

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FINANCIAL DASHBOARD - 2014/15 FINANCIAL YEAR
MONTH 7 (APRIL TO OCTOBER)

Appendix A

Overall

The month 7 forecast variation for the Children's Services Directorate is an overspend of £3.6m or 2.8% against the net managed budget of £128m. This forecast represents a reduction of £1.8m from the month 6 position which is mainly around additional Families First income, additional capitalisation of schools revenue costs [£0.8m] and the recognition of an underspend on the BSF capital programme [£0.8m] offset by increased spend around children in care and in particular externally provided residential and fostering placements.

Looked After Children

The 2014/15 budget strategy recognised the strategic obsession around reducing the need for children to be in care with budget action plans totally some £5.8m around safely reducing placement numbers and changing the mix of placement provision. At this stage in the financial year, the forecast is that there will be some slippage against this plan. In terms of placement numbers, at the end of October, there were 51 children & young people in externally provided residential placements [+13 compared to the financial model] and 236 children & young people in placements with Independent Fostering Agencies [+39 compared with the financial model]. Overall, these placement numbers translate into a potential pressure of £3.3m, although work is continuing around permanency and transitional planning. The month 7 projections also recognise some demand pressures around special guardianship orders [£0.1m], assisted adoptions [£0.3m], in-house fostering (£0.8m) and Leaving Care Services (£0.3m). Other pressures across the Directorate include Children's Centres [£0.8m] and Social Work Teams [£0.6m].

Staffing

Overall, at month 7 the staffing budgets are forecast to underspend by £0.2m across the general fund, grant/income funded and central schools budget functions. These projections recognise the continuing number of vacant posts across the Directorate, the impact of the predominantly internal recruitment market and the links to grant funding and income budgets. The year-end forecast spend on overtime is £0.9m and £4m on agency staffing.

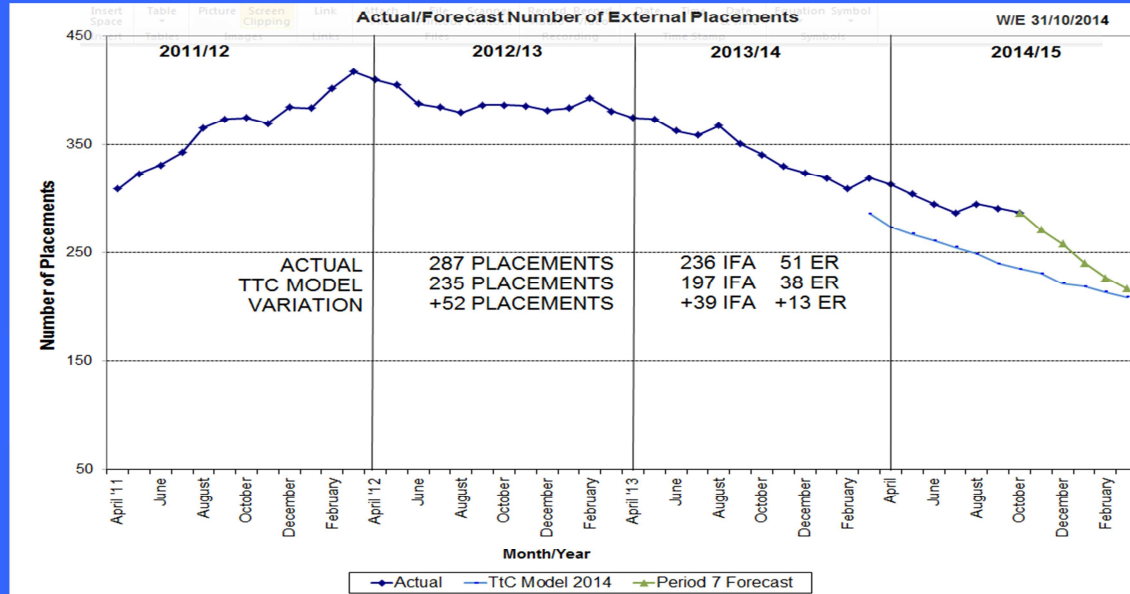
Transport

The 2014/15 budget strategy included £4.6m of anticipated savings around policy and provision changes in respect of home to school/college transport. At month 7, the projection is for slippage against these action plans and additional demand totalling some £2.9m.

Income

The forecast £3.1m additional income recognises the utilisation of the additional capital receipts to fund the schools capital spend [£2m], an underspend of £0.8m on the BSF ICT programme, additional Families First income [£0.4m], additional health income for placements [£0.35m] and also slippage on the creation of early education/childcare places across the children's centres and private, voluntary and independent sector providers which are funded via the dedicated schools grant. The projection also takes into account the additional transitional implementation grant funding for the implementation of the Children and Families Act in respect of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (£0.5m).

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Budget Management - net variations against the approved budget

			PROJECTED VARIANCES											Total (under) / overspend £'000
	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	Appropriation £'000	Total Expenditure £'000	Income £'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			
Quarter 1	280,582	(152,959)	127,623	(805)	99	253	154	86	1,831	(122)	0	1,496	428	1,924
Month 4	282,319	(154,696)	127,623	209	355	320	2,008	791	832	299	(368)	4,446	(518)	3,928
Month 5	282,598	(154,976)	127,622	204	146	296	1,992	735	1,915	144	(213)	5,219	(636)	4,583
Month 6	283,352	(155,730)	127,622	(142)	363	460	1,991	671	3,052	145	(177)	6,363	(1,018)	5,345
Month 7	283,312	(155,648)	127,664	(184)	102	(206)	2,374	600	3,915	336	(275)	6,671	(3,078)	3,593
Partnership, Development & Business Support	10,483	(1,205)	9,278	(39)	29	15	16	(785)						
Learning, Skills & Universal Services	83,805	(61,247)	22,558	649	1,059	1,178	1,116	1,013						
Safeguarding, Targeted & Specialist Services	118,895	(24,807)	94,088	1,333	2,424	2,770	3,684	3,202						
Strategy, Performance & Commissioning	66,436	(54,143)	12,293	(19)	416	620	529	163						
Central Overheads	3,693	(14,246)	(10,553)	0	0	0	0	0						
Total	283,312	(155,648)	127,664	1,924	3,928	4,583	5,345	3,593	0	0	0	0	0	0