



## HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23RD OCTOBER 2012

**SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 5)**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES**

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of projected expenditure for the Social Services Directorate for the 2012/13 financial year.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report summarises the projected financial position for the Social Services Directorate based on information available as at month 5 of the 2012/13 financial year. Full details are attached at Appendix 1.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The expenditure of the Directorate is linked directly to its ability to shape and deliver its strategic objectives, which in turn assists the achievement of the Authority's stated aims.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The 2012/13 month 5 position, detailed in Appendix 1, shows a projected Directorate underspend of £200k. However, there is a projected overspend of £179k on Social Services transport provision through the Integrated Transport Unit (ITU), which is charged directly to service reserves. This results in a net projected overall underspend of £21k.

Division	2012/13 Current Budget (£000's)	2012/13 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	2012/13 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)	2012/13 Transport Overspend £000's	Net Over/(Under) Spend £000's
Children's Services	19,504	19,327	(177)	49	(128)
Adult Services	48,112	48,120	8	130	138
Service Strategy & Business Support	2,962	2,931	(31)	0	(31)
<b>Totals: -</b>	<b>70,578</b>	<b>70,378</b>	<b>(200)</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>(21)</b>

- 4.2 Regular meetings are taking place between nominated leads in the Directorate of Social Services and staff in the ITU to monitor transport provision and deliver efficiencies wherever possible. This has already resulted in a decrease in the level of projected overspend and it is anticipated that there will be further reductions as we progress through the financial year.
- 4.3 Full details of the month 5 budgets and projections are provided in Appendix 1 and the following paragraphs summarise the key issues arising.

#### 4.4 Children's Services

4.4.1 The projected position for the Children's Services Division is summarised in the table below: -

	2012/13 Current Budget (£000's)	2012/13 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	2012/13 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Management, Fieldwork & Administration	8,347	8,054	(293)
External Residential Care	801	1,074	273
Fostering & Adoption	7,412	7,275	(137)
Youth Offending	421	352	(69)
Other Costs	2,523	2,572	49
<b>Total: -</b>	<b>19,504</b>	<b>19,327</b>	<b>(177)</b>
<b>Projected Transport Overspend</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Adjusted Projection: -</b>	<b>19,504</b>	<b>19,376</b>	<b>(128)</b>

##### *Management, Fieldwork and Administration*

4.4.2 An underspend of £293k is projected in Management, Fieldwork and Administration. Actual vacancies within the Division have been higher than the budgeted level during the first five months of the financial year and the current projections assume that vacancies will remain at this level for a further 3 months. The projections for the remaining 4 months of the year assume vacancies will be at the budgeted level. An element of the projected underspend is also due to the Children's Services Assistant Director posts in both Caerphilly CBC and Blaenau Gwent CBC being covered by the current Blaenau Gwent Assistant Director from 1st September 2012.

##### *External Residential Care*

4.4.3 Members will be aware that this is a highly volatile budget area and significant variations against budget often occur. The projected overspend of £273k reflects current committed placements and is net of financial contributions from Health and Education. The Divisional Management Team will continue to closely monitor the External Residential Care budget throughout the financial year to ensure that appropriate action is taken to manage the financial impact of fluctuations in demand.

##### *Fostering and Adoption*

4.4.4 The projected underspend of £137k reflects current commitments and also includes a contingency to meet anticipated increased demand on placement budgets.

##### *Youth Offending*

4.4.5 This budget reflects Caerphilly Social Services' contribution to the Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Youth Offending Team and shows a projected underspend of £69k from the budgeted level. This is a one-off underspend arising from the Local Management Board's decision to release surpluses accumulated by the Youth Offending Service. This decision was made following the most recent review of the YOS three-year financial plan.

##### *Other Costs*

4.4.6 The projected overspend of £49k in 'Other Costs' is mainly due to pressures on Preventative and Support budgets and increased commitments on the Aftercare budget.

