

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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

Community Health and Care Partnership Committee: 20 October 2010

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**Subject: Social Work Budgetary Position 2010/11 as at Period 5 – year to 31 August 2010**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To advise members of the financial performance of the Social Work and Health budget for the period to 31 August 2010.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Attached as Appendices A, B and C are budgetary control statements for the Social Work Services Department which compares actual expenditure to 31 August 2010 to the phased budget as at 31 August 2010.

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

- 3.1** The overall variance for the service to period 5 is £81,676 favourable. The main variances to date are as follows:

**3.1.1 Operations and Services** is shown as favourable by £183,528. This variance is mainly due to employee costs which are favourable by £229,012 as a result of a number of posts remaining vacant. Within this there are posts worth £66k year to date which were vacated as a result of the trawl. The budget for these posts has so far remained within the department resulting in a favourable variance.

**3.1.2 Residential Accommodation for Young People** is adverse by £47,382 mainly due to Payments to Other Bodies being adverse by £30,574. This is as a result of increased care needs for a specific client which has a partially offsetting effect on the budget for Children with Special Needs.

**3.1.3 Residential Schools** is shown as favourable by £92,612. This variance is due to there being no clients being placed within Secure Accommodation in the year to date.

**3.1.4 Other Services - Young People** is shown as favourable by £58,280. This is due to two main variances:

- Employee costs are favourable by £24,211 due to vacant posts; and
- Payments to Other Bodies are favourable by £37,049. This is due to a reduction in services required from external providers in Youth Justice and a change in the level of need for a specific client in Children with Special Needs as noted above in Residential Accommodation for Young People.

**3.1.5 Residential Accommodation for Elderly** is shown as favourable by £127,891. There are three main reasons for this favourable variance:

- Employee costs are adverse by £131,071. This is due to the cost of covering sickness absence;
- Payments to Other Bodies are favourable by £130,419 due to a natural reduction in the number of clients cared for in external care homes; and
- Income is favourable by £136,106 as a result of income from clients being higher than anticipated at this stage of the year and an increase in income from the NHS which was not included in the budget.

**3.1.6 Sheltered Housing** is shown as adverse by £27,850. This is due to a budgeting error.

**3.1.7 Residential Care – Learning Disability** is shown as adverse by £230,631. This variance is mainly due to:

- Non-achievement of staff turnover saving assumed in the budget; and
- Additional client needs which were unknown at the time of setting the budget and also the non achievement of expected efficiencies.

**3.1.8 Mental Health Supplementation** is shown as adverse by £65,270. This variance is mainly due to:

- A shortfall in the income expected from charging for services which is £36,168 adverse at present.

**3.1.9 Home Care** is shown as favourable by £30,754. This variance is mainly due to:

- Payments to Other Bodies is favourable by £27,146 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, 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**

**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 5 of £81,676. 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.

**8.2** This report is submitted for Committee's consideration and comment.

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Director of Community Health and Care Partnership

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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