



**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 24 NOVEMBER 2021**

**SUBJECT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

BY: CHIEF OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE MORAY

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee of the budget position for Children and Families Social Work Services as at 30 September 2021.
- 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 September 2021.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified at 30 September 2021.

4. BUDGET POSITION

- 4.1 The spend at 30 September 2021 is £8,540,000 against a budget to date of £9,798,000, giving an underspend of £1,258,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Corporate Parenting and Commissioning has an underspend of £1,266,000. This is mainly due to an underspend in out of area and additional resource packages of £878,000 which is partly due to children transitioning into adult services. The contract for a residential unit in Forres came to an end in March 2021, this has generated an underspend to date of £290,000. There are also underspends on adoption placements through external providers, adoption allowances and legal fees of £28,000 and £32,000 of one-off additional income for an adoption placement in Moray

5 ESTIMATED OUTTURN

- 5.1 The estimated outturn for 2021/22 is £17,041,000 against a budget of £19,473,000 resulting in an estimated underspend for the year of £2,432,000.
- 5.2 The underspend predominately relates to an underspend of £1,700,000 in Out of Area Placements which is partly due to children transitioning to adulthood. Forres residential unit contract is projected to be underspent by £568,000, adoption allowances and legal fees by £31,000 and throughcare/aftercare grants £50,000. There is also one-off income for an adoption placement in Moray of £32,000.

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 30 September 2021 is £1,258,000 against a budget to date of £9,798,000. The estimated year end position is expenditure of £17,041,000 against a budget of £19,473,000 resulting in an underspend of £2,432,000

(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 30 September 2021.

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

Background Papers: with authors

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