



# Walsall Council

## **Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday 7 December 2023 at 6.00PM**

**Meeting Venue: Council Chamber at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall**

[Livestream Link](#)

**Membership:**

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)  
Councillor V. Waters (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor P. Gill  
Councillor I. Hussain  
Councillor S.B. Hussain  
Councillor R. Martin  
Councillor R.K. Mehmi  
Councillor A. Parkes  
Councillor W. Rasab  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Vacancy

**Quorum:**

Four Members

Democratic Services, The Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW

Contact name: Jack Thompson Telephone: 01922 654196

Email: [jack.thompson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:jack.thompson@walsall.gov.uk)

[Walsall Council Website](#)

**If you are disabled and require help to and from the meeting room,  
please contact the person above**

## The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

### Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Prescribed description</b>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one</p>

	hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.
--	--

## **Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)**

### **Access to information: Exempt information**

#### **Part 1**

#### **Descriptions of exempt information: England**

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
  - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
  - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
  - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
  - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

## **Part 1 – Public Session**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Substitutions**  
To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
- 4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**  
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
- 5. Minutes**  
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2023.  
*(Enclosed – Pages 1-6)*
- 6. Update on the midwifery led unit and maternity services**  
*(To Follow)*
- 7. Adult Social Care Contributions Debt**  
To receive a report updating the Committee on adult social care contributions debt and the steps the Council is taking to better manage and facilitate the debt.  
*(Enclosed - Pages 7-11)*
- 8. Corporate Financial Performance – P6 September Financial Monitoring position for 2023/24**  
To receive the budget monitoring position for Period 6, 2023/24.  
*(Enclosed – Pages 12-18)*
- 9. Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2027/28**  
To receive the draft revenue budget and draft capital programme 2024/24 – 2027/28 and make any recommendations for the consideration of Cabinet.  
*(Enclosed - Pages 19-27)*
- 10. Primary Care Access and GP Services Working Group – Terms of Reference**  
To receive the draft terms of reference for the Primary Care Access and GP Services Working Group.  
*(Enclosed - Pages 28-31)*

**11. Recommendation Tracker**

To review progress with recommendations from previous meetings.

*(Enclosed – Page 32)*

**12. Areas of focus for 2023/24**

To review the Committee Work Programme and the Forward Plans for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee.

*(Enclosed - Pages 33-42)*

**13. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will take place on the 18 January 2024.

# **Minutes of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Conference Room 2, Walsall Council House**

**Thursday, 26 October 2023 at 6PM**

## **Committee Members present:**

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)  
Councillor V. Waters (Vice Chair)  
Councillor R. Martin  
Councillor R.K. Mehmi  
Councillor A. Parkes  
Councillor W. Rasab  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Councillor A. Nawaz (Substitution)

## **Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor K. Pedley – Adult Social Care  
Councillor G. Flint – Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces

## **Officers Present:**

Kerrie Allward – Executive Director of Adult Social Care (Walsall Council)  
Andrew Osborn – Director of Commissioning (Walsall Council)  
Jack Thompson – Democratic Services Officer (Walsall Council)  
Prof. David Loughton – Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust  
Kevin Bostock - Group Director of Assurance (Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust)

20 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors: P. Gill, I. Hussain and S.B. Hussain.

21 **Substitutions**

Councillor A. Nawaz substituted for Councillor S.B. Hussain.

22 **Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

23 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no agenda items requiring the exclusion of the public.

24 **Minutes**

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14 September 2023 were submitted [annexed].

**Resolved**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14 September 2023, a copy previously having been circulated, be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.**

25 **Update on Opening of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Urgent and Emergency Care Centre**

At the invitation of the Chair the Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Prof David Loughton introduced the report [see annexed] and informed the Committee of the following:

- That the new Urgent and Emergency Care Centre had been a success and it had opened well;
- The department was running at its lowest level of vacancies;
- There were currently sixteen A&E (Accident and Emergency), which was a good number for the size of the department;
- The transfer times and wait times of the new department were good;
- The trust was seeing transfers from ambulances outside of the Walsall area due to the high transfer rates;
- A patient survey was carried out and the results were positive;



- Walsall should be proud of the department and its performance.

