

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee 21 March 2012

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

2011/12 THIRD 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

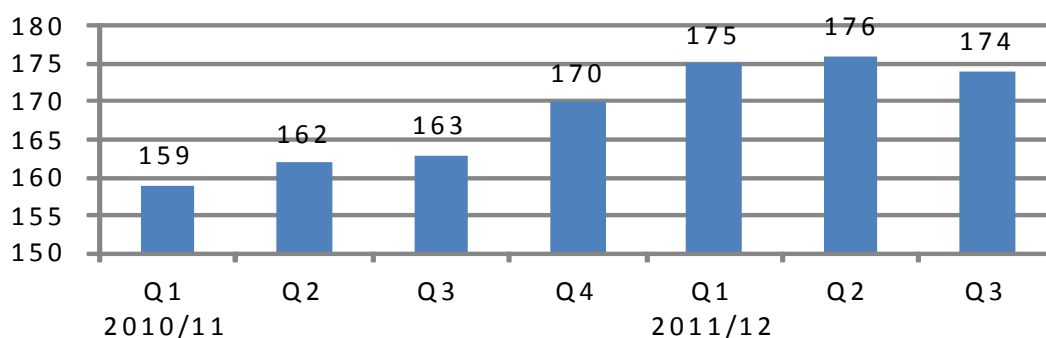
- 2 Communities & Neighbourhoods are predicting an underspend within Lifelong Learning & Culture of £100k, compared to an overspend of £176k at the last monitor. Underspends are now forecast in the majority of service areas due to actions taken to reduce spend. This is partly offset by a projected overspend within Arts and Culture Education (£187k) which is a result of the restructure going live from the beginning of the academic year and one off redundancy costs.
- 3 Within Children & Young People's budgets a net overspend of £608k is predicted, made up of the following significant variations:
- 4 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 (£317k) and increased legal costs (£133k). There are also currently 29 Special Guardianship Orders in place creating a financial pressure of £110k. 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 (Q3)	255	7%	£4,326,600	£5,021,690	£19,693	0%

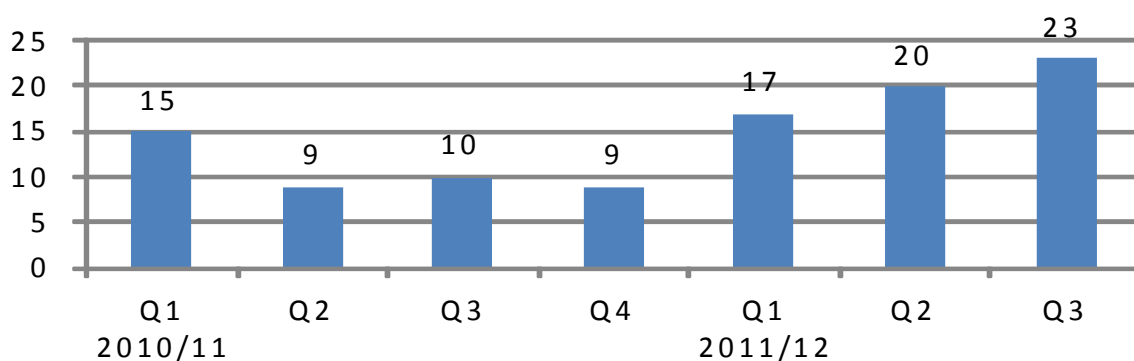
- 5 The number of children in local foster placements has increased from 162 when the budget for 2011/12 was set, to the present figure of 174, which is creating a pressure of £226k. A comprehensive programme of prevention to address growing LAC population was launched at a directorate event in December 11. Programme boards currently being established to deliver changes. The table below shows the increase on a quarter by quarter basis.

Number of Local Foster Placements



- 6 There is an ongoing need for 20 Independent Fostering Agency beds which is expected to exceed that provided for in the budget creating a pressure of £199k. A weekly review of the children in these placements by the senior management team has been initiated to expedite their return to local placements as soon as possible. Any moves are always for the child's benefit. The table below shows the increase on a quarter by quarter basis.

Number of Fostering (IFA) Placements



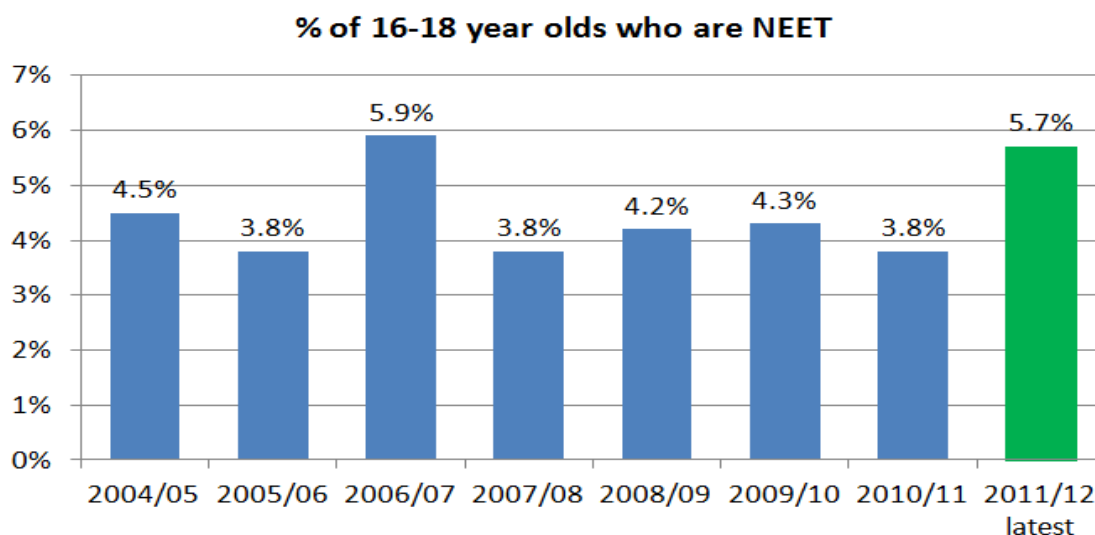
- 7 Delays in delivering the expected saving on Home to School transport (£221k) add to the overall pressures. Underspends on some previous year grant allocations can now be used to offset some of these expenditure pressures (£406k). Other mitigating savings of £192k result from restrictions on expenditure in place across the directorate along with a range of more minor variations across the service
- 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 *Children's Services*: awarded four stars (excellent) in the annual review (York is the only council, outside London, to be consistently awarded top marks during their Children Services assessment). However, there are some areas where performance is lower than the target, due to the impact of change initiatives and increasing service volumes.
- 10 *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).
- 11 *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.

