

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: 16 November 2011

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**Subject: CHCP Social Work Services Budgetary Position 2011/12 as at Period 6 – year to 30 September 2011**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To advise members of the financial performance of the CHCP Social Work services budget for the period to 30 September 2011.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Attached as Appendices A and B are budgetary control statements which compare actual expenditure to 30 September 2011 to the phased budget as at 30 September 2011. Members are advised that the sum of £639,868 has been removed from the original 11/12 budget since the last committee meeting to be added to a contingency fund as agreed with the Chief Executive, resulting in a lower annual budget than that previously reported.

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

- 3.1 The overall variance for the service to period 6 is £184,287 favourable. The main variances to date are as follows:

**3.1.1 Operations and Services** is favourable by £78,020. This variance is mainly due to employee costs which are favourable by £106,885 as a result of a number of posts remaining vacant. Offsetting adverse variances in Payments to Clients (£15,915) and Income (£10,457) are also contributing to the overall variance.

**3.1.2 Residential Accommodation for Young People** is shown as favourable by £47,031. This variance is due to employee costs which are £19,801 favourable as a result of vacancies and Payments to Other Bodies which is favourable by £27,604 as a result of reduced client need.

**3.1.3 Residential Schools** is shown as favourable by £62,684. 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.

**3.1.4 Other Services - Young People** is shown as favourable by £28,434. This is as a result of Payments to Other Bodies which is £21,592 favourable due to reduced client need.

**3.1.5 Residential Accommodation for Elderly** is shown as favourable by £96,077. There are three main reasons for this favourable variance:

- Payments to Other Bodies are favourable by £84,803 due to a reduction in the number of clients cared for in external care homes;
- Income is favourable by £39,876 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; and
- Employee costs are adverse by £26,780. This is due to the cost of covering absence through the use of agency staff and overtime.

**3.1.6 Residential Care – Learning Disability** is shown as adverse by £77,918. 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. This is partially offset by an adverse variance of £10,841 in employee costs.

**3.1.7 Home Care** is shown as adverse by £46,972. This variance is due to income being adverse by £45,931 which is caused by the cessation of Life Skills funding in relation to Housing Support services which had been included in the estimate.

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

**4.1** A number of posts remain vacant which could place strain on remaining employees and this may possibly 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 Assessment (EIA)**

**7.1** No issues were identified in a screening for potential equalities 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 6 of £184,287. 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.
- 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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<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix A - Summary Budgetary Control Report Appendix B - Detailed Budgetary Control Report
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All