

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Community Health and Care Partnership

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: 2 February 2011

**Subject: CHCP Social Work Services Budgetary Position 2010/11 as at Period 8
– year to 31 November 2010**

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

2.1 Attached as Appendices A, B and C are budgetary control statements which compare actual expenditure to 31 November 2010 to the phased probable outturn as at 31 November 2010.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The overall variance for the service to period 8 is £388,999 favourable. The main variances to date are as follows:

3.1.1 Operations and Services is favourable by £75,377. This variance is mainly due to employee costs which are favourable by £63,572 due to some employees leaving the council after the probable outturn was set and also delays in filling approved vacancies to ensure that posts are filled through the redeployment process.

3.1.2 Residential Accommodation for Young People is shown as favourable by £44,154. The main variance is in Payments to Other Bodies which is £65,015 favourable and is due to reduced costs for Fostering Placements and Supported Lodgings.

3.1.3 Residential Accommodation – Elderly is shown as favourable by £124,864. This is due to two main variances:

- Employee costs are favourable by £28,317 due to improved absence levels; and
- Payments to Other Bodies is favourable by £76,800. This is due to further reductions since the probable outturn was established in the number of clients cared for in external care homes.

3.1.4 Home Care is shown as favourable by £106,235. This variance is mainly due to two variances:

- Employee costs are £79,395 favourable. Additional staff have been recruited to provide cover therefore avoiding premium rate overtime by creating a more flexible workforce which can more readily respond to the demands of the service; and
- Payments to Other Bodies is favourable by £29,558 due to the level of assessed need being lower than that established in the probable outturn.

3.1.5 Other Specific Services is shown as adverse by £23,083. This variance is mainly due to:

- Income relating to Housing Benefit is lower than the probable outturn by £26,863 due to the number of voids being higher than anticipated. This variance is likely to remain at this level for the remainder of the financial year.

4. People Implications

4.1 The ongoing freeze on filling of posts has resulted in a significant number of posts remaining vacant. Management continue to monitor vacancy levels and are able to fill posts where pressure is being placed on the remaining employees.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Other than the financial position noted above there are no financial implications resulting from 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 8 of £388,999. The main issues are favourable variances in Operations and Servicing, Residential Accommodation for Young People, External Residential Care for the Elderly and Homecare which 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