

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 - JAN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
CHILDREN'S SERVICES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - ISB	18,392	16,730	1,662	18,392	-	-
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - NON DELEGATED	370	292	78	370	-	-
EDUCATION	22,658	17,536	6,626	24,162	1,504	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	50	42	-	42	(8)	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	675	487	172	659	(16)	-
DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT	(42,971)	(36,649)	(6,991)	(43,640)	(669)	-
CARRY FORWARD OF DSG UNDER/(OVER) SPEND	(174)	-	(985)	(985)	(811)	-
TOTAL DSG FUNDED SERVICES	(1,000)	(1,562)	562	(1,000)	-	-
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPRECIATION	2,011	1,676	335	2,011	-	-
EDUCATION	2,748	316	2,846	3,162	414	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	4,758	896	3,522	4,418	(340)	-
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	30,656	26,767	6,931	33,698	3,042	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	1,485	787	611	1,398	(87)	-
LOCAL SERVICES SUPPORT GRANT	-	(15)	(3)	(18)	(18)	-
EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT	(509)	(324)	-	(324)	185	-
TOTAL COUNCIL FUNDED SERVICES	41,149	30,103	14,242	44,345	3,196	-
TOTALS	40,149	28,541	14,804	43,345	3,196	-

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 10 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.

Children’s Social Care

Children’s Social Care is forecasting an overspend of £5.547m, 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 529 at 31st March 2017, increasing to a peak of 549 at the end of May 2017. Since then numbers had been reducing month on month, and this trend was reflected in the financial forecast as at September 2017. However, both demand levels and complexity of cases have increased since October 2017 which has worsened the forecast position over the last four months by £1.52m in total. LAC numbers at Month 10 stand at 534.

As these pressures in Children’s Social Care are unsustainable and impacting adversely on the Council’s key financial performance conditions an in-year solution was approved at the Executive meeting of 5th February that buys time for the Director of Children’s Services’ plans to gain traction.

Following a review of reserves it was highlighted that Education Basic Needs funding would provide the best solution through a capital to revenue transfer which would need to be technically managed:

- Basic Needs Funding is a Central Government grant devolved to local authorities for the provision of sufficient school places
- there is a current balance of £2,505k with no further demand in the current year, which is expected to be topped up in 2018/19
- over the last 10 years the Council has front-loaded £3,280k of its own funding plus land for the purposes of providing sufficient school places
- Basic Needs Funding is an unringfenced grant in local authorities' gift how to deploy
- its deployment to Children's Social Care would keep the funding within Children's Services

The Executive approved that the full balance of £2,505k was applied in-year, thus reducing the overspend down to £3.042m.

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 Special Educational Needs (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.

Early Help for Children and Families

The underspend in the Early Help division is primarily due to vacancy savings across various teams.

Education Services Grant

The Education Services Grant (ESG), which historically has supported a number of services within the directorate, ceased 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 £185k in the current year, rising to £283k in 2018/19.

Summary of the Children's Services financial position

As at the end of January 2018 the Children's Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £3.196m 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 (annualised)			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	296.18	3,480	11,750	439
Sep-11	30.35	1,129	37,191	33.90	3,457	101,982	no data	no data	no data	290.42	3,345	11,518	452
Dec-11	31.91	1,184	37,118	35.16	3,580	101,808	no data	no data	no data	290.55	3,372	11,606	487
Mar-12	32.68	1,223	37,424	34.27	3,488	101,780	no data	no data	no data	291.27	3,377	11,594	488
Jun-12	49.27	1,816	36,858	36.47	3,710	111,727	no data	no data	no data	298.00	3,542	11,887	492
Sep-12	53.37	1,903	35,657	36.70	4,264	116,185	no data	no data	no data	293.58	3,496	11,908	472
Dec-12	55.80	1,987	35,611	38.08	4,498	118,121	no data	no data	no data	292.11	3,455	11,828	459
Mar-13	57.36	2,028	35,355	38.89	4,645	119,447	no data	no data	no data	295.49	3,474	11,757	443
Jun-13	71.93	2,604	36,202	30.01	3,349	111,596	no data	no data	no data	266.65	3,422	12,833	457
Sep-13	70.51	2,515	35,667	29.05	3,240	111,523	no data	no data	no data	258.39	3,248	12,570	462
Dec-13	68.22	2,494	36,560	29.02	3,398	117,073	no data	no data	no data	265.56	3,313	12,474	459
Mar-14	72.82	2,480	34,058	29.76	3,525	118,473	no data	no data	no data	262.93	3,253	12,374	463
Jun-14	70.35	2,527	35,928	24.74	2,537	102,561	no data	no data	no data	250.74	3,144	12,541	440
Sep-14	69.41	2,614	37,655	23.09	2,799	121,210	no data	no data	no data	251.13	3,151	12,549	450
Dec-14	68.73	2,664	38,760	23.09	2,870	124,281	no data	no data	no data	250.66	3,115	12,428	442
Mar-15	71.13	2,856	40,155	23.23	2,993	128,868	no data	no data	no data	250.97	3,125	12,453	462
Jun-15	71.30	2,896	40,625	22.02	3,254	147,777	no data	no data	no data	256.45	3,239	12,630	493
Sep-15	71.48	2,862	40,040	26.39	3,772	142,934	no data	no data	no data	255.78	3,245	12,688	502
Dec-15	71.41	2,945	41,243	26.60	3,862	145,196	no data	no data	no data	258.78	3,327	12,857	499
Mar-16	72.39	3,056	42,215	27.09	3,958	146,120	no data	no data	no data	263.33	3,390	12,872	529
Jun-16	73.79	3,110	42,145	25.62	4,025	157,136	18.39	710	38,608	272.43	3,603	13,227	546
Sep-16	75.24	3,216	42,750	31.40	5,337	169,996	22.67	938	41,376	272.60	3,602	13,213	528
Dec-16	78.60	3,383	43,038	34.41	6,055	175,954	27.39	1,124	41,037	278.33	3,665	13,169	539
Mar-17	80.88	3,519	43,502	35.35	6,352	179,669	30.13	1,278	42,416	277.07	3,634	13,116	534
Jun-17	95.87	3,924	40,933	42.55	6,445	151,450	23.99	1,462	60,946				
Sep-17	92.89	3,808	40,991	36.90	5,959	161,487	33.48	1,939	57,928				
Dec-17	96.09	3,966	41,277	41.38	6,729	162,623	34.43	2,009	58,358				
Jan-18	96.82	3,979	41,099	41.99	6,967	165,935	33.13	1,846	55,728				

Note:

The variance between the current total number of Looked After Children (534) and the total internal fostering and external placement numbers (449 FTE) is children with care orders, adoption placements etc. They are still classed as LAC but do not incur any commissioned costs.



