

Report to: Children's Services
Scrutiny Committee
27^h March 2007

Date:

Report of: Director Of Corporate
Resources
Director of Children's
Services

Report No:

Contact Officer: Carol Davies

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Report Title: Children's Services Portfolio
Revenue and Capital Month 9 Monitoring
Report 2006/07

Non Confidential: This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press and members of the public.

Purpose: The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the revenue and capital financial position for 2006/07 as at month 9.

Recommendations: The Scrutiny Panel is requested to ratify the report.

Decision:

Signed:

Leader/Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

This report shows the revenue and capital monitoring position for the portfolio as at Month 9.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report provides Scrutiny members with information relating to the performance and financial position of the Childrens Services portfolio for the third quarter (month 9) of the 2006/07 financial year.

2. MONTH 9 CAPITAL MONITOR 2006/07

The Capital Programme approved in February 2006 for the Children's Services Portfolio identified a capital allocation for 2006/07 of £ 17,207,700. As reported in month 6 the programme had increased by September 2006 to £ 18,369,000. Since month 6 the programme has increased again by a further £ 75,000 in respect of a standards fund grant to support the development of bowling at Leverhulme.

The following table outlines both the expenditure as at the end of January 2007 against the available programme, and the funding sources used to support the programme.

Capital Programme 2006-2007

| Scheme | Original Budget £ 2006-2007 | Actual Expenditure Month 10 £ 2006-2007 | Estimated Outturn 2006/07 £ 2006-2007 |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Settlement Payments | 74,000 | 6,932 | 74,000 |
| Kitchens | 169,000 | | 169,000 |
| Building Maintenance Programme | 2,000,000 | 2,545,319 | 2,581,716 |
| Scheme investigations | | 1,403 | 16,000 |
| AMP Priorities | 1,000,000 | 1,188,221 | 1,444,269 |
| Prestolee Community Centre – AMP | | | 341,200 |
| Schools Capital Support Fund | 200,000 | 65,377 | 280,000 |
| Access – Main | 408,200 | 512,235 | 408,200 |
| Devolved Capital – Main | 3,983,300 | 2,555,722 | 4,822,854 |
| NOF - PE and Sport | 442,000 | 1,351,552 | 1,351,552 |
| The Orchards | 2,915,200 | 389,951 | 1,436,334 |
| Withins, Firwood | 1,000,000 | | |
| Firwood – Classroom | | | 6,637 |
| St Osmond's & St Andrews | 85,000 | | 85,000 |
| Ladybridge Freshstart | | 12,873 | 17,420 |
| Grosvenor Classroom | | 2,405 | 0 |
| Youth Centres | 151,000 | 20,147 | 225,905 |
| KS2/PRU | 100,000 | | |
| Music Service | | | 14,831 |
| PRU – Oldhams | | 42,691 | 55,900 |
| Bolton Parish Landslip | 0 | 157,936 | 282,900 |
| Bolton Parish Refurbishment | 80,000 | 101,547 | 115,400 |
| Hayward - Targetted Capital Fund | 4,000,000 | 0 | 53,860 |
| ICT Refresh | 350,000 | | 350,000 |
| Paderborn House | 250,000 | 47,634 | 250,000 |
| Rivington & Blackrod/Lord St Annex | | | 39,766 |
| Bowls | | 25,771 | 75,000 |
| Grants - School contributions | | 17,315 | 17,300 |

