

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 4

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services					
Older People					
Localities	24.561	25.223	0.662	Residential care costs for older people are projecting an overspend of £0.407m due to service demand. This amount is net of client income from property recharges and reimbursements for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.201m overspent. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.038m and day care is overspending by £0.015m. There is a real risk of significant escalation in costs as there is continued pressure to minimise stays in hospitals. This risk will increase as we enter the winter period, and due to this the service is looking to mitigate this risk by reviewing and changing some service practices.	
Resources & Regulated Services	10.010	9.892	-0.118	In-house residential care is projecting an overspend by £0.307m due to employee and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.432m, although demand is high it cannot be met due to recruitment challenges. The Extra Care budget is expected to overspend by £0.116m due to employee costs and day care will underspend by £0.109m.	
Minor Variances	1.511	1.512	0.002		
Adults of Working Age					
Resources & Regulated Services	36.194	36.648	0.454	The PDSI (physically disabled and sensory impaired) budget is reporting a £0.044m overspend due to costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.343m overspent due to care hours and agency costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for learning disability services is £0.251m overspent. The learning disability service day and work provision is £0.184m underspent. Demand and costs of care packages.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.848	1.107	0.259	There are three high cost placements which are costing more than initially estimated.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.462	0.380	-0.082	The underspend is due to staff vacancies	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.987	0.934	-0.053	The underspend is due to additional funding to the service	
Supporting People	-0.386	-0.487	-0.101	Additional Supporting People income is expected this financial year	
Minor Variances	6.028	5.999	-0.029		
Children's Services					
Integrated Working	0.200	0.258	0.058	Advocacy costs have increased due to inflationary pressures	
Legal & Third Party	0.283	0.745	0.461	Legal costs are overspent by £0.205m due to the number of cases going through the courts and some use of external professionals. Client support and section 17 costs are overspent by £0.178m and Direct Payments are overspent by £0.078m.	
Residential Placements	1.856	1.483	-0.374	There is a Welsh Government grant which is supporting the in-house childrens residential service development	

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Professional Support	6.222	7.182	0.960	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 where possible and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to be able to continue meeting the challenges and demands of Childrens Services. Two managed agency teams were contracted to support the service, although one of these has now ceased, there is a projected overspend of £0.914m as a result. This is being mitigated from underspends, mostly from vacancies, of £0.528m. The Leaving Care budget which supports young people who are Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.423m due to increased numbers of care leavers which includes unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UAAC). Alternative accommodation for UAAC is being looked at and a reduction in future costs is expected in the near future. The costs of some external contracts are £0.083m overspent due to inflationary pressures. Costs of Direct Payments to provide support to children with disabilities are £0.068m overspent due to demand.	
Minor Variances	4.077	4.107	0.030		
Safeguarding & Commissioning					
Charging Policy income	-3.505	-3.595	-0.090	This is income from service users who are charged a contribution towards the care they receive	
Minor Variances	2.699	2.811	0.112		
Total Social Services	92.047	94.197	2.150		
Out of County Placements					
Children's Services	13.795	14.694	0.898	The Month 4 position shows a significant overspend within the Out of County pooled budget as a result of the following:- an increase in the number of new placements agreed in-year and fees incurred to external providers.	The overspend includes no further contingency and is forecast based on current caseload only.
Education & Youth	5.504	5.700	0.196		
Total Out of County Placements	19.299	20.393	1.094		
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)					
Inclusion & Progression	5.650	5.963	0.313	Variance due to an in year pressure of £0.247m due to an increase in pupil numbers accessing external education providers for medical reasons. In previous years, there has been a reliance on grant funding and budget c/fwds. There may be an additional £0.050m available from the 2024/25 ALN (Additional Learning Needs) grant to mitigate some of the pressure, however, we are still working through the commitments of this grant. A pressure method statement has been submitted for 2025/26. Other minor variances relate to Plas Derwen and Canolfan Enfys.	
Minor Variances	4.498	4.418	-0.080		
Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	10.148	10.381	0.233		

