



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12TH FEBRUARY 2013

SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 9)

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 9 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 9 position shows a projected Directorate underspend of £209k. However, there is a projected overspend of £199k 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 £10k.

Division	2012/13 Current Budget (£000's)	2012/13 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	2012/13 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)	2012/13 Transport Overspen d £000's	Net Over/(Under) Spend £000's
Children's Services	19,487	19,037	(450)	12	(438)
Adult Services	48,128	48,366	238	187	425
Service Strategy & Business Support	3,009	3,012	3	0	3
Totals: -	70,624	70,415	(209)	199	(10)

- 4.2 Full details of the month 9 budgets and projections are provided in Appendix 1 and the following paragraphs summarise the key issues arising.

4.3 Children's Services

4.3.1 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	8,330	7,873	(457)
External Residential Care	801	1,090	289
Fostering & Adoption	7,412	7,276	(136)
Youth Offending	421	352	(69)
Other Costs	2,523	2,446	(77)
Total: -	19,487	19,037	(450)
Projected Transport Overspend	-	12	12
Adjusted Projection: -	19,487	19,049	(438)

Management, Fieldwork and Administration

4.3.2 An underspend of £457k is projected in Management, Fieldwork and Administration. Actual vacancies within the Division have been higher than the budgeted level during the first nine months of the financial year and the month 9 projections assume that vacancies will remain at the current level for the remainder of the year.

External Residential Care

4.3.3 Members will be aware that this is a highly volatile budget area and significant variations against budget often occur. The projected overspend of £289k reflects current committed placements and is net of financial contributions from Health and Education. The Divisional Management Team closely monitors 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

4.3.4 The projected underspend of £136k reflects current commitments and also includes a small contingency to meet any increase in demand during the remainder of the financial year.

Youth Offending

4.3.5 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

4.3.6 Within Other Costs there is a projected underspend of £101k arising from the redesign of Services for Children with a Disability and a review of Family Support Services. These underspends have been ring-fenced for future years for the ongoing development of services within these areas. There is a projected overspend of £40k on Preventative & Support budgets which is partially offset by a net underspend of £16k on remaining budgets within Other Costs.

4.4 Adult Services

- 4.4.1 The Adult Services Division is currently projected to overspend by £238k, which increases to £425k after adjusting for a projected transport overspend of £187k. The Division has experienced increased demand in a number of areas and this will result in further financial pressures as the full-year cost of new commitments filters through to the forthcoming financial year. The month 9 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	8,039	7,878	(161)
Own Residential Care	5,892	5,832	(60)
External Residential Care	11,984	11,951	(33)
Own Day Care	4,345	4,300	(45)
External Day Care	784	885	101
Sheltered Employment	71	71	0
Aid and Adaptations	928	1,023	95
Home Assistance and Reablement	10,731	10,423	(308)
Other Domiciliary Care	7,034	7,669	635
Resettlement	(2,825)	(2,841)	(16)
Supporting People	223	151	(72)
Other Costs	922	1,024	102
Total: -	48,128	48,366	238
Projected Transport Overspend	-	187	187
Adjusted Projection: -	48,128	48,553	425

- 4.4.2 The most significant variations against budget are in Management, Fieldwork & Administration, External Day Care, Aids & Adaptations, Home Assistance & Reablement, Other Domiciliary Care and Other Costs.

Management, Fieldwork & Administration

- 4.4.3 There is a projected underspend of £161k across Management, Fieldwork & Administration budgets, which is due to vacancies in the Division. The month 9 projection assumes that vacancies will remain at the current level for the remainder of the financial year.

External Day Care

- 4.4.4 The projected External Day Care overspend of £101k reflects current commitments.

Aids and Adaptations

- 4.4.5 The projected overspend of £95k is due in the main to increased demand on the Gwent-wide Integrated Community Equipment Service (GWICES). This increased demand is being experienced by all partners in GWICES and reflects the strategy to help people remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

Home Assistance & Reablement

- 4.4.6 The projected underspend of £308k reflects current actual hours being paid to in-house carers and committed costs with independent sector providers. There are a number of current vacancies within the in-house services particularly in administrative posts. As part of the budget strategy for 2013/14 these vacancies will be reviewed with a view to redirecting some of the funding for the posts into frontline services to meet anticipated increases in demand.

Other Domiciliary Care

- 4.4.7 The most significant element of the projected Other Domiciliary Care overspend of £635k is an overspend of £659k 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.

Other Costs

- 4.4.8 The projected overspend of £102k in Other Costs is due in the main to a review of the timelines for delivering service reconfiguration proposals.

4.5 Service Strategy & Business Support

- 4.5.1 The projected position for Service Strategy & Business Support 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 and Administration	1,406	1,331	(75)
Office Accommodation	344	408	64
Office Expenses	203	222	19
Other Costs	1,056	1,051	(5)
Total: -	3,009	3,012	3

- 4.5.2 The projected underspend of £75k in Management & Administration is due to a small number of vacancies across Business Support Teams.
- 4.5.3 The projected overspend of £64k in Office Accommodation is mainly due to a provision of £50k, which has been set aside for a dilapidations claim arising from the termination of the lease for Avenue House.

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 have been carefully managed and where relevant staff have been 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 the 2012/13 financial year.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

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Cllr. B. Jones, Vice-Chair of HSC&WB Scrutiny Committee
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Appendices:
Appendix 1 – Social Services 2012/13 Budget Monitoring Report (Month 9)