

Children and Families Department Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13 Month Four Position – 31st July 2012

Education, Children and Families Committee

9th October, 2012

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the month four revenue monitoring position for the Children and Families Department.

2 Summary

- 2.1 At month four, the Children and Families Department is projecting a balanced budget position for 2012/13.
- 2.2 In arriving at the month four position budget pressures, including a projected pressure of £1.8m relating to growth in fostering, kinship and adoption placements significantly in excess of budgeted levels, have been identified. However, these are supported by a programme of both implemented and planned management action which is targeted to deliver savings which will fully offset the pressures identified.
- 2.3 The department's approved programme of savings totalling £7.8m in 2012/13 is largely on track to be delivered. However, projected pressures have been identified mainly relating to delays in the implementation of the janitorial review. These are currently being addressed within the overall programme of management action.

3 Main Report

2012/13 Revenue Budget

- 3.1 The total revised net budget for the Children and Families Department is £390.8m. This includes budget virements totalling £0.1m which have been processed during the first four months of 2012-13.
- 3.2 Approved budget savings for 2012/13 total £7.8m.

2012/13 Period 4 Revenue Monitoring

- 3.3 A divisional budget analysis and projected outturn is shown in table 1.

Table 1 - Projected Outturn by Division

Division	----- 2012/13 -----		
	Revised	Projected	Projected
	Budget	Outturn	Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Resources	16.5	16.5	0.0
Planning and Performance	6.0	6.0	0.0
Schools and Community Services			
Schools	224.7	224.7	0.0
Other	37.7	37.7	0.0
Support to Children and Young People	105.5	105.5	0.0
Directorate	0.4	0.4	0.0
Total for Department	390.8	390.8	0.0

- 3.4 Key Pressures, which are being managed by a programme of implemented and planned management action, include:

Fostering, adoption and kinship placements - £1.8m pressure.

£1.3m of the pressure relates to the full year impact of higher than budgeted growth levels in 2011/12 and the extension of this trend into 2012/13. From April 2011- July 2012 there was an increase of 140 placements. Budgeted growth for this period is 55 placements resulting in the overspend position. A further projection of £0.5m has been included for possible further growth in placements from August 2012 to March 2013.

Management Action

- 3.5 The programme of management action reflects a combination of savings from staff turnover and vacancy control, income generation, and maintaining a small number of projected budget underspends across the service. Initiatives funded through the Early Years Change Fund, to recruit more Edinburgh Council foster carers and enhance family support services, are in the process of being implemented. These actions will help to reduce pressure on the fostering budget.

4 Savings Approved per Act of Council

- 4.1 Savings totalling £7.8m were approved as part of the 2012/13 revenue budget.
- 4.2 The 2012/13 savings programme is largely on track to be delivered. However, projected pressures have been identified mainly relating to delays in implementation of janitorial review in schools as result of the decision to progress the internal improvement plan.
- 4.3 These pressures are currently being managed within the overall programme of management action.

5. Equalities Impact

5.1 There is no relationship between the matters described in this report and the public sector general equality duty.

5.2 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6 Environmental Impact

6.1 There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from this report.

7 Conclusion

7.1 This report presents the Children and Families Department's 2012/13 month four monitoring as a balanced budget position with budget pressures being addressed through a programme of implemented and planned management actions.

8 Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes:

- a) the contents of this report and the projected balanced budget position for the Children and Families Department at month four;

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Gillian Tee,
Director of Children and Families

Appendices

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Wards affected All

Single Outcome Agreement

Supports National Outcome 3 - 'We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation'

Supports National Outcome 4 - 'Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens'

Supports National Outcome 5 - 'Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed'

Supports National Outcome 7 - 'We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish Society'

Supports National Outcome 8 - 'We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk'

Supports National Outcome 15 - 'Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs'

Background Papers