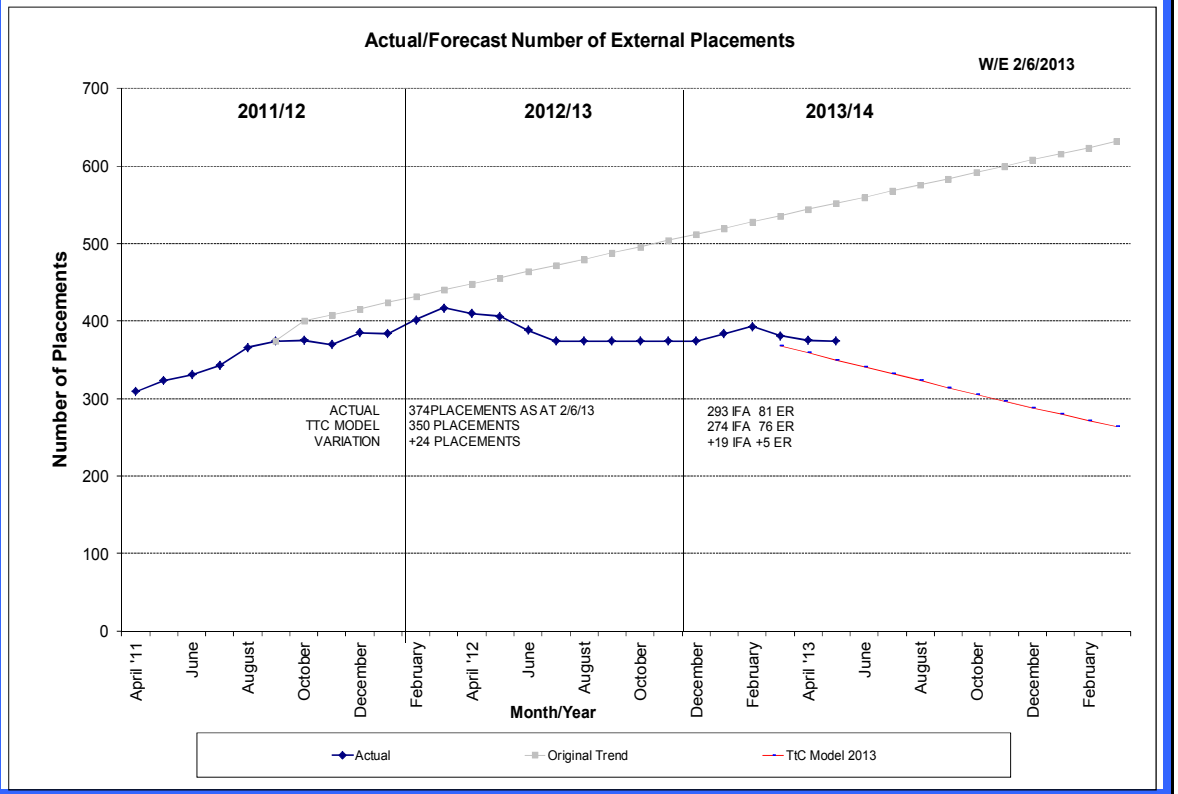
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE
FINANCIAL DASHBOARD - 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR
First Quarter (April to June 2013)

Appendix A

Overall, the first quarter forecast variation for the Children's Services Directorate is an overspend of £1.15m [0.8%] against the net managed budget of £135m.

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 May 2013, there were 81 children & young people in externally provided residential placements [+5 compared to the financial model] and 293 children & young people in placements with Independent Fostering Agencies [+19 compared with the financial model]. Overall, these placement numbers translate into a potential pressure of £0.3m, with detailed work is 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 and also with partners around achieving the right balance of funding for the most complex placements. The projection also recognise some emerging demand pressures around alternatives to care, including adoptions and special guardianship orders [£0.6m], care leavers [£0.1m] and direct payments [£0.2m]. **Staffing** - overall, the staffing budgets are forecast to underspend by £3.2m across the combined general fund, grant funded and central schools budget functions. These projections recognise the number of vacant posts across the Directorate and also the impact of the predominantly internal recruitment market. **Other costs** - the first quarter projections reflect that there are continuing demand pressures [£0.8m] around the provision of home to school transport for children and young people with special needs with mitigating savings[£0.5m] anticipated in respect of the transport provision for children in care. **Income** - the forecast £3.4m 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 [£0.2m] in respect of nursery fee income together with a potential shortfall on the partner funding in respect of externally provided placements [£0.6m].



Budget Management - net variations against the approved budget

	Expenditure Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	Latest Estimate £'000	PROJECTED VARIANCES 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	291,594	(156,423)	135,171	(3,246)	(227)	25	48	67	904	181	(2,248)	3,398	**1,150**

	Expenditure Budget £'000	Income Budget £'000	Latest Estimate £'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	15,814	(15,989)	(175)	(260)										
Learning, Skills & Universal Services	79,055	(55,562)	23,493	141										
Safeguarding, Targeted & Specialist Services	127,664	(31,127)	96,537	1,299										
Strategy, Performance & Commissioning	69,061	(53,745)	15,316	(30)										
Total	**291,594**	**(156,423)**	**135,171**	**1,150**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**