

Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services							
Older People							
Localities	20.679	20.163	-0.516		-0.616	The commissioned Older Peoples domiciliary and Direct Payment budget is expected to underspend by £0.757m based on current activity. There are recruitment and retention challenges within this service which is limiting the amount of care which can be purchased. The residential care budget is projecting a £0.324m overspend due to the cost of placements net of income such as Free Nursing Care, Regional Integration Fund contributions and property income. The Localities staff budgets are expected to underspend by £0.050m as not all staff are currently top of grade and some costs are to be recharged. The day care budget is underspending by £0.033m.	
Regional Integration Fund	0.000	0.086	0.086		0.000	The Step Down Regional Integration Fund (RIF) grant scheme which enables quicker hospital discharge times by placing older people into short term residential care before they can safely return home has already spent its annual allocation. Costs will continue to be incurred and it is not expected that slippage from other RIF schemes will be available to offset the spend.	
Resources & Regulated Services	8.921	8.958	0.037		0.218	In-house residential care was previously reported to overspend by £0.218m due to staff and running costs. However, there has been an increase to the number of residents who contribute to the cost of their care resulting in the projected client contribution income to increase by £0.150m. In addition there are reduced costs for staff as there has been a decrease in holiday cover and sickness cover requirements.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Minor Variances	1.269	1.245	-0.024		-0.024		
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	29.481	29.739	0.258		0.202	The PDSI (Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired) budget is reporting a £0.115m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living service is £0.129m overspent and this will likely increase further if agency cover is required to cover vacancies. The Learning Disability Daycare and Workscheme budget is £0.069m overspent due mostly to recent inflationary pressures. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disability services is a £0.055m underspend.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.951	1.156	0.205		0.113	These are the costs of care for young adults who are transferring to Adult Social Care from Children's Services this financial year. Care costs are initially estimated, but once services have been finalised the actual cost may be different.	
Residential Placements	1.956	2.336	0.380		0.394	This is the cost of current commissioned care packages within the Mental Health Service	
Minor Variances	4.033	3.995	-0.038		-0.029		
Children's Services							
Family Support	0.375	0.513	0.137		0.127	Costs are based upon the current activity levels over the last few months and projected forward for the rest of the year. Workforce costs, mostly sessional staff, are the primary cost driver for this service.	

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Legal & Third Party	0.232	0.741	0.509		0.511	Legal costs are overspent by £0.276m due to the number of cases going through the courts and some use of external legal professionals. Direct Payments also continue to increase in demand and are overspent by £0.233m.	
Residential Placements	1.312	0.977	-0.336		-0.395	The in-year opening of some Childrens Residential care settings will mean that there will be one off cost savings, in addition it is expected that one off, non-recurring grant from Welsh Government will be recieved for start up costs.	
Professional Support	6.173	6.416	0.243		0.250	To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to meet the challenges and demands of Childrens Services. There is an assumption that Welsh Government will allow for flexible use of Childrens Services grants which will allow for some cost presures to be offset.	
Minor Variances	3.537	3.526	-0.011		0.030		
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.831	0.894	0.063		0.044	There are additional one off costs of £0.018m for an IT system upgrade. Additionally there are some extra staff costs due from temporary increases in hours and business support assistant posts. These additional posts are funded from the underspend within the Business Support Service budget.	
Business Support Service	1.195	1.141	-0.054		-0.051	The underspend is due to vacancies which will not be filled this year	
Safeguarding Unit	1.291	1.076	-0.214		-0.209	A consultation for the updated Liberty Protection Safeguard legislation continues to be undertaken. Due to the delay in implementing the legislation there will be an in-year saving.	
Management & Support	-2.267	-2.330	-0.063		-0.061	A reduction of £0.040m on Flintshire's contribution to the Regional Collaboration Team is expected this year.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.000		
Minor Variances	-2.001	-2.029	-0.029		-0.024		
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	77.969	78.604	0.635	0.000	0.478		
Out of County							
Children's Services	10.097	11.620	1.523		1.400	The projected overspend reflects significant additional demands on the service in the year to date with 28 new placements having been made in the year to date - most of which are high cost residential placements - there is provision for a contingency sum of £0.250m, for net impacts of further new placements and other placement changes, but this may not prove to be enough.	
Education & Youth	5.004	4.703	-0.301		-0.389	The latest underspend reflects projected costs for the current cohort of placements and there have been 20 new placements in the year to date with further new placements also likely to emerge as the year progresses, for which contingency provision of £0.050m has been made.	
Total Out of County	15.101	16.323	1.222	0.000	1.011		
Education & Youth							
Inclusion & Progression	5.251	5.196	-0.055		-0.031	The service have maximised some WG grants for core staff. There are also vacancy savings within the PRU management budget.	

