

APPENDIX 4 – 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:	6 (Quarter 12)
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Summary	£m
Net Controllable Budget:	164.768
Forecast Net Expenditure	186.921
Forecast (Under) / Over Spend	22.153

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Area	Net Budget	Full Year Forecast	Forecast (Under) / Over spend	Narrative
	£m	£m	£m	
Strategic Commissioning, Quality & Performance	23.817	24.71	0.893	£1.175m of the £2.1m saving allocated to Business Services is 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. This is partially mitigated by the projected underspend on the Quality Assurance service from utilising one-off grant funding. Further savings from holding vacancies and actions to minimise redundancies are expected to mitigate any overspend, these will be monitored and reflected in future updates.
Early Help & Safeguarding - Placements	68.11	77.367	9.257	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

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				placements into a family environment where this would best meet the needs of the child. To date 54 children have been identified for this targeted work, with the impact of this work is estimated to reduce 2024-25 spend by £3m.
Early Help & Safeguarding - Services	43.266	44.034	0.768	Demand for services remains high however overall the costs of services continues to reduce as a result of implementing planned savings and cost control measures, forecast spend for 2024-25 is £2.8m lower than 2023-24. These reduction in spend have been captured through the allocation of budget savings. The overspend primarily relates to support for families with disabled children. 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 £0.737m. 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. A detailed review of packages is ongoing to

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				ensure maximum efficiency in this area is being achieved.
Education services	4.975	9.132	4.157	Pressures remain in SEND assessment and Education Psychology services due to continued high demand for Education Health and care plans (£2.5m projected overspend). Education Improvement Service has a projected overspend of £0.487m and further work is taking place to remove the service pressures left by the removal of grant funding and schools academisation. School Catering direct income and expenditure is forecast to create a surplus of £0.498m, however this is £0.487m less than the target contribution to overheads allocated to the service by the department. Proposals are being worked through which may negate the projected shortfall in contribution.
Home to School Transport	23.152	28.587	5.435	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

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				developing robust commissioning systems. This work will be updated and refined through the reporting year.
Strategic Director	1.448	3.091	1.643	Historic pension costs forecast to be £0.3m over budget due to inflation related increases in recent years. The overspend also includes potential costs of management consultancy services.
TOTAL	164.768	186.921	22.153	

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

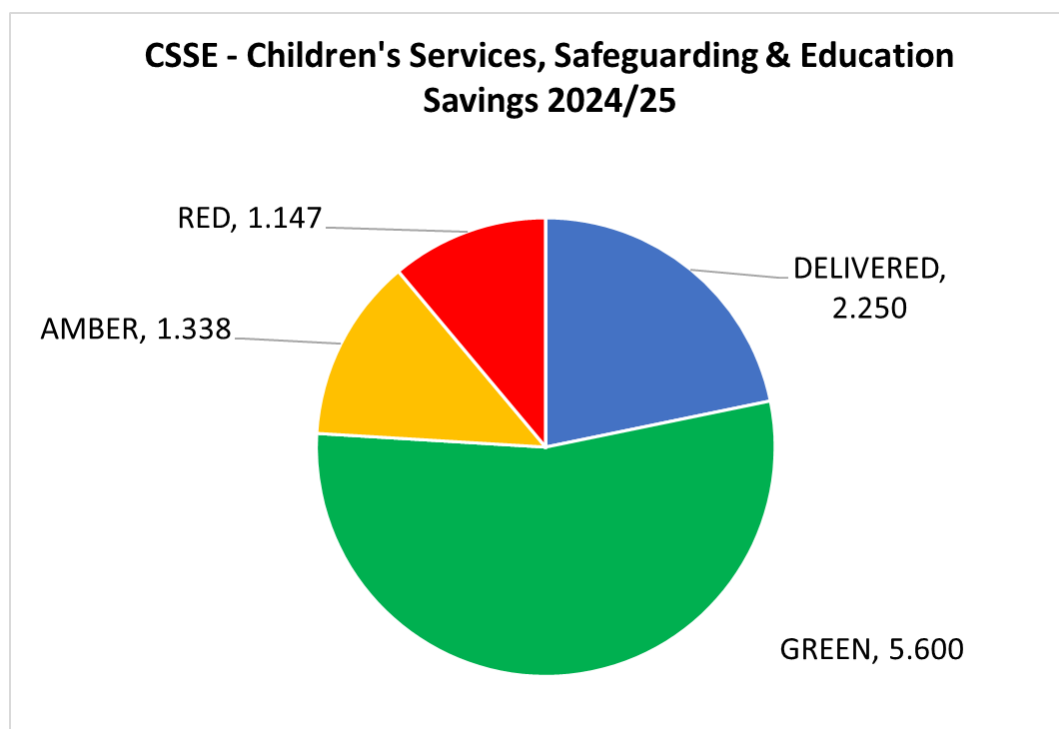
Key assumptions, risks and opportunities	Area	Narrative
	Children in care placements	The nature of children in care placements means any forecast of future spend contains a large degree of uncertainty. The authority has an in depth understanding of the costs of caring for its current looked after population 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.

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		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.
	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
TARGET	10.271
DELIVERED	2.250
GREEN	5.600
AMBER	1.338
RED	1.147
TOTAL	10.335



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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	0.922	0.793	0.129	0.024	0.000	0.006	1.874
Percent	49.2%	42.3%	6.9%	1.3%	0.0%	0.3%	100.0%

Un-invoiced Debt	£m 0.000
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Debt Write-off:	£m 0.015
In Year to:	30/09/2024

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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	12.088	12.620	0.531	9.594	3.026
SORE	Swimming	0.575	0.492	(0.082)	0.478	0.014

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PARTIALLY TRADED AREAS						
‘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	0.043	(0.173)	0.020	0.023
SORE	Outdoor Education & Sport	1.461	0.876	(0.585)	0.269	0.607
SEMH Services	Behavioural Support	0.000	0.196	0.196	0.159	0.037
Adult Education	Adult Education	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.332
Music	Music	0.000	0.023	0.023	0.012	0.012
Children Missing Education	Out of School Tuition	0.000	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.000

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Information & ICT	Various	0.388	0.392	0.004	0.152	0.240
Education Psychology	Education Psychology	0.169	0.457	0.288	0.371	0.086