A discussion then took place between Members and the Chief Executive of Walsall NHS Healthcare Trust, key points included:

- Members were supportive of the new department and the conveyed that the Doctors and Nurses were a credit to it;
- It was helpful that the new department had parking situated near it;
- There was still a need to recruit more staff to meet the needs of increased demand, but the trust had been successful at recruiting from other trusts;
- More cleaning staff had been hired for the new department as there were some issues with the cleanliness of the toilets;
- There was a national problem with the supply of paediatric nurses;
- The staff in the department were working in poor conditions within the old facility but performed well, with the newly built department, staff could improve upon performance in good working conditions;
- There would sometimes be mistakes or issues with patient care, but it was important for the Trust to learn from them;
- It was important that other healthcare pathways were promoted;
- The Hospital at Home scheme had been a good service and helped to reduce pressure;
- The Chair congratulated the staff and informed the Committee that he had received some complaints, but these were related to issues with ongoing pressures on services.

Prof. Loughton informed the Committee that he had enjoyed his time working at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

### **Resolved**

- **That the Committee congratulate Prof Loughton on his work at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust ahead of his retirement.**
- **That the Committee note the findings of the report.**
- **That the Committee request a future update on the Trust's Urgent and Emergency Care Centre.**

## **26 Manor Hospital CQC Inspection (June 2023) report feedback – Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust**

At the invitation of the Chair, Kevin Bostock, the Group Director of Assurance, introduced the report [see annexed] and informed the Committee of the following:

- The Trust had been responsive to the findings of the CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection report;

- Seven patients were identified during the inspection as a safety concern due to medicine management;
- The Trust was able to provide evidence to avoid enforcement act under Section 61 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008;
- There was care across every NHS Trust that could be classed as sub optimal;
- The Trust had implemented an ongoing strict monitoring programme to address concerns raised by the inspection.

A discussion then took place between Members and officers from Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, in which the Committee was informed of the following:

- The CQC accepted the evidence that the trust provided in relation to the Section 61 enforcement action and stood down the action;
- The inspection exposed a misunderstanding with staff in relation to patients with inhalers. Patients who presented to hospital with inhalers were meant to use the medication remaining in their inhaler and then be supplied a new one when needed. Some staff believed they could not order an inhaler if the patient did not present with one and this was not correct, and patients should have been provided an inhaler if they needed. This misunderstanding had been corrected;
- The Trust administered thousands of medications every day, and the inspection had highlighted some lapses in the prescribed process, however, there were regular audits of medicine management and the Trust had seen improvements since the inspection;
- Additional monitoring of staff who had been found not to have followed the medicine management process correctly had been put in place;
- The CQC was satisfied that the process and procedure for medicine management was robust;
- In the normal process of administering medicine, a prescription is made out for a patient and other members of clinical staff administers the medicine. For controlled drugs this would be done by two members of clinical staff, for none controlled drugs one member of clinical staff would administer but pharmacists carryout ward checks and regularly picked up on the mistakes in the process;
- In some cases the inspection was picking up on mistakes in medicine management before internal pharmacy staff were able to;
- Some members of staff were no longer part of the Trust due to the findings of the inspection;
- The Trust was focused on management around controlled drugs and the processes for administering these were good;
- The Trust used an independent electronic drug service;
- Additional training had been given to staff and new head of pharmacy had been recruited;
- The Trust invited an external pharmacist to carry out a route and branch review of the drug management system;
- The newly implemented drug management system was benchmarked against the best performing trusts;

- The Trust accepted that the poor medicine management should not have taken place and the Trust had had a poor historical record in this area, however, they believed the necessary improvements had been made to prevent this from occurring again in the future;
- The CQC praised the response of the Trust to the issues raised in its inspection.

