

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date Written	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
Report Author	Lisa Curtis-Jones
Service Area	Social Services
Committee Date	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2019

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **Budget update for Scrutiny Committee**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report is to provide an update on the social services budget. We are currently in Month 6 of the budget and at end of Quarter 2 2019/20 budget. The Month 4 position has been reported to date, which is included in this report. Last year we saw unprecedented growth in Social Services due to high demand in service delivery. There were increases in Children Looked After and within domiciliary care.

1.2.1 In the past few years social services have been able to contribute to the efficiencies programme and we have worked with finance and business support team to consider efficiency savings now and in the future.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The content of this report to be discussed and noted.

#### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

3.1 Scrutiny committee members have requested that a report be presented to scrutiny looking at the overall Social Services budget and the areas of likely overspend. The report highlights the summary statement of the General Fund Revenue Budget for

2019/20. Also provided is the areas of the budget that are overspending with the plans we have in place to try and mitigate this overspend.

- 3.2 Budgets within social care can be unpredictable in the sense of the Looked after children rate can change, adults requiring support for their care needs. Safeguarding adults and children will always be a priority and these costs cannot be avoided. We will endeavour to support children, families and adults within the community and their own homes where possible but in some cases this is not possible.

## 4.0 WHERE WE WERE

- 4.1 We continue to face financial pressures and been working hard to achieve savings the Council needs whilst doing our best to ensure that the services we provide to you are not adversely affected. Last year Social Services were not in a position to contribute to the efficiency programme due to the increase in demand in the service.
- 4.2 We have used the Integrated Care Fund over the past two years to plan and develop projects working across the region which will directly impact the public and provide better services. This funding has allowed the development of new initiatives like the stay well @ home service, which will reduce the delayed transfers of care from hospital and have better outcomes for the population of Cwm Taf.
- 4.3 There has been increased demand for children’s services, including increased demand for looked after placement and high cost placements
- 4.4 The anti-poverty steering group was set up to review and monitor the various grants that are available in Merthyr Tydfil, with a view to looking at the cross cutting themes between the grants and ensuring no duplication of service. Also looking at ways to improve preventative work with a view to decreasing the impact on statutory services where possible.
- 4.5 A lot of our work is undertaken on a collaborative and regional basis which assists with cost pressures and assists with resilience of services.

## 5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

### General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2018/19 (As at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019) People and Performance Directorate Social Services

#### General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20 (As at 31 July 2019) People and Performance Directorate

Table 1

Summary	Estimate	Outturn	Year End	Variance	
	31-Jul-19 £'000	Month 4 £'000	Projection £'000	£'000	%
<b>Social Services</b>					
<u>Social Care Services and Recharges</u>					
Quality & Regulation Services	102	34	103	1	0.98

