

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

**DATE:** 23 April 2009

### **PURPOSE**

To update members on activity within the Children's Services and Adult and Community Service's Directorates during the period to 31 March 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 underspent by £289k. This is a decrease of £352k from the previous month arising mainly from a reduction in projected expenditure on Adult Social Care and a decrease in the previously reported overspend in Children and Young People (LA funded).

### **SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ATTENTION**

#### **Revenue Budget**

##### **Children & Young People – Central Schools Budget (DSG)**

The overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded central Schools Budget has reduced by £105k in the last month to £155k over budget. The main reason for this decrease relates to additional buy-back income, not previously budgeted, in respect of sensory consortium services provided to schools, and to the fact that no schools have claimed for one-off funding from the schools specific contingency in 2008-09. The out-borough special school placements budget looks likely to end the year nearly £950k over budget, as previously reported. Additional DSG funding has been allocated to this budget to help meet these costs in 2010-11. There have been a number of underspends on various budgets elsewhere in the central expenditure budget. 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 £192k, a decrease of £276k on the £468k forecast overspend reported last month. An estimated £50k arises from a recovery of staff costs from the General Sure Start Grant, and most of the rest relates to underspends on three Area Base Grant budgets, most notably Child and Adolescent Mental Health services, which this authority has identified as a major strategic priority within Children's Services. Recruitment difficulties in 2008-09 have led to this underspend, but plans are in place to spend the three year CAMHS allocation in 2009-10 and 2010-11. Pressures remain, as before, in high-cost budgets such as Home to School Transport, and children in care. A sharp increase in the number of guardianship payments in the last month of 2008-09 suggests that this budget will face significant pressures in 2009-10.

##### **Adult Social Care**

Adult Social Care currently shows an underspend of £568k, which is a net decrease in expenditure of £168k on the reported underspend last month of £400k. This change relates to a projected underspend on 2 grant funded projects, Transforming Social Care (£75k) and Stroke Care (£82k). Both projects are funded over 3 years and the grant income can be carried forward to support expenditure next year. A review of the year end costs of Learning Disability and Mental Health care packages indicates that the final costs will be higher than previously reported. The increased cost of care packages is offset by an increase in the projected underspend on staff salaries in both these services.

##### **Housing Services**

There is a decrease in the projected overspend on Housing Services of £30k following a review of the anticipated bad debt provision on interest free loans. There is an increase in the projected underspend on Supporting People of £35k relating to prepayment of an invoice in 2007-8.

**Specific Government Grants**

£157k of grant will not be applied to projects in 2008-9 and can be carried forward to 2009-10. The effect of this decrease in income that can be accounted for in 2008-9 offsets the effect of the underspend on grant funded projects reported in Adult Social Care.