

## APPENDIX 5 – CHILDREN’S SERVICES SAFEGUARDING AND EDUCATION

### FINANCE PORTFOLIO DASHBOARD 2024-25 – Children’s Services, Safeguarding and Education

Portfolio:	Children’s Services, Safeguarding and Education
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Year:	2024-25
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Period:	3 (Quarter 1)
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Summary	£m
Net Controllable Budget:	153.940
Forecast Net Expenditure	167.225
Forecast (Under) / Over Spend	13.285

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Area	Net Budget	Full Year Forecast	Forecast (Under) / Over spend	Narrative
	£m	£m	£m	
Strategic Commissioning, Quality & Performance	21.393	22.713	1.320	<p>£0.955m of the £2.1m saving allocated to Business Services are not expected to be achieved in year due to the new structure not being able to be implemented until the end of August and the expected costs of redundancies. However it is likely that this will reduce as those staff at risk of compulsory redundancy move into posts that have been held vacant to mitigate against slippage and potential redundancy costs. The department plans to hold vacancies in other support services in order to still make the savings target and mitigate the overspend.</p> <p>The pooled budget, which enables placement costs for children with complex care, health and education needs to be split with Health and the Dedicated Schools Grant, is expected to be overcommitted requiring additional contributions from all partners including an estimated £0.376m from children's social care.</p>

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<p>Early Help &amp; Safeguarding - Placements</p>	<p>61.551</p>	<p>73.454</p>	<p>11.903</p>	<p>The forecast is based on current placements adjusted for expected placement moves, discharges and new admissions. Under the Derbyshire placements strategy steps are being taken to contain spend at this level despite continued demand pressures and scarcity of placements. A key part of the strategy includes planned moves for children in residential care and other high costs placements into a family environment where this would best meets the needs of the child. To date 54 children have been identified for this targeted work, with the potential to avoid spend of up to £8.2m.</p>
<p>Early Help &amp; Safeguarding - Services</p>	<p>44.564</p>	<p>45.022</p>	<p>0.458</p>	<p>Over the years the number of children with complex disabilities has grown and the costs of providing care support packages to enable children with disabilities to remain living with their families is expected to exceed the allocated budget by £1.07m. Meeting the care needs of the children in this way represents good value for money as this is in the best interest of the child and their family and is less costly than any alternatives however a detailed review of packages is</p>

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				underway to ensure maximum efficiency in this area is being achieved. This overspend is partially offset by forecast underspends arising from savings initiatives in other areas of service.
Education services	4.708	7.159	2.451	This overspend is primarily due to the high demand for Education Health and Care plan (EHCPs) assessments which continues to drive service pressures within the assessment and Education Psychology teams requiring additional resourcing to meet statutory requirements to undertake assessments and reviews. The current levels of income and expenditure experienced by the Catering service suggest they may not fully achieve the target contribution to overheads allocated to the service. There are a number of proposals in development for the Catering service which if approved and implemented could reduce the Education services forecast overspend by £1m.

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Home to School Transport	23.154	26.885	3.731	The increased number of children with EHCPs impacts on the number eligible for council funded home to school transport. Numerous work streams within Education services are taking place to mitigate costs but are not measurable at this stage, while a Specialised transport task force is in place developing robust commissioning systems. This work will be updated and refined through the reporting year.
Strategic Director	(1.430)	1.992	3.422	The net budget includes unallocated ongoing savings targets and vacancy factor of £4m, partially offset by underspends arising from non-recurrent income. The department's senior leadership team are committed to taking actions to minimise the overspend and further savings plans are being developed and once in place will be reflected in future budget reports.
Allocation from contingency budget - Children in care placements	0.000	(10.000)	(10.000)	Anticipated transfer from risk management budget, subject to approval.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>153.940</b>	<b>167.225</b>	<b>13.285</b>	

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Use of Reserves included in budget/forecast	£m	Reserve Name
	1.750	Supporting families grant
	0.150	Education levelling up grant

