



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	8 th January 2020
Report Author	Lisa Curtis-Jones
Service Area	Social Services
Committee Date	21 st January 2020

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 10 of the budget and at end of Quarter 3 2019/20 budget. The Month 7 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 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 requested that a report be presented to scrutiny looking at the overall Social Services budget and the areas of likely overspend. The last report was presented to Scrutiny in September, which reflected the budget position at month 4 (July 2019). 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 In the past two years there was investment in the regional adoption team and in the enhanced child in need service. The latter was hoped to reduce children looked after numbers. However we have seen an increase in the past year. Initially this strategy was successful with a reduction last summer to 131, however by end of November 2019 the numbers had increased to 198. As previously discussed with scrutiny members we saw two peaks of children becoming looked after last year in August and October. Numbers have increased due to safeguarding concerns and needing to safeguard children.
- 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

- 5.1 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20 (As at 31 October 2019)
People and Performance Directorate

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

Table 1

Summary	Estimate	Outturn	Year End	Variance	
	31-Oct-19 £'000	Month 7 £'000	Projection £'000	£'000	%
<u>Social Services</u>					
<u>Social Care Services and Recharges</u>					
Quality & Regulation Services	102	62	107	5	4.9
Receivership	28	1	28	0	0.00
	130	63	135	5	3.85
<u>Duty, IAA & ACT Compliance</u>					
Out of Hours/Emergency Duty Services	71	-2	63	-8	-11.27
IAA Duty Services	70	37	63	-7	-10
	141	35	126	-15	-10.64
<u>Early Intervention and Assistance Services</u>					
Carers Network	188	84	183	-5	-2.66
	188	84	183	-5	-2.66
<u>Social Services Collaborative Partnerships</u>					
Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES)	169	124	169	0	0.00
Cwm Taf Social Care Workforce Development	146	10	146	0	0.00
Cwm Taf Youth Offending Services	280	-32	278	-2	-0.71
Vale, Valleys & Cardiff (VVC) Regional Adoption Group	189	78	191	2	1.06
Integrated Family Support Services (IFST)	280	13	237	-43	-15.36
Delivering Transformation (Collaborative Regional Change Agenda)	62	-29	33	-29	-46.77
Cwm Taf Autism Service	0	0	0	0	0.00
Deprivation of Liberty (DOLs) Services	74	14	79	5	6.76
Cwm Taf Reflect Project	19	19	19	0	0.00
	1,219	197	1,152	-67	-5.50
<u>Adult Social Services</u>					
<u>Adult Social Care</u>					
Adult Services Management	81	38	71	-10	-12.35
Social Care Client Service Strategies	24	124	22	-2	-8.33
Health Park Building Costs	163	42	163	0	0.00
	268	204	256	-12	-4.48
<u>Assessment & Care Management Services</u>					
Social Work Team	1,163	681	1,164	1	0.09
	1,163	681	1,164	1	0.09
<u>Initial Support Services</u>					
ISS Management	69	40	69	0	0.00
Initial Adult Services	231	132	230	-1	-0.43
Initial Response Services	559	370	591	32	5.72
Community Occupational Therapy	287	137	275	-12	-4.18
Telecare / Telehealth Services (Assistive Technologies)	107	53	93	-14	-13.08
	1,253	732	1,258	5	0.40
<u>Supported and Accommodation Services</u>					
MTCBC Homes for the Elderly	1,737	1,133	2,047	310	17.85
MTCBC Group Home (Llysfaen Fach)	931	467	830	-101	-10.85
	2,668	1,600	2,877	209	7.83
<u>Day Care Services</u>					
Outside/Community Based Activities	231	125	227	-4	-1.73
Day Centres	1,022	575	1,016	-6	-0.59
Transport	247	114	240	-7	-2.83
	1,500	814	1,483	-17	-1.13

