

Blackpool Council – Children’s Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2016/17 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2017/18					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUNE £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
CHILDREN'S SERVICES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - ISB	78,154	6,002	72,152	78,154	-	-
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - NON DELEGATED	223	103	120	223	-	-
EDUCATION	26,794	4,959	21,811	26,770	(24)	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	50	20	30	50	-	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	454	104	350	454	-	-
DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT	(106,501)	(13,328)	(93,149)	(106,477)	24	-
CARRY FORWARD OF DSG	(174)	-	(174)	(174)	-	-
TOTAL DSG FUNDED SERVICES	(1,000)	(2,140)	1,140	(1,000)	-	-
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPRECIATION	3,236	-	3,236	3,236	-	-
EDUCATION	3,018	(597)	3,768	3,171	153	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	3,984	(2,217)	6,191	3,974	(10)	-
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	27,143	5,617	25,452	31,069	3,926	-
CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING	1,482	51	1,469	1,520	38	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	1,482	(260)	1,734	1,474	(8)	-
LOCAL SERVICES SUPPORT GRANT	-	(5)	(13)	(18)	(18)	-
EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT	(509)	(87)	(247)	(334)	175	-
TOTAL COUNCIL FUNDED SERVICES	39,836	2,502	41,590	44,092	4,256	-
TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES	38,836	362	42,730	43,092	4,256	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary – basis

- The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service within the Children’s Services Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 3 months of 2017/18 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

Dedicated Schools Grant Funded Services

- The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the funding stream that supports the Schools Budget, which includes amounts that are devolved through the Individual School Budget (ISB), together with centrally-retained pupil-related services as listed in the revenue summary. Any under or overspends against services funded by the DSG will be carried forward to 2018/19 and, in the case of overspends, become the first call on the grant in that year.

Education

- The overspend in the Education division predominantly relates to the SEN Transport service, and is partly due to demand pressures and also due to the savings target that has been applied in the current year but is not forecast to be achieved.

Children's Social Care

- Children's Social Care is forecasting an overspend of £3.926m, which represents a reduction of £146k compared to the forecast at Month 2. A considerable amount of work has been done since the start of the financial year, which is described in more detail below, and the impact of this is beginning to be reflected in the overall cost of placements.
- The scale of the overspend is primarily due to a significant increase in the numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) since budgets were set. At this point, numbers were around 500, which still represented the highest LAC per 10,000 population nationally. However, numbers continued to rise and had reached an all-time high of 529 by 31st March 2017, increasing further to 546 by the end of June 2017. Lack of capacity in the market along with more complex care needs have also increased unit costs.
- A number of solutions to try and mitigate the cost pressures around LAC are being implemented. Developments include the recent introduction of an 'edge of care' model through the reconfiguration of Argosy children's home; the model this is based upon has been used in Blackburn and has created savings of £750k per year for that authority. Blackpool Young People's Service (previously known as the Vulnerable Adolescent Hub) was launched in July 2017, and will enable services to work more effectively with young people to prevent the need for higher level service interventions.
- The PAUSE project, which seeks to reduce multiple removals of children at birth from families, is in the implementation stage, and should ultimately help to reduce the number of new-born admissions into the care system.
- A procedure has been introduced whereby all new admissions into care must be approved by the Senior Service Manager and, in those cases where the child is 12 years or over, by the Director of Children's Services, and following the implementation of a new demand strategy the total number of admissions into care each month are reducing. In addition, a new Commissioning role is being created, the purpose of which will be to scrutinise and challenge the cost of the most expensive external placements, and review the options for stepping children down into more affordable provision.
- The Independent Placement Overview Panel now meets on a weekly basis, and an additional Panel has been introduced for the short-term to review placements for LAC who are 16 years or over. As a result of this, a number of children have been successfully stepped down from residential settings to supported accommodation placements this month, which has contributed to net savings for the current year across placement budgets in excess of £100k.

Children's Safeguarding

- Children's Safeguarding is forecasting an overspend of £38k due to the cost of agency staff, who are currently in place to manage the extremely high number of LAC and child protection cases.

Education Services Grant

- The Education Services Grant (ESG), which historically has supported a number of services within the directorate, will cease with effect from September 2017. The gap in 2017/18 is partly covered by a transitional grant and the charging of retained education functions to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), however, there is a remaining pressure of £175k in the current year, rising to £283k in 2018/19.

Summary of the Children's Services financial position

As at the end of June 2017 the Children's Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £4.256m for the financial year to March 2018.

