

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 - JUL £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 | 6,849 | 71,305 | 78,154 | - | - |
| LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - NON DELEGATED | 223 | 132 | 91 | 223 | - | - |
| EDUCATION | 26,794 | 6,335 | 20,425 | 26,760 | (34) | - |
| EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES | 50 | 29 | 13 | 42 | (8) | - |
| BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES | 454 | 141 | 313 | 454 | - | - |
| DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT | (106,501) | (15,750) | (90,696) | (106,446) | 55 | - |
| CARRY FORWARD OF DSG | (174) | - | (187) | (187) | (13) | - |
| TOTAL DSG FUNDED SERVICES | (1,000) | (2,264) | 1,264 | (1,000) | - | - |
| CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPRECIATION | 3,236 | - | 3,236 | 3,236 | - | - |
| EDUCATION | 2,747 | (325) | 3,233 | 2,908 | 161 | - |
| EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES | 4,758 | (1,604) | 6,274 | 4,670 | (88) | - |
| CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE | 26,580 | 8,587 | 21,949 | 30,536 | 3,956 | - |
| CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING | 1,477 | 175 | 1,350 | 1,525 | 48 | - |
| BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES | 1,481 | 769 | 686 | 1,455 | (26) | - |
| LOCAL SERVICES SUPPORT GRANT | - | (6) | (12) | (18) | (18) | - |
| EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT | (509) | (87) | (247) | (334) | 175 | - |
| TOTAL COUNCIL FUNDED SERVICES | 39,770 | 7,509 | 36,469 | 43,978 | 4,208 | - |
| TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES | 38,770 | 5,245 | 37,733 | 42,978 | 4,208 | - |

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 4 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 £3.956m, 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 542 by the end of July 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 is reducing. In addition, a new Commissioning role has been 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. This post was appointed to during August 2017.
- 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, it is anticipated that a number of children will successfully step down from residential settings to supported accommodation placements, which will create net savings for the current year across placement budgets in excess of £500k.

Children's Safeguarding

- Children's Safeguarding is forecasting an overspend of £48k 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 July 2017 the Children's Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £4.208m 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 Accomodation 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 |
| Jul-17 | 98.28 | 3,998 | 40,678 | 38.87 | 6,165 | 158,604 | 23.74 | 1,451 | 61,115 | 272.89 | 3,613 | 13,241 | 542 |

Note:

The variance between the current total number of Looked After Children (542) and the total internal fostering and external placement numbers (434 FTE) is children with care orders, adoption placements etc. They are still classed as LAC but do not incur any commissioned costs.



