

## Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

22 July 2014

Report of the Director of Children's Services, Education & Skills and the  
Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods

### 2013/14 Finance and Performance Year End Report – Learning & Culture

#### Summary

- 1 This report analyses the outturn performance for 2013/14 and presents 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 Communities & Neighbourhoods and the Director of Children's Services, Education & Skills.

#### Financial Analysis

- 2 The services that relate to the Learning & Culture Overview and Scrutiny committee cross two Directorates (Communities and Neighbourhoods and Children's Services, Education & Skills). A summary of the service plan variations is shown at table 1 below.

**Table 1 – Learning & Culture Financial Projections Summary  
2013/14 – Draft Outturn**

	2013/14 Budget £000	Projected Outturn Variation	
		£000	%
<b>CANS Directorate (Extract)</b>			
Arts & Heritage	2,836	+19	+0.7%
Learning Services	778	+26	+3.3%
Libraries & Archives	2,964	+314	+10.6%
Sport & Active Leisure (Facilities)	1,437	-53	-3.7%
<b>CANS Directorate (Extract)</b>	<b>8,015</b>	<b>+306</b>	<b>+3.8%</b>
<b>CSES Directorate</b>			
Children's Specialist Services	22,241	+1,204	+5.4%
Education & Skills	6,488	-1,089	-16.8%
School & Children's Strategy & Planning	6,684	-511	-7.6%

School Funding & Assets	110,981	-106	-0.1%
Directorate of CSES General	(679)	+162	+23.9%
Children's Services Core Funding	(106,850)	+138	+0.1%
DSG Balance Carried Forward	(400)	+511	+127.8%
<b>CSES Directorate – Net General Fund</b>	<b>38,465</b>	<b>+309</b>	<b>+0.8%</b>
<b>Total Learning &amp; Culture</b>	<b>46,480</b>	<b>+615</b>	<b>+1.3%</b>

- 3 The Communities & Neighbourhoods Directorate is reporting an overspend of £306k. This relates mainly to one off redundancy costs of £216k which are partly offset by savings, mainly in relation to Yearsley pool operating costs.
- 4 The Children's Services, Education & Skills Directorate is reporting net overspend of £309k. This is an improvement of £314k compared to quarter 2 and £829k since quarter 1.
- 5 Despite a reduction in the number of Looked After Children and a reduction in expenditure of almost £1m compared to 2012/13, the underlying budget pressure from previous years and unachieved budget savings of £700k result in a net overspend of £1,271k within children's social care budgets.
- 6 The Council's Keeping Families Together initiative is continuing to deliver an overall reduction in the number of children in public care. This initiative seeks to safely support more children at home in the care of their parents or extended family members. It also helps those children who are already looked after to move more quickly on to alternative permanent care. To support these arrangements, the Council has developed a 'new deal' for local foster carers to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of high quality local placements available for those children who do need to become looked after.
- 7 The above arrangements have delivered a sustained month on month reduction in the overall number of children who are looked after. Looked After Children numbers have reduced from 243 at the 1st April 2013 to 222 at 31 March 2014. The availability of high quality local placements allows young people to be placed close to home and their local schools. These local placements avoids the need for high cost independent placements often far from York.
- 8 Although the numbers of looked after children has decreased significantly, from a high point of 256 in 2012, the reduction in costs has not been at the same rate. This is partly explained by legacy costs including Special Guardianship, Adoption and Residence Order

allowances. In addition some of the looked after children with the most complex needs continue to need highly specialised care which accounts for a significant portion of ongoing care costs.

