

MONITORING REPORT FROM DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

DATE: 26 February 2009

PURPOSE

To update members on activity within the Children's Services and Adult and Community Service's Directorates during the period to 31 January 2009. This report refers to those services previously within the Learning and Care Directorate.

BACKGROUND

The total former Learning and Care Budget is projected to be overspent by £98k. This is a decrease of £56k from the previous month arising mainly from a reduction in projected expenditure on Adult Social Care, offset by an increase in projected expenditure on Housing Services.

SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION

Revenue Budget

Children & Young People – Central Schools Budget (DSG)

The forecast expenditure funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is now expected to be overspent by £390k, a decrease of £37k on the £427k reported last month. Whilst this is only a relatively small change overall, there are some significant changes on individual budgets. The pressure on the out-borough special school placements budget continues to increase, with two new high cost placements in the last month resulting in a further increase in the projected overspend on this budget of £100k. The number of school staff on maternity leave for whom the Schools Budget pays schools top-up payments has increased significantly and this budget now looks to be overspent by £107k, an increase on the last month of £47k. These increases in projected overspend have been offset by decreases elsewhere, primarily in the SEN recoupment budget and schools specific contingency budget, both of which look likely to be underspent. Any over- or underspends against the ring-fenced DSG at the end of the year is carried forward into the following year's Schools Budget, and does not affect the Local Authority funded budget.

Children & Young People – LA funded Budget

The LA funded Children and Young People's budget currently shows a projected overspend of £455k, an increase of £27k on the £428k forecast overspend reported last month. The main pressures remain, as before, in high-cost demand-led budgets such as Home to School Transport, which has this month seen further pressures as a result of contract changes on a number of routes, and residential care for vulnerable children. New foster care placements have also resulted in a small increase in projected overspend on the safeguarding budget.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care currently shows an underspend of £352k, a net decrease in expenditure of £133k on the reported underspend last month of £219k. This mainly relates to a projected underspend on salary costs in the Learning Disability team due to staff vacancies. There is also an additional anticipated underspend relating to non salary costs on the Mental Health team and a reduction in expenditure on the Elderly and Physical Disability residential budget.

Housing Services

There has been an increase in activity on Interest Free Loans for deposits on rental property combined with additional demand for temporary accommodation from larger families, which has resulted in extended stays in bed and breakfast accommodation while suitable rental premises are identified. This has increased pressure on the Housing Policy budget by an estimated additional £50k in the current year.

Capital Budget

Since last month the former Learning and Care Directorate's approved gross expenditure capital budget has reduced by £7.838m from £19.928m to £12,090m. (This includes schools devolved formula capital projects and other devolved funding totalling £3.666m). The budget movement relates to :

Budget movement	£000 exp	
Slippage to 2009-10 in respect of 08-09 capital projects	(1,155)	Reported to Cabinet in December 2008 and January 2009
Holyport Manor new build – slippage to 09-10	(6,750)	Slippage based on latest review of start dates for different stages of the project. (Not previously reported to Cabinet).
Increase in Section 106 funding in schools	69	
New grant: Mobile Technology for children's social workers	13	
Adjustment to Oak Lodge Centre	(15)	
Total	(7,839)	

The projected outturn for the former Learning and Care Directorate's capital budget remains unchanged from last month at £16k above budget. This is mainly due to a handful of projects where the tender costs have come in higher than expected. The main contractor tenders are now in for the new Holyport Manor special school. The quotes received are still containable within budget.

New slippage of £184k is reported this month relating to the following schemes.

Children and Young people schemes	£000 exp	
Larchfield Community provision	(39)	Scheme still at feasibility stage
Wessex Schools amalgamation	(74)	Scheme on hold while options sought to reduce costs
Bisham school conservatory	(10)	Needs to be completed in school holiday
Wessex Primary underground pipework	(50)	Needs to be completed in school holiday
School caretakers housing asbestos survey	(11)	Delayed due to resource issues
Total	(184)	

This relates to a part of the Extended Schools capital programme which now looks unlikely to be spent before Spring 2009.