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School Improvement Systems	1.889	1.747	-0.142		-0.133	Payments to Non-maintained and maintained settings projected similar to those of 21/22. Welsh Government have announced continuation of top-up funding to £5 p/hour, so gives the Early Entitlement budget increasing financial capacity. Alongside this, the Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards grant and the Early Years Pupil Development Grant increases announced allow core budget to be released. Proposed efficiency savings are currently under review.	
School Planning & Provision	0.671	0.595	-0.076		-0.053	Projected underspend on insurance liability claims costs and some salary savings	
Minor Variances	2.141	1.973	-0.169		-0.128		
Total Education & Youth	9.953	9.512	-0.442	0.000	-0.344		
Schools	108.401	108.401	0.000		-0.000		
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	9.277	9.457	0.180		0.265	The service has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.100m for security costs at the Household Recycling Centres. Street lighting is also incurring a £0.070m revenue pressure on the Community Council Income Budget. Improved position from last month due to additional income achieved through in-house construction work. Remaining £0.090m is attributable to high sickness levels and agency costs.	
Highways Network	8.096	8.585	0.489		0.503	Highways is incurring a revenue pressure of £0.400m in Fleet Services as a result of rising fuel costs. Also additional £0.050m increase in weed spraying contractor costs following recommendation from Scrutiny Committee, which cannot be covered by our existing budget.	
Transportation	10.031	10.449	0.418		0.362	Local bus subsidy is incurring additional overspend of £0.100m due to the Park and Ride Service and Service 5. School Transport is incurring a revenue pressure of £0.090m, due to a shortfall in budget for 3 additional school days driven by Easter timelines in this financial year. There has been an additional pressure of £0.220m identified in School Transport due to additional demand (PRUs/ALN) 6 routes in total equating to £270.00 per day.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.000		
Other Minor Variances	11.062	11.015	-0.048		-0.034		
Total Streetscene & Transportation	38.466	39.505	1.039	0.000	1.096		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Community	0.890	0.963	0.073		0.073	Fee income shortfalls in Licensing and Pest Control and historic business planning efficiency £0.024m not realised	
Development	0.146	-0.443	-0.589		-0.594	Favourable variance following receipt of two high value one off Planning Fee each approx £0.300m	
Management & Strategy	1.385	1.290	-0.095		-0.111	Staff savings from vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.047	COVID-19 related additional cleaning costs for Countryside Service and Environmental Health Officer costs	
Minor Variances	4.376	4.353	-0.022		-0.026		
Total Planning & Environment	6.797	6.218	-0.579	0.054	-0.610		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.284	2.241	-0.043		-0.027		

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Central & Corporate Finance	28.769	27.838	-0.931		-0.231	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recouperment against actuarial projections based on the current level of contributions, as at Month 6 no new long or short term borrowing has been undertaken, due to the level of additional grant funding received from Welsh Government towards the end of the last financial year improving the cashflow position. This has therefore reduced the borrowing costs that would've been incurred and allowed the Council to maximise investments where possible to generate investment income. We have seen further return on investment as the bank rate has risen, resulting in a proportion of this favourable movement. It could potentially increase further in this financial year, should the pattern continue. Savings have also been identified on the Councils finance lease liabilities and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).	
Centralised Costs	2.783	2.753	-0.030		-0.031		
Soft Loan Mitigation	0.000	0.053	0.053		0.053		
Grand Total	326.682	326.715	0.033	0.062	0.680		