

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Joint Interim Executive Director of Social Work & Health

Social Work and Health Improvement Committee: 11 August 2010

Subject: Social Work Budgetary Position 2010/11 as at Period 3 – year to 30 June 2010

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise members of the performance of the Social Work and Health budget for the period to 30 June 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1** Attached as Appendices A, B and C are budgetary control statements for the Social Work Services Department.
- 2.2** It should be noted that this report compares the actual expenditure to 30 June 2010 to the phased budget as at 30 June 2010.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The overall variance for the service to period 3 is £33,530 favourable. The main variances to date are as follows:
- 3.2 Residential Schools** is shown as favourable by £50,165. This variance is due to:
- No requirement to place clients in Secure Accommodation in the year to date.
- 3.3 Residential Accommodation for Elderly** is shown as favourable by £34,260. There are three main reasons for this favourable variance, these are as follows:
- Employee costs are adverse by £55,725. This is due to the cost of covering sickness absence.
 - Payments to Other Bodies is favourable by £62,330 due to a natural reduction in the number of clients located in external care homes.
 - Income is favourable by £25,993 as a result of income from sale of clients' houses being higher than anticipated at this stage of the year.
- 3.4 Residential Care – Learning Disability** is shown as adverse by £41,168. This variance is mainly due to:
- Additional client needs for Supplementation services which were unknown at the time of setting the budget.
- 3.5 Home Help Service** is shown as favourable by £39,910. This variance is mainly due to:
- The budget for Free Personal Care exceeding current assessed need.

4. Personnel Issues

- 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.

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 3 of £33,530. 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 Residential Schools, External Residential Care for the Elderly and Homecare 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