Summary	Estimate	Outturn	Year End	Variance	
	31-Jul-19 £'000	Month 4 £'000	Projection £'000	£'000	%
<u>Independent External Care Provision</u>					
Supported Placements	3,079	2,070	3,073	-6	-0.19
Shared Lives	350	145	373	23	6.57
Independent Domiciliary Care	2,223	1,036	1,839	-384	-17.27
Direct Payments	1,846	985	1,727	-119	-6.45
Independent Commissioned Day Services	206	122	269	63	30.58
Independent Residential Establishments (IRE's)	5,021	769	5,410	389	7.75
Extra Care Facility	254	150	261	7	2.76
	12,979	5,277	12,952	-27	-0.21
<u>Children Social Services</u>					
<u>Children's Social Care</u>					
Children's Social Care	152	242	153	1	0.66
<u>Children with Disabilities</u>					
Children with Disabilities	732	407	695	-37	-5.05
<u>Children Looked After</u>					
Looked After Children Team	492	287	497	5	1.02
Child & Family Team	836	433	831	-5	-0.60
Looked After Children Educational Support (LACES)	170	86	167	-3	-1.76
Fostering & Family Placement Team	473	240	476	3	0.63
CLA Residential Placement Services	2,878	1,707	2,899	21	0.73
CLA Fostering - Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's)	1,741	982	1,935	194	11.14
CLA Fostering - In House, Kinship & Emergency/Respite Fostering Services	1,529	799	1,383	-146	-9.55
Children Looked After (Court, Legal & Professional) Services	134	120	206	72	53.73
Leaving Care Support Services	581	250	636	55	9.47
Adoption Services	109	59	104	-5	-4.59
Advocacy Services	60	0	46	-14	-23.33
	9,003	4,963	9,180	177	1.97
<u>Intake & Family Support Services</u>					
Intake Team	430	212	406	-24	-5.58
Specialist Family Support	25	19	26	1	4.00
Supporting Change Services	665	347	652	-13	-1.95
Support Other Than Looked After Services	811	497	857	46	5.67
	1,931	1,075	1,941	10	0.52
<u>Youth Justice Services</u>					
Youth Justice Services (LASPO)	0	0	0	0	0.00
<u>Safeguarding</u>					
Merthyr Tydfil Safeguarding Unit	69	39	68	-1	-1.45
Independent Safeguarding Services	121	71	156	35	28.93
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	283	134	273	-10	-3.53
	473	244	497	24	5.07
Social Services Grant	-642	-642	-642	0	0.00
Net Expenditure Social Services	33,158	15,976	33,410	252	0.76

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20 (As at 31 October 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	Delivering Transformation (Collaborative Regional Change Agenda)	-29	-46.77	Underspend from 2018/19 joint service received.	No Further action required.
3	MTCBC Homes for the Elderly	310	17.85	Gurnos House currently has 14 residents and Bargoed House 23. Salary budgets are overspending. Income less than budgeted due to the number of residents and the number of self funders.	Ongoing review with Home Manager, Principal Officer and Head of Service. This will be looked as a wider piece of work about the residential units (3 and 4) – reports previously been discussed at scrutiny.
4	MTCBC Group Home (Llysfaen Fach)	-101	-10.85	A reduction in staff hours employed due to needs and the number of residents currently living at home.	Will continue to monitor.
5	Independent Domiciliary Care	-384	-17.27	Current demand for care hours lower than anticipated.	Will continue to monitor.
6	Direct Payments	-119	-6.45	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.
7	Independent Commissioned Day Services	63	30.58	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.
8	Independent Residential Establishments (IRE's)	389	7.75	Continuing increase in the number of residential placements within the Independent Sector (current population of 196)	Will continue to monitor.
9	CLA Fostering - Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's)	194	11.14	Budgeted for 45 IFA placements, currently 53 placements.	Will continue to monitor.
10	CLA Fostering - In House, Kinship & Emergency/Respite Fostering Services	-146	-9.55	Realignment of expenditure outside of fees. Mitigates pressures within Legal & Professional	Will continue to monitor.
11	Children Looked After (Court, Legal & Professional) Services	72	53.73	Legal & Professional fees are currently projected to outturn higher than anticipated, due to higher Children Looked After levels	Will continue to monitor.

12	Leaving Care Support Services	55	9.47	Ongoing need to support Care Leavers through Independent Living Step Down placements, currently supporting 4 young people within financial year	Will continue to monitor
13	Independent Safeguarding Services	35	28.93	This figures relates to the use of independent reviewing officers – when CLA numbers are high this figure increases. As there are more CLA reviews and meetings.	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 variations in the budget since last quarter and we are meeting regularly with Finance officers to discuss this. The next meeting to be held on the 31st January 2020.

7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

7.1 Regular meetings have been set up with social care management, cabinet member for social services 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. A report also went to Council in October 2019 to ask for approval to consult with the public and staff regards day services in future. This has commenced.

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 children looked after and in adults developing phase 2 of Stay Well @ Home.

7.4 Children Services have developed 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 also have 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. The first phase of this work has commenced and a package of support required for carers was agreed at cabinet at the end of last year. Several new carers are currently being assessed.

7.5 Workshops taking place in January to consider the poverty agenda and how this can assist the work of early intervention and prevention, and maybe access funding to enhance the service further.

LISA CURTIS-JONES
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COUNCILLOR CHRIS DAVIES
CABINET MEMBER SOCIAL SERVICES

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