

2017/18 Finance & Performance Third Quarter Report – Children, Education & Communities.

Summary

1. This report analyses the latest performance for 2017/18 and forecasts the financial outturn position by reference to the service plans and budgets for all of the services falling under the responsibility of the Corporate Director of Children, Education & Communities.

Financial Analysis

2. A summary of the service plan variations is shown at table 1 below.

Table 1 – CEC Financial Projections Summary 2017/18 – Quarter 3

2017/18 Quarter Two Variation £000		2017/18 Latest Approved Budget			2017/18 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Gross Spend £000	£000	%
+149	Children's Specialist Services	21,913	1,139	20,774	+193	+0.9%
+16	Communities & Equalities	8,788	4,075	4,712	+6	+0.1%
-194	Education & Skills	20,035	10,094	9,942	-380	-3.8%
+316	School Funding & Assets	122,492	130,422	-7,930	+444	+5.6%
+111	Director of CEC & Central Budgets	1,353	4,862	-3,509	-10	-0.3%
+398	Total CEC Directorate	174,581	150,592	23,988	+253	+1.1%

+ indicates increased expenditure or reduced income / - indicates reduced expenditure or increased income

3. The following sections provide more details of the significant outturn variations.

Children's Specialist Services (+£193k / 0.9%)

4. Children's Social Care (CSC) staffing budgets are currently projecting a net overspend of £211k, mainly due to expensive agency staff being used to cover important but hard to fill social worker posts. Also, as reported to Staffing & Urgency Committee in July, additional unbudgeted costs of £38k will be incurred this year paying 'golden hello' and 'golden handcuff' payments to new and existing staff in the referral and assessment team, along with a major social work recruitment advertising campaign estimated at £40k. This should result in a reduction in costs going forward.
5. Based on the current numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) being maintained throughout the rest of the year there is a net projected overspend on placement costs of £138k, including +£160k on local fostering, +£65k on Inter Agency Adoption Fees and +£161k on Adoption and Special Guardianship Order allowances. This is offset by a net projected underspend of £186k on out of city placements and £62k on Leaving Care costs.
6. There is a net projected overspend of £176k within The Glen and disability short breaks budgets, due mainly to delays in implementing the new model of provision for children with the most complex needs that was planned to deliver a budget saving in 2017/18.
7. Within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded Special Educational Needs budgets there is a net projected underspend of £405k. This is mainly due to savings on out of city education placements in light of the on-going efforts to support as many young people as possible in York.
8. Education Psychology budgets are projected to underspend by £62k, mainly due to difficulties being experienced in recruiting to some psychologist posts. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining projected net overspend of £57k.

Communities & Equalities (+£6k / 0.1%)

9. There are no significant variations to report.

Education & Skills (-£380k / 3.8%)

10. Local Area Teams budgets are projecting a net £354k underspend, mainly due to the early delivery of the full £1.4m saving in advance of the final £300k budget being removed from 2018/19. There is a net projected underspend of £156k within School Improvement due to a number of staffing vacancies, both the Skills Team and Effectiveness & Achievement, but offset by some additional costs including for the LAC virtual school headteacher.

11. Home to School Transport budgets are currently projected to overspend by a net £173k. This is a significant reduction on the projection at quarter 2 and represents the position following analysis of the requirements for the academic year beginning in September 2017, information which was not available in time for the previous monitor. The overspend is mainly due to significant pressures within SEN taxi budgets where contract inflation has been higher than expected, and additional costs may be being incurred as more high needs pupils return to the city as a result of the Make York Home project, resulting in not all of the savings planned for 2017/18 being delivered. This is partly offset by some small additional savings on mainstream school bus contracts.
12. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining projected net underspend of £43k.

Schools Funding & Assets (+£444 / 5.6%)

13. The net projected variation is made up of the following items:
 - a carry forward of surplus DSG from 2016/17 that is £266k higher than budgeted for,
 - a projected saving of £350k on prudential borrowing repayments as the provision set aside following the closure of Burnholme Community College has not yet been committed;
 - a projected £250k write off of school deficits for schools converting to sponsored academy status;
 - a revised projected surplus carry forward of DSG into 2018/19 of £810k.

Director of CEC and Central Budgets (-£10k / 0.3%)

14. Following the early delivery of some budget savings, there is additional pressure on the directorate's £100k budget for early retirement and redundancy costs. Although the majority of the costs will be more than offset by the savings achieved, a one off over spend of £150k is forecast for 2017/18. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining projected net underspend of £60k.

Performance Analysis

Number of Children Looked After

15. There were 196 children and young people in care at the end of December 2017. This evidences a continued consistency of practice and need, against the national trend of increasing looked after numbers.
16. City of York Council and the employee volunteering charity York Cares have been working together on a project called Bright Futures to help young people in care acquire the skills and experience needed to prepare them for their next

steps. The project aims to match young people with employers in York who offer taster days and skills workshops.

17. The Department for Education asked local authorities to form Regional Adoption Agencies which they believed would help speed up the matching of children whose plan is adoption with suitable adoptive parents, thus improving the life chances of children who have often suffered neglect and other adverse life circumstances; improve adopter recruitment and support to adoptive families; and reduce inefficiencies in the system.
18. City of York Council have joined with four other local authorities (North East Lincolnshire, Hull City, East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire) to form a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), known as 'One Adoption North and Humber'. The RAA, hosted by City of York Council, is working to increase the number of prospective adopters (so that there is a larger 'pool' of potential adopters available for a child); share best practice; standard services available to support adoptive families and undertake joint marketing with the other RAAs in the Yorkshire and Humber area to attract and recruit prospective adopters. Work to establish One Adoption North and Humber over the past six months has already brought an increase in enquiries via a centralised phone line and a new website.

