

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 15 December 2022
Report Subject	Joint Funded Care Packages – Update Report
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services) and Corporate Finance Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As discussed in the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the 13 October and 17 November 2022, the process of funding is complex. Much work has been done over the past month to process outstanding invoices and work continues to improve processes. This has seen a significant reduction in the number of long standing outstanding invoices and high value invoices.

Members have requested regular, an update report to give assurance that outstanding invoices are being processed and that the position continues to improve.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To update Members on the proactive budget management of outstanding invoices raised by the Council for payment by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	PROGRESS UPDATE
1.01	Regular meetings continue between Council officers and health board staff to reduce the number of outstanding invoices and resolve any gaps in information which have prevented payment to date.
1.02	Processes have been put in place to ensure current and future invoices are raised in a timely manner and supported by appropriate information to allow for payment within invoicing terms.
1.03	Meetings continue to be held at operational, strategic and Leader/Chief Executive level and the management of outstanding invoices is a standing item on all meeting agendas. BCUHB Strategic Leaders attended Social and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 30 November 2022 where the matter was raised by Members. The health board's Executive Director of Finance, Sue Hill assured Members that significant payments had been made to resolve a number of invoices. She also gave assurance that the health board would be working closely with the Council to bring the outstanding invoice payment figure down.
1.04	<p>The following actions have been taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the total value of the invoice is queried, the BCUHB Finance Team have paid the agreed funding level, leaving a much reduced outstanding amount.• The Council officers have provided documentation to confirm the funding decision for a Mental Health/Learning Disability invoice which has been promptly paid.• A number of long-standing invoices have been reviewed and whilst information to understand the discrepancies is difficult to obtain, it is agreed that they are approved care packages and the health board have made payments to resolve those invoices.• Two invoices relating to children to the value of c.£0.210m have ongoing queries and these are being actively worked by both partners.
1.05	There will be a number of invoices where both partners are unable to resolve remaining queries or discrepancies over funding levels and the health board proposed bringing in an independent agency to review these cases and arbitrate a settlement. This approach has been accepted by the Council and will take place in the new year.
1.06	A dedicated email account has been established for all CHC communication between the Council and health board officers.

1.07	Debt Levels			
1.08		Outstanding CHC Invoices 12/10/2022	Outstanding CHC Invoices 11/11/2022	Outstanding CHC Invoices 06/12/2022
	Total	£ 1,285,005.01	£ 1,143,087.50	£834,664.00
	<p>Of the £0.835m outstanding CHC Invoices as at 6 December 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.094m will have been paid on account by 15 December 2022 • £0.022m are being reconciled by the Council and will be paid within then new few weeks • £0.441m are unresolved and will be discussed at independent arbitration 			
1.09	Next Steps			
1.10	Continue with monthly operational meeting, strategic meetings and escalation pathways through the FCC and BCUHB Strategic meetings.			
1.11	Arbitration for £0.441m to be undertaken in the new year.			

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As this report is the provision of financial information only.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Debt levels are monitored monthly and an escalation route has been established.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None required at this stage.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	-

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Jane Davies – Senior Manager Safeguarding and Commissioning</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 704503 and 01352 702503</p> <p>E-mail: jane.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	None