

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 13
FEBRUARY 2008**

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL WORK REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET
MONITORING 2007/08**

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Education and Social Services Committee of the current position of the Social Services Revenue and Capital budgets.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (23) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to Social Work services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Education and Social Services Committee:**
- (i) **notes the position of the revenue budget for Social Work as set out in Appendix 1; and**
 - (ii) **notes the position of the capital programme for Social Work for 2007/8 as set out in APPENDIX 2.**

3. BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

3.1 The Revenue Budget

The position in relation to the Social Work budget as of the 31st December 2007 is detailed in **APPENDIX 1**. The budget figures in the table are based on the information from the financial ledger only and have not been adjusted for any invoices for services received but not yet paid.

- 3.2 The figures for 31 December 2007 indicate an underspend on the Social Work budget of a £1,688 million, which includes an underspend on the Community Care revenue budget of £1,489 million (against which the Efficiency savings of £452,000 need to be offset). A forecast column has been added to the budgetary information presented to Committee. This currently indicates that the year-end outturn is forecast to be a small underspend, predominantly due to slippage in the training budget, ring-fenced monies from the Learning Disability budget for the Challenging Behaviour project and the Telecare monies carried forward from last year. This will continue to be carefully monitored during the remainder of the financial year.

- 3.3 Management and Support is showing an underspend of £213,000 primarily due to slippage in the training budget, which is also forecasted to remain for the year-end and staffing budgets.

- 3.4 The variance in the Children and Families budget primarily relates to the Care Placement Services budget where there is currently an overspend due to

Out-of-Area placements, offset by refunds from Voluntary Organisations and staffing.

- 3.5 The Criminal Justice Service is again showing an underspend of £271,000 which relates to payment of retention monies and Partnership surpluses which are to be repaid back to the members of the Criminal Justice partnership. Hence, we are also forecasting an underspend of £168,000 at year-end.
- 3.6 There is currently an underspend of £524,000 on the Learning Disabilities budget, however, this is due to underspends in staffing, Community Support Workers and purchasing, as well as increased income levels. A similar position is forecasted for year-end, but primarily due to monies being ring-fenced for the Challenging Behaviour project, which is not due to be up and running until the next financial year.
- 3.7 Home Care is also currently showing an underspend of £82,000 due to vacancies in staffing. This trend is forecasted to continue to the year-end.
- 3.8 **The Capital Budget**
The capital works for Social Work are complete. The new project for Challenging Behaviour for Learning Disabilities was agreed as an efficiency project at Policy Committee on 13th June 2007 (para 34 of the minute refers). The details are attached in **APPENDIX 2**.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) **Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan**
The Social Programme states 'the Council will support and encourage measures that achieve social inclusion and enhance the quality of life for the residents of Moray'.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
The revised Eligibility Criteria and measures taken to reduce spend on the Community Care budget was approved by Community Services Committee on the 31 May 2006. These actions do not affect the Council's ability to meet its duty of care as set out in the Social (Scotland) Act 1968 and the NHS & Community Care Act 1990.
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**
The resource implications are set out in this report.

(d) **Consultations**

The Principal Accountant, Lorraine Paisey, has been consulted and concurs with the financial implications set out in this report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 It is concluded that the Social Work budget is underspent at this stage by £1,688 million. However, the budget is under great pressure this year and as such it is forecasted that the underspend will not be sustained.

5.2 The Capital Works for 2007/8 are complete. The new Forres project is on target for 2007/8.

Author of Report: Sally Chisholm Head of Community Care
Background Papers: Papers held by the Accountancy team and the Head of Community Care
Ref: SC/Committ160108