

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 12 December 2013

Subject: Financial Health Monitoring Children's Services- Budget Update April - September 2013/14 and Budget Proposals for 2014/15

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) resolved to consider the budget of Children's Services at appropriate intervals. This is reflected in the work programme of the Scrutiny Board 2013/14. The purpose of this report is to provide Board Members with information with regard to the financial health of Children's Services from April to September 2013/14 (appendix A). Updated information for period 7 will be considered at the Executive Board on the 18 December which will be circulated prior to the Scrutiny meeting.
2. Initial budget proposals for 2014/15 are also due to be considered at the Executive Board meeting on 18 December 2013. The sections of the report relevant to this Scrutiny Board's portfolio will be circulated as soon as the agenda for the Executive Board has been published.
3. The Scrutiny Board will have the opportunity at its meeting to raise any specific questions with regard to budget proposals that fall within its portfolio area. Any comments from the Scrutiny Board will then be forwarded to the Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services) in the first instance. Other Scrutiny Boards will undertake a similar exercise in relation to their portfolio areas.
4. The Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services) will be taking the Executive's full Initial Budget proposals on 20 January 2014. Any conclusions, observations and

recommendations that are made by Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services) will be fed back to Executive Board prior to full Council, and will incorporate the views of each of the Scrutiny Boards within a composite statement, as in previous years.

5. The directorate's Head of Finance have been invited to present the budget information and address any further questions from the Board.

Recommendations

6. Members are asked to:
 - a. note the financial position of Children's Services for April to September 2013/14.
 - b. consider the initial 2014/15 budget proposals relevant to the Scrutiny Board's portfolio.

Background documents

7. None¹

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.