children's Services, a temporary virement to transfer the budget of £17K to fund the Transition Co-ordinator within Adult Services and a temporary virement to transfer the budget of £51K from School Organisation and Capital Planning for an Energy Officer and condition surveys.

Efficiencies (Appendix B)

41. The efficiency target for 2011/12 is £4.971M (including Cross Cutting efficiencies – Transport £1.054M and Procurement £0.037M). As of quarter three, the forecast is on track to deliver the full £4.971M 2011/12 efficiency target. The previously forecast shortfall of £400K relating to the Passenger Transport Review has been met by a compensatory contribution from DSG.

Reserves Position (Appendix C)

42. There is a total proposed use of reserves of £408K, corporate reserves due to redundancy costs account for £283K. Partnerships use of reserves total £52K, Schools Forum £3K and School Specific Contingency £70K.

Debt Management (Appendix E1 and E2)

43. The debt over £10K (Appendix E1) totals £0.693M (£2.056M quarter two), £0.297M of which relates to Bedford Borough.

An additional report is now provided as Appendix E2 detailing the top ten invoices for the directorate.

Appendices:

Appendix A1 Council Revenue Summary Position

Appendix A2 Directorate Position analysed by AD

Appendix A3 Movement since last quarter

Appendix A4 Council Summary – Subjective Analysis

Appendix B Efficiencies

Appendix C Earmarked Reserves

Appendix E1 Debt over £10K

Appendix E2 Top Ten Invoices

Appendix A1

Profit Centre Groups	Director	Month: December 2011					Full Year				
		Budget	Actual	Use of Reserves	Variance	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Proposed use of Earmarked reserves	Forecast Variance after use of earmarked reserves.	
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
	Social Care Health and Housing	40,646	39,695	-675	-1,516	55,701	56,503	802	-1,055	-253	
400.101	Children's Services	26,175	23,610	-381	-2,946	35,485	34,531	-954	-408	-1,362	
	Sustainable Communities	37,991	36,746	-376	-1,620	50,654	51,054	400	-587	-188	
	Corporate Services	20,520	20,285	-744	-979	26,530	27,210	679	-743	-64	
	Contingency and Reserves	-1,406	-1,687	-230	-510	792	1,838	1,046	-230	816	
7800.1011	Corporate Costs	3,801	4,668	0	867	12,086	12,144	58	0	58	
	Total	127,725	123,317	-2,406	-6,704	181,249	183,280	2,031	-3,023	-993	

Funded by:

Council Tax	-27,636	-27,582	0	54	-127,487	-127,487	0	0
Government Grant	-15,676	-15,676	0	0	-53,782	-53,782	0	0
Total Funding	-43,312	-43,258	0	54	-181,268	-181,269	0	0
Balance	84,414	80,059	-2,406	-6,650	-20	2,011	2,031	-993

Month: December 2011	Cumulative to Date				Year				Forecast Variance after use of earmarked reserves. £000	Forecast % of Budget	RAG	Risk	Activity level / Medium/High risk budgets (COMMENTARY)
	Budget	Actual	Use of Reserves	Variance	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Proposed use of Earmarked reserves					
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000					
Director													
Children's Services													
Director of Children's Services	225	183		(42)	300	300	0		0%	green	L		
AD Children's Services Operations	788	619		(169)	1,049	988	(61)		-6%	green	L		
Child Protection and Children in Care	7,206	7,972	(11)	765	9,597	10,612	1,025	(11)	11%	red	H	Needs led, impact of OFSTED report and use of Agency staff	
Children with Disabilities Service	2,523	2,050		(473)	3,356	2,945	(411)		-12%	amber	L		
Quality Assurance CRS	731	688		(44)	970	974	3		0%	amber	L		
Fostering & Adoption Service	3,746	3,907		161	4,984	5,128	144		3%	amber	L		
Local Safeguarding Children's Board	48	39		(9)	63	63	0		0%	green	L		
Early Intervention and Prevention	311	195	(2)	(117)	414	300	(114)	(2)	-28%	amber	L		
Sub Total Children's Services Operations	15,363	15,470	(13)	104	20,422	21,010	588	(13)	3%	amber	H		
AD Learning, Commissioning & Partnerships	766	411		(355)	1,019	734	(284)		-28%	amber	L		
Children's Services Commissioning	321	221		(100)	427	350	(77)		-18%	amber	L		
Youth Service	762	703	(37)	(97)	1,014	977	(37)	(37)	-7%	green	M	Complete service re-design and a move to a mainly commissioned service	
School Support (incl Music)	1,479	509	(229)	(1,199)	1,979	1,884	(95)	(229)	-16%	amber	H	Needs led with children placed on out of county placements. Pupil Referral Unit recommissioned. Music Service rise in fees impacting ability to recover full cost / disaggregation of shared service	
Other School Budgets	0	55	(55)	0	0	73	73	(73)	0%	green	L		
Partnerships and Workforce Development	553	552	(2)	(2)	735	205	(530)	(2)	-72%	amber	L		
School Improvement	1,028	737	(1)	(292)	1,368	1,198	(170)	(1)	-12%	amber	L		
Standards Fund	0	1	(1)	0	0	1	1	(1)	0%	green	L		
School Organisation & Capital Planning	1,123	992		(131)	1,496	1,420	(76)		-5%	green	L		
Sub Total Learning, Commissioning & Partnerships	6,033	4,182	(324)	(2,176)	8,037	6,842	(1,194)	(343)	-19%	amber	L		
Director Children's Services (excl Transport & Schools)	21,611	19,835	(337)	(2,114)	28,759	28,153	(606)	(356)	-3%	green	L		
JSCS - Transport SEN	2,477	1,811		(666)	3,598	3,007	(591)		-16%	amber	H	Cross cutting efficiencies which are at risk	
JSCS - Transport CWD	55	72		17	79	103	23		30%	red	H	Cross cutting efficiencies which are at risk	
JSCS - Transport Looked After Children	165	188		23	240	250	10		4%	amber	H	Cross cutting efficiencies which are at risk	
JSCS - Mainstream Transport	2,772	2,522		(249)	4,019	4,176	157		4%	amber	H	Cross cutting efficiencies which are at risk	
Joint School Commissioning Service (Transport)	5,469	4,593		(876)	7,935	7,535	(400)	0	-5%	green	H		

Month: December 2011	Cumulative to Date				Year							Activity level Medium/High risk budgets (COMMENTARY)	
	Budget	Actual	Use of Reserves	Variance	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Proposed use of Earmarked reserves	Forecast Variance after use of earmarked reserves.	Forecast % of Budget	RAG		Risk
Director	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
Partnerships	456	545	(44)	44	609	660	52	(52)	0	0%	green	L	
Sub Total Children's Services (excluding Schools)	27,537	24,973	(381)	(2,945)	37,302	36,348	(955)	(408)	(1,362)	-4%	green	H	
DSG Contribution to Central Support	(1,363)	(1,363)		0	(1,817)	(1,817)	0		0	0%	green	L	
Director Children's Services (excl Schools)	26,174	23,610	(381)	(2,945)	35,485	34,531	(955)	(408)	(1,362)	-4%	green	L	
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	110,061	110,061		(0)	146,748	146,748	0		0	0%	green	L	
Supported by: YPLA	(9,046)	(9,046)		0	(12,061)	(12,061)	0		0	0%	green	L	
DSG	(101,015)	(101,015)		0	(134,687)	(134,687)	0		0	0%	green	L	
Sub Total Schools	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0%	green	L	
Total Director of Children's Services	26,174	23,610	(381)	(2,945)	35,485	34,531	(955)	(408)	(1,362)	-4%	green	H	
Net Forecast Outturn						34,123							
						408							

