

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education & Communities

**2017/18 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE FIRST 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 1

2016/17 Draft Outturn Variation £000		2017/18 Latest Approved Budget			2017/18 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Gross Spend £000	£000	%
-24	Children's Specialist Services	21,864	1,108	20,756	-126	-0.6%
-45	Communities & Equalities	8,962	4,029	4,933	-12	-0.2%
-588	Education & Skills	19,310	9,367	9,943	-142	-1.4%
+623	School Funding & Assets	122,933	129,820	-6,886	+447	+6.5%
+1	Director of CEC & Central Budgets	1,359	5,882	-4,523	+177	+3.9%
-33	Total CEC Directorate	174,428	150,206	24,223	+344	+1.4%

+ 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 (-£126k / 0.6%)

- 4 Children's Social Care (CSC) staffing budgets are currently projecting a net overspend of £127k, mainly due to expensive agency staff being used to cover important but hard to fill social worker posts. In light of this, and as reported to Staffing & Urgency Committee in July, additional unbudgeted costs of £59k 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 £30k.
- 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 £207k, including +£98k on local fostering and +£105k on out of city placements. This is offset by a net projected underspend on inter-agency adoption fees of £124k.
- 6 There is a net projected overspend of £44k 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 £453k. 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 £54k 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 £38k.

Communities & Equalities (-£12k / 0.2%)

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

Education & Skills (-£142k / 1.4%)

- 10 Local Area Teams budgets are projecting a net £333k 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 £101k within School Improvement due to a number of staffing vacancies, particularly within the Skills Team, 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 £287k. There are 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. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining projected net overspend of £5k.

Schools Funding & Assets (+£447 / 6.5%)

- 12 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 £813k.

Director of CEC and Central Budgets (+£177k / 3.9%)

- 13 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 offset by the savings achieved, a one off over spend of £200k is forecast for 2017/18. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining projected net underspend of £23k.

Performance Analysis

Number of Children Looked After

- 14 There were 201 children and young people in care at the end of June 2017. Against a backdrop of a significant number of national and local agencies struggling with meeting rising demand and costs, we are pleased to see that the number is within the safe and expected range.
- 15 The council is committed to placing as many looked after children in its care as possible within York placements and is therefore seeking to increase the number of foster carers by up to 25 households. This will enable more flexibly to match children and young people with the right foster carers and continue to bring young people back to York, when this is the right plan for them. To help achieve this, the council has signed up to the 'You Can Foster' regional initiative, helping with wider advertising campaigns such as television adverts to be screened in June 2017, September 2017 and January 2018. The campaign was launched during "Fostering Fortnight" in May 2017, an event which involved foster carers and children in care, and ran alongside York-led adverts on local radio and in the local press.

- 16 The Local Area Teams (LATs) were launched in January 2017 and are the centrepiece of York's early help arrangements for children, young people and families from pregnancy through to adulthood. The teams are now operating in our areas of highest need, based in Hob Moor, Tang Hall and Clifton but have responsibility for the local offer of the wider reach areas. The city centre young person's offer is delivered through resources drawn from the LATs rather than a distinct central resource. The purpose of a LAT is to; prevent the escalation of needs which may require, if not addressed, complex and costly interventions at a later point; work to reduce inequality of outcomes for our communities; multi-agency and bring together all partners in a local area that exist in the lives of children, young people and families; establish and understand what families or communities need and bring together partners to find a solution.

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

- 17 Progress 8 is a measure of the progress made by pupils between Key Stage 2 and selected subjects at GCSE. It is calculated for every pupil and progress in English and 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.
- 18 In 2016, the city wide average of Year 11 pupils' Progress 8 score showed York was slightly above the national average and inside the top third of LAs nationally. The council commitment for school improvement and the facilitation of driving up standards has included the expansion of two primary schools with new school buildings at Lord Deramore's and Carr Infants school sites.
- 19 At a Primary level, 2017 un-validated data for Early Years shows that York remains above both regional and national averages for the percentage of children achieving a good level of development. Attainment and progress outcomes in KS1 and KS2 have both shown improvement in 2017, with a marked improvement in the percentage of children achieving the expected standard in writing across both key stages. This has previously been a key priority for improvement and led to the initiation of the writing project in 2016/17.

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

- 20 Attainment at age 19 remains generally positive however there have been concerns about the outcome gap between both disadvantaged young people and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their peers. Latest figures from April 2017 show the attainment gap is closing in some areas and, to address remaining challenges, Further Education providers will be worked with and strategically supported by the council to sustain focus on these groups.

- 21 In addition, Learning and Work Advisers from the council's 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). Appointments and group work will be available at locations across the city based on local need and will complement the careers guidance and support provided through schools and other education providers under their statutory duties.

Voice and Involvement

- 22 The Voice and Involvement Group has completed work to develop a new Voice and Involvement Strategy. The new strategy will be presented to the YorOK Board and the LSCB to be adopted by the wider partnership. Following the development of the new strategy a 2017 Review of Voice will be undertaken to capture key messages from children and young people and provide clear actions on the development of children and young people's involvement. On the 26th June a Primary Voice event was held at West Offices. John Hattam, Community Liaison Officer from Clifton Green Primary School, led on the development of the event which was jointly hosted by the Communities and Equalities team and the Local Area Teams.
- 23 Over 70 children with staff from 18 primary schools in York attended the event at West Offices. They took part in workshops giving them the opportunity to speak directly to local councillors from each of the main parties, explore how ward funding is spent and how campaigns are run. The event focused on listening to the views of the children whilst giving them an insight into the way in which the local authority works. The children were supported at the event by York's Member of Youth Parliament, Dominic Bielby and Chair of Youth Council, Joseph Johnson-Tod.
- 24 The children recorded their thoughts and views throughout the course of the event. There are some fantastic ideas covering a range of issues, important to all residents in York. These have now been collated into a single document summarising messages from the day so that decision makers can give them their consideration. Our promise to the children was that their views would be listened to and shared with those that can influence change. The intention is that a follow up event is organised to feedback to the children and young people about what difference their views have made.

Council Plan

- 25 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

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

Recommendations

27 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.

Contact Details

Authors:

Richard Hartle
Finance Manager
Adults, Children &
Education
Phone: 01904 554225
richard.hartle@york.gov.uk

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Jon Stonehouse
Corporate Director of Children, Education &
Communities

Will Boardman
Strategy & Policy Group
Manager
Phone: 01904 553412
will.boardman@york.gov.uk

Report
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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 1 Report, Executive 31 August 2017

Annexes

Annex A: 2017/18 Monitor 1 Performance Scorecard