

Report of the Corporate Director of Children, Education & Communities

**2016/17 Finance & Performance Draft Outturn Report – Children,
Education & Communities**

Summary

1. This report analyses the financial outturn position and performance data for 2016/17 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 2016/17 – Draft
Outturn**

2016/17 Quarter 3 Variation £000		2016/17 Latest Approved Budget			Draft Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Net Spend £000	£000	%
-426	Children's Specialist Services	21,404	1,139	20,265	-24	+0.1%
-16	Communities & Equalities	9,445	4,239	5,205	-45	-0.9%
-178	Education & Skills	20,957	9,947	11,010	-588	+5.3%
+33	Director of CEC & Central Budgets	8,535	5,895	2,640	+1	+0.0%
+438	School Funding & Assets	117,565	124,495	-6,930	+623	+9.0%
-149	Total CSES Directorate	177,906	145,715	32,191	-33	-0.1%

3. The quarter 3 report for 2016/17 showed a projected net underspend of £149k. The latest position at table 1 is now showing a draft outturn underspend of £33k. The following sections provide more details of the significant outturn variations and any mitigating actions that were taken.

Children's Specialist Services (-£24k / 0.9%)

4. Following the allocation of £1,930k of growth funding for 2016/17 to deal with a number of historic expenditure pressures, there are no significant on-going variations to report within Children's Social Care budgets. However there have been some short term pressures towards the end of the year as the new staffing structure has been implemented. This has resulted in some additional agency staffing costs whilst vacant posts are recruited to on a permanent basis at a net cost of £221k. Within Special Educational Needs there is an underspend of £510k on out of city education placements due to the on-going efforts to support as many young people as possible in York, offset by additional costs of short breaks of £250k. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining net overspend of £15k.

Communities & Equalities (-£45k / 0.9%)

5. Mainly due to a lower than expected pension contribution requirement for Explore of £77k. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining net overspend of £32k.

Education & Skills (-£588k / 5.3%)

6. There is a net underspend on staffing of £460k, due to posts being kept vacant while the services that they provide are being reviewed as part of the directorate's transformation programme. There is an underspend on the Schools Causing Concern and School Improvement Commissioning budgets of £229k which will be carried forward to 2017/18 as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) balance. Home to school transport has overspent by £76k due to increased pupils eligible for transport during the 2016/17 academic year. A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining net overspend of £25k.

Director of CEC and Central Budgets (+£1k / 0.0%)

7. There are no significant variations to report.

Schools Funding & Assets (+£623 / 9.0%)

8. The net variation is made up of the following items:

- a higher than budgeted for carry forward of surplus DSG from 2015/16 (-£215k), but offset by the Schools Forum's agreement to use £44k of this to fund two behaviour support pilots;
- a £524k net overspend on high needs place and top up funding, of which £477k relates to additional provision required for behaviour support pupils at Danesgate;
- a saving of £356k on prudential borrowing repayments as the provision set aside following the closure of Burnholme Community College has not yet been committed;
- the pupil growth funding requirement has been £233k less than the amount set aside within the schools budget;
- the write off of Canon Lee School's £243k deficit following its conversion to sponsored academy status;
- the net total of other more minor school funding variations -£142k
- a revised surplus carry forward of DSG into 2017/18 of £758k.

Performance Analysis

9. There were 204 children and young people in care at the end of March 2017. This number is within the safe and expected range.
10. 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 flexibility 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 will be launched during "Fostering Fortnight" in May 2017, an event which will involve foster carers and children in care, and will run alongside York-led adverts on local radio and in the local press.
11. In November and December 2016, Ofsted inspectors spent four weeks examining services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, as well as reviewing the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The report, released in February, found that children in care are very well supported by the council, their foster carers and schools and that York has high aspirations for children leaving care with a high percentage being in education, employment or training. York's Safeguarding Children Board was judged to be outstanding, only the second out of 117 Safeguarding Children Boards in England to be given the highest rating.

12. 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.
13. The performance tables for schools again confirm that York's young people are making good progress. KS4 performance in York for the attainment measure of 5 A*-C including English and Maths was well above national and regional averages in 2016 and pupils made above average progress.
14. 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. The city wide average of Year 11 pupils Progress 8 scores shows York is slightly above the national average and inside the top third of LAs nationally. The council commitment to school improvement and facilitating driving up standards has included two primary schools expanding with new school buildings, at Lord Deramores and Carr Infants school sites.
15. Attainment at age 19 remains generally positive however there have been concerns about the outcomes 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 challenged and supported by the council to sustain focus on these groups.
16. 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.

Council Plan

17. 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

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

Recommendations

19. 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 2016/17.

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Report Approved



Date

26 June 2017

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the authors of the report

Background Papers:

2016/176 Draft Outturn Finance & Performance Report, Executive 29 June 2017

Annexes:

Annex A – 2016/17 Outturn Performance Scorecard

Abbreviations:

DSG - Dedicated Schools Grant

KS – Key Stage

LA – Local Authority

LAT's -Local Area Teams

NEET - Not in Employment, Education or Training

SEN - Special Educational Needs