
**Executive Member for Housing and Adult
Social Services and Advisory Panel**

8th September 2008

Report of the Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

2008/9 Service Plans and Budget 1st Monitor report

Purpose of Report

1. To advise the Executive Member of progress against the service plan targets for housing and adult social services and the projected financial outturns for 2008/9 based on first quarter results.

Performance Overview

2. This report gives an overall summary of performance with more detail for each service plan area set out in the annexes. These cover:
 - Housing Revenue Account (Landlord services)
 - Housing General Fund
 - Corporate Services
 - Older People and Physical Disability
 - Mental Health
 - Learning Disabilities
3. The annexes show progress in relation to the key objectives (Critical Success Factors) and the performance targets as well as a more detailed breakdown of expenditure. (Where performance figures are only available annually they are not shown in the quarterly updates.) Some of the highlights are set out below in this summary report.
4. Performance on housing landlord services continues to show steady improvement in terms of reducing rent arrears and the time taken for both urgent and non-urgent repairs. The already excellent performance on turn round times on empty homes also continues to improve. The planning applications for the redevelopment of the Discus Bungalow sites have been submitted.
5. In relation to housing general fund activities, the new Arc Light building opened in August and the replacement for the Peasholme building is due to be completed in January 2009. The Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 has been published and highlights the serious situation facing the city despite excellent work on preventing homelessness. Key areas are the numbers of

people still in temporary accommodation (higher than the target now included in York's Local Area Agreement); the high numbers of homelessness presentations by young people and the need to put in place alternative accommodation and support arrangements; the outcome of the sub-regional review of housing demands for travellers and the implications for York. Pressure on demands for housing adaptations continues and it is proposed to review funding in this area to enable any backlogs to be reduced during this year.

6. The impact of the "credit crunch" on new house building is a matter of great concern given that the affordable homes programme is so closely linked to new developments. Despite this 47 homes have been secured so far this year and there are some interesting new developments nearing completion – such as the 'Passiv' houses in the Monkton Road area that showcase high insulation and low heating requirements.
7. In terms of Corporate Services levels of sickness absence continue to reduce with the aim of bringing the days lost per full time employee into single figures within the next 2 years. This would be a reduction of more than 50% on the figures in 2006/7. Work continues on preventing stress in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive and the trade unions. The second phase of the Framework implementation – covering financial processes for residential care – has gone 'live'.
8. In terms of adult social services the day centre at Huntington Road closed at the end of May and customers who used to attend Yearsley Bridge Day Centre are now accessing community based activities. A small base will continue on the site (call "New Bridge") until the new hydrotherapy pool is completed at Oaklands. Another 'changing place' was opened at "New Horizons" in Walmgate with others agreed for the new public toilets in the city centre and at Burton Stone Lane Community Centre.
9. A lot of progress has been made in relation to Carers with the launch of the emergency card in May; the re-launch of the Carer's Centre and its move to new premises in Priory Street; work to establish a new Carers Forum in York; increased take-up the flexible carer support scheme and the removal of the backlog of carers' assessments. Performance data on carers assessments, reviews and advice are being re-checked for completeness, as they currently do not reflect this positive picture.
10. Not all the performance indicators are reported on a quarterly basis but two are highlighted for members' attention in this report. There has been a continued increase in the number of customers using self-directed support (e.g. direct payments or individual budgets) and the related issue of Personalisation will be a major theme for adult social services in the coming year. More needs to be done in relation to take-up by some groups e.g. people with mental health problems and older people. There are concerns about the performance in terms of the completion of assessments for new customers. This is a newly defined indicator and is determined by performance in high volume areas such as occupational therapy, Intake (the team that deals with new social care referrals in the community) and the Hospital based team. A detailed action plan has been drawn up to further analyse the data and to improve performance in the remainder of the year.

11. The report on the inspection of some services by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in June is elsewhere in this agenda. The overall, annual performance assessment of adult social care for 2007/8 (the 'star rating') will be carried out as a separate exercise by the CSCI and published on the 27th November.

Financial overview

12. Housing Revenue Account - The original 2008/09 budget reported to members on 14th January 2008 had a working balance of £6,960k. After a number of budget adjustments, including the allocation of recharges and insurances, the balance on the HRA is now estimated to be £7,431k. This increase is mainly due to the higher than forecast balance brought forward into 2008/09 from 2007/08. This review indicates a net underspend of £51k which, together with the budgeted balance of £7,431k, now gives a total estimated balance on the HRA of £7,482k.
13. Housing General Fund - The original budget estimate for Housing General Fund approved by Members was £1,284k. After approval of savings and growth and other approvals including insurance and recharge adjustments, the approved Housing General Fund budget is now £1,402k. This review indicates a forecast underspend of £72k compared to the approved budget of £1.4m, a reduction of 5%.
14. Adult Social Services - The original budget estimate for Adult Social Services approved by Members was £34.2m. After approval of savings and growth and other approvals including insurance and recharge adjustments, the approved budget is £38.0m. This review indicates an overspend of £21k compared to the approved budget of £38.0m, an increase of less than 0.1%.
15. The table below sets out the overall departmental General Fund position, which is a projected net general fund underspend of £48k.