- 9 Therefore, despite a reduction in expenditure in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13, this budget remains under considerable pressure. The Council is continuing to review the most expensive out of city placements to ensure the best value for money is achieved without compromise to quality of care.
- 10 In light of the pressures being felt within children's social care budgets, strict expenditure controls have been operating across the remainder of the directorate's budgets. This has helped mitigate the overall projected overspend for the directorate. Significant mitigating underspends have been delivered in the following areas:
  - Integrated Youth Support Service (£118k) – mainly through holding posts vacant as part of the on-going review of these services and reductions in expenditure on operational costs.
  - SEN & Educational Psychology Service (£138k) - from holding the post of Principal Psychologist / Head of SEN vacant and delivering work on SEN reform from within existing resources without the need to spend grant monies.
  - Early Years and Children's Centres (£243k) – holding posts vacant pending further reviews and operational expenditure reductions.
  - School Improvement Service (£127k) – not backfilling the Principal Advisor Secondary post whilst the post holder is acting as AD and additional income from training courses.
  - School Transport (£308k) – savings delivered within the taxi contract in conjunction with the new provider.
- 11 Within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded budgets there is a net underspend of £745k against a total grant allocation for the year of £106,742k (including post 16). This is mainly as a result of underspends on the new statutory requirement for 2 year old nursery provision being phased in from September 2013 (£675k), the prudential borrowing provision set aside for the closure of Burnholme Community College (£352k) and the pupil number growth contingency (£222k), offset by increased costs due to the level of payments required to providers for high needs pupils under the new DfE funding system introduced from August 2013 (£446k). As there was a deficit DSG balance brought forward from 2012/13 of £632k this results in a small carried forward surplus balance of £111k to 2014/15.

## **Performance Analysis**

### Create Jobs & Grow the Economy

#### *Educational Attainment*

- 12 York's schools have a significant role to play in preparing our young people for work and providing an environment where they can excel and achieve their full potential. Educational attainment results show significant and tangible improvement over the previous year putting York in a strong position regionally and nationally. Overall York's children are achieving good and improving results but there remains work to do in some of York's schools.
- 13 York has achieved its best GCSE results with 67% of pupils achieving 5+A\*-C including English and mathematics. This places York as one of the top (16th out of 152) Local Authorities in England and demonstrates high quality teaching in York schools. In primary schools, the assessment process changed in 2013 and, based on a new set of performance indicators, York results for the most part are inline or above national figures. Progress results in Maths are an area of focus in the coming year.
- 14 Currently, 80% of York secondary schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted, well above the national picture. At primary level, 85% of schools are now rated good or outstanding compared to a national figure of 78%. Improvement plans are in place at a number of schools with the aim of supporting them to achieve a 'good' rating at their next inspection.

#### Protect Vulnerable People

- 15 Specialist services are helping to safely reduce the number of children who are looked after, which at the end of March 2014 had fallen to 222, the lowest since 2009. Between 2011 and 2013 York achieved adoption for 19% of children in care compared with a national average of 13%, which ranks York 16th out of 152 local authorities in England. 68% of adopted children were placed within 20 months of becoming looked after, compared with a national average of 55%. This ranks York 14<sup>th</sup> out of 152 local authorities in England.
- 16 Outcomes for some of the city's most vulnerable children have improved. 22% of Looked After Children eligible for GCSEs in 2012/13 achieved five or more A\* to C grades including English and Maths, up from 13% in the previous year.

- 17 Pupils eligible for Free School Meals have also seen improved results with 40% achieving five or more A\* to C grades including English & Maths (up from 36%).
- 18 In March 2014, 4.8% of 16-18 year olds in York were not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). York were 3rd in the region and in line with the average of similar local authorities.
- 19 York has been nominated as a Champion for its Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms in recognition of the progress made in implementing far reaching reforms. In York all our developments were based on co-production. We asked parents how they wanted to share information about their child with professionals, how we could improve assessment, how to increase their understanding of what is on offer.
- 20 Parents inspired us and worked with us. We were the first LA to publish a Local Offer in 2012, (show-cased on the Council for Disabled Children's website) and piloted Education Health and Care Plans, improving the plans in the process. Feedback from parents involved in the new process has been outstanding. "This was the most relaxed review we have been to. Everything I wanted to say was included. It made it easier. It was really about Jo and not about the paperwork. "

### **Corporate Priorities**

- 21 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**

- 22 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**

- 23 Children's Social Services budgets are under significant pressure. On going work within the directorate has identified efficiency savings in other services that have been used to offset these cost pressures before the end of the financial year. It is also 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

2014/15 is therefore going to be extremely difficult and the management team will continue to review expenditure across the directorate.

### Recommendations

- 24 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 2013/14.

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Report  Date 7 July 2014  
Approved

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

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

All

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

### Background Papers

2013/14 Finance & Performance Year End Report, Cabinet 1 July 2014