



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 8 JUNE 2022**

**SUBJECT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 MARCH 2022**

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 31 March 2022.
- 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 31 March 2022**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified at 31 March 2022.

4. BUDGET POSITION

- 4.1 The spend at 31 March 2022 is £17,321,000 against a budget of £19,685,000, giving an underspend of £2,364,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Corporate Parenting and Commissioning has an underspend of £2,247,000. This is mainly due to an underspend in out of area and additional resource packages of £1,180,000, a saving of £800,000 has been approved for 2022/23. A contract for residential care in Moray has ended giving an underspend of £573,000, a report recommending the re-investment of this underspend was approved at Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 26 January 2022 (para 10 of the minute refers). Due to children transitioning to adult services there is an underspend on the children with disabilities contract of £322,000. There are additional underspends on adoption allowances and legal fees £58,000 and throughcare/aftercare grants

£56,000. There is also one-off income for an adoption placement in Moray of £32,000.

- 4.3 Staff savings from vacancies and appointment below top of scale have exceeded the budget by £114,000.
- 4.4 Covid expenditure relating to cover for staff who are self-isolating or have long covid is £89,000.

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 31 March 2022 is £2,364,000 against a budget to of £19,685,000.

(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**

Paul Connor, Principal Accountant and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer, 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 31 March 2022.

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Background Papers: With authors

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