Month: December 2011

Director	Variance December	Variance September	Change in Variance	COMMENTARY
	£000	£000	£000	
Children's Services				
Director of Children's Services	0	0	0	
AD Children's Services Operations	(61)	(50)	(11)	
Child Protection and Children In Care	1,014	592	422	
Children with Disabilities Service	(411)	(70)	(341)	
Quality Assurance CRS	3	(2)	5	
Fostering & Adoption Service	144	18	126	
Local Safeguarding Children's Board	0	0	0	
Early Intervention and Prevention	(115)	(106)	(9)	
Sub Total Children's Services Operations	575	382	193	
AD Learning, Commissioning & Partnerships	(284)	(280)	(4)	
Children's Services Commissioning	(77)	(18)	(59)	
Youth Service	(74)	(44)	(30)	
School Support	(324)	(222)	(102)	
Other School Budgets	0	0	(0)	
Partnerships and Workforce Development	(532)	(245)	(287)	
School Improvement	(171)	(101)	(70)	
Standards Fund	0	0	0	
School Organisation & Capital Planning	(76)	(16)	(60)	
Sub Total Learning, Commissioning & Partnerships	(1,538)	(926)	(612)	
Director Children's Services (excl Transport & Schools)	(962)	(544)	(418)	
JSCS - Transport SEN	(591)	400	(991)	
JSCS - Transport CWD	23	0	23	
JSCS - Transport Looked After Children	10	0	10	
JSCS - Mainstream Transport	157	(23)	180	
Joint School Commissioning Service (Transport)	(400)	377	(777)	

Month: December 2011

Director	Variance December	Variance September	Change in Variance	COMMENTARY
	£000	£000	£000	
Partnerships	0	0	0	
Sub Total Children's Services (excluding Schools)	(1,362)	(167)	(1,195)	
DSG Contribution to Central Support	0	0	0	
Director Children's Services (excl Schools)	(1,362)	(167)	(1,195)	
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	0	(0)	0	
Supported by: YPLA	0	0	0	
DSG	0	0	(0)	
Sub Total Schools	0	0	0	
Total Director of Children's Services	(1,362)	(167)	(1,195)	

Appendix A4

Profit Centre Groups	Revenue Subjective analysis December 2011 - Forecast Outturn										Net Costs £000											
	Staffing costs £000	Premises and Transport £000	Supplies and Services £000	Third Party Payments £000	Other £000	Gross Costs £000	Income £000	Grants £000	Total Income £000	Total Income £000												
Director																						
	17,236	870	5,823	66,998	0	90,927	-17,119	-17,500	-34,619												56,308	
Social Care Health and Housing																						
	24,590	9,143	24,687	10,614	0	69,035	-9,881	-24,623	-34,504													34,531
Children's Services																						
	21,003	2,852	8,866	30,123	65	62,910	-9,178	-2,679	-11,857													51,054
Sustainable Communities																						
	25,016	3,331	11,559	-9,993	85,359	113,841	-84,056	-2,608	-86,664													27,177
Corporate Services																						
	10,388	307	2,273	291	0	13,259	-3,557	-396	-3,953													9,307
ACE People																						
	13,971	3,023	9,644	-10,284	83,959	100,313	-80,499	-2,212	-82,711													17,602
ACE Resources																						
	658	1	-358	0	0	301	0	0	0													301
Chief Executive																						
	0	0	2,850	0	1,400	4,250	0	-2,412	-2,412													1,838
Contingency and Reserves																						
	2,643	0	-30	10,935	0	13,548	-1,004	-400	-1,404													12,144
Corporate Costs																						
	90,489	16,196	53,756	108,677	86,825	354,511	-121,237	-50,222	-171,459													183,052
Total Excluding Schools																						

Notes:
 * Equipment, Furniture and Materials, Professional Services, Communication and Computing, Conference Expenses, Grants and Subscriptions
 * Other Government/Local Government Agencies, Payments to contractors
 * Capital Financing, Rent rebates and allowances, Reserves

Targeted Efficiency Savings Monitoring - Summary

Month:

Dec 2011

Updated on : 20/12/11

Service Area	2011/12 Budget £m	Comments (please include here explanations around the current status of the efficiency i.e why it is or is not on target and the full year implications)	Month			Year to date			Full Year		
			Budget £m	Actual £m	Variance	Budget £m	Actual £m	Variance	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance
EFFICIENCIES											
CS4 CSO - Special Educational Needs.	0.128	Disaggregation of shared services	0.011	0.011	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.128	0.128	0.000
CS5 CSO - Remodel the Youth Service.	1.898	Youth Service - staff leaving up to 30th June 2011	0.158	0.181	0.023	1.424	1.354	(0.070)	1.898	1.898	0.000
CS8 CSO Parenting Support.	0.100	New structure to release savings	0.008	0.008	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.000
CS9a Music Service	0.159	disag of shared service and moveto new delivery	0.013	0.013	(0.000)	0.119	0.120	0.001	0.159	0.159	0.000
CS1 Reduction of posts at Head of Service level and in the Learning and Commissioning services part of the directorate	0.915	New structure to release savings	0.076	0.086	0.010	0.686	0.656	(0.030)	0.915	0.915	0.000
CS2 CSO - Education Welfare.	0.200	New structure to release savings	0.017	0.017	0.000	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.200	0.200	0.000
CS3 CSO - Removal of processes that support regulatory activity.	0.100	New structure to release savings	0.008	0.008	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.000
CS6 CSO - Strategic Commissioning of social care placements and interventions.	0.230	Will be met to changes to strategic commissioning and driving down contract costs	0.019	0.019	0.000	0.172	0.173	0.000	0.230	0.230	0.000
CS7 L&SC - Workforce Strategy	0.100	New structure to release savings	0.008	0.008	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.000
Senior Management review	0.050	Last years Senior Management Review - final 2 months of savings	0.004	0.004	0.000	0.037	0.038	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.000
SUB TOTAL	3.880		0.323	0.356	0.033	2.910	2.811	(0.099)	3.880	3.880	0.000
CROSS CUTTING EFFICIENCIES											
Transport - Childrens Services	1.054	Review of all transport services to children to protect most vulnerable.	0.088	0.089	0.001	0.790	0.791	0.001	1.054	1.054	0.000
Procurement	0.037	Reduce spend on Agency staff and other misc initiatives	0.003	0.003	(0.000)	0.028	0.027	(0.000)	0.037	0.037	0.000
SUB TOTAL	1.091		0.091	0.092	0.001	0.818	0.819	0.001	1.091	1.091	0.000
TOTAL	4.971		0.414	0.448	0.034	3.728	3.630	(0.098)	4.971	4.971	0.000

Commentary for EIG Report - to explain latest forecast, key risks, any variances and compensatory savings to plug shortfall:

Children's Services - the CS efficiency target for 2011/12 is £4.971M (including Cross Cutting efficiencies – Transport £1.054M and Procurement £0.037M).

Since the commencement of 2011/2012 financial year progress has been made in all CS efficiencies.

