

---

## Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Report of the Interim Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

### Referral from the Executive regarding overspends in Adult Social Services

#### Summary

1. This report details a referral from the Executive regarding overspends in Adult Social Services.

#### Background

2. At a meeting of the Executive held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 information was received on the First Performance and Financial Monitor for 2009/10. On consideration of the information the Executive highlighted the increased demand levels for adult community care packages and care packages as having an impact on the Council's budget. As a result of this they requested that the appropriate Scrutiny Committee review the reasons for and possible options for offsetting the increase in demand for these services. A discussion took place on the adult social care budget pressures at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
3. The context for the referral is set out at Annex 1 to this report and this was originally included with the Executive papers dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.

#### Consultation

4. The Director of Housing & Adult Social Services and the departmental Head of Finance have provided a further monitor report for Members of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee; this is included on the agenda today. This shows that the projected overspend on adult social care has now risen to about £1.1m from £589k at the last report; so it is clearly a serious situation.
5. Both the Director of Housing & Adult Social Services and the Head of Finance can provide further high-level analysis of where the cost pressures are as a starting point for members of scrutiny should they wish to receive this.

#### Options

6. Members have the following options:

**Option 1**      Monitor the situation through regular reports

**Option 2** Call an additional one-off meeting between Members of the Committee, the Director of Housing & Adult Social Services and the Head of Finance to discuss the budget pressures in more detail.

**Option 3** Progress this topic to review clearly indicating which issues need to be addressed and what outcomes could be realistically achieved.

**Option 4** Take no further action

## **Analysis**

7. The continuing cost pressures on adult social care are an issue that Members of this Committee may wish to address in more detail. The situation is common to most Councils with demand increasing related to the significant demographic changes in society. Based on the evidence within this report, its annex and the second quarter monitoring report (contained within this agenda) Members would need to decide what course of action they feel is most appropriate.
8. The Director of Housing & Adult Social Services has indicated that he and the finance officer can provide the Committee with further analysis should they require it.
9. It has also been suggested that a one-off meeting between Members of the Committee, the Director of Housing & Adult Social Services and the Head of Finance to discuss the budget pressures in more detail might assist Members to come to a decision on the most appropriate way forward.
10. When considering how to approach the matter, Members will need to take into consideration their current work commitments.

## **Corporate Strategy 2009/2012**

11. This relates to both the Effective Organisation theme and the Healthy City theme the current Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

## **Implications**

12. **Financial** – Financial implications regarding the overspend are contained within the second quarter monitoring report which forms part of this agenda. There is a small amount of funding available within the scrutiny budget to carry out reviews. There are no other financial implications associated with this report; however implications may arise should this be progressed to review.
13. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
14. **Legal** – There are no direct legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report; however implications may arise should Members choose to progress this to review.

15. **Other** – There are no known equalities, property, crime & disorder or other implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

### **Risk Management**

16. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations within this report. Possible risks may arise should Members decide to investigate this matter further. However, if the Committee decide to take no further action without establishing the underlying reasons for the overspends, there is a risk that these may not be effectively addressed in the near future.

### **Recommendations**

17. Members are recommended to proceed with option 2 of this report and call an additional one-off meeting between Members of the Committee, the Director of Housing & Adult Social Services and the Head of Finance to discuss the budget pressures in more detail prior to deciding what course of action to take, if any.

Reason: To address the concerns raised by the Executive

### **Contact Details**

**Author:**

Tracy Wallis  
Scrutiny Officer  
Scrutiny Services  
Tel: 01904 551714

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Alison Lowton  
Interim Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic  
Services  
Tel: 01904 551004

Report Approved  Date 01.12.2009

### **Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

### **Background Papers:**

Minutes from the Executive meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009

### **Annexes**

**Annex 1** – Context for the referral