



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10TH SEPTEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 3)

REPORT BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Directorate for the 2013/14 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 3 of the 2013/14 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 2013/14 month 3 position is a projected Directorate underspend of £738k as summarised in the table below: -

Division	2013/14 Current Budget (£000's)	2013/14 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	2013/14 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Children's Services	19,750	19,099	(651)
Adult Services	52,764	52,687	(77)
Service Strategy & Business Support	3,027	3,017	(10)
Totals: -	75,541	74,803	(738)

- 4.2 Full details of the month 3 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 following table: -

	2013/14 Current Budget (£000's)	2013/14 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	2013/14 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Management, Fieldwork & Administration	8,430	7,865	(565)
External Residential Care	1,082	776	(306)
Fostering & Adoption	7,407	7,579	172
Youth Offending	427	339	(88)
Other Costs	2,404	2,540	136
Totals: -	19,750	19,099	(651)

Management, Fieldwork and Administration

- 4.3.2 An underspend of £565k is projected in Management, Fieldwork and Administration. Actual vacancies within the Division as at month 3 total 23.25 full-time equivalents. This equates to a vacancy level of 10.64% against the budgeted level of 2.67%. Current projections assume that the vacancy level will remain at 10.64% for the next three months but will then revert back to the budgeted level for the remainder of the financial year. A review of vacant posts is currently being undertaken to ensure that there will be no undue delays in recruiting to vacancies.

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 underspend of £306k reflects current committed placements and is net of financial contributions from Health and Education.
- 4.3.4 The Divisional Management Team will 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

- 4.3.5 The projected overspend of £172k reflects current commitments and includes a contingency to meet anticipated future pressures on placement budgets.

Youth Offending

- 4.3.6 This budget reflects Caerphilly Social Services' contribution to the Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Youth Offending Team and shows a projected underspend of £88k 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

- 4.3.7 The projected £136k overspend for 'Other Costs' is mainly due to a funding adjustment for the Immediate Response Team. One-off funding was received from the Welsh Government at the end of the 2010/11 financial year and this was set-aside and ring-fenced to meet the cost of this Team. When this funding is fully utilised additional funding will need to be identified to sustain the Team in the future. Due to the level of the current projected underspend in Management, Fieldwork and Administration budgets it is not currently planned to drawdown the ring-fenced funding for the Immediate Response Team in the current financial year and the cost will be absorbed within Children's Services core budgets.

4.4 Adult Services

4.4.1 The Adult Services Division is currently projected to underspend by £77k as summarised in the following table: -

	2013/14 Current Budget (£000's)	2013/14 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	2013/14 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Management, Fieldwork & Administration	8,134	8,032	(102)
Own Residential Care	6,048	5,936	(112)
External Residential Care	12,171	11,973	(198)
Own Day Care	4,443	4,296	(147)
External Day Care	944	958	14
Sheltered Employment	72	69	(3)
Aid and Adaptations	1,072	1,113	41
Home Assistance and Reablement	11,370	11,587	217
Other Domiciliary Care	7,988	7,998	10
Resettlement	(1,020)	(1,020)	0
Supporting People	453	367	(86)
Other Costs	1,089	1,378	289
Totals: -	52,764	52,687	(77)

4.4.2 The most significant variations against budget are in External Residential Care, Home Assistance & Reablement and Other Costs.

External Residential Care

4.4.3 Within External Residential Care there is a projected overspend of £121k on Mental Health placements and a projected overspend of £40k on Short-Term placements. However, these overspends are offset by projected underspends for both Older People and Learning Disabilities placements. These budgets are sensitive to even minor changes in placement numbers and the position can change considerably, particularly during the winter months.

Home Assistance & Reablement

4.4.4 Within Home Assistance & Reablement there is currently a projected underspend for the In-House Homecare Team amounting to £289k and a projected underspend of £82k in relation to contributions to the Gwent Frailty Programme. However, these underspends are being largely offset by a projected overspend of £298k for independent sector homecare provision, particularly in relation to services for older people.

4.4.5 There has been a steady increase in the total hours brokered for independent sector homecare during the current year and this is expected to continue. As such, the current projections include a contingency of £291k to meet this anticipated increase in demand during the remainder of the financial year.

Other Costs

4.4.6 The most significant element of the projected overspend of £289k in Other Costs is additional one-off costs of £143k arising from the need to engage Agency workers to back-fill staff dealing with the closure of Mill View Nursing Home.

4.5 Service Strategy & Business Support

4.5.1 There are currently no significant variations against budgets within Service Strategy & Business Support. The table below summarises the month 3 projections: -

	2013/14 Current Budget (£000's)	2013/14 Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	2013/14 Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Management and Administration	1,437	1,394	(43)
Office Accommodation	345	378	33
Office Expenses	231	231	0
Other Costs	1,014	1,014	0
Totals: -	3,027	3,017	(10)

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 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

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 contents of this report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure that the Directorate can deliver a balanced budget for 2013/14.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Social Services 2013/14 Budget Monitoring Report (Month 3)