

**REPORT TO: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 9 APRIL 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 regarding the Social Work Revenue and Capital budgets.
- 1.2 To inform Committee of the revised rates for Free Personal and Nursing Care and Care Home Fees for 2008/09.
- 1.3 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;**
  - (ii) **notes the position of the capital programme for Social Work for 2007/8 as set out in APPENDIX 2;**
  - (iii) **notes the uplift for Free Personal and Nursing Care payments from 1 April 2008; and**
  - (iv) **approves the uplift for Nursing and Residential Care Home Fees for 2008/09.**

**3. BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

**3.1 The Revenue Budget**

The position in relation to the Social Work budget as of the 29 February 2008 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 29 February 2008 indicate an underspend on the Social Work budget of £872,000, which includes an underspend on the Community Care revenue budget of £1,167,000 (against which the Efficiency savings of £446,000 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 an underspend, predominantly due to slippage in the training budget, monies set aside within the Learning Disability budget for the Challenging Behaviour project and the Telecare monies carried forward from last year.

- 3.3 Management and Support is showing an underspend of £190,000 primarily due to slippage in the training budget and staffing budgets.
- 3.4 The variance in the Children and Families budget primarily relates to the Care Placement Services budget where there is 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 £307,000 which relates to payment of retention monies and Partnership surpluses which are to be repaid back to the Criminal Justice Authority. Hence, we are also forecasting an underspend of £48,000 at year-end.
- 3.6 There is currently an underspend of £758,000 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 set aside for the Challenging Behaviour project, which is not due to be operational until next financial year.
- 3.7 **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 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007 (para 34 of the minute refers). The details are attached in **APPENDIX 2**.
- 3.8 **Free Personal and Nursing Care**  
The Scottish Government will shortly be issuing a Circular advising that Regulations have been passed through Parliament to uprate the Free Personal and Nursing Care payments with effect from 1 April 2008. This increase in payment levels will be in line with an inflation rate of 2.7% and will mean that the current weekly payment levels of £145 for personal care and £65 for nursing care for self funders in care homes will rise to £149 and £67 respectively. COSLA were fully consulted on this uprate and it was agreed that local authorities would meet the costs from within the agreed local government settlement allocations resulting from the recent spending review.
- 3.9 **National Care Home Fee Settlement and Quality Award 2008/09**  
Agreement has been reached between COSLA, the Scottish Government and Scottish Care Home Providers for revised fee rates for nursing and residential care. These are set out in **APPENDIX 3**. The revised fee rates are:- £523.35 per week for Nursing Care and £450.45 for Residential Care. These are set against compliance with the National Care Home Contract as set out in detail in **APPENDIX 3**.
- 3.10 It has taken some time to achieve but all but one care home in Moray have met the National Care Contract Quality Standards for 2007/8. Work has

started with care home providers to identify which care home will comply with the 2008/9 Quality Standards.

#### 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. The financial implications of the uplift for free personal and nursing care and revised care home fees will be reported to the next Committee.

(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 £872,000, and is forecasted to be underspent by £750,000 at the year-end.**

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

5.3 **The Free Personal and Nursing Care rate has been increased in line with inflation from 1 April 2008.**

5.4 **Revised fee rates for Nursing and Residential Care have been agreed by all stakeholders for implementation at the beginning of April 2008.**

Background Papers: Papers held by the Accountancy team and the Head of  
Community Care  
Ref: SC/Committ 100308