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

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

**3. BACKGROUND**

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

**4. BUDGET POSITION**

- 4.1 The spend at 31 December 2022 is £11,932,000 against a budget to date of £12,201,000, giving an underspend of £269,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 There are underspends on adoption allowances and legal fees £46,000, fostering fees and allowances £113,000 and delays in new contracts starting £121,000. There is also one-off income for adoption placements in Moray of £33,000. The underspends are reduced by an overspend in self directed support.

## **5      ESTIMATED OUTTURN**

- 5.1      The estimated outturn for 2022/23 is £17,417,000 against a budget of £18,150,000 resulting in an estimated underspend for the year of £733,000.
- 5.2      The main underspends are adoption allowances and legal fees £82,000, fostering fees and allowances £96,000, throughcare/aftercare grants £31,000 and delays in procuring new contracts £214,000. There is also one-off income for an adoption placement in Moray of £33,000. The underspends are reduced by overspends on self directed payments £82,000 and home to school transport £62,000.
- 5.3      Staff savings from vacancies and appointment below top of scale are anticipated to exceed the budget by £407,000

## **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 2022 is £269,000 against a budget to date of £12,201,000. The estimated year end position is expenditure of £17,417,000 against a budget of £18,150,000 resulting in an underspend of £733,000.
- (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**

Lorraine Paisey, Chief Financial Officer 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 2022.**

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

Background Papers: With authors

Ref: SPMAN-305227695-70 / SPMAN-305227695-71