

Report of the Director of Adults, Children & Education and the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods

**2011/12 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT –  
LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE AND CHILDREN & YOUNG  
PEOPLE’S SERVICES**

**Summary**

- 1 This report analyses the latest performance for 2011/12 and forecasts the financial outturn position by reference to the service plan and budgets for all of the relevant services falling under the responsibility of the Director of Adults, Children & Education and the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods.

**Financial Analysis**

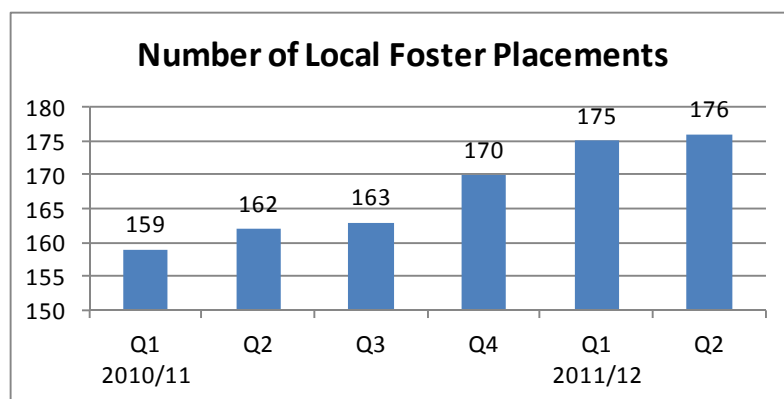
- 2 Communities & Neighbourhoods are predicting early financial pressures within Lifelong Learning & Culture of £176k. This is primarily due to a projected overspend within Arts and Culture Education (£187k) and is a result of the restructure going live from the beginning of the academic year and one off redundancy costs.
- 3 In order to mitigate the pressures, the directorate is limiting expenditure to a minimum, however it is unable to do so in all circumstances, for example where contractual obligations prohibit this. Service managers are also drawing up proposals, some of which may require a political decision and will therefore be brought before the appropriate committee when necessary.
- 4 There are a further £690k of net pressures within Children & Young People's budgets, made up of the following significant variations:
- 5 The number of children currently under the care of the council is considerably higher than predicted when the 2011/12 budget was set and as a result is contributing to the directorate's financial pressures. This increased caseload has resulted in additional in-year staffing costs

(£226K). The table below demonstrates the year-on-year increase in Looked After Children and associated financial costs.

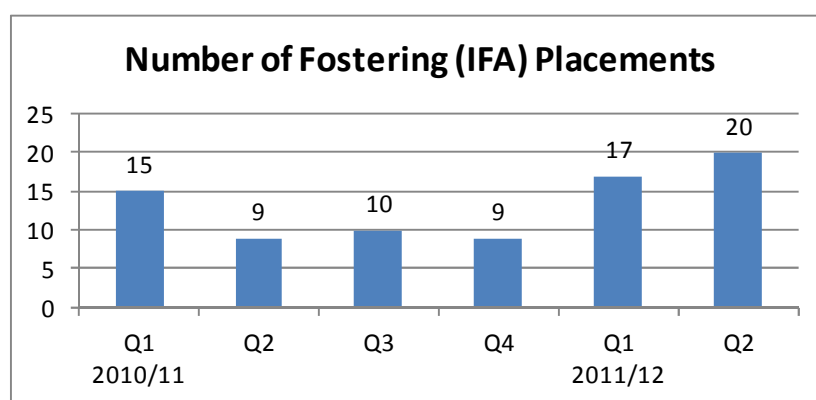
### Numbers and average cost of Looked After Children in York

Year	No. of LAC	% change	Budget	Actual	Cost per Child	% change
2006-07	157	12%	£1,972,780	£2,998,715	£19,100	N/A
2007-08	168	7%	£3,083,130	£3,345,742	£19,915	4%
2008-09	199	16%	£3,468,020	£3,833,682	£19,265	-3%
2009-10	223	11%	£3,578,760	£4,501,280	£20,185	5%
2010-11	236	6%	£4,759,490	£4,666,303	£19,772	-2%
2011-12 (Q2)	250	6%	£4,326,600	£4,955,944	£19,824	0%

- 6 The number of children in local foster placements has increased from 162 when the budget for 2011/12 was set, to the present figure of 176, which is creating a pressure of £226k. The table below shows the increase on a quarter by quarter basis.