	Exp Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	Net Budget £'000	Net Forecast £'000	Variation £'000	Variation %
Housing General Fund	11,252	9,850	1,402	1,330	-72	-5.14
Adult Social Services	60,140	22,107	38,033	38,057	+21	+0.06

16. Growth and Savings - As part of the budget process members agreed growth items across Housing & Adult Social Services of £3,445k. In order to balance the council's overall budget, savings of £1,289k were also agreed.

17. This review indicates that all growth and savings are currently on target with the exception of one saving within Learning Disability Services. The implementation of cross border protocols whereby customers classified as ordinary resident in other local authorities become that authority's responsibility. York was originally forecast to pass £150k net expenditure onto other local authorities but several high cost cases have been disputed by the receiving authority resulting in there being a nil effect from implementing this protocol.
18. Income has however been generated through continuing health care determinations following introduction of the revised national policy and the approach approved by Members in 2007. Overall there are approximately 80 people who have been subject to an application or have been subject to a continuing care assessment over the period since October 2007, when the revised national policy was implemented. The evidence to date suggests that the investment in dedicated care management has ensured that sufficient income has been achieved to cover the cost of the posts and required savings, approved during the budget setting. This reflects 38 determinations resulting in full continuing healthcare funding being awarded and seventeen joint funding packages of care agreed with the Primary Care Trust. The anticipated continuing health care funding is reflected in the first budget monitor.
19. Within the application of the policy, the Learning Disabilities team have, been extremely successful in applying for Continuing Health Care funding. £534k was received in 07/08 but the forecast for 08/09 is £892k, an increase of £358k, which more than offsets the income and savings targets described earlier and brings the service back within budget.
20. Members should note that there are continued pressures in Learning Disabilities due to the increase in both the number of customers (young people coming into adult services and older people living longer) and the complexity of their needs. This trend is set to continue for the foreseeable future and is a part of a national pattern (an 11% increase in the number of adults in England with a learning disability is expected in the period 2001 to 2021).
21. As part of the 2007/08 budget report a possible contingency item for £275k was identified in respect of the repayment of customer contributions towards health care costs. A legal opinion is currently being sought with regard to the council's liability in this matter and the outcome will be reported to the Executive as soon as the outcome is known
22. The Director has been given delegated authority to transfer available resources of up to £100k from one budget heading to another within the agreed delegation scheme. Individual budget holders use these virement rules so that any avoidable overspends can be met by identifying, or curtailing expenditure within other budget heads. Virements to report within this quarter are as follows:

	Description	Variation £'000
	<u>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	
1.	Increase in Revenue Contribution to the Capital Programme	
	a) Increase in Revenue Contribution	+149
	b) Decrease in the HRA working balance	-149
	<u>HOUSING GENERAL FUND</u>	
2.	Virements within HASS to reflect spending pressures across the department	+62
3.	Allocation of 07/08 carry forwards to various housing budgets	+18
	<u>ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES</u>	
4.	Virements within HASS to reflect spending pressures across the department	
	• Corporate Services	-193
	• Learning disabilities	+84
	• Mental Health	-2
	• Older People & Physical Disabilities	+49
5.	Allocation of 07/08 carry forwards to various social services budgets	+284
6.	Other minor virements	-9

Consultation

23. There has not been any specific consultation on this report but elements of the service plans will have been consulted upon.

Options

24. Options are not part of this report which is intended to set out the summary position after the first quarter of 2008/9.

Corporate Priorities

25. The service plan reflects many of the council objectives and priorities, and many of the actions related to council objectives and initiatives. Specific links can be made to the following:

“Outward facing”

- ❑ Improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of city’s streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces
- ❑ Reduce the actual and perceived impact of violent, aggressive and nuisance behaviour on people in York
- ❑ Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city
- ❑ Improve the quality and availability of decent affordable homes in the city
- ❑ Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.”

“Improving our organisational effectiveness”

- ❑ Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
- ❑ Improve the way the Council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York

Implications

Financial

26. These are set out in paragraphs 12 to 21 above. Financial regulations require a detailed explanation of any budget variation in excess of £50k and those above £10k where the variation is greater than 2% above the budget heading. A detailed financial analysis of each service plan is set out in the attached annexes to the report.

27. Other Implications

Human Resources (HR)

None arising specifically from this report.

Equalities

None arising specifically from this report.

Legal

There are no immediate implications to report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no immediate implications to report.

Information Technology (IT)

None arising specifically from this report.

Property

None arising specifically from this report.

Other

None

Risk Management

28. This report focuses on high level issues that the Executive Member should be aware of and therefore does not analyse more detailed risks that would be dealt with through service planning.

Recommendation

29. That the Executive Member

- notes and comments on the content of this report and
- agrees the virements between £100k and £250k outlined in paragraph 21

Reason: So that the Executive Member is briefed on the projected performance and financial outturns for Housing & Adult Social Services based on the first quarter of 2008/9.

Author:

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Hodson
Director

Report Approved

Date 21/8/08

Bill Hodson
Director

Report Approved

Date 21/8/08

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Debbie Mitchell
Head of HASS Finance
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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

- Annex 1 - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Service Plan – Monitor 1 update 2008-9
- Annex 2 - Housing General Fund Service Plan – Monitor 1 update 2008-9
- Annex 3 - Corporate Services
- Annex 4 - Older Peoples' & Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment services
- Annex 5 - Mental Health Services
- Annex 6 - Learning Disability services