– Youth £1.898M (the largest 2011/2012 efficiency across the council) – the late implementation of arrangements on the new commissioned service and additional resource required for the Big Society agenda have led to a pressure of £475K. This will be mitigated by grant money held for this purpose.

– Reduction of Posts £915K – delay in release of some staff through redundancy to ensure continuity of statutory duties will result in a pressure of £100K to be mitigated by grant money held for this purpose.

– Music Service £159K – this shared service is currently going through a disaggregation process, due for completion at the end of June 2011. Identified pressures will be mitigated by grant money held for this purpose.

– Transport (Cross Cutting) £1.054M – Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been identified to meet this efficiency as SEN Transport can be charged to DSG.

Appendix C

Earmarked Reserves -

Description	Opening Balance 2011/12 £000	Increase in reserves £000	Spend against reserves £000	Release of reserves £000	Proposed Closing Balance 2011/12 £000
Children's Services Reserves					
School Forum	4		3		1
School Specific Contingency	1,062		70		992
Performance Reward Grant	174				174
LSP Sustainable Neighbourhoods	48		28		20
Community Engagement work	6		6		0
Targeted Support for Empowerment Improvement Project	18		18		0
	1,312	0	125	0	1,187
School Reserves					
Revenue 3030050	10,552				10,552
Capital 3030033	4,423				4,423
	14,975	0	0	0	14,975
GRAND TOTAL	16,287	0	125	0	16,162

DATE	NAME OF ACCOUNT	Invoice Number	Amount
17/03/10	Other LA	7010032739	£ 18,683.70
24/03/11	Other LA	7010071145	£ 11,989.40
17/06/11	Other	7010080965	£ 7,750.00
20/07/11	School	7010083571	£ 18,511.00
22/09/11	Other LA	7010088081	£ 48,067.50
15/11/11	Other LA	7010092038	£ 10,286.96
15/11/11	Other LA	7010092035	£ 25,973.38
21/11/11	Other LA	7010092212	£ 15,039.86
28/11/11	Other LA	7010092684	£ 11,684.42
07/12/11	School	7010093561	£ 15,683.00
09/12/11	Other LA	7010093706	£ 20,000.00
13/12/11	School	7010094291	£ 46,962.89
13/12/11	School	7010094290	£ 46,962.89
13/12/11	School	7010094288	£ 60,235.48
13/12/11	School	7010094287	£ 60,235.48
15/12/11	Other LA	7010094375	£ 48,067.50
19/12/11	Other LA	7010095890	£ 19,632.86
19/12/11	Other LA	7010095889	£ 19,039.28
19/12/11	Other LA	7010095888	£ 20,573.92
19/12/11	Other LA	7010095887	£ 59,835.85
29/12/11	School	7010096330	£ 12,942.00
03/01/12	School	7010096371	£ 33,148.66
03/01/12	School	7010096370	£ 61,994.66
			£ 693,300.69
Summary			
	Other LA		£ 328,874.63
	Schools		£ 356,676.06
	Other		£ 7,750.00
			£ 693,300.69

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Final

Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 April 2012
Subject: Capital Budget Management Report Quarter ended 31st December 2011
Report of: Cllr Mark A G Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report sets out the projected full year forecast as at 31st December 2011

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Senior Finance Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. Sound financial management contributes to the delivery of the Council's value for money, enabling the Council to successfully deliver its priorities.
These are:
 - Supporting and caring for an ageing population
 - Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
 - Managing growth effectively
 - Creating safer communities
 - Promoting healthier lifestyles.

Financial:

2. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Legal:

3. Not applicable

Risk Management:

4. Not applicable

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. Any staffing reductions as a result of compensatory efficiencies or grant reductions are being carried out in accordance with the Council's Managing Change Policy and in consultation with the Trade Unions.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. Equality Impact Assessments were undertaken prior to the allocation of the 2010/2011 budgets and each Directorate was advised of significant equality implications relating to their budget proposals. Many of the pressures outlined in this report are in relation to those needs led services which support the most vulnerable children in our communities.

Community Safety:

7. Any savings of efficiency proposals and reduction in grant that remove or change the level of service provided may have an impact on the community safety priorities and potentially result in an increase in crime, anti social behaviour, fear of crime and public confidence.

Sustainability:

8. Not applicable.

Procurement:

9. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:-

1. **Note and consider this report.**

Introduction and Key Highlights (Appendices A1)

10. Children's Services revised annual capital expenditure budget is currently £30.75M and income budget is £27.99M which leaves a net expenditure capital budget of £2.76M. Partnerships capital budget is £86K and income budget is £86K, giving a zero net expenditure capital budget.
11. The full year projected outturn position for 2011/12 is an overspend of £173K. £289K on Schools Access Initiative (previously slipping in the capital review by £439K, now expected to under spend £150K of the £439K slippage) offset by under spend of £116K against the revised capital programme, (£85K on Arnold Middle School and £31K on Holmemead). The review of the capital programme that took place in August was approved by the Executive on the 15th November 2011.
12. The major capital budgets have been profiled in December. The actual spend to date is a slight overspend on the net profiled budget.
13. There are no new major projects for 2011/12 or uncontrolled key risks to highlight.
14. The Roecroft School project was handed over on 11 October and was part funded by £2M of the Basic Need grant, releasing the Council contribution to the scheme.

Summary Table: Directorate Overall position (Appendices A1)

	Net Budget	Profiled Net Budget YTD	Net Spend to Date	Variance to date (-under)/overspend	Net Full Year Forecast Variance (-under)/overspend
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children Services	2,765	1,203	1,593	390	173
Partnerships	0	0	(86)	(86)	0

Capital Position – exception reporting

15. Etonbury Middle School

This project is mostly funded by Section 106 funding with £781K of these works slipping into 2012/13. The breakdown of the projected spend for the remainder of 2011/12 is to be established by the current feasibility study that is underway.

16. Tithe Farm Lower

The project has made a series of improvements to the school's accommodation and site and was handed over in July. This was shortly before a second project concentrating on several condition elements commenced at the start of the school summer holiday which is now largely completed.

17. Schools Access Initiative

The programme enables the Council to meet its statutory obligations to enable pupils with disabilities to attend local schools. Schools are invited to apply for funding and a further batch of commitments were agreed at the November meeting. A potential under spend of £150K is currently forecast for this financial year.

18. Schools Capital Maintenance (formerly New Deal for Schools)

The 11/12 programme was agreed in March 2011 and the total estimated cost of works is £5.2M, the remainder of the budget allocated for fees, capitalised salaries and contingency. Of 51 approved projects within the original programme, 21 are now complete with a further 18 contractually committed and underway. The remainder are at tender stage or are subject of further technical detail to define the extent of works required.

The project is externally funded by DfE grant but does require schools to contribute to the cost of works, as set out in a formula contained within the Scheme for Financing Schools. These contributions are invoiced once planned works are complete.

The programme is currently forecast to be completed within the financial year, although there is no expenditure deadline on the grant itself. The 12/13 programme is being drafted but with a much reduced funding envelope of £3.4M as a result of Academy capital held centrally.

19. Basic Need

This grant funding is to enable management of pressures related to population growth and capacity within our schools and has in part funded Roecroft Lower School by £2M. Central Bedfordshire has been allocated a further £730K on the original allocation for 2011/12 of £9.7M and this will be added to the programme. Following the capital review, £8.321M will slip into 2012/13 whilst feasibility studies are carried out. There is no expenditure deadline on this grant. DfE capital announcements for 12/13 included £5.8M of basic need funding for Central Bedfordshire. This is a significant reduction on the 11/12 allocation as a result of changes in DfE methodology. A report is being drafted for March Executive that will outline a programme to commission new school places over the next five years. This programme will drive the expenditure of basic need grant and will also align S106 contributions that are being collected for major projects.