Receivership	28	0	28	0	0.00
	<b>130</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.77</b>
<u>Duty, IAA &amp; ACT Compliance</u>					
Out of Hours/Emergency Duty Services	71	-2	63	-8	-11.27
IAA Duty Services	70	21	70	0	0.00
	<b>141</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-5.67</b>
<u>Early Intervention and Assistance Services</u>					
Carers Network	196	34	196	0	0.00
	<b>196</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<u>Social Services Collaborative Partnerships</u>					
Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES)	169	124	169	0	0.00
Cwm Taf Social Care Workforce Development	146	0	146	0	0.00
Cwm Taf Youth Offending Services	280	-32	278	-2	-0.71
Vale, Valleys & Cardiff (VVC) Regional Adoption Group	189	0	193	4	2.12
Integrated Family Support Services (IFST)	280	-43	237	-43	-15.36
Delivering Transformation (Collaborative Regional Change Agenda)	62	-62	62	0	0.00
Cwm Taf Autism Service	0	0	0	0	0.00
Deprivation of Liberty (DOLs) Services	74	6	80	6	8.11
Cwm Taf Reflect Project	19	0	19	0	0.00
	<b>1,219</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>-2.87</b>
<b>Adult Social Services</b>					
<u>Adult Social Care</u>					
Adult Services Management	81	8	82	1	1.23
Social Care Client Service Strategies	24	6	22	-2	-8.33
Health Park Building Costs	163	1	163	0	0.00
	<b>268</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-0.37</b>
<u>Assessment &amp; Care Management Services</u>					
Social Work Team	1,163	387	1,160	-3	-0.26
	<b>1,163</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-0.26</b>
<u>Initial Support Services</u>					
ISS Management	69	23	69	0	0.00
Initial Adult Services	234	74	234	0	0.00
Initial Response Services	559	332	566	7	1.25
Community Occupational Therapy	299	77	292	-7	-2.34
Telecare / Telehealth Services (Assistive Technologies)	107	16	100	-7	-6.54
	<b>1,268</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-0.55</b>
<u>Supported and Accommodation Services</u>					
MTCBC Homes for the Elderly	1,737	660	1,955	218	12.55
MTCBC Group Home (Llysfaen Fach)	931	265	831	-100	-10.74
	<b>2,668</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>4.42</b>
<u>Day Care Services</u>					
Outside/Community Based Activities	238	76	233	-5	-2.10
Day Centres	1,023	312	1,002	-21	-2.05
Transport	247	45	239	-8	-3.24
	<b>1,508</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>-2.25</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Estimate 31-Jul-19 £'000</b>	<b>Outturn Month 4 £'000</b>	<b>Year End Projection £'000</b>	<b>Variance £'000    %</b>	
<u>Independent External Care Provision</u>					
Supported Placements	3,079	1,354	3,053	-26	-0.84
Shared Lives	350	83	360	10	2.86
Independent Domiciliary Care	2,223	590	1,922	-301	-13.54

Direct Payments	1,846	579	1,718	-128	-6.93
Independent Commissioned Day Services	206	59	268	62	30.10
Independent Residential Establishments (IRE's)	5,021	1,924	5,376	355	7.07
Extra Care Facility	254	82	256	2	0.79
	<b>12,979</b>	<b>4,671</b>	<b>12,953</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>-0.20</b>
<b><u>Children Social Services</u></b>					
<b><u>Children's Social Care</u></b>					
Children's Social Care	<b>130</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.85</b>
<b><u>Children with Disabilities</u></b>					
Children with Disabilities	<b>732</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.14</b>
<b><u>Children Looked After</u></b>					
Looked After Children Team	492	166	521	29	5.89
Looked After Children Educational Support (LACES)	170	50	181	11	6.47
Fostering & Family Placement Team	473	146	470	-3	-0.63
LAC Residential Placement Services	2,878	909	2,798	-80	-2.78
LAC Fostering - Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's)	1,741	497	2,022	281	16.14
LAC Fostering - In House, Kinship & Emergency/Respite Fostering Services	1,563	521	1,589	26	1.66
Children Looked After (Court, Legal & Professional) Services	100	65	193	93	93.00
Leaving Care Support Services	590	157	539	-51	-8.64
Adoption Services	109	34	107	-2	-1.83
Advocacy Services	60	4	60	0	0.00
	<b>8,176</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>8,480</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>3.72</b>
<b><u>Intake &amp; Family Support Services</u></b>					
Intake Team	440	119	417	-23	-5.23
Child & Family Team	836	247	840	4	0.48
Specialist Family Support	25	13	26	1	4.00
Family Centre & Contact Services	467	158	457	-10	-2.14
Children in Need	309	48	307	-2	-0.65
Support Other Than Looked After Services	811	293	857	46	5.67
	<b>2,888</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>2,904</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0.55</b>
<b><u>Youth Justice Services</u></b>					
Youth Justice Services (LASPO)	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b><u>Safeguarding</u></b>					
Merthyr Tydfil Safeguarding Unit	69	22	68	-1	-1.78
Independent Safeguarding Services	121	36	167	46	38.18
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	293	45	276	-17	-5.80
	<b>483</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5.79</b>
Social Services Grant	<b>-642</b>	<b>-642</b>	<b>-642</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Expenditure Social Services</b>	<b>33,307</b>	<b>10,323</b>	<b>33,666</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>1.08</b>

