



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**SUBJECT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 30 JUNE 2023**

BY: CHIEF OFFICER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE MORAY

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the budget position for Children and Families Social Work Services as at 30 June 2023.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section III (A) (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the consideration of capital and revenue budgets and long term financial plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position at 30 June 2023.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified at 30 June 2023

4. BUDGET POSITION

- 4.1 The spend at 30 June 2023 is £5,736,000 against a budget to date of £6,013,000, giving an underspend of £277,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 A contract for residential care for children with disabilities has ended due to the transition to adult services of the young people cared for, giving a contract underspend of £141,000. Alternative accommodation options for young people with disabilities are being looked into. Out of area placements are £79,000 under budget, although this can fluctuate due to the weekly cost of a placement. Savings of £245,000 were approved at Moray Council 1 March 2023. Due to the delay in new contracts starting the saving has slipped but will be posted later in the year.

- 4.3 There are underspends on adoption allowances and legal fees £20,000, fostering fees and allowances £21,000 and throughcare/aftercare grants £13,000.

5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The Children's Services Revenue Budget has particular reference to National Outcome 8 – we have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

The Council has statutory responsibilities to meet educational needs, the needs of children and young people in need and those it looks after.

(c) **Financial implications**

The resource implications are set out in this report and at **Appendix 1**. The underspend as at 30 June 2023 is £277,000 against a budget to date of £6,013,000.

(d) **Risk implications**

Budget Managers are aware of their responsibilities for managing budget allocations and approval for any variances will be sought from Committee in line with the Financial Regulations.

(e) **Staffing implications**

There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

(f) **Property**

There are no property implications associated with this report.

(g) **Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the report is to inform the Committee on budget monitoring.

(h) **Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

No climate change and biodiversity impacts arise directly from this report.

(i) **Consultations**

The Chief Financial Officer and the Democratic Services Manager, have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report where it relates to their areas of responsibility.

6. **CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 **That Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 30 June 2023.**

Author of Report: Tracy Stephen, Head of Service (MIJB)
Nicky Gosling, Accountant

Background Papers: With authors

Ref: SPMAN-305227695-102 / SPMAN-305227695-103