### **Resolved**

**That the Committee note the Manor Hospital CQC Inspection (June 2023) report feedback.**

## **27 Working Group – Primary Care Access and GP Services**

At the invitation of the Chair the Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and informed the Committee of the five Members who had expressed an interest in being part of the Working Group.

The Chair asked Members of the Committee if they had any suggestions for the Working Group's Terms of Reference or general comments.

In response Councillor Flint, the Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces informed the Committee that he wished to the Working Group to focus on the inconsistencies between GP Practices across the Borough.

### **Resolved**

**That the following Members form the Working Group on Primary Care Access and GP Services:**

- **Councillor K. Hussain**
- **Councillor R.K. Mehmi**
- **Councillor R. Martin**
- **Councillor P. Gill**
- **Councillor W. Rasab**

## **28 Recommendation Tracker**

The Democratic Services Officer outlined the outstanding actions of the Recommendation Tracker and informed Members that some of these would be resolved as part of upcoming planned reports.

### **Resolved**

**That the Committee note the Recommendation Tracker.**

29 **Areas of focus for 2023/24**

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee of the upcoming items for the next meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved**

**That the Committee note the Areas of focus for 2023/24.**

30 **Date of next meeting**

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee that at the request of the Chair the next meeting of the Committee had been moved to the 7 December 2023 and that the meeting would take place in the Council Chamber.

The date of the next meeting would be 7 December 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 18:53.

Signed:

Date:

7 December 2023

**Adult Social Care Contributions Debt**

**Ward(s):** All

**Portfolios:** Adult Social Care

**1. Aim**

To provide an update on adult social care contributions debt and the steps the Council are taking to better improve the management and facilitation of the debt.

**2. Recommendations**

1. To note and provide feedback on the activity to date to investigate customer debt.
2. To note and provide feedback on the updated business processes to support customers who require a financial assessment, which determines if a customer is required to contribute towards their social care costs.
3. To consider and provide feedback on how the Council can improve how it recovers debt from adult social care customers, which is complex due to customer vulnerability and multiple reference points.

**3. Report detail – know**

- 3.1 Adult social care contributions debt remains a priority for both Adult Social Care and the Council as a whole. In February 2023, the Financial Assessment and Charging Team was established in Adult Social Care, which wholly administers and manages the financial assessment process, led by experienced assessment officers. This removed the involvement of social care practitioners from the financial assessment process and freeing up capacity within care management.
- 3.2 At the same time, a programme of work was commenced under the Adult Social Care Continuous Improvement Programme (ASC CIP) with dedicated resources, to investigate all customers with debt. 1841 customers were to be investigated by an officer, categorised by the level of their debt at the time – see table one.

Table One - Customer cohort breakdown

Cohort / Debt value range	Number of customers in the cohort
Tranche 1: £20,000 plus	58
Tranche 2: £15,000 - £19,999.99	34
Tranche 3: £10,000 - £14,999.99	71
Tranche 4: £5,000 - £9,999.99	215
Tranche 5: £0.00 - £4,999.99	1463
<b>Total debt value</b>	<b>£7,024,997</b>

