

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

### Report by Director of Community Health and Care Partnership

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: 21 September 2011

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**Subject: CHCP Social Work Services Budgetary Position 2011/12 as at Period 4 – year to 31 July 2011**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To advise members of the financial performance of the CHCP Social Work services budget for the period to 31 July 2011.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Attached as Appendices A and B are budgetary control statements which compare actual expenditure to 31 July 2011 to the phased budget as at 31 July 2011.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The overall variance for the service to period 4 is £263,011 favourable. The main variances to date are as follows:

**3.1.1 Operations and Services** is favourable by £119,905. This variance is mainly due to employee costs which are favourable by £93,322 as a result of a number of posts remaining vacant. Within this there are posts worth £40,000 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, these funds are to be removed to form part of a contingency fund during period 5 and the reported budget for period 5 will reflect this reduction. Further favourable variances in Payments to Other Bodies (£11,000) and Income (£10,000) are also contributing to the overall variance.

**3.1.2 Residential Schools** is shown as favourable by £59,377. This variance is due to there being a limited number clients being placed for short periods of time within Secure Accommodation in the year to date.

**3.1.3 Other Services - Young People** is shown as favourable by £38,322. This is due to a number of small contributing variances, including staff costs (£10,000) due again to a post removed in the trawl who's budget has remained within the department establishment and as advised above these funds are to be removed to form part of a contingency fund during period 5 and the reported budget for period 5 will reflect this reduction, Transport costs (£11,000), the budget is no longer required and will also be moved to the contingency fund and Payments to Other Bodies (£7,000).

**3.1.4 Residential Accommodation for Elderly** is shown as favourable by £52,295. There are three main reasons for this favourable variance:

- Employee costs are adverse by £41,282. This is due to the cost of covering absence through the use of agency staff and overtime;
- Payments to Other Bodies are favourable by £51,369 due to a reduction in the number of clients cared for in external care homes; and
- Income is favourable by £29,823 as a result of income from clients being higher than anticipated at this stage of the year due to the number of clients assessed as being able to contribute to the cost of their care.

**3.1.5 Residential Care – Learning Disability** is shown as adverse by £79,121. This variance is due to Payments to Other Bodies which are adverse by £82,834 due to increased client need and higher care package costs.

**3.1.6 Home Care** is shown as favourable by £44,032. This variance is due to employee costs which are favourable by £48,803 due to recurring effect of reductions in the use of premium rate overtime in 2010/11.

#### **4. People Implications**

**4.1** The ongoing freeze on filling of posts has resulted in a 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, Health & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)**

**7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality, health and human rights impact of this report.

#### **8. Strategic Assessment**

**8.1** The report is for noting and, therefore, does not directly affect any of the strategic priorities.

## **9. Conclusion and Recommendations**

**9.1** There is a favourable variance shown at period 4 of £263,011. 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, Homecare 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.

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

**Keith Redpath**

**Director of Community Health and Care Partnership**

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**Appendices:** Appendix A - Summary Budgetary Control Report  
Appendix B - Detailed Budgetary Control Report

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All