

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education & Communities

**2016/17 Third Quarter Finance and Performance Monitoring Report – Learning & Culture**

**Summary**

- 1 This report analyses the latest performance for 2016/17 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 Director of Children, Education & Communities.

**Financial Analysis**

- 2 A summary of the service plan variations is shown at table 1 below, with the following sections providing more details of the significant potential outturn variations and any mitigating actions that are proposed.

**Table 1: Learning & Culture Financial Summary 2016/17 – Quarter 3 (December)**

2016/17 Quarter Two Variation £000		2016/17 Latest Approved Budget			2016/17 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Net Spend £000	£000	%
-554	Children’s Specialist Services	21,142	1,139	20,003	-426	-2.1%
0	Communities & Equalities	9,331	4,235	5,096	-16	-0.3%
-100	Education & Skills	21,073	7,964	13,109	-178	-1.4%
+579	School Funding & Assets	117,565	124,495	-6,930	+438	+6.3%
-22	Director of CEC & Central Budgets	2,276	5,895	-3,620	+33	+0.9%
<b>-97</b>	<b>Total CEC Directorate</b>	<b>171,387</b>	<b>143,728</b>	<b>27,658</b>	<b>-149</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>

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

- 3 The first quarter report for 2016/17 showed a projected net underspend of £58k, the second a £97k underspend and the latest position at Table 1 projects an underspend of £149k. This is an increase of £91k since quarter one. The following sections provide more details of the significant projected outturn variations, and any mitigating actions that are proposed

### **Children's Specialist Services (-£426k / 2.1%)**

- 4 Following the allocation of £1,930k of growth funding for 2016/17 to deal with a number of historic expenditure pressures, there are no significant variations to report within Children's Social Care budgets. Within Special Educational Needs there is a projected underspend of £548k on out of city education placements due to the on-going efforts to support as many young people as possible in York. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining net overspend of £15k.

### **Communities & Equalities (-£16k / 0.3%)**

- 5 There are no significant variations to report.

### **Education & Skills (-£178k / 1.4%)**

- 6 There is a net underspend on staffing of £246k, due to posts being kept vacant while the services that they provide are being reviewed as part of the directorate's transformation programme. Following the transfer of the healthy child service there is a projected one-off net overspend for the archiving of documents. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining net overspend of £18k.

### **Schools Funding & Assets (+£438 / 6.3%)**

- 7 The net overspend is made up of the following variations:
- a higher than budgeted for carry forward of surplus Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from 2015/16 (-£215k), but offset by the Schools Forum's agreement to use £43k of this to fund two behaviour support pilots;
  - a £68k projected net overspend on high needs place and top up funding, mainly in due to additional provision required in local special schools;
  - 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 revised projected surplus carry forward of DSG into 2017/18 of £892k.

### **Director of CEC and Central Budgets (+£33k / 0.9%)**

- 8 There are some additional redundancy and implementation costs in respect of the significant staffing restructures that are underway across the directorate

totalling c£250k. These additional costs will be funded from the two year reduction in the directorate's savings target included in the 2016/17 budget. There is a projected £40k pressure in respect of the costs of supporting the increased number of academy conversions being experienced, particularly for legal and other advice in respect of PFI schools. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining net underspend of £7k.

## **Performance Analysis**

- 9 There were 196 children and young people in care at the end of December, which is within the safe and expected range and has been relatively stable over the past year.
- 10 At the heart of the Children's Services restructure was the need to make the best use of our available resources to strengthen the quality of our decision making and to improve outcomes for children. For our children and young people in care, the Achieving Permanence Group is responsible for providing care planning, social work and leaving care support to all children and young people in the care of the Local Authority who have a plan for permanence.
- 11 The newly created Children in Permanent Placement Team provides a service to all children whose care plan involves permanency away from their parents (other than adoption). In line with our relational model of practice the aim is to develop care plans that support young people's identity and long term relationships with their birth families where appropriate, with their carers and with their professional support network including their Social Worker. We are confident this will help our children and young people in care to achieve good long term outcomes, including good health, education, employment, housing and relationship outcomes.
- 12 Through the "Make York Home" initiative and careful care planning, matching and support of carers, the aim is wherever possible to provide long-term stable care in York to enable our children and young people in care to grow up in their City whilst maintaining their friends and familial links, as well as their education. Our carers are supported by a Placement Finding Commissioning and Support Team with a mix of staff including a Senior Practitioner, Placement Social Workers and Children and Families Support Workers.
- 13 Both of these services work closely together with the child and young person at the centre of what they do and it is promising to note that our new structure is contributing to improving placement stability and outcomes for our children and young people in care.
- 14 Key Stage 4 performance tables for schools again confirm that York's young people are achieving very well and are making good progress. KS4 performance in York for the attainment measure of 5 A\*-C including English and

Maths was well above national and regional averages in 2016 and pupils made above average progress.

- 15 Progress 8 is a measure of the progress made by pupils from their Key Stage 2 test scores to grades in 8 subjects at GCSE (it can include 3 other high value qualifications). It is calculated for every pupil and progress in English in maths is double weighted. A positive score represents progress above the average for all pupils and a negative score progress below the average for all pupils – a difference of 0.1 is equivalent to one tenth of a grade. This city wide average of all York Year 11 pupils' Progress 8 scores represents progress slightly above the national average, but statistically in line with it. It places York just inside the top third of LAs nationally.
- 16 There are many partners and factors that will contribute to addressing the gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19. At its heart, Local Area Teams will look to address inequality in outcomes by working with all partners and families across the city. A key change will be that services will operate within community from pregnancy through to adulthood. This continuity of knowledge and support will mean many of the factors that lead to outcome inequality from an early age will be addressed in a more coherent way alongside partners. In simple terms this means tackling emerging need at an early stage leading to improved outcomes.
- 17 In addition trained Learning and Work Advisers from the Local Area Teams will 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). The Learning and Work Advisers will provide information, advice and guidance through appointments, group work and workshops at arranged times to suit the needs of the young people and they will also have available appointments at locations across the city based upon identified need. These arrangements will work hand in hand with the careers guidance and support that is provided through schools and other education providers.
- 18 Additionally the LA has reiterated the FSM gap at both L2 and L3 at age 19 as a key priority in the annual 14-19 Local Area Statement of Need. All York state funded school sixth forms and York College now actively track their FSM cohort as a defined vulnerable group and seek to provide additional support where possible for these students. The latest published measures are for the Year 13 cohort leaving in summer 2014. York College, where student volumes are greatest, report improvements in attainment of their FSM cohort in academic years 14/15 and 15/16 which, when validated, should lead to a closing of the gap in figures published in April 2017 and 2018. Career Ready and the Social Mobility Foundation have recently been signposted and will work with the L3 FSM cohort in York schools and York College. The issue will be raised again

through the next meeting of the Post 16 Leads Group where good practice will be shared between partners.

## Council Plan

- 19 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

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

## Recommendations

- 21 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 2016/17.

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### Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

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

**For further information please contact the authors of the report**

## Background Papers

2016/17 Finance and Performance Monitor 3 Report, Executive 9 February 2017

## Annex

Annex A: 2016/17 Quarter 3 Performance Scorecard

**Abbreviations**

CEC - Children, Education & Communities

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant

FSM – Free School Meals

KS – Key Stage

LA – Local Authority

NEET - Not in Employment, Education or Training

PFI - Private Finance Initiative