- 3.3 The investigation would include:
- A review of the customer's financial assessment, which calculates how much a customer is required to contribute towards their social care.
  - Whether any credits are required which would reduce the amount owing by the customer. For example, where a full charge has been applied, but there has been a change in circumstances.
  - A recommendation to write off some or all the debt owing by the customer as debt is non recoverable due to:
    - being statute-barred by law - the Council has run out of time to use certain types of action to recover the debt under the Limitation Act 1980
    - The cost of recovering the debt outweighs the debt itself.
  - Confirmation of the debt amount to be pursued by the Corporate Income Team who are responsible for the recovery of debt, in line with the [Corporate Debt Policy](#).
- 3.4 Debt investigations of customers in tranches 1, 2, 3 in table one, have been completed and recovery of any outstanding debt is to be actioned by the Income Team, with support by Legal Services in some cases. Investigations under tranche 4 are in progress, with all investigations to be completed at the end of February 2024.
- 3.5 As part of this programme of work, lessons learned and recommendations on service improvements have been gathered. Significant activity has already been undertaken to improve business processes and the experience of customers who require a financial assessment. This includes:
- the production of a booklet which is issued to customers to explain the financial assessment process and their obligation to make a financial contribution towards their care, if assessed as requiring to do so.
  - Council web pages associated with paying towards adult social care are being updated to provide more information to all residents. Online customer support videos and the ability to complete the financial assessment online will be available using BetterCare Finance.
- 3.6 In addition to improved business processes, Adult Social Care is proposing to make general changes to the Council's Adult Social Care Contributions Policy, which will provide more clear and transparent information on how the Council assesses a customer to contribute towards their care costs, in line with the Care Act and Statutory Guidance. The Policy goes to Cabinet for approval on 13 December 2023.

#### **4. *Financial information***

The PowerPoint slides accompanying this report provides the latest position on adult social care contributions debt. The Committee is asked to note:

- 46.7% of the total debt value is aged debt, over a year old.
- 50.8% of the total debt value is owed by customers who are no longer receiving a service from Adult Social Care.

This indicates the complexity of recovering adult social care debt, as it cuts across a number of references including [Care Act Statutory Guidance](#), Limitation Act 1980 and Walsall's Corporate Debt Policy. The vulnerability of some customers adds an

additional layer of complexity; as well as attempting to recover debt from a deceased customer, which equates to is 39.3% of the current debt value.

## **5. Reducing Inequalities**

It is believed through a more clear and transparent Contributions Policy, improved financial assessment business processes and more information and advice for customers, the Council should see a reduction in new customer contributions debt.

These proposals link to the Council's corporate priority 'People have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities; and Walsall 2024 "A community that cares" outcome by supporting people "...to be able to live independent lives and stay in their homes and communities as long as possible through provision of quality and timely support".

The principles and actions contained within this report are in full accordance with the Marmot objective enabling all people to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.

## **6. Decide**

The Committee are asked to note the current approach to reducing adult social care debt and recommend any changes.

As already detailed, there are added complexities of recovering adult social care debt. Many local authorities such as [Bolton](#), [Shropshire](#) and [Derbyshire](#) now have specific policies and protocols for Adult Social Care debt recovery. The Committee is asked to consider whether further protocols could support Walsall in its debt recovery activity.

## **7. Respond**

Any feedback provided by the Committee will be used to continue to improve how customers are informed and assessed to contribute towards their adult social care costs and associated debt recovery activity.

## **8. Review**

Performance dashboards are being developed with support from Business Insights, to continue to monitor the effectiveness of improved business processes and debt levels.

## **Background papers**

Appendix 1 - Adult Social Care (ASC) Contributions Debt Profile as of 1st November 2023

## **Author**

Dionne Williams  
Finance and Charging Manager  
✉ [Dionne.Williams@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Dionne.Williams@walsall.gov.uk)  
☎ 652577

# Scrutiny Committee - 7 December 2023

## Adult Social Care (ASC) Contributions Debt Profile as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

<b>Total value of ASC contributions debt, shown by the age of the debt</b>	
0 - 59 days Payments Pending	£2,156,925.88
60 - 365 days Debt	£2,143,851.11
1 year plus Aged Debt	£3,768,646.44
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£8,069,423.43</b>

<b>Age of debt outstanding</b>			
< 1 Month	£590,097.82	< 1Year	£401,866.65
< 3 Months	£1,262,529.64	1-2 Years	£1,117,361.11
< 6 Months	£869,408.63	2-3 Years	£823,425.74
< 9 Months	£673,981.60	3 Years plus	£2,330,752.24

It should be noted that money owing is classified as 'a debt' as soon as a bill is generated on the corporate finance system.



