

Meeting of the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Social Services and Advisory Panel 8th December 2008

Report of the Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

2008/9 Service Plans and Budget 2nd 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 half year 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 across the board and we are on track to achieve better end of year results in all areas than in 07/8 (although some are behind the actual target for this stage of the financial year). The planning applications for the redevelopment of the Discus Bungalow sites were approved in November.
5. In relation to housing general fund activities, the replacement for the Peasholme building has been delayed due to the insolvency of the original contractor and building work will not resume until January 2009. In terms of homelessness the key performance area relates to the numbers of people still in temporary accommodation and although there has been improvement in 2007/8 achieving the target reduction for this year will be

very challenging. A report on lettings policy will be brought to the January meeting which will include consideration of this issue. Pressure on demands for housing adaptations continues and this is covered in separate reports on this agenda. The results of the Private Sector Stock Condition Survey show significant improvements with conditions in York being significantly ahead of the national average. These results are being fed in to the refreshed Private Sector Housing Strategy which is the subject of a separate report on this agenda

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 we are on track to deliver the target number of affordable homes for 08/9 as these were already in the pipeline. A very productive workshop took place in November with house builders and other landlords to look at options for bringing forward new affordable homes in the current climate and the outcomes of the event will be shared with members early in the New Year.
7. In terms of Corporate Services levels of sickness absence continues to reduce with the aim of bringing the days lost per full time employee into single figures within by 2010. 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.
8. In terms of adult social services the new portfolios came into place on 1st November and the new management teams are getting to grips with the work. Progress on the improvement plan arising from the CSCI inspection is being reviewed by the departmental management team on a fortnightly basis with a particular focus on Safeguarding. Intensive work continues on the completion of consultation on Phase 2 of Home Care changes with the new structure on track to be in place by 2009.
9. Individualised solutions have been put in place for all those who used to attend Yearsley Bridge and Huntington Road day centres including accessing facilities at the Oaklands Centre. The third and fourth ‘changing places’ are due to open before the end of the year. Work is on target to move people from the last remaining NHS campus in Easingwold and into their own homes by the end of 2009. The number of people using direct payments has continued to rise and is ahead of target. A Personalisation Plan to lead the transformation of services has been drawn up with a first draft going to the officer Board in December.
10. The departmental management team have reviewed the resources needed to support the new Performance Management Framework for Adult Social Care which was agreed following the recent inspection. A series of performance clinics have been taking place and all the key indicators are reviewed monthly – and in some cases weekly. The detail on those performance indicators updated since the last monitor are in the annexes to this report. A lot of work has been done to understand the issues underlying performance in terms of the completion of assessments for new customers. This is a newly defined indicator and is primarily 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. Additional resources have been put in place to support improvement although these have yet to be reflected in any significant improvement. This indicator is subject to a detailed action plan and very regular scrutiny by the departmental management team. An update will be provided to the January meeting.

11. Members will note some slippage in salary expenditure that is contributing to the projected under-spend forecast for 08/9. In part this relates to new posts agreed as part of ring-fenced grant funding (e.g. in areas of commissioning) that were delayed in terms of evaluation for pay and grading. In part it also relates to difficulties in recruiting to some professional posts and shortages of suitably qualified people.

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 £7,262k. 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 £285k which, together with the budgeted balance of £7,262k, now gives a total estimated balance on the HRA of £7,547k.
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 £1,404k. This review indicates a forecast underspend of £74k 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 underspend of £476k compared to the approved budget of £38.0m, a reduction of 1.2%.
15. The table below sets out the overall departmental General Fund position, which is a projected net general fund underspend of £550k.

	Exp Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	Net Budget £'000	Net Forecast £'000	Variation £'000	Variation %
Housing General Fund	11,254	9,850	1,404	1,330	-74	-5.27
Adult Social Services	60,257	22,197	38,060	37,584	-476	-1.2

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 £1,085k, an increase of £551k, 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.	Creation of budget for Discus Bungalow Revenue Costs	
	a) Increase in Discus Revenue Budgets	+136
	b) Decrease in the HRA working balance	-136
2.	Budget for Energy Performance Certificates	
	a) Increase in Asset Management Budgets	+32
	b) Decrease in HRA working balance	-32
	<u>HOUSING GENERAL FUND</u>	
3.	Virements within HASS to reflect spending pressures across the department	+3
	<u>ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES</u>	
4.	Virements within HASS to reflect spending pressures across the department	
	• Corporate Services	-282
	• Learning disabilities	+138
	• Mental Health	-1
	• Older People & Physical Disabilities	+140
5.	Final transfer of budgets to LCCS following Disaggregation of Children's Services	-20
6.	Transfer of budget from Resources for Trainee Accounting Technician post	+25
7.	Reduction in income budget to reflect reduction in Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) dividend	+15
8.	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 22 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 Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to note and comment on the content of this report

Reason: So that the Executive Member is briefed on the projected performance and financial outturns for Housing & Adult Social Services.

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill Hodson
Director

Report Approved

Date 24/11/08

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

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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: Annexes on Service Plan updates

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Annex 2 – Housing General Fund

Annex 3 –Corporate Services

Annex 4 –Older Peoples' & Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Services

Annex 5 –Mental Health Services

Annex 6 – Learning Disabilities