20. Roecroft Lower School

Due to delays caused by last winter's severe weather, the new school opened on 1 November 2011. Financially the project remains within its programme provision, funded externally by DfE grants and Section 106 income.

21. Temporary Accommodation

This funding covers planning renewal fees for existing temporary units and provides funding for additional school accommodation fulfilling a temporary demand. The total budget, which includes an additional amount of £183K Section 106 funding, is forecast to be fully spent.

22. All Saints Academy

The project is mid way through its construction phase.

During the summer 2011 period early construction work brought to light asbestos in the current building, not included in the earlier surveys undertaken, predominantly in a hall-floor and sealed external heating ducts. Under the terms of the Partnerships for Schools' model contract, the responsibility for removal lies with the Council, not the design and build contractor. Further surveys of the buildings which will be demolished in 2012 has better quantified the risk, which is being dealt with within the existing contract sum through value engineering, agreed with the Academy and Sponsors and a further, small contingency has been created in case further asbestos is discovered during the final demolition works on the site. All material has/will be removed by specialist sub-contractors.

Accordingly, the project risk register has been updated in the light of newer information and the situation is being monitored during the lifetime of the construction contract.

The project is externally funded by DfE, other than a commitment given by the Council's Executive to contribute £300k of its own capital over the lifetime of the project to the cost of site surveys, project management and CDM costs. The project is not reliant on other third party income.

The new school is expected to be open from September 2012.

23. Asbestos / Health & Safety

A series of asbestos management surveys is underway, building on the work undertaken in 10/11 with removal and reinstatement work prioritised on the basis of risk.

24. School Devolved Formula Capital

The allocation to Schools is for use on capital condition / improvement works on their buildings in line with the priorities in their School Improvement Plan and in context with the Schools Asset Management Plan. The schools have three years to spend the funds and are deemed spent for this purpose of reporting. A provisional announcement of the funding for Devolved Formula Capital for 2012/13 has been made and this will be confirmed in April 2012.

25. Short Breaks - Aiming High Disabled Children (AHDC)

Approval has been obtained from Partnerships for Schools for the original grant of £183K that was allocated for the co-location of the Council's Youth Support Services with front line delivery services from the third sector in Dunstable and Houghton Regis to be reallocated to complete the existing AHDC East Beds Family project. This amount is fully committed in year.

AHDC capital allocation for 2011/12 was announced in June of £166K and will be spent this year, as is the requirement, following approval of CSMT.

26. Integrated Children's Systems (ICS) & Electronic Social Care Record (ESCR) & Various Children's ICT projects unfunded by 'Your Space'

£400K has been vired to Corporate ICT to fund ICS. Approval of the business case for the £100K balance is awaited.

27. Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) & Local Area Agreement (LAA)

This funding belongs to the Central Bedfordshire Together partnership (CBT) and the Council holds this for administrative purposes. How it is spent rests with the CBT. The CBT has so far allocated a total of £212K and it is anticipated that £1,135K will be carried forward into 2012/13.

Appendices:

Appendix A1 Directorate Overall position

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/2012
2011/12 Capital Programme
Children's Services

Title and Description of the Scheme	Category	Revised Capital Programme-Approved by Executive 15th November 2011				Full Year Forecast				Full Year Variance				Over / under spend				Slippage after the Capital Programme Review to 2012/13				December 2011				Commentary (Reason for variance)	
		Gross Expenditure		Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure		Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure		Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure		Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure		Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure		Net Expenditure			
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s		£000s
Eltonbury Middle School additional places in response to recent housing places in the area, subject to the approved S166 planning obligations funding.	A	167	(167)	0	82	-82	0	82	0	(85)	85	0	(85)	85	0	(85)	85	0	22	(20)	2	22	(20)	2	0	0	No spend expected in 2011. Anticipated 2011/12 slippage increased from £898k to £78k into 2012/13. (Dec)
Time Farm Lower The use of Primary Capital Funding to transform the "tired" and unsuitable accommodation at Time Farm Lower School into a new school building, providing accommodation fit to meet the needs of teaching and Learning.	A	942	(942)	0	942	(942)	0	942	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	852	(852)	0	852	(852)	0	0	0	Payments due to cease in August with retention due of £242k
There is to enable the Council to take the Statutory duty on the Council to have an agreed accessibility strategy to enable local pupils to attend local schools.	B	333	0	333	622	0	622	289	0	289	439	(160)	439	0	289	289	0	289	289	0	289	(29)	0	(29)	0	£150k underspend now expected in 2011/12.	
The project will meet the needs, first identified in 2003, to improve the administration and music facilities for Arnold Primary School. The project will also be the replacement of the School to 600 person School for Schools Modernisation (Formerly New Deal for Schools Modernisation).	C	343	13	356	258	13	271	(85)	0	(85)	46	(85)	46	0	258	13	271	241	0	241	(17)	(13)	(13)	0	(30)	£150k underspend now expected in 2011/12.	
Modernisation funding is currently the only funding stream available to meet the priority Repair and Maintenance needs across the schools estate. It would also be expected to be.	A	7,804	(6,993)	811	7,804	(6,993)	811	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,660	(3,660)	170	3,660	3,660	(3,660)	170	0	0	0	0	0	Slippage estimated at £5,327k	
The funding is given to enable us to manage the pressures of population growth by providing new permanent capacity in our school areas.	A	750	(750)	0	200	(200)	0	(650)	550	0	0	0	0	34	(34)	0	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
This project is to provide Rookcroft Lower School in stafford with a new school on a new site from sept 2011, in response to increased population from the local growth in the area.	A	5,867	(5,867)	0	5,967	(5,967)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,967	(5,967)	0	2,871	2,871	(2,871)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Temporary Accommodation The purpose of this rolling programme is to provide temporary accommodation for short term accommodation needs as a result of increased intakes into schools or as a result of organisational changes to meet KS1 Leaps size list.	C	662	0	662	735	(183)	662	183	(183)	0	0	0	0	0	265	(183)	82	299	(183)	116	34	0	0	0	0	0	addn Section 106 funding of £183k brings budget available up to £735k with full expenditure
All Saints Academy The project includes the rebuild and modernisation of All Saints Academy comprising of the former Northfields Technology College, now All Saints Academy, Dunstable, as part of the previous Governments Academy programme.	B	11,604	(11,456)	148	11,604	(11,456)	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,004	(7,004)	0	7,004	7,004	(7,004)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Project will spend about £11.6m all from external funding
Teaching Learning Practical Food Skills at Gilbert Ingfield and Parkfields Middle Schools are to be provided with a new purpose-built practical Food room. The new facilities will enable the Scho.	B	231	(199)	32	231	(199)	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	231	(199)	32	211	211	(76)	135	(20)	123	103	0	0		
Addressing Health & Safety The project includes the removal of schools and various Health & Safety related improvements including a programme of fire alarm upgrades in schools, gas safety shut off systems in school kitchens, electrical safety issues, glazing.	B	322	0	322	322	0	322	0	0	0	0	0	0	222	(19)	203	222	222	(19)	203	0	0	0	0	0	0	
This funding is for capital to meet on capital condition / improvement work on their buildings in line with the priorities in their School Improvement Plan (SIP) and within the context of the School's Asset Management Plan.	A	938	(938)	0	938	(938)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	938	(938)	0	930	930	(930)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Children's Centres (Grant: Sure Start)		114	(114)	0	114	-114	0	0	0	0	0	90	(90)	0	230	136	366	140	228	366	
A	Grants - Non-School Children's Centres projects: 8 new phase 3 centres, major extension to a phase 2 centre (Maple Tree Lower School), improvements to 2 phase two centres.	0	(114)	0	114	-114	0	0	0	0	0	0	(90)	0	230	136	366	140	228	366	
A	A small proportion of the grant is directed to the Kingsland PRU. This is ring fenced capital funding which is provided through the Sure Start Grant. It is specifically to support the transformation of services to disabled children and their families, in particular the provision of short term services to disabled children and their families.	349	(349)	0	349	-349	0	0	0	0	0	220	(120)	100	220	(120)	100	0	0	0	
A	Standards Fund for Extended Schools	110	(110)	0	110	-110	0	0	0	0	0	110	(110)	0	0	0	0	(110)	110	0	
C	A new preschool at Maple Tree Lower School. Funding has been withdrawn to fund a new preschool at Kingsland PRU. CBC Homestead School ASD Provision	50	0	50	19	0	(31)	0	(31)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	(1)	
n/a	The re-provisioning of the Library and ICT Suite in new build attached to the Sports Centre. The new provision will be a library and ICT Suite to become the ASD Provision and ancil.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
n/a	Youth Capital Fund - Non-School Performance facilities for young people and sports equipment to enable positive activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
D	Various Children's ICT projects unfunded by the Youngspace programme including: Training Manager Pro, Candidate Achievement system, Show, Dig, and various other projects. Includes the collection of census data directly from early years (EY) set	100	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
A	Caddington Village School	0	(13)	0	0	-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	(13)	0	17	0	17	17	0	0	
D	Improvements to School Kitchens	14	0	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	14	148	7	165	134	7	141	
D	Skills Phase 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
D	ESK Education Project Donaghy	47	0	47	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	17	0	0	17	(13)	0	(13)	
D	Oakbank Specialist School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
D	Hilcrest Specialist School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
D	Children's Services s108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
A	St. Swinburne	0	0	0	82	(82)	0	82	(82)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
A	Kingsland PRU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	(409)	(264)	145	(409)	(264)	
Total Children's Families and Learning-Schools		30,750	(27,885)	2,765	30,533	(27,615)	2,938	(197)	370	173	(266)	20,423	(19,226)	1,203	17,759	(16,166)	1,593	(2,670)	3,060	390	0
A	LPSA & LAA Grant Leavout The funding is award grant based on the performance of the school and targets agreed with central government via the regional office.	86	(86)	0	130	(130)	0	44	(44)	0	0	86	(86)	0	0	(86)	(86)	(86)	0	(86)	
Total Corporate Costs		86	(86)	0	130	(130)	0	44	(44)	0	0	86	(86)	0	0	(86)	(86)	(86)	0	(86)	

