

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	12 th October 2020
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Service Area	Social Services
Committee Date	17 th November 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 07 (October 2020). The Month 05 position has been reported to date, which is included in this report. This year has been more unpredictable than usual due to the situation with COVID, as although some demands have decreased for example care home placements and day services, there has been increased demand in direct payments and agency workers within our care home setting.
- 1.2 COVID has made our budget position more fragile this year as its difficult to predict what demand we will have within children and adult services.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The content of this report 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 January, which reflected the budget position at Month 10 at the end of Quarter 3 2019/20 budget. The report highlights the summary statement of the General Fund Revenue Budget (as at 31st August 2020) for 2020/21. Also provided are 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 that the Children Looked After rate and adults requiring support for their care needs can both change. 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 but in some cases this is not possible.

4.0 WHERE WE WERE

- 4.1 We continue to face financial pressures and have been working hard to achieve savings the Council needs whilst doing our best to ensure that the services we provide are not adversely affected. Last year Social Services were able to contribute to the efficiency programme. At the end of the financial year we received grants from Welsh Government for Winter pressures and offset some of our overspends in these budget lines due to demands in that area.
- 4.2 We continue to use the Integrated Care Fund as we have over the past recent 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 (one and two), which will reduce the delayed transfers of care from hospital and have better outcomes for the population of Cwm Taf.
- 4.3 We invested monies and changed structures in Children's Services to create the Supporting Change team, with a view to this assisting with the CLA reduction strategy. We also had invest to save monies to create a generic team of staff on a temporary basis to reduce the need for agency staff and help with the reduction strategy.
- 4.4 The Tackling 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 resilience of services.

5.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 5.1 General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/21 (as at 31st August 2020) People and Performance Directorate.

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/21 (as at 31st August 2020)
People and Performance Directorate

Table 1

Summary	Estimate	Outturn	Year End	Variance	
	31-Aug-20	Month 5	Projection	£'000	%
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Social Care Services and Recharges					
Quality & Regulation Services	103	43	101	-2	-1.94
Receivership	28	1	32	4	14.29
	131	44	133	2	1.53
Duty, IAA & ACT Compliance					
IAA Duty Services	48	11	48	0	0.00
	48	11	48	0	0.00
Early Intervention and Assistance Services					
Carers Network	192	72	191	-1	-0.52
	192	72	191	-1	-0.52
Social Services Collaborative Partnerships					
Out of Hours/Emergency Duty Services	63	0	63	0	0.00
Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES)	169	-46	169	0	0.00
Cwm Taf Social Care Workforce Development	146	6	146	0	0.00
Cwm Taf Youth Offending Services	312	-48	312	0	0.00
Vale, Valleys & Cardiff (VVC) Regional Adoption Group	197	0	198	1	0.51
Delivering Transformation (Collaborative Regional Change Agenda)	62	0	62	0	0.00
Deprivation of Liberty (DOLs) Services	71	-12	74	3	4.23
Cwm Taf Reflect Project	19	19	19	0	0.00
	1,039	-81	1,043	4	0.38
Adult Social Services					
Adult Social Care					
Adult Services Management	80	39	78	-2	-2.50
Social Care Client Service Strategies	23	190	23	0	0.00
Health Park Building Costs	163	0	163	0	0.00
	266	229	264	-2	-0.75
Assessment & Care Management Services					
Social Work Team	1,142	442	1,107	-35	-3.06
	1,142	442	1,107	-35	-3.06
Initial Support Services					
ISS Management	75	28	74	-1	-1.33
Initial Adult Services	234	95	228	-6	-2.56
Initial Response Services	552	226	522	-30	-5.43
Community Occupational Therapy	326	123	312	-14	-4.29
Telecare / Telehealth Services (Assistive Technologies)	95	10	95	0	0.00
	1,282	482	1,231	-51	-3.98
Supported and Accommodation Services					
MTCBC Homes for the Elderly	1,738	724	1,858	120	6.90
MTCBC Group Home (Llysfaen Fach)	943	298	830	-113	-11.98
	2,681	1,022	2,688	7	0.26
Day Care Services					
Outside/Community Based Activities	234	80	235	1	0.43
Day Centres	999	371	1,002	3	0.30
Transport	268	47	244	-24	-8.96
	1,501	498	1,481	-20	-1.33
Independent External Care Provision					
Supported Placements	3,528	1,381	3,387	-141	-4.00
Shared Lives	364	162	393	29	7.97
Independent Domiciliary Care	2,261	608	2,162	-99	-4.38
Direct Payments	2,144	785	2,137	-7	-0.33
Independent Commissioned Day Services	282	48	307	25	8.87
Independent Residential Establishments (IRE's)	5,755	2,317	5,290	-465	-8.08
Extra Care Facility	285	93	288	3	1.05
	14,619	5,394	13,964	-655	-4.48