Average Progress 8 score from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4

19. Progress 8 is a measure of the progress made by pupils between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. A positive score represents progress above the average for all pupils and a negative score progress below the average for all pupils.
20. In 2017, the average Progress 8 score for Year 11 pupils was +0.11 above the national average. This is an improvement on 2016 when progress was in line with the national average.
21. Building on the success of our six school primary writing project, which contributed to improved Key Stage 2 outcomes in 2017, we joined Pathfinder Teaching School Alliance and Huntington Research School in a bid for funding to the DfE Strategic School Improvement Fund for a larger project starting in January 2018. The bid was successful and realised £196k to deliver a programme of intensive training and support across at least 14 schools this year. The project will expand to include a further group of schools in 2018-19.
22. Ofsted's latest annual report warns of 130 'intractable' schools in England who have failed to improve since 2005. These schools share some similar characteristics, and many have high proportions of pupils from deprived areas and an above average proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Nationally there were 500 primary and 200 secondary schools judged to require improvement in at least two inspections. York's performance remains strong in terms of Ofsted outcomes with 95% of primary

and 78% of secondary schools judged to be good or outstanding. 92% of all York pupils attend a school judged as good or outstanding.

%pt gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19

23. Attainment at age 19 remains above average, however there have been concerns about the gap between both disadvantaged young people and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their peers. Latest figures from April 2017 show the post 19 attainment gap is closing in some areas and, to address remaining challenges, Further Education providers will be strategically supported by the council to sustain focus on these groups.
24. Learning and Work Advisers from the council's Local Area Teams provide specialist information, advice and guidance to young people who are in the care of the local authority, those in alternative education provision, those in the youth justice system, and those aged 16-18 who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Appointments and group work are available at locations across the city based on local need and complement the careers guidance and support provided through schools and other education providers under their statutory duties.
25. A partnership plan is being developed in consultation with YSAB (York Safeguarding Adults Board), governors and other agencies to identify actions to improve outcomes for disadvantaged children and communities in York.

Voice and Involvement

26. The Youth Council Outreach and Engagement Workgroup are focusing on attending priority groups to include Snappy, Choose 2, RAY, Young Carers, Applefields and Danesgate. Their focus is to either recruit new members or attend quarterly sessions for each group to obtain the views of the young people and find out about any issues they are experiencing. These views will then be fed into the Consultation Workgroup and Campaign Workgroup for them to progress with the appropriate CYC Departments and or Councillors. They are also in the process of drafting a brief to invite film makers to create a Youth Council video.
27. The recent Secondary Voice Event on 15th November saw around 70 young people from nearly every secondary school in York attend. They engaged in workshops throughout the morning. These included a Q&A with local Councillors, consultation by the Healthy Child Service around access to School Nurses and consultation around the York Central Development. They also provided their views on issues that affect them in York. These views and feedback will form a report that will then be sent to all schools that attended, local Councillors and Youth Councillors. These will then inform York Youth Council's local campaigns.

28. The Youth Council national campaign is currently “Curriculum 4 Life”. It aims to help develop young people’s political knowledge, sex and relationship education, cultural awareness, community cohesion, finance skills and sustainable living. York Youth council have created a questionnaire about this to send to schools and priority groups including Choose 2 and Snappy. In January we are holding a joint session with York Youth Council, “Show Me That I Matter”, children in care council and Young Carers. They will be producing a young person’s version of the Voice and Involvement Strategy and providing feedback on the CYSCB Website.
29. Participation opportunities for young people in care and care leavers continue to be delivered via the Children in Care Council. This includes monthly Show Me That I Matter panel meetings (13-18 yrs), monthly I Still Matter meetings (16-21 yrs) and fortnightly Speak Up Youth sessions (11-16yrs). Additional activity that has taken place during this quarter includes 2 focus groups, 3 young people’s interview panels, the delivery of a Speak Up and Hear My Voice training session to higher education staff at the University of York and the facilitation of a webinar for social work professionals (via the Children’s Social Work Matters network) highlighting the importance of raising aspirations and positive role models for children and young people in care. The CiCC has received two prestigious awards; the York Culture Award for Excellence in Equality and Diversity for it’s Aspire to More project and the Kids Count Best Youth Campaign for it’s contribution towards the Inspired Youth project ‘A Care Story’. The service has also continued to deliver the Bright Futures Project in collaboration with York Cares, providing taster sessions, skills workshops and work experience opportunities for young people in care.
30. Information about rights and entitlements has continued to be provided to children and young people in care via ‘new to care’ letters, information packs, quarterly newsletters and the Show Me That I Matter website. Advocacy casework for children and young people who are in care, going through the child protection process or wanting to make a complaint has continued to be provided, in line with the local authority’s statutory duty. During this quarter the service has received 5 advocacy referrals; 3 of which were in relation to children and young people in care and 2 in relation to child protection

Council Plan

31. This report is directly linked to the three key priorities of the Council Plan for 2015-19: A Prosperous City for All; A Focus on Frontline Services; and A Council that Listens to Residents.

Implications

32. The financial implications are covered within the main body of the report. There are no other direct implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

33. As this report is for information only there are no specific recommendations.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest financial and performance position for 2017/18.

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**Report
Approved**

Y

Date 20 March 2018

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the authors of the report

Background Papers

2017/18 Finance and Performance Monitor 3 Report, Executive 8 February 2018

Annexes

Annex A: 2017/18 Monitor 3 Performance Scorecard