

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Community Health and Care Partnership

Committee: 15 December 2010

Subject: CHCP Social Work Services Budgetary Position 2010/11 as at Period 7 – year to 31 October 2010

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise members of the financial performance of the CHCP Social Work services budget for the period to 31 October 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1** Attached as Appendices A, B and C are budgetary control statements which compare actual expenditure to 31 October 2010 to the phased budget as at 31 October 2010.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The overall variance for the service to period 7 is £291,785 favourable. The main variances to date are as follows:

- 3.1.1 Operations and Services** is favourable by £282,082. This variance is mainly due to employee costs which are favourable by £321,366 as a result of a number of posts remaining vacant. Within this there are posts worth £93k year to date which were deleted as a result of the trawl. The budget for these posts has so far remained within the department resulting in a favourable variance.

- 3.1.2 Residential Schools** is shown as favourable by £129,128. This variance is due to there being no clients being placed within Secure Accommodation in the year to date.

- 3.1.3 Other Services - Young People** is shown as favourable by £83,349. This is due to two main variances:

- Employee costs are favourable by £35,904 due to vacant posts; and
- Payments to Other Bodies are favourable by £43,783. This is due to a reduction in services required from external providers in Youth Justice and a change in the level of need for a specific client.

- 3.1.4 Residential Accommodation for Elderly** is shown as favourable by £224,363. There are three main reasons for this favourable variance:

- Employee costs are adverse by £143,465. This is due to the cost of covering sickness absence;
- Payments to Other Bodies are favourable by £183,973 due to a reduction in the number of clients cared for in external care homes; and
- Income is favourable by £190,549 as a result of income from clients being higher than anticipated at this stage of the year.

3.1.5 Sheltered Housing is shown as favourable by £28,889. This is due to additional Housing Benefit income.

3.1.6 Residential Care – Learning Disability is shown as adverse by £381,532. This variance is mainly due to:

- Non-achievement of staff turnover saving assumed in the budget;
- Additional client needs which were unknown at the time of setting the budget and also the delayed achievement of expected efficiencies; and
- Withdrawal of client funding by Glasgow City Council resulting in increased Supplementation costs for the CHCP.

3.1.7 Mental Health Supplementation is shown as adverse by £31,912. This variance is mainly due to:

- Increased client need in Supplementation causing Payments to Other Bodies to be adverse by £22,500.

3.1.8 Home Care is shown as favourable by £10,124. This variance is mainly due to:

- Payments to Other Bodies is favourable by £50,178 due to the level of assessed need being lower than the budget.
- Income is lower than anticipated by £20,011; and
- Payments to Clients is £23,845 adverse due to an increase in the number of clients receiving Direct Payments.

4. People Implications

4.1 The ongoing freeze on filling of posts has resulted in a significant number of posts remaining vacant. This will undoubtedly place strain on remaining employees and this may result in delays in the delivery of some functions as work is prioritised, however any significant issues highlighted are considered and posts are filled when required.

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. This can affect several parts of the service.

7. Equalities Impact

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

8.1 There is a favourable variance shown at period 7 of £291,785. The main issues are the cost of providing cover for sickness absence in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly and increased client needs in Learning Disabilities. Some favourable variances in Operations and Servicing, Residential Schools and External Residential Care for the Elderly are helping the overall budget position. It should be noted that some budget lines within Social Work are volatile in nature with the potential for significant variation.

8.2 This report is submitted for Committee's consideration and comment.

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Appendices:	Appendix A - Summary Budgetary Control Report Appendix B - Detailed Budgetary Control Report Appendix C - Report on Budgetary Variances
Background Papers:	None
Wards Affected:	All