

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Social Work & Health Department

Social Work and Health Improvement Committee: 13 August 2008

Subject: Social Work Budgetary Position 2008/09 as at Period 3 to 15 July 2008

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the performance of the Social Work budget for the period to 15 July 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1 Attached as Appendices A, B and C are budgetary control statements for the Social Work Services Department.
- 2.2 It should be noted that this report compares the actual expenditure to 15 July 2008 to the phased budget as at 15 July 2008.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The overall variance for the service to period 3 is £44,540 adverse. The main variances to date are as follows:
- 3.2 **Residential Schools** is shown as adverse by £43,397. This is due to the schools applying above inflation price increases in 2008/09 (some by up to 34%). Discussions are ongoing with the service providers to minimise the price increases. It should be noted that previous experience does not suggest that the providers will compromise on their price increases and should this be the case this overspend will prove to be significant. Further updates will be provided in future reports.

4. Personnel Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct personnel implications of the budgetary control report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Other than the financial position noted above there are no financial implications of the budgetary control report.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** The main financial risks to the ongoing financial position relate to unforeseen client needs being identified between now and the end of the financial year which may result in increased costs arising from expensive service provision. The position regarding the cost of Residential Schools provision represents a risk of significant overspend.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1** The main issue identified to date relates to inflationary pressures in residential school placements. The Department is in discussion, along with other councils, with these providers seeking a reduction in the inflationary uplift being sought by some.
In addition to the above action the Department is aiming to reduce placements in such provision where appropriate alternative placements in the community are available.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1** Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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Appendix A	Summary Budgetary Control Report
Appendix B	Budgetary Control Report
Appendix C	Report on Budgetary Variances