



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 24 AUGUST 2022**

**SUBJECT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 30 JUNE 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 30 June 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 30 June 2022**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified at 30 June 2022.

4. BUDGET POSITION

- 4.1 The spend at 30 June 2022 is £5,316,000 against a budget to date of £5,579,000, giving an underspend of £263,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Corporate Parenting and Commissioning has an underspend of £272,000. A contract for residential care in Moray ended in March 2021 generating 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). Part of the re-investment was in two new contracts, the delay in procuring these has generated an underspend of £128,000, furthermore due to children transitioning to adult services there is an underspend on the children with disabilities residential contract of £79,000 at the end of quarter 1. There are additional underspends on adoption allowances and legal fees £19,000. There is also one-off income for adoption placements in Moray of £33,000.

- 4.3 Currently Childrens Services is forecase to have a one-off underspend overall in 2022-23 of £600,000 due to young people with disabilities in residential care transitioning to adult services and the delay in contract procurement as outlined above. The service is progressing with tendering a new contract and reviewing the needs of all young people with a disability.
- 4.4 Officers are comfortable that the underspend reflects both responses to our children, young people and their families changing needs and also reflects some of the capacity needed within the budget to respond as we may or may not be required to.

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 2022 is £263,000 against a budget to date of £5,579,000.

(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.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 30 June 2022.

Author of Report: Tracy Stephen, Acting Head of Children's Services
Nicky Gosling, Accountant

Background Papers: With authors

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