

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Hilary Wood, Head of Business Support and Resources (Children and Adult Services)
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	19 January 2017

## DEPARTMENTAL RISKS – ADULT SERVICES AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To highlight to the Audit Committee the items on the Adult Services and Children’s Services departmental risk registers that are scored as high net risk, in response to a request at the last meeting of the Committee.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 The Audit Committee is asked to consider the contents of the report and make any recommendations as appropriate..

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 At its last meeting, the Audit Committee reviewed the Strategic Risk Register and requested to be informed of any items on the departmental risk registers for Adult Services and for Children’s Services that were scored as high net risk.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

N/A

### 4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

## **5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 The Adult Services Department and the Children's Services Department both have their own departmental risk register. Each register has sub-sections for the services within the departments. Risks are monitored through a quarterly joint meeting across the People's department.
- 5.2 The vast majority of risks on both registers have low or moderate net scores, as a result of the controls and mitigations that have been put in place to help manage the risks. Those with a high net risk have been extracted and can be seen at Appendix 5(a) to this report.
- 5.3 Of the four risks with high net scores across the two registers, three are already captured by items on the Strategic Risk Register. Two of the risks in Care and Support (Adult Services) and Children's Social Care/Children's Safeguarding refer to the risk of insufficient funding being available to deliver services. A third replicates the risk of failing to keep people safe, which features on a number of service registers within Children's Services.
- 5.4 The fourth risk is the emerging one of the increasing numbers of looked after children and of children subject to a Child Protection Plan. Events over recent months have seen the number of looked after children increase from around 460, peaking at 510, and currently standing at just below 500. Likewise, the number of Child Protection plans has increased, and cases open to Children's Social Care are at an all-time high. This has been reflected in the current net score of 20 against this risk.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 5(a): Extract from People's Department Risk Register 2016/17 Q3 - High net risks

## **6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 None.

## **7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 None.

## **8.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The risk management considerations are contained in the body of this report.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 N/A

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.