| Scheme | Original Budget | Actual Expenditure Month 10 | Estimated Outturn 2006/07 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| | 2006-2007 | 2006-2007 | 2006-2007 |
| Endeavour House Office | | 67,865 | 67,865 |
| Relocation of Childrens Homes | | | 196,000 |
| Re-provision Residential | | 3,370 | 150,000 |
| Integration - joint teams | | | 50,000 |
| Foster Care – reprovion | | 1,700 | 20,752 |
| Semi-independence Unit | | | 100,000 |
| Residential Home - children with disabilities | | | 30,000 |
| Disabled Adaptation - Balance DFG | | 13,618 | 20,000 |
| Accommodation - Contact Team | | 27,002 | 66,000 |
| Total 2006-2007 | 17,207,700 | 9,158,586 | 15,215,661 |
| Financing | | | |
| Corporate Borrowing Approval – Supported | 2,820,700 | | 3,453,452 |
| - Unsupported | 5,615,200 | | 2,204,099 |
| Corporate Reserves | | | 343,900 |
| Capital Receipts – Corporate | | | 82,865 |
| Section 106 | | | 298,939 |
| Airport Dividend | | | 27,261 |
| Standards Fund Grant – Devolved | 3,983,300 | | 4,882,329 |
| Standards Fund Grant - Modernisation | 1,123,100 | | 2,204,888 |
| Standards Fund Grant - (Sports - Bowls) | | | 75,000 |
| Fresh Start – Ladybridge | | | 17,420 |
| Targeted Capital Fund – Hayward | 3,000,000 | | |
| Housing - Asylum Seekers | | | 20,000 |
| NOF Grant | 442,000 | | 1,279,186 |
| Revenue Contributions to Capital | 223,400 | | 326,322 |
| Total 2006-2007 | 17,207,700 | | 15,215,661 |
| - Under/Over financing | 0 | | 0 |

3. MONTH 9 REVENUE MONITOR 2006/07

The table below shows the overall financial position for the department. The department has strategically planned and identified funding of £ 1.8 million to support the financial position in 2007/08 and to contribute to the repayment of debt. Delegated schools budgets are expected to overspend in year by £ 962,000, this is supported by the surplus balances in schools carried forward from previous years.

| | Latest Budget | Projected Outturn | Projected year end variance |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Childrens Services (LA block /centrally held) | 54,224,500 | 52,384,583 | 1,839,917 |
| Delegated schools block | 145,494,119 | 146,456,723 | -962,604 |
| TOTAL | 199,718,619 | 198,841,306 | 877,313 |

Whilst the overall position against Childrens Services is as planned, the department is facing budget pressures in relation to a number of areas, the most significant variances are summarised in the table below:

| Budget heading | Latest Budget | Projected Outturn | Projected year end variance |
|---|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Vulnerable persons transport | 1,780,100 | 2,146,435 | -366,335 |
| Pensions | 1,498,900 | 1,304,830 | 194,070 |
| School effectiveness / professional development | 800,800 | 668,046 | 132,754 |
| Education out of borough costs | 1,049,600 | 1,245,296 | -195,696 |
| Special staff costs | 834,500 | 705,351 | 129,149 |
| Early years / children's centres | 2,344,500 | 2,193,700 | 150,800 |
| Residential services - caretaking | 78,500 | 36,603 | 41,897 |
| Residential services - social workers | 1,429,200 | 1,482,659 | -53,459 |
| Disability services - agency placements | 512,600 | 743,777 | -231,177 |
| Fostering & adoption - Bolton Foster carers | 2,386,900 | 2,265,000 | 121,900 |
| Fostering & adoption - Family placement | 439,100 | 527,317 | -88,217 |
| Early start family support | 300,400 | 195,584 | 104,816 |
| Child protection - conference / reviewing team | 422,800 | 361,832 | 60,968 |

Vulnerable Persons Transport

The department has been faced with increasing demands against this budget in previous years, and whilst there was a significant overspend against this budget heading in 05/06, it was not clear if this was due to a one off increase in demand or was a continuing trend. During the current year the Council has brought together vulnerable persons transport across the authority with a view to reducing costs and providing a more responsive service. Whilst it is anticipated that savings will be generated in future in respect of this service the timing of the project has meant the savings could not be realised in the current year.

Pensions

The forecast underspend against pensions reflects a forecast reduction from the previous high costs incurred in 04/05 and 05/06. This reduced cost has also been reflected in the budget setting for 07/05.

