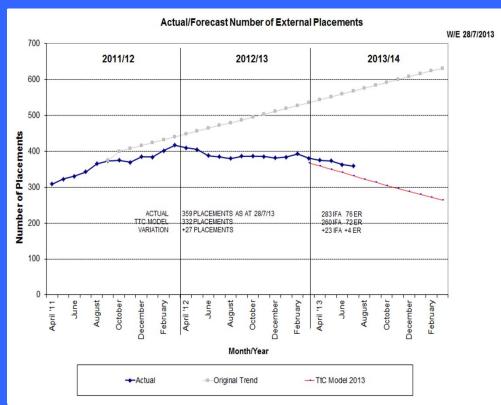
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD - 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR April to July - Month 4

Overall, the month 4 forecast variation for the Children's Services Directorate is an overspend of £1.61m [1.2%] against the net managed budget of £135m. This projection represents an adverse movement of £0.4m which recognises the Executive Board's decision at it's meeting in July to phase the implementation over a number of financial years the implementation of the changes to the Home to School Transport policies and provision. The month 4 position recognises that the Directorate is currently developing a number of mitigating actions which contain an inherent risk with progress updated in the month 5 projections.

Looked After Children - the 2013/14 budget strategy recognised the strategic obsession around reducing the need for children to be in care with budget action plans totally £8m around safely reducing placement numbers [-£6m], increasing funding from partners [-£1m] and negotiating procurement savings [-£1.1m]. At this stage in the financial year, the forecast is that these significant budget savings will largely be achieved, but with some potential slippage. In terms of placement numbers, at the end of July 2013, there were 76 children & young people in externally provided residential placements [+4 compared to the financial model] and 283 children & young people in placements with Independent Fostering Agencies I+23 compared with the financial model]. Overall, these placement numbers translate into a potential pressure of £0.3m, with detailed work continuing around permanency and transitional planning. In addition, negotiations are continuing with providers to secure the budgeted procurement savings from the implementation of the new regional framework contracts [£0.3m forecast pressure] and also with partners around achieving the right balance of funding for the most complex placements. The month 4 projections also recognise some emerging demand pressures around alternatives to care, including adoptions and special guardianship orders [£0.5m], care leavers [£0.1m] and direct payments [£0.2m]. Staffing - overall, at month 4 the staffing budgets are forecast to underspend by £3.7m across the combined general fund, grant funded and central schools budget functions. These projections recognise the 297 vacant posts across the Directorate and also the impact of the predominantly internal recruitment market. The forecast spend on agency staffing is £5.4m and £1.4m on overtime. Premises & Supplies & Services - the projected variation recognises the intention to release of the earmarked reserves to support the in-house residential review and the relocation of the Youth Offending Service in addition to forecast savings from restricting all non-essential spend. Transport - the 2013/14 budget strategy included anticipated savings of £2.8m in the current year from reviewing the way all aspects of home to school transport is provided. The month 4 projections reflect the Executive Board's decision to phase the implementation of the agreed changes to the home to school transport policies and provision over a number of years. Income - the forecast £2.5m variation across the income budgets is due in the main to forecast underspends across the services/functions which are funded by the Central Schools Budget [£1.7m] in addition to a forecast variation [£0.4m] in respect of nursery fee income.



Budget Management - net variations against the approved budget

				PROJECTED VARIANCES									
	Expenditure Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	Latest Estimate £'000	Staffing £'000	Premises £'000	Supplies & Services £'000	Transport £'000	Internal Charges £'000	External Providers £'000	Transfer Payments £'000	Total Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Total (under) / overspend £'000
Quarter 1 Month 4		(157,071) (155,876)	135,331 135,463	(3,246) (3,734)	(227) (603)	25 (464)	48 2,192	67 618	904 1,226		(2,248) (977)	3,398 2,591	1,15 1,61

	Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	£'000	Quarter 1 £'000	Month 4 £'000	Month 5 £'000	Month 6 £'000	Month 7 £'000	Month 8 £'000	Month 9 £'000	Month 10 £'000	Month 11 £'000	Month 12 £'000	Outturn £'000
Partnership, Development & Business Support	17,903	(16,074)	1,829	(260)	(951)									
Learning, Skills & Universal Services	79,239	(55,759)	23,480	141	(402)									
Safeguarding, Targeted & Specialist Services	125,990	(29,647)	96,343	1,299	156									
Strategy, Performance & Commissioning	68,206	(54,395)	13,811	(30)	2,811									
Total	291,338	(155,875)	135,463	1,150	1,614	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(