Meeting: Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 April 2012
Subject: Draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report provides information on the publication of the draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the draft Children's Executive Summary for comment.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Karen Oellermann, Head of Partnerships, Performance and Workforce Development
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is a process that identifies the current and future health and wellbeing needs of a local population and leads to agreed commissioning priorities that will improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities. It therefore supports the Council in achieving the following priorities:
 - Supporting and caring for an ageing population
 - Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
 - Managing growth effectively
 - Creating safer communities
 - Promoting healthier lifestyles.

Financial:

2. There are no financial implications to this report; however the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will provide the key evidence to support future commissioning priorities.

Legal:

4. The production of the JSNA is an existing statutory duty which currently rests with local authorities and Primary Care Trusts. From April 2013, local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups will have equal and explicit obligations to prepare a JSNA, and this duty will be discharged by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Risk Management:

5. Not applicable.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. Not Applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
8. One of the aims of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is to improve outcomes and to reduce health inequalities. As such the evidence provided for the JSNA does include analyses of data that points to key inequalities that need to be prioritised in future commissions and service delivery.

Public Health

9. The aim of the JSNA is to identify the current and future health and wellbeing needs of a local population and leads to commissioning priorities that will improve public health outcomes.

Community Safety:

10. Community Safety issues can have an impact on the health and wellbeing of the local population, and vice versa, and as such analysis of these issues is included in the JSNA e.g. domestic abuse, youth offending. Where the JSNA identifies areas where additional support or services are required, as part of its statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, the Council will need to identify how it will respond to the needs identified to mitigate any negative impact on community safety.

Sustainability:

11. Not Applicable.

Procurement:

12. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to:-

- 1. Note that the draft JSNA is in development.**
- 2. Comment on the draft Children's Executive Summary of the JSNA.**

Background

13. There is a statutory duty to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and from April 2013 this will be discharged by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
14. The Government's planned changes to the health and social care services see the JSNA positioned within Health and Wellbeing Strategies and owned by Health and Wellbeing Boards.
15. Draft guidance published in January (*Draft Guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies*) states that it is important to build upon progress and establish JSNAs as a fundamental part of the planning and commissioning cycle at a local level.
16. The JSNA is a process that identifies the current and future health and wellbeing needs of a local population and which leads to agreed commissioning priorities that will improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities. Specifically, the JSNA is a tool to identify groups where needs are not being met and that are experiencing poor outcomes.
17. Whilst the JSNA has a key function in relation to the new Health and Wellbeing Strategies which Councils are required to be developed, it has also played an important role in the development of the Children and Young People's Plan and continues to provide an evidence base which feeds into the annual refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Central Bedfordshire JSNA

18. Due to the length of the draft chapters, the key Children's section of the JSNA is available to view online at www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk. Draft chapters can be found by clicking on the 'Needs Assessment' tab on the left.
19. Attached at Appendix A is the draft Executive Summary of the JSNA/Children's section for Members to review and comment on.

Conclusion and Next Steps

20. The draft JSNA is currently being reviewed by key stakeholders and following this period of feedback during March and April it will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 10 May 2012 to consider and agree.
21. The Annual report and refresh of the Children and Young People's plan, which is due to be reported to the Children's Trust in May, will reflect the priorities in the JSNA.
22. As in previous years, the Annual report of the Children and Young People's plan will be reported to Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny over the Summer.

Appendices:

Appendix A – JSNA Executive Summary (Children's)

Background papers and their location: None

Draft Children's JSNA Executive Summary

The chapters of the Children's JSNA illustrate the range of interrelated factors which influence and determine children's health, wellbeing and life chances. Deprivation, education, family and health are all closely interlinked and for this reason the CYPP's structure has been used here to describe the findings for Central Bedfordshire.

When reading through the chapters there are some common themes.

- In general when you look at the whole population of children in Central Bedfordshire outcomes on average, with a couple of notable exceptions, are fairly good.
- However, this masks variation across Central Bedfordshire and there appears to be a clustering of issues in areas of higher deprivation and in the most vulnerable groups of children.
- The demands on children's services are going to increase with the numbers of children increasing and the likely effects of the economic downturn.
- There are clear intergenerational patterns of health which require a family approach, and an seamless services across child and adult services to break.
- There is some strong evidence for the cost effectiveness of prevention and early intervention work in some areas (smoking cessation, sexual health), but very limited evidence in others (obesity).