# Scrutiny Committee - 7 December 2023

## Adult Social Care (ASC) Contributions Debt Profile as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

<b>Total value of ASC contributions debt, shown by the status of the customer</b>		
<b>Client Status</b>	<b>Number of Clients</b>	<b>Debt</b>
Active service in place (Receiving funded Care)	1,263	£4,100,909
No active service (No longer in receipt of care)	323	£795,735
Deceased	894	£3,172,779

7 DECEMBER 2023

Corporate Financial Performance – P6 September Financial Monitoring position for 2023/24

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr K Pedley – Adult Social Care  
Cllr G Flint – Wellbeing, Leisure, and Public Spaces

1. Aim

1.1 To provide the budget monitoring position for Period 6 2023/24. The Chair requested that this item be considered by the Committee.

1. Recommendations:

The Committee are requested to:

2.1 Note the revenue and capital forecast for the financial year end 2023/24 for the services under the remit of the committee.

3. Report detail - Know

3.1 This report summarises the forecast revenue and capital financial position for 2023/24, based on the position to September 2023, for services within the remit of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as reported to Cabinet on 18 October 2023. The full Cabinet report can be accessed by the following link:

[Corporate Financial Performance 2023/24 - Cabinet 18 October 2023](#)

3.2 The forecast position after planned net use of reserves is £14.32m above budget and prior to any mitigating actions. Mitigating actions of £1.76m have been identified reducing the overspend to **£12.56m**.

3.3 The main reasons for this £14.32m over spend can be split into 'Business as usual' (BAU) of £11.05m and 'Impact of Service Transformation Plan' (STP) of £3.27m.

3.4 Reasons for the current position are shown in **Table 1** below:

Table 1- Explanation of over spend	£m
<b>Business as Usual</b>	
Net increase due to impact of 'business as usual' changes to existing costs of client packages undertaken during the period of February to August 2023. Compared to last year, there has been a significant increase in the number of reviews carried out, with more of these reviews resulting in an increase in package costs	3.55
Inflow/ Attrition/ Backdating - increase due to net inflow of new, deceased and ended clients within the first five months of this financial year. This increase is a combined impact of new clients being placed at a higher average cost than originally budgeted and the number of expected deaths and ended placements being significantly lower than the budgeted trends and seen in previous financial years. It should be noted the full year impact of any changes to client numbers	3.77

and associated costs at the beginning of the financial year have a greater impact on the position.	
<b>Table 1 (Continued)</b>	
Continuation of trends - based on 5 months of data and more informed intelligence, future projections now reflect current trends relating to 'business as usual' changes to existing costs of client packages and net inflow and outflow of service users continuing for the remainder of the financial year	3.97
Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) funding - Government have recently announced a further £570m of MSIF across financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. This is to address issues such as discharge delays, social care waiting times, low fee rates, and workforce pressures. This is in addition to the £400m included in the February 2022 Cabinet report and equates to an additional £2.18m for Walsall in 2023/24 which will be used to support demand led services across Adult Social care in line with grant conditions;	(2.18)
Additional client contribution and health income relating to care packages partly offset by a shortfall in the income budget associated with the Learning Disabilities joint funding arrangements with Walsall ICB	(0.56)
Overspend on intermediate care services. This is based on current demand and future projections and takes into account the use of the Hospital Discharge Grant funding as announced by government and the use of uncommitted Better Care Fund inflation for 2023/24. Further detailed work is currently taking place on the cost modelling and discussions with health partners on funding allocations, alongside work to identify options to mitigate any remaining pressure.	1.84
Increase in the general bad debt provision to reflect a 50% provision for current outstanding client debt of £8.45m as at the end of August 2023. Improvements in the financial assessment data capture processes and procedures should see a reduced number of credits/ write offs	0.23
Contractual inflation on the Housing 21 unitary charge is higher than originally included in the budget for 2023/24 as based on February RPIx prior to the charge year. This is partially offset by use of the remaining Housing 21 reserve and additional client contribution income	0.58
Impact of vacant posts and staffing changes across the directorate	(0.16)
<b>Subtotal BAU</b>	<b>11.05</b>
<b>Service Transformation Plan</b>	
Delay in maximising income generation through joint funding arrangements and tools. Ongoing discussions with the ICB regarding the joint funding arrangement remain progress	2.21
Delay in the 2022/23 saving relating to improved charging policies and processes due to futureproofing and integration with other systems	0.82
Due to the STP relating to developing and delivering additional support to carers to be aligned to locality reviews	0.24
<b>Subtotal STP</b>	<b>3.27</b>
<b>Overall Health and Social Care Total</b>	<b>14.32</b>

