

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education & Communities

**2017/18 Finance and Performance Second 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 2

2017/18 Quarter One Variation £000		2017/18 Latest Approved Budget			2017/18 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Gross Spend £000	£000	%
-126	Children's Specialist Services	22,094	1,139	20,955	+149	+0.7%
-12	Communities & Equalities	9,100	4,252	4,848	+16	+0.3%
-142	Education & Skills	19,309	9,367	9,942	-194	-1.9%
+447	School Funding & Assets	117,565	124,451	-6,886	+316	+4.6%
+177	Director of CEC & Central Budgets	1,160	5,882	-4,722	+111	+2.4%
+344	Total CEC Directorate	169,228	145,091	24,137	+398	+1.7%

+ 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 (+£149k / 0.7%)

- 4 Children's Social Care (CSC) staffing budgets are currently projecting a net overspend of £115k, mainly due to relatively 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 £200k, including +£192k on local fostering, +£89k on Inter Agency Adoption Fees and +£161k on Adoption and Special Guardianship Order allowances. This is offset by a net projected underspend of £176k on out of city placements and £66k on Leaving Care costs.
- 6 There is a net projected overspend of £93k 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 £328k. 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 £43k 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 £23k.

Communities & Equalities (+£12k / 0.3%)

- 9 There are currently no significant variations to report.

Education & Skills (-£194k / 1.9%)

- 10 Local Area Teams budgets are projecting a net £349k 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 £97k 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 £274k. 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 underspend of £22k.

Schools Funding & Assets (+£316 / 4.6%)

- 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 £682k.

Director of CEC and Central Budgets (+£111k / 2.4%)

- 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 more than offset by the savings achieved, a one off over spend of £150k is forecast for 2017/18. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining projected net underspend of £39k.

Performance Analysis

Number of Children Looked After

- 14 There were 195 children and young people in care at the end of September 2017. This evidences a continued consistency of practice and need, against the national trend of increasing looked after numbers.
- 15 The stability of placements of children and young people in care has shown consistent improvement over the last three years, with the number of children experiencing three or more moves of placement falling to 4% by the end of Q2 from nearly 12% in 2014/15.
- 16 In line with national trends, York has been facing challenges with recruiting foster carers and has launched a new approach to encourage people to foster. Partnership working with 'You Can Foster' has improved enquiry rates, with 36

enquires received in Q2 2017/18 compared to 10 enquiries during the same period last year.

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 2017, the average Progress 8 score for Year 11 pupils was slightly above the national average and an improvement on 2016. Provisional results show that York compares well with regional results.
- 19 Building on the success of our six school primary writing project, which contributed to improved Key Stage 2 outcomes in 2017, we joined Pathfinder Teaching School Alliance and Huntington Research School in a bid for funding to the DfE Strategic School Improvement Funding for a larger project starting in January 2018. The bid was successful and realised £196k to deliver a programme of intensive training and support across at least 14 schools this year. The project will expand to include a further group of schools in 2018-19.

%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 Youth Council have drafted and agreed a new constitution which includes three distinct work groups focusing on campaigns, consultation and

engagement. Elections have also taken place for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. Training has been undertaken focusing on consultation with CYC and the Future Plan/Key Decisions. The consultation group will take an active role in providing an offer of consultation and the views of young people on key decisions that affect young people in York. The Youth Council will be carrying out a review of their constitution at the end of November and will make any necessary changes.

- 23 A 'Make your Mark' ballot has been completed this year and for the first time, in addition to secondary schools, colleges and targeted groups have also been consulted. 'Make your Mark' is a national ballot where young people across the country are asked which issues matter most to them, in order to determine what is debated by the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) in the House of Commons on 11th November. These groups included Show me that I matter, the Virtual School, Danesgate, York Learning, YOT, York and Askham Bryan College, the Apprenticeship Event, 30 Clarence Street and Young Carers.
- 24 The Primary Voice event was held at City of York Council on June 26 with children from 18 primary schools present. Discussions between local councillors and the schoolchildren covered a wide variety of topics, from how the children would manage the council budget to their ideas on parks and school meals. The report has been fed back to Councillors and was well received. A Secondary Voice event has been arranged for Wednesday 15th November and will include opportunities for the Young People to again meet with Councillors from each of the three main parties as well as opportunities to consult on the York Central Project, The Healthy Child Service and this years York Youth Council campaigns.

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

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**Report
Approved**

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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 2 Report, Executive 15 November 2017

Annexes

Annex A: 2017/18 Monitor 2 Performance Scorecard