**General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20 (As at 31 July 2019)**

Table 2

**Major Variances**

Ref.	Budget Head	Variance £'000	Variance %	Explanation	Action Taken to address
1	Integrated Family Support Services (IFST)	-43	-15.36	Underspend from 2018/19 joint service received.	No Further action required.
2	MTCBC Homes for the Elderly	218	12.55	Gurnos House currently has 16 residents and Bargoed House 23. Income less than budgeted due to the number of residents and number of self funders. Staffing budgets are overspending by £143k	Ongoing review with Home Manager, Principal Officer and Head of Service.
3	MTCBC Group Home (Llysfaen Fach)	-100	-10.74	A reduction in staff hours employed due to needs and the number of residents currently living at the home.	Will continue to monitor.
4	Independent Domiciliary Care	-301	-13.54	Current demand for care hours lower than anticipated.	Will continue to monitor.
5	Direct Payments	-128	-6.93	Full year affect from ending of 7 Known. This is offset by 12 additional packages above known service demand increases (-£60k). Higher than anticipated recovery of balances (-£68k)	Will continue to monitor.
6	Independent Commissioned Day Services	62	30.10	Additional financial burden is primarily from the part year effect of 3 new package of care and cost increases on known services.	Will continue to monitor.
7	Independent Residential Establishments (IRE's)	355	7.07	Continuing increase in the number of residential placements within the Independent Sector (current population of 196)	Will continue to monitor.
8	LAC Residential Placement Services	-80	-2.78	Forecasted changes to 2 placements from "Closer to Home" strategy	Will continue to monitor.
9	LAC Fostering - Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's)	281	16.14	Budgeted for 45 IFA placements, currently 53 placements.	Will continue to monitor.
10	Children Looked After (Court, Legal & Professional) Services	93	93.00	Legal & Professional fees are currently projected to outturn higher than anticipated, due to higher Children Looked After levels	Will continue to monitor, Head of Service looking at contract arrangements for professional services.
11	Leaving Care Support Services	-51	-8.64	Move on pathway plans from leaving care and step down services generating lower than an anticipated costs	Will continue to monitor.
12	Independent Safeguarding Services	46	38.18	Increase in the number of children becoming CLA and the associated costs of independent reviews.	Will continue to monitor.

## **6.0 WHERE WE WANT TO BE**

- 6.1 Social services wish to maintain a balanced budget by the end of the financial year. There are plans in place to look at the overspends and meeting regularly with Finance officers to discuss this. The next meeting to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

## **7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT**

- 7.1 Regular meetings have been set up with social care management and finance officers to discuss the budget position and how we can ensure a balanced budget moving forward. Budget Board meets monthly and challenges officers when there are areas of overspend.
- 7.2 There are plans in place with regards to overspends within the Residential homes for the elderly due to a reconfiguration of the service, which was agreed at Council in September 2019. Also a report will go to Council in October 2019 to ask for approval to consult with the public and staff regards day services in future.
- 7.3 We continue to work regional with neighbouring authorities and the health board on transformation of services, both in adult and children services. The integrated Care Fund and Transformation Fund has allowed for innovation in providing services across the region, for example in children services developing a therapy service for looked after children and in adults developing phase 2 of Stay Well @ Home.
- 7.4 Children Services are developing the Early Help Hub and the Supporting Family Change team to provide support to families in a timely manner, so as to enhance the services for prevention and early intervention. They have also developed a sustainability strategy. We want to recruit more in house foster carers to prevent the use of Independent foster carers, and ensure children are looked after closer to home to enable them to access support locally. We want to reduce the numbers of children/young people in residential care and provide the right support at the right time. Welsh Government have met with us in the past few months and we have a target to safely reduce looked after children over the next 12 months. This is why we are reconfiguring the service to enhance the offer of early intervention and prevention to families. If our numbers do reduce then this will impact on the budget and reduce court/professional fees, independent safeguarding services, placement costs and future leaving care services.

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**DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**COUNCILLOR CHRIS DAVIES**  
**CABINET MEMBER SOCIAL SERVICES**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		