## 4.5 Adult Services

- 4.5.1 The Adult Services Division is currently projected to overspend by £8k but this increases to £138k after adjusting for the projected transport overspend of £130k. There has been an increase in demand for services in recent months and this will need to be carefully monitored and managed during the remainder of the financial year as there is no contingency available within Adult Services budgets to fund further increases in demand. The Division will actively work to maintain expenditure within the allocated 2012/13 budget and the position will be regularly reviewed. The month 5 projections are summarised in the following table: -

	2012/13 Current Budget (£000's)	2012/13 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	2012/13 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Management, Fieldwork & Administration	8,024	7,957	(67)
Own Residential Care	5,892	5,805	(87)
External Residential Care	11,984	12,100	116
Own Day Care	4,336	4,284	(52)
External Day Care	784	864	80
Sheltered Employment	71	71	0
Aid and Adaptations	928	925	(3)
Home Assistance and Reablement	10,475	10,256	(219)
Other Domiciliary Care	7,162	7,430	268
Resettlement	(2,825)	(2,841)	(16)
Supporting People	223	87	(136)
Other Costs	1,058	1,182	124
<b>Total: -</b>	<b>48,112</b>	<b>48,120</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Projected Transport Overspend</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Adjusted Projection: -</b>	<b>48,112</b>	<b>48,250</b>	<b>138</b>

- 4.5.2 The most significant variations against budget are in External Residential Care, Home Assistance & Reablement, Other Domiciliary Care, Supporting People and Other Costs.

### *External Residential Care*

- 4.5.3 There has been an increase in residential placements in recent months which has resulted in an additional commitment of £127k on the position reported in the month 3 budget monitoring report previously presented to the Scrutiny Committee. As mentioned earlier there is no contingency within Adult Services budgets to meet further increases in demand and budgets will need to be carefully monitored and managed during the remainder of the financial year.

### *Home Assistance & Reablement*

- 4.5.4 The projected underspend of £219k reflects current actual hours being paid to in-house carers and committed costs with independent sector providers. There is an upward trend in demand on Homecare budgets and this has the potential to increase further during the winter months. Arrangements are in place to monitor activity on a weekly basis to ensure that there is an early warning of peaks in demand.

### *Other Domiciliary Care*

- 4.5.5 The most significant element of the projected Other Domiciliary Care overspend of £268k is an overspend of £224k in Supported Living, which reflects both current and imminent new placements. The Adult Services Division has achieved significant efficiencies in this area by negotiating with independent sector providers to drive down the cost of placements. However, whilst a number of successes have been achieved the continuing demand on services has led to increased costs.

### *Supporting People*

- 4.5.6 Current projections assume an underspend of £136k on the Supporting People budget. There are a number of emerging pressures on this budget, which may result in this position being reviewed as we progress through the financial year.

### *Other Costs*

- 4.5.7 The projected overspend of £124k in Other Costs is due in the main to a review of the timelines for delivering service reconfiguration proposals.

## **4.6 Service Strategy & Business Support**

- 4.6.1 The projected position for Service Strategy & Business Support is summarised in the table below: -

	<b>2012/13 Current Budget (£000's)</b>	<b>2012/13 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)</b>	<b>2012/13 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)</b>
Management and Administration	1,860	1,803	<b>(57)</b>
Office Accommodation	343	362	<b>19</b>
Office Expenses	210	223	<b>13</b>
Other Costs	549	543	<b>(6)</b>
<b>Total: -</b>	<b>2,962</b>	<b>2,931</b>	<b>(31)</b>

- 4.6.2 The projected underspend of £57k in Management & Administration is due to a small number of vacancies across Business Support Teams.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process does not need to be applied.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 As identified throughout the report.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The personnel implications of agreed service reconfiguration proposals will be carefully managed and where relevant staff will be fully supported to identify appropriate redeployment opportunities.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To ensure that the Directorate can deliver a balanced budget for 2012/13.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Social Services 2012/13 Budget Monitoring Report (Month 5)