Summary	Estimate	Outturn	Year End	Variance	
	31-Aug-20	Month 5	Projection	£'000	%
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Children Social Services					
<u>Children's Social Care</u>					
Children's Social Care	158	129	167	9	5.70
<u>Children with Disabilities</u>					
Children with Disabilities	732	253	648	-84	-11.48
<u>Children Looked After</u>					
Looked After Children Team	489	202	472	-17	-3.48
Child & Family Team	845	314	863	18	2.13
Looked After Children Educational Support (LACES)	181	61	176	-5	-2.76
Fostering & Family Placement Team	445	182	447	2	0.45
LAC Residential Placement Services	2,131	1,149	3,229	1,098	51.53
LAC Fostering - Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's)	2,053	564	1,754	-299	-14.56
LAC Fostering - In House, Kinship & Emergency/Respite Fostering Services	1,521	694	1,715	194	12.75
Children Looked After (Court, Legal & Professional) Services	184	79	233	49	26.63
Leaving Care Support Services	524	144	489	-35	-6.68
Adoption Services	136	41	121	-15	-11.03
Advocacy Services	60	6	46	-14	-23.33
	8,569	3,436	9,545	976	11.39
<u>Intake & Family Support Services</u>					
Intake Team	431	158	437	6	1.39
Specialist Family Support	30	13	30	0	0.00
Family Centre & Contact Services	466	160	465	-1	-0.21
Supporting Change Services	462	181	457	-5	-1.08
Special Guardianship Orders (SOTLAC)	990	452	957	-33	-3.33
	2,379	964	2,346	-33	-1.39
<u>Youth Justice Services</u>					
Youth Justice Services (LASPO)	0	0	0	0	0.00
Safeguarding					
Merthyr Tydfil Safeguarding Unit	68	28	68	0	0.00
Independent Safeguarding Services	129	44	137	8	6.20
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	295	119	295	0	0.00
	492	191	500	8	1.63
Social Services Grant	-856	-856	-856	0	0.00
Contribution from Corporate risk fund	-192	0	-192	0	0.00
NHS funded Nursing Care	0	0	0	0	0.00
Net Expenditure Social Services	34,183	12,230	34,308	125	0.37

General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/21 (as at 31st August 2020)
Major Variances

Table 2

Ref.	Budget Head	Variance £'000	Variance %	Explanation	Action Taken to address
1	MTCBC Homes for the Elderly	120	6.90	Southern Home (projecting an overspend of £136k) - delays in filling vacancies resulting in agency costs and salary costs as a result of covering. Similarly, staff cover in terms of Covid-19. Most vacancies have now been filled however, high levels of staff sickness mean agency and staff cover still required going forward. Occupancy levels have also fallen by 7 resulting in a loss of projected income. Northern Home projecting an underspend of £16k.	Continue to monitor
2	MTCBC Group Home (Llysfaen Fach)	-113	-11.98	Delays in filling posts because of Covid-19. Projecting an underspend against agency and overtime based on current spend.	Continue to monitor.