PRIORITY 1. Helping children and young people achieve more and transforming our relationship with schools

Areas of need

- Achievement at Key Stage 2 is 8% below the national average and Central Bedfordshire is ranked last when compared to statistical neighbours.
- Deprivation is well known to have an impact on a pupil's attainment at school. Assessment at Key Stage 1 (7 year olds) shows that nationally Free School Meal pupils are on average 2 terms behind the attainment of their peers. For pupils living in Central Bedfordshire that difference is nearly a whole year.

Inequalities identified

- There are inequality gaps in achievement for Looked After Children, Gypsy/Roma and travellers of Irish Heritage, those from a Black Caribbean background, pupils eligible for a free school meal and those with statements of Special Education Needs.
- Children who grow up in a low income household are more likely than others to become unemployed and to do low paid jobs – there is evidence of an intergenerational cycle of poverty
- Young people in rural areas do not have the same opportunities to access transport as those in towns and larger villages. This is a significant pressure on young people looking to access post 16 education or training
- There is a need to ensure volunteering opportunities are accessible to vulnerable young people including those who are looked after and those in the youth offending system.

Major demographic changes which will impact upon demand for future services

- With an average of 2,000 new homes expected to be completed each year over the next ten years, forecasts for school planning show an increase in numbers each year with an increase in pre-school numbers and an increase in post-16.

Areas where the evidence base shows that action now will impact upon demand at a later point

- Certain lower schools in areas of demographic growth are now full and children are being allocated places at the next nearest school with spaces available, often a rural school. This is increasing the number of pupils of lower school age for whom the Council must provide transport.
- Consultation has identified further improvements such as increasing activities and opportunities for teenagers with disabilities including those designed to develop life skills and independence.

- The Government as part of its Positive for Youth Policy is likely to announce an expectation that local authorities will recruit and train young people to undertake audits of services being provided for them. Actions identified in our JSNA include the recruitment and training of young people to audit services.

PRIORITY 2. Protecting children and keeping them safe

Areas of need

- 68% of young carers are bullied and 27% have educational difficulties which increase to 40% if the young person is caring for someone who misuses drugs and alcohol.
- Children are present at a significantly high proportion of domestic abuse incidents.

Inequalities identified

- Health issues in young people who offend are prevalent, and frequently undiagnosed as a result of the chaotic lifestyles of the young person and their wider family.
- A growing number of young children are now subject to Child Protection Plans.
- While everyone is susceptible to obesity, levels are disproportionately higher in the lower socio-demographic, socially disadvantaged groups and some ethnic groups. Obesity is almost 4 times more common in Asian children than white children.
- Sexual health problems affect all age groups, ethnicities and gender, however, those most at risk include young people, and vulnerable groups such as; black and minority ethnic groups(BME), men who have sex with men(MSM) and sex workers.

Major demographic changes which will impact upon demand for future services

- A growing population (combined with an economic downturn) could result in an increase in domestic abuse, placing greater demand on services and resources.
- ***Historically the prevalence of obesity and mental health problems increases in times of economic downturn.***

Areas where the evidence base shows that action now will impact upon demand at a later point

- For children who are looked after, there is a need for more placement choice and also provision for adolescents and children with significant emotional or behaviour needs
- There is a need to continue to tailor support for children present at domestic abuse incidents – with specialist training for officers.
- Action is required to break inter-generational paths to alcohol dependency through the delivery of family based interventions.
- The uptake of seasonal flu vaccination by pregnant women has remained low. Variation in uptake between GP practices is very wide, indicating potential inequity in service provision, but potential causes of this variation need to be established.
- Parenting support is needed for parents of children aged 14+ with challenging behaviour and additionally those young people displaying violence towards their parents.

PRIORITY 3. Reducing child poverty and the effects of those living in poverty and improving early intervention and prevention

Areas of need

- (suggest taking this out as actual rates on unintentional and deliberate injuries are low and therefore the overall problem small)Whilst there is clearly a concentration of poverty and deprivation across the areas within Dunstable and Houghton Regis there is no ward in Central Bedfordshire which does not have some child poverty and levels of deprivation.

Inequalities Identified

- By the age of six, a less able child from a rich family is likely to have overtaken a more able child from a poor family.

Major demographic changes which will impact upon demand for future services

- Young people and women have particularly suffered as a result of the recession, with rising levels of unemployment in these groups.

Areas where the evidence base shows that action now will impact upon demand at a later point

- Child Poverty Strategy 'From Poverty to Prosperity: A Strategy to Reduce Child Poverty and alleviate its effects in Central Bedfordshire' has been adopted. There are 4 main priorities (with both immediate actions and medium term to be identified) concerning getting families working; accessing income whilst seeking work; early Intervention to raise aspirations and improving health and well-being for children and families in poverty.
- Performance in relation to young people not in education, employment or training is good, however there is a lack of vocational education opportunities, including apprenticeships, and young people need numeracy and literacy skills to be able to progress into the world of work. There are too few opportunities for young people to learn these skills in an applied way.

PRIORITY 4. Targeting the most deprived areas and vulnerable groups to improve children's emotional and physical health

Areas of greatest need

- The number of women breastfeeding and smoking at time of delivery is higher in central Bedfordshire when compared with similar populations. Within this initiation and duration rates for breastfeeding are lowest amongst families from lower socio-economic groups, those with low educational achievement, and teenage mothers, who are half as likely as older mothers to initiate breastfeeding. Lower rates in these groups result in poorer health outcomes for the mother and child, adding to inequalities in health and continuing the cycle of deprivation.

Inequalities Identified

- Socially disadvantaged children experience disproportionately high levels of dental disease. Children and adults with special care requirements are also more likely to have teeth affected by dental decay.
- Children and young people who are already disadvantaged have an increased risk of teenage pregnancy. The links between teenage pregnancy, deprivation and poverty are inextricable with each of the teenage pregnancy hotspot wards falling within the 20% most deprived in the Central Bedfordshire area.
- Some children are more vulnerable to mental illness including children who have one or a number of factors in the following domains: low income households/parents who are unemployed, looked after children, disabilities, Black and other ethnic minority, lesbian/gay/bisexual or transgender, those in the criminal justice system, those who have a parent with mental health problems, refugees and asylum seekers, gypsy and other traveller communities.
- The number of children who are obese, come from families where a parent smokes, and or have a parent with a mental health problem are higher in the most deprived areas.

Major demographic changes which will impact upon demand for future services

- There will be increasing demands on health and social care because of the growing population of children in Central Bedfordshire and the likely effects of the economic downturn on health and wellbeing.,

Areas where the evidence base shows that action now will impact upon demand at a later point

- Increasing the focus on all the opportunities for early intervention in mental health issues, such as recognising eating disorders early on, diagnosing and treating postnatal depression consistently, providing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to behaviour problems and focused support for looked after children.
- Prevention work with vulnerable children has been shown to be cost effective in preventing later alcohol issues.
- Similarly there is good evidence that work to support improving aspirations and opportunities for education, employment and training can reduce teenage pregnancy.

- There is a need to support a significant increase in the places available in day care providers and child minders (particularly in our most disadvantaged areas) in order to extend the offer of 15 hours of free early education a week for disadvantaged two year olds. This equates to approximately 500 two year olds from September 2013 rising to 1,000 in September 2014.
- The problem of substance misuse among certain groups of the population including young people, together with their treatment needs and engagement with services, is not fully understood locally.