School Effectiveness / income for professional development

As part of the budget setting process for 06/07 the department identified potential additional income in respect of support for professional development. During the year the department has managed to secure additional income through external sources.

Out of borough costs / SEN Independent School costs

As previously reported this budget has been under pressure for some time. As part of the budget process for 06/07 the department identified a savings target against this budget of £ 400,000, and whilst the department has successfully supported maintaining pupils within the Borough wherever possible, the nature of some children's SEN needs are best met by placements in Independent SEN settings. As such the savings target of £ 400,000 has not been fully realised.

Special staff costs

The department retains some funding to cover maternity and special staff costs (e.g. costs of suspensions). As part of the budget setting process for the current year the department identified additional costs of £ 300,000 based on the trend up to January 06. During the current year the trend has slowed resulting in a forecast budget saving for the current year. At this stage it is impossible to predict if the new lower trend will continue or if it is only a one off reduction.

Early Years / Childrens Centres

As previously reported the department has phased the introduction of children's centres, and as these services have been re-configured the department has planned to carry forward mainstream funding from 2006/07 to support the implementation programme in 2007/08.

Residential services – caretaking

Due to vacancies during the course of this financial year a small saving will be realised against the caretaking / domestics budget for childrens residential homes. This saving has also been reflected in the budget setting process for 07/08.

Residential services – social workers

The department has incurred additional costs as a consequence of the staffing requirements in some Children's homes.

Disability services – agency placements

The costs incurred in respect of children with disability in residential placements have increased significantly in respect of 1 child (from £ 156,000 to £ 287,000). The costs in respect of residential schools have increased as a result of new placements for 2 children and an increase in costs for 1 child of £ 57,000. All these additional costs have been included within the budget setting for 2007/08.

Fostering and adoption – Bolton Foster Carers

As part of the budget setting process additional resources were allocated to the portfolio to increase foster carer fees to support the Authority's recruitment of foster carers. Following consultation with foster carers the fees were increased from September 2006; due to the part year implementation there is a current projected saving against the budget. Following this investment, over the past 12 months the number of foster carers has increased by 14, with only 2 carers leaving the service, this is an increase of 16% against the number of foster carers at January 2006. There are also a further 13 potential foster carers currently going through the assessment process.

Fostering and adoption – Family placements

The department has incurred additional costs in agency cover during the current financial year

Early Start – family support

As part of the budget setting process for 06/07 the department identified savings through the redesign of early start family support and day care. The implementation of the realignment of services and maximising the use of external funding has resulted in an increased budget saving for the current year.

Child protection - conference / reviewing team

Due to a vacancy during the course of this financial year a saving will be realised against the within the conference and reviewing team. The department has taken this opportunity and realigned the roles and responsibilities within the team; as such this saving has been reflected on an on-going basis in the budget setting process for 07/08.

4. SCHOOLS DELEGATED BUDGETS - MONTH 9 REVENUE MONITOR 2006/07

At March 2006 schools revenue balances were £ 3.984 million, this represented 2.8% of the funds available to schools. (The funds available for schools include standards fund and direct standards grants allocations but exclude external sources of income generated by schools). At this stage in the financial year it is difficult to estimate the level of schools balances as some schools are holding reserves for possible expenditure in the remaining months, such as the impact of any sickness absence. The latest projected out-turn position is a balance of £ 3 million as at March 2007.

