

**Learning and Culture Policy &  
Scrutiny Committee**

**11 January 2017**

Report of the Corporate Director Children, Education & Communities

**2016/17 Second 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 Corporate 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 (September)**

2016/17 Quarter One Variation £000		2016/17 Latest Approved Budget			2016/17 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Net Spend £000	£000	%
+95	Children's Specialist Services	23,019	1,566	21,453	-554	-2.6%
0	Communities & Equalities	9,617	4,297	5,319	0	0%
-195	Education & Skills	16,311	7,486	8,825	-100	-1.1%
0	School Funding & Assets	117,565	124,495	-6,930	+579	+8.4%
+42	Director of CEC & Central Budgets	2,300	5,895	-3,596	-22	-0.6%
<b>-58</b>	<b>Total CEC Directorate</b>	<b>168,812</b>	<b>143,740</b>	<b>25,072</b>	<b>-97</b>	<b>-0.4%</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 latest position at table 1 is now showing a net projected underspend of £97k across all Children, Education & Communities budgets, a small increase of £38k. The following sections provide more details of the significant projected outturn variations, and any mitigating actions that are proposed.

### **Children's Specialist Services (-£554k / 2.6%)**

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 underspend of £6k.

### **Communities & Equalities (£nil / 0%)**

5 At this stage of the year there are no significant variations to report.

### **Education & Skills (-£100k / 1.1%)**

6 There is a net underspend on staffing of £175k, due to posts being kept vacant while the services that they provide are being reviewed as part of the directorate's transformation programme. There is a projected net overspend of £59k on home to school transport as there have been delays in implementing the proposed savings in denominational and SEN transport. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining net overspend of £16k.

### **Director of CEC and Central Budgets (-£22k / 0.6%)**

7 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. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining net underspend of £22k.

### **Schools Funding & Assets (+£579 / 8.4%)**

8 The net variation is made up of the following:

- 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 £71k 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 £1,030k.

## Performance Analysis

- 9 The number of children looked after remained in line with previous trends at 190. This is within the safe and expected range, which has been stable for a significant amount of time. Placement stability continues to be an important area of focus.
- 10 The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at the end of September was 143, returning to similar levels seen in 2014/15. The increase may represent increased demand, as has been noted nationally, as well as an appropriate consequence of reducing the number of children in care through robust management of 'edge of care' cases. This area continues to be monitored by the extended management team.
- 11 School performance remained strong against national and regional averages. Improvements in attainment were seen in Early Years Foundation Stage, Year 1 Phonics, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Progress has improved to being in line with national in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
- 12 The proportion of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) remains stable at around 5%. This indicator is changing nationally to focus on 16-17 year olds. More information will be available in the coming months about how the definition change affects this area.
- 13 In York, the percentage point gap between free school meals (FSM) and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 has been an issue for the last five years with York consistently in the bottom decile compared to other LAs. On the latest measure from 2014/15 the size of the Non-FSM cohort was 1,580 and the FSM 145 students. The increase in the gap was for two reasons; firstly the percentage of the Non-FSM cohort attaining L3 increased from 64% to 68% whereas for the FSM cohort there was reduction from 29% to 26% - hence the gap moved from 35% to 42%. To be in line with the national gap we would have needed an estimated 25 students from the FSM cohort to have attained L3. It may also be that fewer students from the FSM cohort at age 15 progressed to start L3 study Post 16 – this will need further investigation.
- 14 To address the gap, the LA has consistently highlighted 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.

- 15 Following on from the York 300 analysis, a project has commenced to identify a group of schools who will work together to improve the outcomes of disadvantaged pupils. Millthorpe School, who received an award from the Department for Education for their work to support the progress of disadvantaged pupils, are leading the project in partnership with CYC. Initially, the project will recruit three primary Head Teachers with a good record of narrowing the gap. They will each work with two Head Teachers from schools wishing to narrow the gap at Key Stage 2. The six schools will be selected because their current gap is wide and because there are large numbers of disadvantaged pupils. In this way, the impact of improvements should have a significant effect on York as a whole.
- 16 The continued development of children and young people's voice can be clearly seen through two recent events.
  - A peer review of children and young people's safeguarding board arrangements highlighted the strength of this work and the commitment of the local authority and partners to it.
  - The Aspire to More campaign recently won a national award for its work. The Aspire to More project, created in partnership with Inspired Youth and launched in September 2016, aims to raise aspirations for young people in care and care leavers; it is designed to inspire care-experienced young people by sharing care leavers stories and presenting positive and inspirational role models who have similar life experiences. The campaign won Best Local Authority Pitch and Poster at the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum.
  - York Youth Council recently supported the Make Your Mark project. Make your mark is a ballot of young people, supported by Local Authorities, UK Parliament, and the Cabinet Office, giving young people across the country a say on what is to be debated to be a priority campaign by their Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) in their annual House of Commons debate. York Youth Council coordinated the project locally and a record breaking total of 5,570 votes were cast in York schools this autumn. The British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament but run superbly by York Youth Council, has seen an increase on last years 3,600 votes setting a new record for the biggest

youth consultation of its kind in York, with 50% of all young people aged 11-18, taking part in York.

- 17 In 2015-16, all 227 allocated Troubled Families were identified and engaged. Since the beginning of the 2016-17 financial year, 98 of the 259 allocated families have been identified and engaged. The context of these families remains consistent: 21% come from the most deprived areas, 54% live in social housing and the most frequent reasons for identification are receipt of out of work benefits, involvement with Early Help and Children's Social Care services, and poor school attendance and behaviour. Successful significant and sustained family outcomes, as measured by the Troubled Families Outcomes plan, remain low but are expected to pick up during Q3 and Q4. Early preparation for a spot check by the Department for Communities and Local Government has helped create resilience before the introduction of the Local Area Team model.

### **Council Plan**

- 18 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**

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

### **Recommendations**

- 20 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.

## Contact Details

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Report  Date 3 January  
Approved 2017

### 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

2016/17 Finance and Performance Monitor 2 Report - Executive 24 November 2016

## Annexes

Annex A: 2016/17 Quarter 2 Performance Scorecard

## Abbreviations

CYC – City of York Council

DSG – Dedicated School Grant

FSM – Free School Meals

L2/3 – Level 2/3

LA – Local Authority

MYP – Member of Youth Parliament

NEET – Not in education, employment or training

Q3/4 – Quarter 3/4

SEN – Special Educational Needs