- 12 *NEETS*: The provisional NEET figure for Q3 shows the expected drop to target levels of 5.7%, which is an excellent result in the current economic climate. Whilst we cannot directly compare ourselves with others as yet, other NEET information does show York performing well above the Y&H region average, placed joint second with East Riding, just under NYCC.



- 13 However, this figure does hide some issues with progression, retention and rising NEETs amongst young people who are Learners with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities (LLDD) particularly those who have emotional and behavioural difficulties

14 *Child Social Care:*

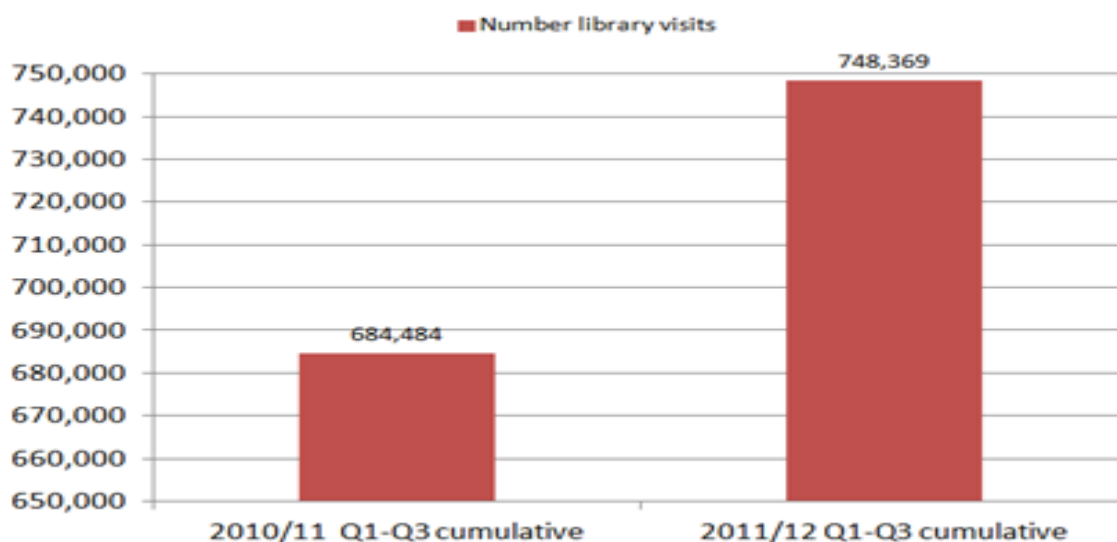
- The number of child protection plans (CPP) lasting 2 years or more has reduced to 0.8% compared to 3.9% in 2010/11.
- Just 24 children (just under 15%) have been subject to a CPP for the second or more time (an improvement from 18.6% in Q2) against a target of 7.
- However, for both these areas, it should be noted that this small cohort is made up of some large sibling groups, and as such changes to numbers do have a significant impact upon the percentages. Services are confident that appropriate decision making at point of deregistration was undertaken, and significant and unpredictable causes / circumstances leading to re-registration could not have been foreseen.
- Total numbers of out of authority placements reducing due to enhanced local provision (see para 63).

- 15 *Parenting programmes*: There has been a better than expected take up of the parenting programmes this year (376 to date - annual target of

300). Although there has been limited capacity to deliver parenting programmes this quarter, the service continues to meet the need.

- 16 *The York Education Partnership* has been established to develop the overall strategic direction of 0-19 education policy in York, replacing the existing Schools Forum arrangements. £1,200k savings have been generated through the restructure of the School Improvement Service, as part of the development of the new partnership.
- 17 *Cultural and sports*: Library visits for the year (April – December 2011) have increased by 9% over last year (748,369 compared to 684,484 in 2010/11). Although predicted to exceed last year's final outturn, visitor numbers are not expected to reach this year's ambitious target.

Library visits



- 18 Visits to swimming and sport centres continue to decline slightly, in line with the national trend in swimming participation. The opening of the new competition standard swimming pool at York Sports Village in partnership with York University is expected to significantly boost participation.

Council Plan

- 19 The information included in this report demonstrates progress on achieving the council's corporate priorities for 2011-2015 and in particular; priority 1 'Create jobs and grow the economy'; priority 3 'Build strong communities'; 4 'Protect Vulnerable People'.

Implications

- 20 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

- 21 A number of budgets are under pressure, particularly within Children & Young People's Services. On going work within the directorate 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

- 22 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

Y

Date 09 March 2012

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

2011/12 Finance and Performance Monitor 3, Cabinet 15 February 2012

Annexes

None