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Schools	117.302	117.119	-0.183	The variance primarily relates to the following:- Free School Meals (FSM) budget - (£0.114m) underspend, due to meal take up and levels of eligible FSM children. The Unallocated budget containing Added Years and Copyright Licenses indicates a (£0.123m) underspend. The above underspends are offset by a number of insignificant adverse variances within Primary and Secondary non-delegated, totalling £0.054m	
Streetscene & Transportation					
Service Delivery	8.581	9.441	0.859	Significant Variance of £0.400m in Highways Maintenance Costs due to increasing inflationary pressures and demand for temporary repairs on the road network, largely due to the reduction in WG funding and reduced investment in the highway network and fluctuating costs of tar and traffic management for repairs. £0.200m in Alltami Depot running costs. Budget Efficiency proposals relating to Household Recycling Centres where implementation dates have been delayed have had a significant impact on the outturn variance of around £0.250m.	Method Statements have been submitted for Highway Maintenance and Alltami Depot as 2025/26 MTFS pressures bids.
Highways Network	11.674	12.114	0.440	Winter Maintenance costs of £0.300m continue to escalate for the provision of equipment, labour and materials. Fleet costs in this service area have seen significant year-on-year inflation. A report will be presented to Cabinet to consider the delivery of efficiencies relating to decision making relative to marginal weather forecasts. Street-lighting energy cost of £0.100m as prices and forecasts continue to rise which has been reflected in the outturn position.	We continue to investigate options to reduce procurement costs and ensure appropriate income/funding in preparation for the start of the winter maintenance season.
Transportation	11.023	11.310	0.287	School Transport significant variances due to transport day costs increased driven by the inflation. Social Services Transport costs increased due to recent procurement and additional adult social services requests	
Regulatory Services	11.417	11.866	0.449	Waste Strategy increased costs of £0.200m mainly due to increased volumes of residual waste being collected and Gate Fee Indexation inflation. £0.100m reduced energy output of gas extraction at former landfill sites and a £0.149m shortfall from lower income prices on the recycling markets.	
Total Streetscene & Transportation	42.695	44.731	2.036		
Planning, Environment & Economy					
Business	2.327	2.184	-0.144	Part year vacancy savings recruitment process has commenced	
Community	0.973	1.018	0.045	Fee Income estimated shortfall in Licensing	
Development	-0.200	0.007	0.207	Fee Income estimated shortfall in Building Control and Land Charges	
Access	1.591	1.717	0.126	Projection of costs for Ash Die Back Tree works to March 2025	
Climate Change	0.181	0.135	-0.046	Part year vacancy saving	
Regeneration	0.711	0.658	-0.053	Grant Maximisation - re-allocating staff costs to Grant Projects	
Minor Variances	2.098	2.130	0.032		
Total Planning, Environment & Economy	7.682	7.850	0.168		
People & Resources					

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HR & OD	2.211	2.257	0.046	Historic Business Efficiency in DBS Checks unrealised	
Corporate Finance	2.080	1.983	-0.096	Vacancy Savings	
Total People & Resources	4.290	4.240	-0.050		
Governance					
Legal Services	0.991	1.046	0.055	Locum costs for vacant posts	
Customer Services	0.985	0.872	-0.113	Vacancy savings and fee income over recovery in Registrars	
Revenues	0.371	0.233	-0.138	Potential Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	9.719	9.620	-0.099		
Total Governance	12.066	11.771	-0.295		
Assets					
Minor Variances	11.403	11.444	0.041		
Total Assets	11.403	11.444	0.041		
Housing and Communities					
Housing Solutions	4.309	7.049	2.741	Anticipated £2.741m overspend for the service. Emergency accommodation costs £3.986m, offset with an increase in the HB Income collected (£0.659m) and NOLO Grant of (£0.423m). £0.075m overspend on the Homeless Hub	
Minor Variances	13.852	13.851	-0.002		
Total Housing and Communities	18.161	20.900	2.739		
Chief Executive's	1.641	1.618	-0.023		
Central & Corporate Finance	31.372	29.216	-2.156	The initial projection on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) for the 2024/25 indicates an underspend of (£0.250m) as the trend from previous years continues with reduced short term borrowing costs and income from investments in line with current bank interest rates. This is mitigated by potential shortfalls in Corporate windfall income targets based on actual receipts to date. As a result of the refinancing of Enfinium Group Ltd into Enfinium Parc Adfer Ltd, there is a gainshare benefit to all partner authorities within the North Wales Residual Waste Partnership. Flintshire's estimated gainshare from this undertaking is £2.108m, net of fees. A commitment has been included to fund the on-going clean-up from the impact of fly tipping at land adjacent to the Riverside Site, Queensferry at a current cost of £0.091m that includes the machine hire, transport and manpower related to the necessary works.	
Grand Total	368.106	373.860	5.754		