5. RESERVES POSITION

The table below outlines the projected out-turn position of the department's reserves at the 31st March 2007, after incorporating the financial estimates information included within this report.

| Description | Opening Balance 31-Mar-06 | Anticipated movements | Anticipated Closing Balance 31-Mar-07 |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Committee Reserves :- | | | |
| Schools Balances (under delegated schemes) | 3,984,764 | -962,604 | 3,022,160 |
| General reserves | -3,443,294 | 426,627 | -3,016,667 |
| Planned Reserve - 07/08 | 0 | 1,413,290 | 1,413,290 |
| Youth Service | 7,646 | | 7,646 |
| Traded services | 678,967 | | 678,967 |
| Primary Partnership | 16,321 | | 16,321 |
| LA Contributions to Standards Fund | 2,525 | | 2,525 |
| Teenage Pregnancy | 16,462 | | 16,462 |
| Secondary Partnership | 16,838 | | 16,838 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Special Partnership | 6,797 | | 6,797 |
| Artists in Schools | 92,355 | -92,355 | 0 |
| Early Years | 378,963 | -378,963 | 0 |
| Building Conference hosted by Bolton | 4,832 | | 4,832 |
| Bolton 400 | 1,786 | | 1,786 |
| NW Governors | -684 | | -684 |
| Total Committee Reserves | 1,763,733 | 406,539 | 2,170,272 |

6. GERSHON EFFICIENCIES 2006-2007

As part of the budget setting process the portfolio identified Gershon efficiency savings of £ 1,494,800. The financial impact of these efficiencies for 2006-2007 is included with the budget for the portfolio, details of the Gershonable efficiencies are outlined below.

Savings

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Out of Borough – education savings | 400,000 |
| Remodelling IMPACT services | 40,000 |
| Remodelling SEN transport | 16,000 |
| Restructure of ESW service | 30,000 |
| Review of BEMAS support in special schools | 20,000 |
| Review of photocopying services | 18,500 |
| Restructure of Information management unit | 35,000 |
| Integration of support services | 85,000 |
| Restructure of behaviour support services | 50,000 |
| Review of voluntary service | 100,000 |
| Review of family support management | 30,000 |
| Review of day care / early years family support | 150,000 |
| Review of children's residential management | 96,150 |
| Reduction in social care out of borough costs | 114,000 |
| Review of youth service coffee bar / caretaking | 20,000 |
| Reduction in social care out of borough costs | 114,000 |
| Review of responsibilities -Youth service units | 22,900 |
| Standardisation of youth workers session times | 20,000 |
| Reduction of mini bus fleet | 20,000 |
| Review of activity at Brownlow Fold centre | 9,100 |
| Review of activity at Central Drive centre | 8,000 |
| Total | 1,398,650 |

7. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

a) Annually measured indicators

The last published data in respect of annually collected best value performance indicators which relate to the Children's Services Department is for 2005/06; however the department holds more up to date information for a number of indicators – where possible this is included in the table below. Please note the out-turn data for 2006/07 is not yet confirmed and may be subject to change.

