

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Social Work Services

Social Justice Committee: 8 November 2006

Subject: Social Work Budgetary Position 2006/07 as at Period 5 to 15 September 2006

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 September 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is the budgetary control statement for the Social Work Services Department.
- 2.2 It should be noted that this report compares the actual expenditure to 15 September to the phased budget as at 15 September.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The overall variance for the service to period 5 is £24,371 adverse. The main variances to date are as follows:
- 3.2 **Operations and Servicing** is shown as £31,433 adverse. This mainly due to costs incurred in meeting the needs of clients – which are higher than expected at this point in the year. This is expected to continue.
- 3.3 **Residential Accommodation for Young People** is shown as adverse by £53,707. Employee costs are overspent due to the costs of sickness cover. Also partly due to fostering costs being higher than budgeted as we are having to use fostering agencies due to a shortage of foster parents at present. This trend is likely to continue through the remainder of the year.
- 3.4 **Residential Accommodation – Physical Disability** is shown as overspent by £36,666 which is mainly due to new clients, this is expected to continue.
- 3.5 Offsetting the above three adverse variances are three smaller underspends in Day Centres – Learning Disability, Supplementation – Mental Illness and Home Care – each being around £20,000 underspent due mainly to vacant post savings. These underspends are expected to continue.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Department is currently overspending against budget. Management will continue to monitor the situation closely and aim to achieve a year end outturn as close to budget as possible.

5. Personnel Issues

5.1 There are no personnel issues.

6. Recommendation

6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

William W Clark
Acting Director of Social Work Services

Person to Contact: Stephen West, Manager of Resources -Tel. No. 01389 737705

Background papers: None

Wards affected: All