

COUNCIL MEETING – 12 July 2017

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP1	03/07/2017	03/07/2017

Submitted by: Councillor Dan Cohen
 Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel: Executive Board
 Executive Member/Chair: Executive Member (Children and Families)
 Relevant Director: Director of Children and Families/Director of Resources and Housing

This Council notes the 2016/17 outturn position of the Children and Families budget showing an overspend of £7.985m. Council further notes that after month 2 of the current financial year the same directorate has a projected overspend of £2.9m.

Council accepts that some of these pressures are demand led and believes that it is vital that children with care needs are looked after in the best way possible, and moreover that demand for these services is met.

However, Council is concerned at the impact that the last 4 years of budget overspends in Children and Families may be having on planning and service delivery in other council departments, and believes the time has come for greater scrutiny of this issue.

Council calls on the Director of Children and Families, in conjunction with the Director of Resources and Housing, to bring a report to Executive Board which sets out:

1. How the budget planning process can better distinguish between the demand-led and core elements of the Children and Families budget;
2. Why the Children and Families directorate's projections around children looked after and fostering have repeatedly been out of sync with the actual figures, and what can be done to improve the accuracy of these projections in the future;
3. What more the council can do to address the number of children looked after and other demand-led elements of the Children and Families budget, including an analysis of what options may exist for consolidation of services on a regional basis.

Councillor Dan Cohen

Deadlines for submission

White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
 Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
 Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
 (including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