| Ref. | Indicator Description | Measurement Period | Data Source (if external) | Bolton Outturn 05/06 | Target 06/07 | Unconfirmed Out-turn 06/07 | Trend from 05/06 to 06/07 |
|---------|--|------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| BV 38 | Percentage of 15 year old pupils in schools maintained by the LEA achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C or equivalent | Previous academic year | DfES Performance Tables | 49.20% | 56.10% | 51.10% | ↑ |
| BV 39 | Percentage of 15 year old pupils in schools maintained by the LEA achieving 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* - G including English & Maths | Previous academic year | DfES Performance Tables | 87.10% | 89.00% | 88.40% | ↑ |
| BV 40 | Percentage of pupils in schools maintained by the LEA achieving Level 4 or above in the Key Stage 2 Maths test. | Previous academic year | DfES Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments | 76.00% | 83.00% | 78.00% | ↑ |
| BV 41 | Percentage of pupils in schools maintained by the LEA achieving Level 4 or above in the Key Stage 2 English test. | Previous academic year | DfES Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments | 79.00% | 81.00% | 80.00% | ↑ |
| BV 181a | Percentage of 14 year old pupils in schools maintained by the LEA achieving Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 test in English | Previous academic year | DfES Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments | 68% | 76% | 69.10% | ↑ |
| BV 181b | Percentage of 14 year old pupils in schools maintained by the LEA achieving Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 test in Mathematics | Previous academic year | DfES Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments | 70% | 78% | 76% | ↑ |
| BV 181c | Percentage of 14 year old pupils in schools maintained by the LEA achieving Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 test in Science | Previous academic year | DfES Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments | 66% | 78% | 70.5% | ↑ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|---|---|--------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| BV 181d | Percentage of 14 year old pupils in schools maintained by the LEA achieving Level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 test in ICT | Previous academic year | DfES Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments | 73% | 81% | 73.4% | NO CHANGE |
| BV 194a | Percentage of eligible pupils achieving Level 5 in Key Stage 2 English | Previous academic year | DfES Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments | 25% | 32% | 30% | ↑ |
| BV 194b | Percentage of eligible pupils achieving Level 5 in Key Stage 2 Maths | Previous academic year | DfES Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments | 31% | 39% | 33% | ↑ |
| BV 45 | Percentage of half days missed due to total absence in secondary schools maintained by the Local Education Authority | Academic year up to half term at end of May | DfES/ Annual School Performance Absence Return | 8.13% | 7.87% | 8.1% | NO Change |
| BV 46 | Percentage of half days missed due to total absence in primary schools maintained by the Local Education Authority | Academic year up to half term at end of May | DfES/Annual School Performance Absence Return | 4.96% | 4.54% | 5.45% | ↓ |
| BV49 | Stability of placements of LAC by reference to the %age of children looked after on 31st March in any year with 3 or more placements during the year | Current financial year | Internal collection | 13.88% | 13.00% | Not yet available | Not yet available |
| BV50 | The %age of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grades A* - G, or GNVQ | Current financial year | Internal collection | 42.31% | 50.00% | 47.8 | ↑ |
| BV161 | Employment, education and training for care leavers | Current financial year | Internal collection | 0.58% | 0.65% | Not yet available | Not yet available |
| BV162 | Reviews of child protection cases | Current financial year | Internal collection | 100% | 100% | 100% | NO CHANGE |
| BV163 | Adoptions of children looked after | Current financial year | Internal collection | 6.57% | 7.00% | 6.9% | ↑ |
| BV197 | Changes in the number of conceptions to females under 18 resident in the area, per thousand females aged 15-17 resident in the area compared with the baseline year 1998 | 2005 Calendar Year | Office for National Statistics (Feb 2007) | 5.80% | -8.00% | 3.3% | ↑ |

b) Quarterly measured indicators

The table below outlines performance information in respect of the best value performance indicators relating to Childrens services which are collected on a quarterly basis and reflect the information as at 31s December 2006.

| BVPI | Description | Annual Target 2006/07 (Full Year) | 06/07 Quarter 3 | | | Forecast 2006/07 (Full Year) |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | Target for Quarter | Actual for Quarter | Quarterly Target Met | |
| BV 43a | Percentage of statements of special educational need issued by the authority in a financial year and prepared within 18 weeks (a) excluding and | 100% | 100% | 100% | Yes | 100% |
| BV 43b | (b) including those affected by 'exceptions to the rule' under the SEN Code of Practice. | 72% | 72% | 58.82% | No | 73% |
| BV221a | Percentage of young people aged 13-19 gaining a recorded outcome compared to the percentage of young people participating in youth work | 42% | 42% | 71% | Yes | 71% |
| BV 221b | Percentage of young people aged 13-19 gaining an accredited outcome compared to the percentage of young people participating in youth work | 20% | 20% | 35% | Yes | 35% |
| BV 222a | Percentage of leaders of early education and childcare settings funded by the LEA with a qualification at Level 4 or above | 29% | 29% | 39% | Yes | 39% |
| BV 222b | Percentage of integrated early education and childcare settings funded or part funded by the LEA with input from staff with graduate or post-graduate training. | 100% | 100% | Not available | Not available | Not available |

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

— This report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Scrutiny Panel is asked to ratify the report in relation to performance and financial information for the Children's services portfolio for the third quarter of the 2006/07

financial year.