Meeting: Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 17 April 2012
Subject: Work Programme 2012 – 2013 & Executive Forward Plan
Report of: Chief Executive
Summary: The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

Contact Officer: Bernard Carter, Corporate Policy & Scrutiny Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The work programme of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities.

Financial:

n/a

Legal:

n/a

Risk Management:

n/a

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

n/a

Equalities/Human Rights:

n/a

Community Safety:

n/a

Sustainability:

n/a

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. **that the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
 - (a) **considers and approves the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;**
 - (b) **considers the Executive Forward Plan; and**
 - (c) **considers whether it wishes to add any further items to the work programme and/or establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items.**

Work Programme

1. Attached at Appendix A is the currently drafted work programme for the Committee.
2. Also attached at Appendix B is the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan so that Overview & Scrutiny Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. Those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference are shaded in light grey.
3. The Committee is now requested to consider the work programme attached and amend or add to it as necessary. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

Task Forces

4. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members may also wish to consider how each item will be reviewed i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

Conclusion

5. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendments/additions they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they may wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work.

Work Programme for Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2012 - 2013

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
1.	17 April 2012	Children's Social Care	To receive a presentation regarding the implications of the Munro Review of Children's Social Care	
		Medium Term Objectives	To consider the Council's draft Medium Term Objectives relating to Children's Services.	
		Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the third quarter of 2011/12	
		Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring	To consider the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2011/12	
		Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	To consider the final version of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	
2.	12 June 2012	Executive Member Update	To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
		Children's Health	To receive a report regarding the key issues impacting on Children's Health in Central Bedfordshire.	
3.	24 July 2012	Ofsted Inspection Quarter 4 Performance Monitoring Quarter 4 Budget Monitoring	To receive a draft action plan following the Ofsted inspection of the Council's provision of safeguarding children and supporting looked after children. To consider performance monitoring information for the fourth quarter of 2011/12 To consider the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the fourth quarter of 2011/12	
4.	4 September 2012	Executive Member Update Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring	To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services. To consider performance monitoring information for the first quarter of 2012/13	

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
		Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring	To consider the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the first quarter of 2012/13	
5.	16 October 2012	Executive Member Update	To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	
6.	11 December 2012	Executive Member Update	To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	
		Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring	To consider performance monitoring information for the second quarter of 2012/13	
		Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring	To consider the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the second quarter of 2012/13	
7.	15 January 2013	Executive Member Update	To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	

Ref	Indicative OSC Meeting Date	Report Title	Issue to be considered	Comment
8.	26 February 2013	Executive Member Update	To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services.	
9.	23 April 2013	Executive Member Update Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring	To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Children's Services. To consider performance monitoring information for the third quarter of 2012/13 To consider the directorate's capital & revenue budget monitoring information for the third quarter of 2012/13	

**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Key Decisions
1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013**

- 1) During the period from **1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013**, Central Bedfordshire Council plans to make key decisions on the issues set out below. “Key decisions” relate to those decisions of the Executive which are likely:
- to result in the incurring of expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant (namely £200,000 or above per annum) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - to be significant in terms of their effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the area of Central Bedfordshire.
- 2) The Forward Plan is a general guide to the key decisions to be determined by the Executive and will be updated on a monthly basis. Key decisions will be taken by the Executive as a whole. The Members of the Executive are:

Cllr James Jamieson	Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Executive
Cllr Maurice Jones	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources
Cllr Mark Versallion	Executive Member for Children’s Services
Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing
Cllr Ken Matthews	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development
Cllr Brian Spurr	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services
Cllr Mrs Tricia Turner MBE	Executive Member for Economic Partnerships
Cllr Richard Stay	Executive Member for External Affairs

- 3) Those items identified for decision more than one month in advance may change in forthcoming Plans. Each new Plan supersedes the previous Plan. Any person who wishes to make representations to the Executive about the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made should do so to the officer whose telephone number and e-mail address are shown in the Forward Plan. Any correspondence should be sent to the contact officer at the relevant address as shown below. General questions about the Plan such as specific dates, should be addressed to the Committee Services Manager, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ.
- 4) The agendas for meetings of the Executive will be published as follows:

Meeting Date	Publication of Agenda
15 May 2012	3 May 2012
3 July 2012	21 June 2012
21 August 2012	9 August 2012
2 October 2012	20 September 2012
6 November 2012	25 October 2012
4 December 2012	22 November 2012
8 January 2013	20 December 2012
5 February 2013	24 January 2013
19 March 2013	7 March 2013
7 May 2013	25 April 2013
25 June 2013	13 June 2013

Central Bedfordshire Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 15 March 2012

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
1.	Determination of Statutory Proposals to Extend the Age Range at certain Lower Schools in Houghton Regis -	Determination of statutory proposals to extend the age range of Hawthorn Park Lower, Thornhill Lower, Tithe Farm Lower and Thomas Whitehead Church of England Lower School in Houghton Regis from 3 - 9 years to 3-11 years.	16 April 2012	From 20 February these proposals were published in each of the 4 schools concerned; appeared within the local press; on display at Houghton Regis Town Council; Houghton Regis Library; and Watling House, Dunstable. The 4 x lower schools have also been directed to provide a copy of their Statutory Notice to all parents/carers and to provide a copy of both their Statutory Notice and their Full Proposal to their Governors. Hard copies have been sent to the local MP; Local Diocese Representatives; Director of Children's Services, Luton Borough Council; School Organisation Unit of the DfE; Head teachers of all CBC schools and academies and CBC Members. Statutory consultation period will be 20 February to 2 April 2012.	Report on the outcome of the statutory consultation and any responses received to the proposals	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 19/03/12 to Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director Children's Services (Learning & Strategic Commissioning) Email: pete.dudley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4203

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
2.	Medium Term Plan and Priorities -	To recommend to Council the Medium Term Plan and Priorities.	15 May 2012	To be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Central Bedfordshire Together in April 2012.	Medium Term Plan and Priorities	Chairman of the Executive and Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 18/04/12 to Contact Officer: Alan Fleming, Project Director Email: alan.fleming@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6968
3.	Brewers Hill Road Sites, Dunstable Regeneration -	To adopt/endorse the plans for the Brewers Hill Road sites as a Supplementary Planning Document or endorsement as Interim Technical Guidance for Development Management Purposes.	15 May 2012	Statutory consultation procedure to be carried out in January/February 2012 using exhibitions, meetings, presentations and questionnaires.	Brewers Hill Road sites, Dunstable Planning and Development Brief	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 14/04/12 to Contact Officer: Peter Burt, MRICS, Head of Property Assets Andy Lewis, Major Projects Officer Email: peter.burt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5281 or andy.lewis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5526

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
4.	Minerals and Waste Core Strategy -	To agree the recommended changes to the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy before submission to the Secretary of State.	15 May 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Parish and Town Councils were notified by letter or email. 2. Individuals who had expressed an interest from previous consultations were notified by email or by letter. 3. Adjacent Parish, Town, District and County Councils were notified by email or by letter. 	Report of the results of consultation on soundness of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (Plan for Submission) Appendix summarising representations received, and recommended changes to the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 14/04/12 to Contact Officer: Lester Hannington, Principal Minerals and Waste Planning Officer Email: lester.hannington@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6219
5.	The Approach to Central Bedfordshire Council Parking -	To consider how Central Bedfordshire Council manage parking across the district, recognising the needs of shoppers businesses, residents and new developments.	3 July 2012	The Strategy has been through a full public consultation before coming back to the Executive for approval.	Report	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 02/06/12 to Contact Officer: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director Highways & Transport Email: basil.jackson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6171

