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**REPORT TO: EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON 26 MAY 2021**

**SUBJECT: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 MARCH 2021**

**BY: CHIEF OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

**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 March 2021.
- 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 March 2021.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The report highlights those areas of the budget where there is a significant percentage variance identified at 31 March 2021.

**4. BUDGET POSITION**

- 4.1 The spend at 31 March 2021 is £16,672,000 against a budget to date of £19,673,000, giving an underspend of £3,001,000 as shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The area teams have an underspend of £290,000. This is mainly due to underspends of £140,000 on self-directed support, £76,000 on home to school transport for foster children and £74,000 on the area teams operational budget.

- 4.3 Corporate Parenting and Commissioning has an underspend of £2,626,000. This is mainly due to an underspend in out of area and additional resource packages of £1,933,000 which is partly due to children transitioning into adult services. There are also underspends on adoption placements through external providers, adoption allowances and adoption legal fees of £159,000, fostering fees and allowances £290,000, children with disabilities fun club contract coming to an end £52,000, end of NHS CAHM Project £52,000 and one-off income from another authority for the placement of adopted children £78,000. Special Moray Council 3 March 2021 approved net savings of £744,000 in 2021/22 from the Corporate Parenting and Commissioning budget (para 5 of the Minute refers).
- 4.4 Staff savings from vacancies and appointments below top of scale exceeded the budget by £66,000.

## **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 is £3,001,000 against a budget of £19,673,000.
- (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.

**6. CONCLUSION**

**6.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the budget position as at 31 March 2021.**

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Background Papers: with authors