- 7 The number of children in Independent Fostering Agency placements is expected to exceed that provided for in the budget creating a pressure of £139k. The table below shows the increase on a quarter by quarter basis.



- 8 As well as a vacancy freeze and a moratorium on non essential expenditure, the directorate is also assessing 2012/13 savings proposals

that could be brought forward in order to help bring the budget back in line by the end of the financial year.

## **Performance Analysis**

- 9 *Educational attainment:* York continues to improve in the attainment areas of key stage 4 (GCSEs) and key stage 2:
  - 62.1% of pupils achieved 5+ A\*-C grades, including English & Maths (+3% from 09/10).
  - 27.8% of pupils achieved Level 5+ in both English and Maths (+3.6% from 09/10).
- 10 *The attainment gap* between children on free school meals (FSM) and those who are not, at KS4 has reduced. This is due to significant improvements in the results across a number of schools, especially *York High* where more than half of FSM children achieved 5+A\*-C grades. The KS2 attainment gap has however increased this year after a significant improvement last year and is a major priority for school improvement work in the coming year.
- 11 *NEETs:* The number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training has increased to 6.4%. The increase is partly due to a change in the way the data is now calculated to only cover NEETs who are York residents. Previously, it included anyone coming to university and college institutions, but York's NEET rate is still one of the best in the North of England.
- 12 *Child Social Care:* The increase in the number of looked after children in council care has continued (see para 50) and this is affecting some areas of performance, with just under 19% of children now having been subject to a CPP for a second or more time against a target of 7% (lower is better). However, the proportion of child protection plans (CPP) lasting 2 years or more has reduced (1.3% compared to 3.9% in 2010/11) and the % of children social care referrals going on to initial assessment is at 61.4%, a significant improvement since Q1 (53.5%). Both these improvements relate to the new "front door" arrangements introduced earlier in the year.
- 13 *Parenting programmes:* The number of families attending targeted Parenting Programmes is over double target levels for Q2 (247 compared to target of 110). A new online referrals system has resulted in parents and carers being engaged in a programme which more accurately meets their needs. The online referrals received highlight that high numbers of parents have low mood/mental health issues, which are

impacting on their ability to parent effectively. Voluntary sector partners, Family Matters York, were successful in securing external funding to allow them to offer additional targeted programmes such as *'Time Out for Anger'* and *'Drug Proof Your Kids'*.

- 14 *Cultural and sports:* Visits to libraries decreased slightly in Q2, with 278,650 visits compared to 281,538 in Q2 2010/11. The closure of community libraries for a week each during Q2 to install self issue machines and public Wi-Fi impacted on the drop. Visits to swimming and sport centres have also decreased by 12% (186,618 for Q2, compared to 212,947 for the same period last year). This is in line with the national trend in swimming participation. The drop in visitor numbers is also partly due to the national abolition of the free swimming scheme for under 16's and over 60's from August 2010.

### **Corporate Priorities**

- 15 The information included in this report demonstrates progress on achieving the council's corporate strategy (2009-12) and the priorities set out within it.

### **Implications**

- 16 The financial implications are covered within the main body of the report. There are no significant human resources, equalities, legal, information technology, property or crime & disorder implications arising from this report.

### **Risk Management**

- 17 A number of budgets are under pressure. On going work within the directorates may identify some efficiency savings in services that could be used to offset these cost pressures before the end of the financial year. It will also be important to understand the level of investment needed to hit performance targets and meet rising demand for key statutory services. Managing within the approved budget for 2011/12 is therefore going to be extremely difficult and the management teams will continue to review expenditure across the directorates.

### **Recommendations**

- 18 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 2011/12.

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**Report Approved**

**Date** *xx November 2011*

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

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

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

**Background Papers**

2011/12 Finance and Performance Monitor 2, Cabinet 1 November 2011

**Annexes**

None