



Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2015/16 Budget Monitoring Q3 – Sept to December 2015

Revenue

Key points to note (see link to the Executive report for details):

- The 2015/16 forecast outturn is to overspend by £1.42M after the use of £1.58M of Earmarked Reserves brought forward from 2014/15 (excluding Schools).
- Overspends in the Operations directorate (£1.857m) include LAC Placement Costs (£863k) Intake & Family Support (£358k), Children in Care & Care Leavers (£513k), Fostering & Adoption (£347k) offset by savings in Early Intervention and Prevention (£254k) and Children with Disabilities (£62k)
- Total debt for Children's Services is £392k of which £227k is debt over 61 days.

Revenue

Key points to note (cont):

The main overspends can be grouped as follows:

- £940k The use of agency staff mitigating the AYSE programme, vacant posts, maternity and sickness absences across the directorate offset where possible by holding posts vacant.
- £206k Leaving Care for young people aged 16 and 17 who want to live more independently.
- £228k Secure Accommodation for 1 young person subject to Section 25 of the Children's Act 1989.
- £164k Allowances including Adoption and Residential Orders (now Child Arrangement Orders)
- £86k Inter agency adoption costs
- £345k Residential Care Home Payments
- £140k In-house Fostering
- £87k St Christopher's Contract

These have been offset by savings identified in Early Intervention and Prevention £254k, CWD £62k, Commissioning and Partnerships £180k, Educations Services £68k and additional Education Services Grant £190k.

Slide 2

Revenue

Key points to note (cont):

The table below indicates the upward trajectory and pressure on the budget

	Total as at Dec 2014	Total as at Dec 2015	% Increase / Decrease
Number of LAC (Excluding UASC)	241	253	5%
In-House Placements	99	114	15%
Independent Placements	84	77	(8%)
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	14	41	192%
In-House Foster Placements	1	5	400%
Independent Foster Placements	3	13	333%
Semi Independent Living	10	23	130%
Total Number of LAC	255	294	15%
Special Guardianship Orders	106	131	23%
Child Protection Plans	174	194	11.5%
Children in Need	1385	1331	(3.9%)
Number of Referrals (YTD)	1767	1792	1.4%

Slide 3

Revenue Forecast Outturn

	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance after Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Director CS	115	136	0
Programme Management	277	448	0
AD – CSO	22,364	23,717	994
LAC Placement Costs	9,444	10,732	863
AD – C&P	3,821	3,753	(180)
AD – Education Support Services	1,476	1,920	181
Partnerships	593	655	0
Sub Total	38,090	41,361	1,858
DSG Contribution to Central Support	(719)	(719)	0
ESG contribution to Central Support	(637)	(827)	(190)
Other Schools Budgets	0	(80)	(248)
Total Children Services	36,734	39,735	1,420
Schools Individual Budgets	86,362	86,362	0
Supported by DSG/EFA	(86,362)	(84,007)	0
Total Schools	0	(2,355)	0
Total Children's Services	36,734	42,090	1,420

Slide 4

Capital Position

Key points to note:

- The capital budget for 2015/16 is £31.3m (£2.7m net).
- Forecast gross expenditure outturn is to spend £29M, below the original budget by £2.4M due to the annual review of projects within the New School Places programme. The Council contribution of £2.1M to the New School Places Programme is no longer required for 2015/16.
- All but two projects, Schools Access and Temporary Accommodation are funded wholly by grant receipts and or Section 106 that have no expenditure deadline.

Capital Outturn

Scheme Title	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
New School Places	28,151	23,571	(4,580)
2 year old entitlement	0	180	180
Temporary Accommodation	400	400	0
Schools Devolved Formula Capital	460	460	0
Schools Access Initiative	200	200	0
LPSA & LAA Grant payout	0	200	200
Schools Capital Maintenance	2,100	2,720	620
Special School Provision	0	1,200	1,200
Children's Services	31,311	28,931	(2,380)