

LIFELONG LEARNING

APPENDIX 4

Budget Monitoring 2011/12 (Month 11 vs. Month 9)

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Variance Period 9 (£m)	Cause of Variance	Action Required
Out of County (Special – ringfenced budget)	3.090	2.619	(0.471)	(0.539)	<p>Revised projection based on updated information on existing placements up until March 2012. This reflects initial reductions in payments to providers following re-negotiation of contracts.</p> <p>Following notification at Inclusion Senior Management Team (ISMT), 6 placements ended during the Summer Term.</p> <p>Agreements for further income of £35k from the University Health Board for joint funded payments were received.</p> <p>3 high cost placements have been heavily reduced and others have been slightly reduced following the involvement of Commercial and Clinical Solutions. Discussions are still ongoing with current placements.</p>	<p>The task and finish group are continuing their work and benchmarking work has been completed. The focus of high cost placements is now a North Wales project and meetings have taken place.</p> <p>External consultants have been commissioned to assist with the negotiation process with providers within Flintshire and to make recommendations regarding the current processes deployed.</p>

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cont.... Out of County (Special - ringfenced budget)					<p>A further 4 placements have been reduced following Commercial and Clinical Solutions involvement. An additional placement has ended.</p> <p>During January several changes occurred as follows. 3 placements changed providers, 3 placements ended, 5 placements reduced their service requirement, 1 placement increased their service requirement and 1 new mother and baby placement was received into the Service.</p> <p>4 new placements were received into the Service during February and March. The extra costs of these new clients was partially offset by a discount received for 1 placement following continued Commercial and Clinical Solutions involvement.</p>	
Leisure Services .	3.496	3.909	0.413	0.212	Within Leisure Services, Deeside Leisure Centre suffered a loss of income due to closures caused by redevelopment of £0.061m.	Other methods of recovering this overspend were explored and contributed £0.033m.

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cont.... Leisure Services					A large number of efficiencies and reduction of overspends which totalled £561k were made in the Leisure Service through Flintshire Futures and most of the expected savings were achieved. The one efficiency that has not be made during 2011-12 relates to the original staff re-organisation plan being delayed untill November 2012. This has caused many of the posts in the original plan to be appointed on temporary posts whilst the new organisational chart is being created. The on-going effects of this have cascaded their way through the service and have caused a one off £0.121m overspend in 2011/12.	Leisure Services JEQ's have been submitted for scoring. Expected implementation is November 2012
					The Energy Unit advised that Gas price increases of up to 35% were to be expected this year. This has affected all services that have premises, particularly Leisure. The effect of this price rise is within the provision of Non Standard Inflation currently held centrally.	Further work is ongoing in liaison with the Energy Efficiency Unit.

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cont.... Leisure Services					<p>A Remedy Hearing following an Employment Tribunal judged that an employee had been unfairly and wrongfully dismissed at a cost of £55k.</p> <p>The first full months repayment for the new Extreme Zone and Spa was repaid in January. As these activity areas only opened part way through January there wasn't a full months income to offset the repayment. This is a one off situation.</p> <p>February and March are the highest income generating months for Leisure Services. The extreme hot weather, particularly in March, had a very detrimental effect on income. The Ice Rink income alone was £63k less than received in the average taken over the last 5 years, with other indoor sports income at every site also negatively effected. Income generation has improved during poor weather in April.</p>	
Schools Related	(1.634)	(1.402)	0.232	0.179	Schools Service Level Agreements have been identified as a risk for some time. The implications of this have only been firmed up during January.	Budget holders are to be notified of the impact of this on their 2012/13 budget, and take decisions where required to reduce expenditure accordingly.

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cont.... Schools Related					<p>It has been decided that a further £32k of the Schools Service Level Agreement relating to Corporate overheads is to remain in Lifelong Learning for 2011/12. Corporate overheads have remained static in 2011/12 although school subscriptions have reduced.</p>	<p>This is to be revisited during 2012/13.</p>
					<p>There has been an increase in the number of pupils partaking in the Music Service (£94k) following service changes, however, fees at current levels do not recover full service costs. The Service has incurred one off costs of £25k for I.T. to invoice pupils. Extra staffing to cope with the increased delivery of the Service has incurred the remainder of the overspend, which has also suffered additional costs through sickness and maternity cover.</p>	<p>These additional expenses are largely one off costs which will not be incurred in future years.</p>

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Inclusion Services	5.564	5.925	0.361	0.355	The Inclusion Service has received grant streams in the region of £0.302m in previous years which have mitigated their overspend. These are no longer available from 2011/12 onwards. Therefore, based on current and past expenditure patterns this is currently projected to be the overspend for the Service. The major cause of the overspend is on ASWs providing pupil support in schools.	In 2012/13 a budget allocation of £300k has been approved to replace lost grant funding.
					Amendments to other grants on which the service could draw on previously have been tightened further.	Service changes to match reduction in grants.
Youth and Community	1.224	1.274	0.050	0.065	Implementing only staffing changes in relation to the approved Youth Service Strategy in 2011/12 has left a budget shortfall in relation to accommodation. The Accommodation Review has been rescheduled for 2012/13.	
					The Workwise/Wheels to Work project has been wound up, the net effect was a one off cost to the service of £0.030m.	Various grant streams were approached to reduce this without success.

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Pupil / Student Transport	6.388	6.573	0.185	0.172	The School Transport service has overspent on College Transport by approximately £0.174m as there is insufficient budget to cover the additional costs of increased numbers of students attending college courses, particularly at the start of the academic year when student numbers are at their highest.	Progress Policy Review and consultation on Post 16 entitlements. Efficiency projects within existing policy 1) Special needs project 2) Hazardous routes
					Approximately £20k of savings were realised due to the school buses not running during the Industrial Action day in November.	
Service Units	2.138	2.316	0.178	0.046	The figures received from September showed that there is a larger take up of Free School Meals than is budgeted for.	The level of budget provision for free school meals will be re-assessed during the current service planning/ budget process in order to keep pace with changes within the wider economic climate.
					There was a further increase of £67k due to greater Free School meals between January and March, taking the total for this to £141k	Working with Facilities a detailed analysis is taking place to ascertain the reasons for the increase.

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cont.... Service Units					School Remissions costs increased by £60k during February and March. £20k of this was for school trips which only equated to £1.2k last year, and £40k was from information received from the Music Service in March.	A review of Remissions Policy is planned.
Facilities Services	1.037	1.438	0.401	0.375	<p>Within the Facilities Service, figures extracted from the Office for National Statistics show food price inflation to be 3.8% above our 2% budget uplift which equates to a £0.065m overspend.</p> <p>The Cleaning Service is struggling to find the £0.100m in year efficiency target, further work is currently being undertaken. An addition to this is the loss of the surplus generating contract with the Law Courts.</p>	<p>Non-standard inflation has been provided for in the 12/13 budget process.</p> <p>Implementation of agreed daytime cleaning at County Hall.</p>

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cont....Facilities Services					The Catering Service is continuing to overspend in the absence of a comprehensive efficiency and kitchen rationalisation strategy. The draft APSE review has now been received which will be used to form the basis of this strategy.	A project scope for Facilities Services to review organisational structure design principles and service delivery has been approved. It includes work on (i) cost reduction/procurement (ii) improved and themed menus (iii) take-up strategies (iv) on-line payments.
					Sickness rates amongst school cooks since September is considerably higher than average	
					The extreme hot weather during March had a negative effect on school meals take up as less hot meals were sold than would usually be expected.	
Other variances (aggregate)	88.215	88.207	(0.008)	0.044	Variances under £0.050m.	
Total :	109.518	110.859	1.341	0.909		