### 3.5 Reasons for movements

The June forecast position reported to cabinet in July 2023 was an overspend of £7.35m therefore there is a net increase in the overspend of £5.21m over the 3-month period. The key reasons for movements are detailed in **Table 2** below:

<b>Table 2 – Reasons for movements</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Changes to existing costs of client packages</b> – Net increase due to the impact of changes to costs on existing client placements	1.98
<b>Inflow/ attrition</b> - Increase due to a net inflow of new, deceased and ended clients. This increase in a combined impact of new clients being placed at a higher than average costs than originally budgeted and the number of expected deaths and ended placements being significantly lower than budgeted and seen in previous financial years	1.95
<b>Continuation of trends</b> – This reflects the projection of current trends relating to business as usual' changes to existing costs of client packages and net inflow and outflow of service users continuing for the remainder of the financial year based on the first 5 months of data.	3.97
<b>Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund</b> - Government recently announced a further £570m of MSIF across financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. This is to address discharge delays, social care waiting times, low fee rates, and workforce pressures. This equates to an additional £2.18m for Walsall in 2023/24 which will be used to support demand led services across Adult Social Care in line with the grant conditions	(2.18)
<b>Income</b> - additional client contribution and health income (including Section 117 and Continuing Healthcare) relating to care packages	(0.92)
<b>Intermediate Care Services</b> - additional demand, increased spot purchase bed rates for Intermediate care pathways and a reduction in Integrated Care Board (ICB) Better Care Fund inflation allocation	0.61
<b>Other</b> – This includes an increase in housing 21 client contribution income, decrease in the bad debt provision, further underspend due to vacant posts and one-off mitigation for the Public Health STP position.	(0.20)
<b>Total movements</b>	<b>5.21</b>

### 3.6 Mitigating Actions

Mitigating actions of £1.76m have been identified to reduce the overall forecast position are shown in **Table 3** below.

<b>Table 3 – Details of mitigating actions</b>	<b>£m</b>
Overachievement and full year impact of the 2022/23 savings predominantly relating to review of existing client placements	(1.14)
Release of one-off grant relating to the streamline of Adult Social Care assessments	(0.14)
Use of remaining Housing 21 reserve to partially mitigate the contractual inflation pressure	(0.48)
<b>Total mitigating actions</b>	<b>(1.76)</b>

### 3.7 Reserves

The total allocated reserves in 2023/24 are £9.08m, of which £6.94m has been used or committed to date. **Table 4** below details the current net use of reserves included within the forecast.

