

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

### Report by Interim Executive Director of Social Work & Health

#### Social Work and Health Improvement Committee: 17 January 2010

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**Subject: Social Work Budgetary Position 2009/10 as at Period 9 – year to 15 January 2010**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To advise members of the performance of the Social Work and Health budget for the period to 15 January 2010.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Attached as Appendices A, B and C are budgetary control statements for the Social Work and Health Department.
- 2.2** It should be noted that this report compares the actual expenditure to 15 January 2010 to the phased probable outturn as at 15 January 2010.

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

- 3.1** The overall variance for the service to period 9 is £107,825 favourable. The main variances to date are as follows:

- 3.2 Operations and Servicing** is favourable by £44,342. The main contributory factor is :

- Employee costs are currently shown as £33,219 favourable due to the ongoing freeze on filling of vacant posts.

- 3.3 Residential Accommodation – Young People** is adverse by £31,964. The main contributory factor is:

- New fostering placements which were arranged over the Christmas period and after the probable outturn was established. This budget line is adverse by £48,910.

- 3.4 Residential Care Older People** is shown as favourable by £65,949. There are two contributory factors to this variance these are:

- Payments to Other Bodies are under spent by £20,578 due to lower number of placements in external Care Homes than at time of calculation of Probable Outturn; and
- Income from client contributions is £33,918 higher than expected in the Probable Outturn.

**3.5 Residential Care – Learning Disability** is shown as adverse by £25,329. This variance is mainly due to:

- Payments to other bodies which is adverse by £20,000 due to increased client need and new clients.

**3.6 Supplementation – Mental Health** is shown as favourable by £28,331. This is due to:

- Employee costs showing favourable variance of £19,922 due to delays in filling of vacant posts

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** The ongoing freeze on filling of posts has resulted in a significant number of posts remaining vacant and these are expected to remain vacant until the end of the year. 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 as highlighted earlier in this report.

#### **7. Equalities Impact**

**7.1** An equalities impact assessment is not required for this report.

#### **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**8.1** The main issues identified to date relate to cost pressures in relation to care costs across the department as levels of need in a number of client group areas has changed since the setting of the probable outturn. The department has been successful in freezing posts to save money and the favourable variances generated by this policy are currently offsetting any adverse variances.

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

Stephen West  
Interim Executive Director of Social Work and Health.

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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