Budget Holder – Mrs D Booth, Director of Children's Services

Children's Social Care Trends

Date	External Placements Projection						Supported Accommodation projection			Internal Fostering Projection			Total LAC Numbers
	Fostering			Residential			FTE	£000's	£ per placement	FTE	£000's	£ per placement	No.
	FTE	£000's	£ per placement	FTE	£000's	£ per placement							
Dec-08	8.67	411	47,453	27.50	2,624	95,423	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	285
Mar-09	8.77	403	45,979	28.07	2,772	98,747	no data	no data	no data	208.91	2,510	12,015	323
Jul-09	12.10	466	38,549	40.85	4,290	105,007	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	334
Mar-10	13.35	513	38,445	39.02	4,295	110,083	no data	no data	no data	263.88	2,889	10,946	374
Jun-10	20.43	765	37,428	34.20	3,473	101,534	no data	no data	no data	304.83	3,357	11,012	382
Mar-11	22.69	860	37,912	36.73	3,536	96,272	no data	no data	no data	303.23	3,329	10,977	395
Jun-11	29.54	1,108	37,508	33.62	3,430	102,023	no data	no data	no data	303.23	3,329	10,977	395
Sep-11	30.35	1,129	37,191	33.90	3,457	101,982	no data	no data	no data	316.95	3,527	11,128	412
Dec-11	31.91	1,184	37,118	35.16	3,580	101,808	no data	no data	no data	312.85	3,496	11,175	416
Mar-12	32.68	1,223	37,424	34.27	3,488	101,780	no data	no data	no data	315.07	3,507	11,131	434
Jun-12	49.27	1,816	36,858	36.47	3,710	101,727	no data	no data	no data	296.18	3,480	11,750	439
Sep-12	53.37	1,903	35,657	36.70	4,264	116,185	no data	no data	no data	290.42	3,345	11,518	452
Dec-12	55.80	1,987	35,611	38.08	4,498	118,121	no data	no data	no data	290.55	3,372	11,606	487
Mar-13	57.36	2,028	35,355	38.89	4,645	119,447	no data	no data	no data	291.27	3,377	11,594	488
Jun-13	71.93	2,604	36,202	30.01	3,349	111,596	no data	no data	no data	298.00	3,542	11,887	492
Sep-13	70.51	2,515	35,667	29.05	3,240	111,523	no data	no data	no data	293.58	3,496	11,908	472
Dec-13	68.22	2,494	36,560	29.02	3,398	117,073	no data	no data	no data	292.11	3,455	11,828	459
Mar-14	72.82	2,480	34,058	29.76	3,525	118,473	no data	no data	no data	295.49	3,474	11,757	443
Jun-14	70.35	2,527	35,928	24.74	2,537	102,561	no data	no data	no data	266.65	3,422	12,833	457
Sep-14	69.41	2,614	37,655	23.09	2,799	121,210	no data	no data	no data	258.39	3,248	12,570	462
Dec-14	68.73	2,664	38,760	23.09	2,870	124,281	no data	no data	no data	265.56	3,313	12,474	459
Mar-15	71.13	2,856	40,155	23.23	2,993	128,868	no data	no data	no data	262.93	3,253	12,374	463
Jun-15	71.30	2,896	40,625	22.02	3,254	147,777	no data	no data	no data	250.74	3,144	12,541	440
Sep-15	71.48	2,862	40,040	26.39	3,772	142,934	no data	no data	no data	251.13	3,151	12,549	450
Dec-15	71.41	2,945	41,243	26.60	3,862	145,196	no data	no data	no data	250.66	3,115	12,428	442
Mar-16	72.39	3,056	42,215	27.09	3,958	146,120	no data	no data	no data	250.97	3,125	12,453	462
Jun-16	73.79	3,110	42,145	25.62	4,025	157,136	18.39	710	38,608	256.45	3,239	12,630	493
Sep-16	75.24	3,216	42,750	31.40	5,337	169,996	22.67	938	41,376	255.78	3,245	12,688	502
Dec-16	78.60	3,383	43,038	34.41	6,055	175,954	27.39	1,124	41,037	258.78	3,327	12,857	499
Mar-17	80.88	3,519	43,502	35.35	6,352	179,669	30.13	1,278	42,416	263.33	3,390	12,872	529
Apr-17	96.25	3,806	39,544	42.68	7,111	166,601	22.62	1,267	56,027	274.84	3,520	12,806	536
May-17	94.73	3,805	40,164	45.38	7,010	154,472	24.21	1,342	55,436	276.52	3,589	12,979	549
Jun-17	95.87	3,924	40,933	42.55	6,445	151,450	23.99	1,462	60,946	272.43	3,603	13,227	546

Note:

The variance between the current total number of Looked After Children (546) and the total internal fostering and external placement numbers (435) is children with care orders, adoption placements etc. They are still classed as LAC but do not incur any commissioned costs.