3	Supported Placements	-141	-4.00	Costs for 'known' placements are lower than MTFP anticipated levels. Overall net movement across the 30 placements (£-77k); No recorded new placements for New Service Demand (-£63k)	No action needed
4	Independent Domiciliary Care	-99	-4.38	Current service demand for service from Framework providers significantly reduced from MTFP budget setting estimates. Weekly hours 2500 rather than 3000 anticipated. Non-Framework providers picking up service that Framework providers cannot 630hrs@May. This has been a trend through 19/20 and may be an ongoing trend as services evolve through Covid-19 impacts. Income is also impacted as services are cancelled or transferred to other service types.	No action needed
5	Independent Residential Establishments (IRE's)	-465	-8.08	Projection is based on current IRE population (163 commissioned beds). There has been a net reduction of 32 deaths/discharges since the start of the year. Current Pandemic is impacting on Care Home admissions so numbers are considerably lower than the anticipated levels within the MTFP and may be an ongoing trend as services evolve through Covid-19 impact.	No action needed
6	Children with Disabilities	-84	-11.48	Costs for "known" placements (49 continuing) lower than MTFP budget estimate (-£59k). 8 New Service Demand placements (part year projections), 1 new service started to date so balances being reduced each pay period (-£6k lower than set budget estimate). Recovery of Balances Income (-£3k). In House delivery reduced (-£16k).	No action needed
7	LAC Residential Placement Services	1098	51.53	MTFP set at 11 "known" placements with 1 expected New Service Demand. Current projections reflect 11 ongoing "known" placements to end of financial year (£659k) these costs are higher than anticipated from increased 1:1 need an increased cost to avoid Secure Placement. 2 "known" placements transitioned to Closer to Home. New service demand is currently at 3 placements projected to year end (£439k).	Continue to monitor
8	LAC Fostering - Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's)	-299	-14.56	5 "known" placements transitions to In-house Fostering & Kinship after budget setting (-£195k); "known" placements moves - 1 to Residential; 1 to Kinship and 3 to PwP (-£130k). 5 New Service Demand placements projected to year end (£26k). 4C's commissioning Consortium no changes to date (Nil).	Continue to monitor
9	LAC Fostering - In House, Kinship & Emergency/ Respite Fostering Services	194	12.75	In House Fostering (£26k); CLA Respite & Emergency Services (Nil); CLA Kinship & Family Care (£168k).	Continue to monitor
10	Children Looked After (Court, Legal & Professional) Services	49	26.63	Legal & Professional fees are currently projected to outturn higher than anticipated, due to higher Children Looked After levels. Court Fees (£10k); Legal Services (£58k); DNA & Drug testing (£3k); Professional Services (-£25k); Translation & Other Services (£3k).	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 the last quarter and we are meeting regularly with Finance officers to discuss this. The next meeting is to be held on 8th December 2020. It is worth pointing out that currently Social services is within budget in October 2020, although that can change from one month to the next.

7.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

- 7.1 Regular meetings have been set up with social care management, the 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. There has been some delay in this due to COVID, building work was delayed earlier in the year but this has started to progress now. Unfortunately, these savings will not be made as soon as we anticipated.
- 7.3 We continue to work regionally 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 This year we have seen grants made available to us for Adult Services, and more latterly Children Services. We will look to assist with extra demand on the service and assist in future planning.
- 7.5 Social Services have contributed to the overall Improvement Plan, and part of this is to look at areas of transformation and possible efficiencies. Looking at opportunities for invest to save projects.

8.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 This report specifically links to the Living Well objective within the Council's Corporate Wellbeing Plan: People are empowered to live independently within their Communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.

In addition to this there are on-going projects/tasks that directly contribute to the corporate Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan, which is currently being overseen by the Assurance Board.

LISA CURTIS JONES
CHIEF OFFICER (SOCIAL SERVICES)

COUNCILLOR CHRIS DAVIES
CABINET MEMBER FOR
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?	
No	