

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Social Work Services

Social Justice Committee: 14 March 2007

Subject: Social Work Budgetary Position 2006/07 as at Period 9 to 15 January 2007

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 January 2007.

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 January 2007 to the phased probable outturn as at 15 January 2007. It is normal practice that, following the publication of the probable outturn for the financial year, budgetary control reports compare actual spend against the probable outturn, rather than the original budget.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The overall variance for the service to period 9 is £29,639 favourable. The main variances to date are as follows:
- 3.2 Residential Accommodation – Older People** is shown as underspent by £65,953. This is due to two issues: the costs of residential care which is purchased from external agencies being less than projected and to income from charges being higher than projected. The cost of purchased places was projected based on numbers of such places in September 2006, small changes to these numbers of clients can have significant financial effects due to the significant costs involved in purchasing such places. Income is higher than projected due to a higher recovery of income from health boards.
- 3.3 The Home Help Service** is shown as underspent by £41,535. This variance is due to a combination of staff vacancy savings and lower than expected levels of usage of external agencies due to efficiency improvements to the in-house service provision.

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.

7. Recommendation

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

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Budgetary Control Analysis

Background papers: West Dunbartonshire Revenue Budget 2007/08 – showing original budget for 2006/07 and probable outturn for 2006/07

Wards Affected: All