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
6.	Development Brief for Site Allocations Policy MA5 - Land East of Biggleswade Road, Potton -	To adopt the Development Brief for Site Allocations Policy MA5 - land east of Biggleswade Road, Potton as technical guidance for development management purposes.	3 July 2012	<p>November 2011 – A Stakeholder Group comprising ward Members, Town Councillors, residents, local interest groups and developers has been established whose purpose is to inform the emerging Development Brief. In accordance with the signed Planning Performance Agreement, consultation will take place:-</p> <p>April 2012 – The Development Brief will require sign off by Director/Portfolio Holder in order to commence consultation. Members will also be notified.</p> <p>April/May 2012 – A four week public consultation exercise will be carried out that will include a public exhibition.</p> <p>June 2012 – A presentation on the Development Brief (together with consultation responses) will be given to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee seeking Members to endorse it before the Executive take a decision.</p>	Development Brief and Statement of Community Involvement	<p>Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 02/06/12 to Contact Officer: Mark Saccoccio, Local Planning and Housing Team Leader Email: mark.saccoccio@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5510</p>

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
7.	Capital Investment for the Customer First Programme -	To approve the Capital Investment for the 'Construct and Implementation' phase of the Customer First Programme	3 July 2012		Full Business Case for the Channel Shift Programme	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 02/06/12 to Contact Officer: Trisha Chapman, Programme Manager Email: trisha.chapman@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4657
8.	Stotfold Heritage -	To facilitate the creation of a new community and heritage attraction in Stotfold.	3 July 2012	A twelve week public consultation is proposed to gather the community response to this private investment proposal and invite alternative usage to be expressed.	Report Investors prospectus	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 02/06/12 to Contact Officer: Liz Wade, Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration Email: liz.wade@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6288
9.	Revenue and Capital Provisional Outturn 2011/12 -	To consider the revenue and capital provisional outturn for 2011/12.	3 July 2012		Reports	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 02/06/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
10.	Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services -	To consider the response to the Ofsted Inspection which took place between 20 February and 3 March 2012 and the improvement strategy.	21 August 2012	Key strategic partners and agencies involved in developing the action plan between 23 April and 25 May 2012.	Ofsted inspection report published 10 April 2012	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 20/07/12 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Health & Special Projects Co-ordinator Email: sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5522
11.	Local Lettings Policy to Rural Exception Sites in Central Bedfordshire -	To agree the Local Lettings Policy to allocate affordable housing to Rural Exception Sites in Central Bedfordshire.	21 August 2012		Report	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 20/07/12 to Contact Officer: Hamid Khan, Head of Housing Needs Email: hamid.khan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5369
12.	Revenue and Capital Quarter 1 Budget Monitor Reports -	To consider the quarter 1 revenue and capital budget monitor reports.	21 August 2012		Reports	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 20/07/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
13.	Future of Crescent Court Sheltered Housing Scheme, Toddington -	To consider the results of the feasibility studies and consider a recommended way forward in relation to the development and the funding arrangements.	21 August 2012		Report	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 20/07/12 to Contact Officer: Sue Marsh, Housing Services Manager Email: sue.marsh@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5662
14.	Determination of Statutory Proposals to Expand Shefford Lower, Fairfield Lower and the Leighton Buzzard Lower School -	Determination of statutory proposals to expand Shefford Lower, Fairfield Lower and the Leighton Buzzard Lower School as recommended to the Council's Executive on 27 March 2012 as the provider of lower school places on the new site known as Pratts Quarry.	21 August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local MP • Local Diocese Representatives • The Director of Children's Services, Luton Borough Council • The School Organisation Unit of the DfE • The Head teachers of all CBC schools and academies – via our publication 'Central Essentials' • All CBC ward members – via the CBC Members Information Bulletin <p>Statutory consultation period will be 11 June to 9 July.</p>	Report on the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposals as originally reported to the Executive on 27 March 2012	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 20/07/12 to Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director Children's Services (Learning & Strategic Commissioning) Email: pete.dudley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4203

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
15.	Statement of Community Involvement -	To adopt the Statement of Community Involvement.	2 October 2012	Statutory consultation carried out in May/June 2012. Member consideration through the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Statement of Community Involvement Report of Consultation Responses	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 01/09/12 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Planning and Housing Strategy Email: richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105
16.	Development Strategy -	The Development Strategy will set out the broad approach to new development across Central Bedfordshire to 2031, including new housing and employment targets and new large-scale development sites. The Executive will be requested to consider and agree the Central Bedfordshire Development Strategy for the purposes of Publication and subsequent Submission to the Secretary of State.)	6 November 2012	Consultation expected in May/June 2012, Member consideration through the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.	Draft Development Strategy (Pre-Submission version) Sustainability Appraisal Report of consultation and other technical/evidence reports	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 05/10/12 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Planning and Housing Strategy Email: richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
17.	Outdoor Access Improvement Plan -	To endorse the Outdoor Access Improvement Plan.	6 November 2012	The Central Bedfordshire and Luton Local Access Forum has established a sub group input into the development of the plan this will be followed by a full 13 week public consultation with both stakeholder and public engagement activities during period.	Report	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 05/10/12 to Contact Officer: Paul Cook, Head of Transport Strategy and Countryside Access Email: paul.cook@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6999
18.	Revenue and Capital Quarter 2 Budget Monitor Reports -	To consider the revenue and capital quarter 2 budget monitor reports.	4 December 2012		Reports	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 03/11/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
19.	Community Safety Partnership Plan and Priorities 2013 - 2014 -	To recommend to Council to approve the Community Safety Partnership Plan and Priorities 2013 - 2014	8 January 2013	Strategic Assessment & Partnership Plan will be considered by the Community Safety Partnership Executive, the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Local Strategic Partnership.	Strategic Assessment Priorities & Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-2014	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 07/12/12 to Contact Officer: Joy Craven, CSP Manager Email: joy.craven@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4649

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
20.	Revenue and Capital Quarter 3 Budget Monitor Reports -	To consider the revenue and capital quarter 3 budget monitor reports.	19 March 2013		Reports	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 18/02/13 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
NON KEY DECISIONS						
21.	Quarter 4 Performance Report -	To receive quarter 4 performance report.	3 July 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 02/06/12 to Contact Officer: Elaine Malarky, Head of Programmes & Performance Management Email: elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5517

Postal address for Contact Officers: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ

**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Decisions on Key Issues**

For the Municipal Year 2012/13 the Forward Plan will be published on the fifteenth day of each month or, where the fifteenth day is not a working day, the working day immediately proceeding the fifteenth day, or in February 2013 when the plan will be published on the fourteenth day:

Date of Publication	Period of Plan
13.04.12	1 May 2012 – 30 April 2013
15.05.12	1 June 2012 – 31 May 2013
15.06.12	1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013
13.07.12	1 August 2012 – 31 July 2013
15.08.12	1 September 2012 – 31 August 2013
14.09.12	1 October 2012 – 30 September 2013
15.10.12	1 November 2012 – 31 October 2013
15.11.12	1 December 2012 – 30 November 2013
14.12.12	1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013
15.01.13	1 February 2013 – 31 January 2014
14.02.13	1 March 2013 – 28 February 2014
15.03.13	1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014

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