



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON 3 FEBRUARY 2021**

**SUBJECT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020**

BY: CHIEF OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE MORAY

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Committee of the budget position for Children and Families Social Work Services as at 31 December 2020..
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Committee following a decision of Moray Council on the 17 June 2020 to agree a simplified committee structure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the case of this committee the combining of the delegated responsibilities of Children and Young People Services, Governance, Strategy and Performance, (para 9 of the minute refers).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position at 31 December 2020.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified at 31 December 2020.

4. BUDGET POSITION

- 4.1 The spend at 31 December 2020 is £12,452,000 against a budget to date of £14,533,000, giving an underspend of £2,081,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.

- 4.2 The area teams have an underspend of £180,000. This is mainly due to underspends of £130,000 on self directed support, £61,000 on home to school transport for foster children and £40,000 on the area teams operational budget
- 4.3 Corporate Parenting and Commissioning has an underspend of £1,454,000. This is mainly due to an underspend in out of area and additional resource packages of £1,300,000 which is partly due to children transitioning into adult services. There are also underspends on adoption placements through external providers and adoption legal fees of £84,000, fostering fees and allowances £244,000 and one-off income from another authority for the placement of adopted children £78,000.

5. ESTIMATED OUTTURN

- 5.1 The estimated outturn for 2020/21 is £16,900,000 against a budget of £19,584,000 resulting in an estimated underspend for the year of £2,684,000.
- 5.2 The underspend predominately relates to an underspend of £1,730,000 in Out of Area Placements which is partly due to children transitioning to adulthood. Fostering fees and allowances are projected to be underspent by £310,000, the adoption service is projected to be underspent by £202,000, due to one-off income received and reduced placements with external providers and social work area teams are projected to be underspent by £285,000 relating to Self Directed Support, home to school transport for foster children and operational budgets.

6. 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 December is £2,081,000 against a budget to date of £14,533,000.
- (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) 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.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 31 December 2020.

Author of Report: Joyce Johnston, Acting Head of Children and Families and Justice Social Work Services

Background Papers: with authors and finance

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