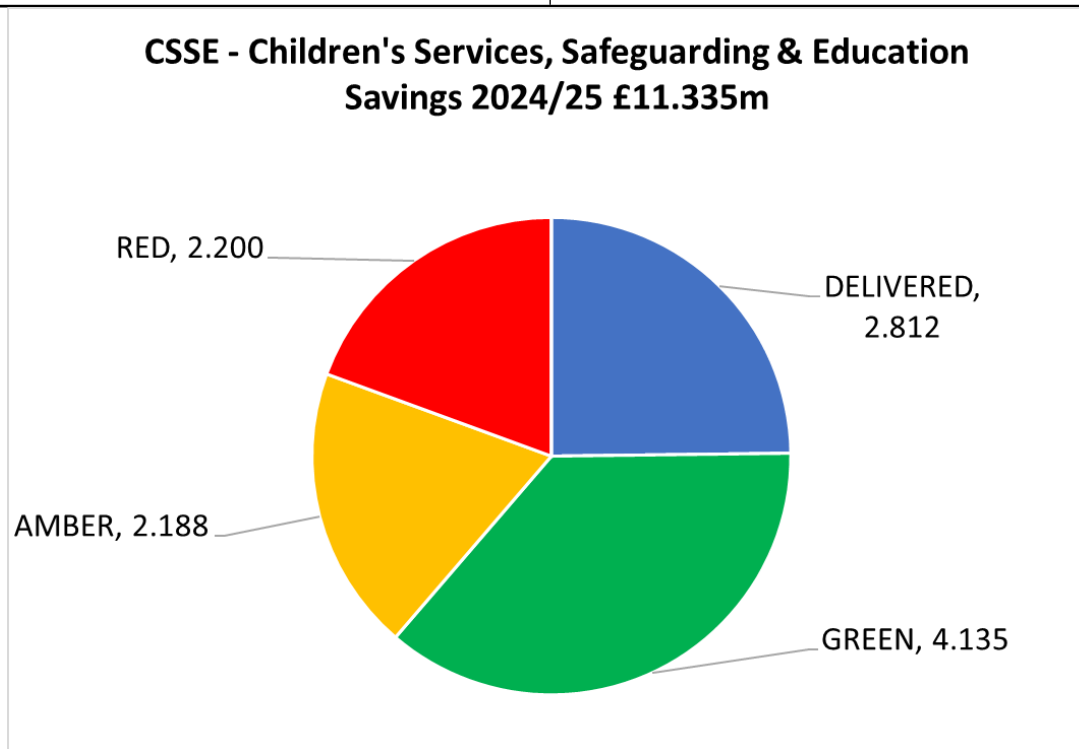
Key assumptions, risks and opportunities	Area	Narrative
	Children in care placements	<p>The nature of children in care placements means any forecast of future spend contains a large degree of uncertainty. The authority has an in depth understanding of the costs of caring for its current looked after population and the impact on future spending that would be expected from those children's forward care plans. Those plans will however inevitably evolve and change over time, for example in response to emerging child needs or availability of suitable move on placements. Admissions into care are driven by the number of children which meet care thresholds and as such the authority has limited control over the rate at which new children will enter the care system. Nationally there is a shortage of care placements, particularly foster care, which may also make managing placement costs for new entrants challenging.</p> <p>Adjusting assumed rates of admission and step downs indicates that this forecast could range from £5.7m higher or £2.3m lower if alternative possible scenarios were to occur.</p>

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	Home to School transport	Forecast spend is £0.2m greater than 2023-24 outturn representing the full year impact of the increase in pupils eligible for transport and contract costs that took place in September 2023, offset by savings plans. The forecast makes no provision for further increases during 2024-25 in children eligible for transport or in contract prices, reflecting the work underway within Education services to mitigate those potential cost pressures. The impact of those work streams are not measurable at this stage giving rise to a degree of uncertainty in the forecast budget outturn.
	Planned budget savings	Delivery risks relating to planned budget savings totalling £10.271m are detailed within the budget savings section.

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BUDGET SAVINGS 2024-25	
2024/25 Savings £m	£m
<b>TARGET</b>	<b>10.271</b>
<b>DELIVERED</b>	<b>2.812</b>
<b>GREEN</b>	<b>4.135</b>
<b>AMBER</b>	<b>2.188</b>
<b>RED</b>	<b>2.200</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.335</b>





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### DEBT POSITION

Aged Debt profile	0-30 Days	31-365 Days	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	Over 4 Year	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Amount	1.305	1.066	0.165	0.025	0.000	0.008	2.569
Percent	50.8%	41.5%	6.4%	1.0%	0.0%	0.3%	100.0%

Un-invoiced Debt	<b>£m</b> 0.000
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Debt Write-off:	<b>£m</b> 0.001
In Year to:	30/06/2024

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### CHARGED FOR SERVICES

Charged for services cover areas where the Council receives income in return for providing discretionary services to non-DCC schools, external organisations and/or individuals. (Often called 'Traded Services').

### FULLY TRADED AREAS

'Fully traded' trading areas are separately identifiable and have a net controllable budget of £0, i.e. there is an expectation that on average all the controllable expenditure within this area will be funded from **external** income.

Service Area	Trading Area	Projected Gross Controllable Expenditure (£m)	Projected Gross Controllable Income (£m) (External)	Forecast (Deficit) / Contribution to General Overheads (£m)	<i>External Income from Non-DCC Schools</i>	<i>Income from other external sources</i>
School Catering	School Catering	13.517	13.467	(0.050)	9.580	3.887
SORE	Swimming	0.466	0.466	0.000	0.453	0.013

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<b>PARTIALLY TRADED AREAS</b>						
‘Partially traded’ trading areas do not have a net controllable budget of £0, but they do receive income from external entities which contributes to funding some of the discretionary services they provide.						
Service Area	Trading Area	Budgeted Income Target (£m)	Projected Actual Income (£m)	Forecast Excess/ (Shortfall) compared to Target (£m)	<i>External Income from Non-DCC Schools</i>	<i>Income from other external sources</i>
Education & Improvement	Various	0.216	0.142	(0.074)	0.023	0.119
SORE	Outdoor Education & Sport	1.460	1.772	0.312	0.275	1.497
SEMH Services	Behavioural Support	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.067	0.008
Adult Education	Adult Education	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.332
Music	Music	0.000	0.010	0.010	0.006	0.004
Children Missing Education	Out of School Tuition	0.000	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000

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Information & ICT	Various	0.388	0.420	0.032	0.158	0.262
Education Psychology	Education Psychology	0.169	0.419	0.250	0.369	0.050