

Report of the Director of Children’s Services, Education & Skills and the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods

2014/15 Second Quarter Financial, Performance & Equality Monitoring Report – Learning & Culture

Summary

- 1 This report analyses the latest performance for 2014/15 and forecasts the financial outturn position by reference to the service plan and budgets for all of the relevant services falling under the responsibility of the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods and the Director of Children’s Services, Education & Skills.

Financial Analysis

- 2 The services that relate to the Learning & Culture Overview and Scrutiny committee cross two Directorates (Communities and Neighbourhoods and Children’s Services, Education & Skills). A summary of the service plan variations is shown at table 1 below.

**Table 1 – Learning & Culture Financial Projections Summary
2014/15 – Quarter 2 - September**

	2014/15 Budget £000	Projected Outturn Variation	
		£000	%
CANS Directorate (Extract)			
Arts & Heritage	1,714	0	0%
Learning Services	43	+200	+465.1%
Libraries & Archives	2,026	+20	+1.0%
Youth Services	484	-50	-10.3%
Sport & Active Leisure (Facilities)	867	0	0%
CANS Directorate (Extract)	5,134	+170	+3.3%

CSES Directorate			
Children's Specialist Services	21,239	+719	+3.4%
Education & Skills	11,609	-407	-3.5%
School Funding & Assets	108,252	0	0%
Directorate of CSES General	455	+68	+14.9%
Children's Services Core Funding	(116,588)	+201	+0.2%
CSES Directorate	24,968	+581	+2.3%
Total Learning & Culture	30,102	+751	+2.5%

Communities & Neighbourhoods Directorate

- 3 The Communities & Neighbourhoods Directorate is reporting £170k overspend. This is mainly due to restructuring within Learning Services following changes to their contracts which run for academic years (rather than on a financial year basis) and were not known at the time the 2014/15 budget was set. Following a major review of Youth Services part of the service has transferred to Communities & Neighbourhoods. There is a requirement to find more savings for 2015/16 and this has already been achieved.

Children's Services, Education & Skills Directorate

- 4 Despite a reduction in the number of Looked After Children and a reduction in expenditure of almost £1m since 2012/13, the underlying budget pressure from previous years results in a net projected overspend within children's social care resources budgets. This includes forecast pressures on Out of City and Independent Foster Agency placements (£388k and £355k respectively), contract placements (£80k), The Glen Respite Care Home (£91k) and Adoption, Residence & Guardianship orders (£142k). It also includes additional staffing costs within Children's Safeguarding teams and the Integrated Family Service (£221k and £78k respectively).
- 5 The number of Looked After Children (LAC) is unlikely to reduce in the foreseeable future, and York's unit cost per LAC is already the lowest of all 150 Local Authorities nationally. Therefore, although opportunities to reduce costs further will continue to be explored, any further significant savings in this area are unlikely to be achievable, and options elsewhere within the directorate will need to be considered.

- 6 Offsetting these overspends a significant saving of £105k is currently projected on children's services legal fees. This is in excess of the budget saving already delivered for 2014/15 but allows no provision for any new complex cases requiring significant expert legal support. Special Educational Needs residential placements are forecast to underspend by £205k.
- 7 A number of posts being kept vacant within the school improvement, early years and connexions services in advance of delivering savings proposed for the 2015/16 financial year results in a forecast net underspend of £650k.
- 8 The Children's Services, Education & Skills Directorate Management Team are committed to doing all they can to try and contain expenditure within their budget for 2014/15 and reduce the projected overspend as far as possible by the year end. Dealing with the budget pressures is a standing item at the weekly management meetings, with all options available to further mitigate the current overspend projection being explored.

Performance Analysis/Equalities update

- 9 Members will recall at their meeting in September that they agreed that they would monitor progress on key equality performance indicators in relation to the Single Equality Scheme that come within the remit of this committee. The full performance scorecard with embedded equality indicators is attached at Annex 1 which shows performance for those indicators where data is available.
- 10 The percentage of Year 12-14 young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) who are LDD (self-defined LDD, school action, school action + or statement has increased from 27% to 27.6% at end of quarter 2
- 11 In terms of Securing appropriate education and training provision for all 16 to 19 year olds (to 25 LDD) with schools, colleges, apprenticeships work based learning and personalised packages the number of York resident places for those with high needs funding is up from 118 (2013/14) to 155 (planned for 2014/15), reflecting increased participation of 16-25 year olds with high level needs. We are continuing the reduction in "out of area placements" due to expansion in number and range of local programmes.

- 12 The York 300 project to improve the educational attainment of young people eligible for free school meals has been launched. The Pupil Premium Conference took place in December. The key note speaker was Sir John Dunford, National Pupil Premium Champion.
- 13 Meetings have been held with head teachers/SENCOs in schools with higher numbers of Traveller students on roll. Targets have been set to improve attendance of individual Traveller pupils whose attendance is below Persistent Absence levels. A new Teaching Assistant have been appointed to support transition from KS2-3 and KS3-4 to reduce the number of students opting for elective home education.

Council Plan

- 14 This report is directly linked to the Protect Vulnerable People, Build Strong Communities and Create Jobs and Grow the Economy elements of the Council Plan 2011-15.

Implications

- 15 The financial and equalities implications are covered within the main body of the report. There are no significant human resources, legal, information technology, property or crime & disorder implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

- 16 Children's Social Services budgets are under significant pressure. On going work within the directorate may identify some efficiency savings in services that could be used to offset these cost pressures before the end of the financial year. It will also be important to understand the level of investment needed to hit performance targets and meet rising demand for key statutory services. Managing within the approved budget for 2014/15 therefore represents a significant challenge, and the management team will continue to review expenditure across the directorate.

Recommendations

- 17 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 2014/15.

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Approved

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

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

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

Second finance and performance monitor for 2014/15, Cabinet 16 December 2014

Abbreviations:

NEET - Not in education, employment or training

LDD - Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

SENCO - Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

KS - Key Stage

LAC - Looked After Children

CANS - Communities & Neighbourhoods Directorate

CSES - Children's Services, Education & Skills Directorate