<b>Table 4 - Summary of use of reserves and transfer to reserves</b>				
<b>Reserve Details</b>	<b>Allocated reserve</b>	<b>Use of reserve</b>	<b>Transfer to reserve</b>	<b>Balance of reserve</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Adult Social Care Reserves</b>				
Doctors Assessments	0.04	(0.04)	0.00	0.00
STP/Proud Investment	2.84	(2.84)	0.00	0.00
Provider Uplifts	0.56	(0.56)	0.00	0.00
Housing 21 affordability model	0.48	(0.48)	0.00	0.00
Omicron Fund	0.36	(0.17)	0.00	0.19
Better Care Fund – Quality in care review	0.04	(0.04)	0.00	0.00
National Development Team	0.26	(0.26)	0.00	0.00
Streamline of LA Adult Social Care Assessments	0.14	(0.14)	0.00	0.00
Mosaic Portal Development Post	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Social Work and Capacity Support Grant	0.10	(0.06)	0.00	0.04
<b>Public Health Reserves</b>				
Public Health Grant	3.91	(1.99)	0.12	2.03
Oral Health – Specific funding	0.09	(0.09)	0.00	0.00
Botulinum and Fillers and Tobacco Alliance	0.01	(0.01)	0.00	0.00
Corporate STP mitigation	0.26	(0.26)	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>9.08</b>	<b>(6.94)</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>2.27</b>

### 3.8 Risks

For the services under the remit of the committee, there are a number of risks totalling **£12.31m**, which have not been included within the above forecast. At this stage, the risks are not certainties and as such are not included in the monitoring as an under or over spend.

High risks of **£7.80m** are included in the corporate monitoring report to CMT. If the risks become certainties, they will need to be included in the forecast position as overspends unless alternative action can be identified to mitigate these costs. A summary of the risk assessment is shown in **Table 5** below.

<b>Table 5 – Revenue Risks 2023/24</b>				
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Value (£m)</b>	<b>Ongoing (£m)</b>	<b>One Off (£m)</b>	<b>Actions to manage risk</b>
<b>High</b>	7.80	2.09	5.71	See Table 6 for details
<b>Medium</b>	3.76	0.32	3.44	
<b>Low</b>	0.75	0.75	0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.31</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>9.15</b>	

The main high risks (Red risks) that could negatively impact the current forecast position if they occur are shown in **Table 6** below.

<b>Table 6- Summary of high risks</b>	<b>£m</b>
Outstanding debt from Walsall ICB relating to S117 and CHC recharges over one year old. The directorate is working with the ICB to resolve any queries relating to this outstanding debt.	5.49
Impact of backdating information within Mosaic. Risk of active/ placements with financial commitments not yet recorded on the database and therefore omitted from the current forecast position.	0.50
Residential and nursing uplift commitments in excess of original investment.	0.30
Additional risk arising from discharges out of the Intermediate Care Service and placements made at a significantly higher weekly cost than the average existing clients.	0.60
Impact of specific provider failure. A provider has potential financial stability issues, commissioning and operational teams are continuing to support this provider. The risk is that current clients would need to be transferred to another care home should this materialise.	0.18
Reduced direct payment refunds based on current levels.	0.50
Saving proposals currently identified as 'not fully guaranteed' (Amber)	0.23
<b>Total High Risks</b>	<b>7.80</b>

### 3.9 Service Transformation Plan Benefits

Included within the budget for 2023/24 for services within the remit of this Committee are £7.07m of approved savings including £5.02m carried forward from 2022/23. **Table 7** gives an early indication of the progress towards implementing these benefits:

<b>Table 7 - Delivery of 23/24 approved savings (includes carry forwards from 2022/23)</b>						
<b>Benefit Ref</b>	<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>Delivered/ Validated (Blue/ Green)</b>	<b>Planned Saving (Amber)</b>	<b>Shortfall (Red)</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions</b>
		<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Adult Social Care – STP Benefits</b>						
OP89/ OP90	Managing demand on ASC paid services through collaboration	(2.59)	(2.59)	0.00	0.00	0.00
OP10	Develop and deliver additional support to Carers	(0.24)	0.00	0.00	(0.24)	(0.24)
OP11	Increase the number of Shared Lives placements	(0.12)	0.00	(0.12)	0.00	0.00
Various	Improved Charging Policy and Processes	(1.55)	(0.68)	(0.05)	(0.81)	(0.90)
Various	Controlling cost and maximising Income through clear joint funding arrangements	(2.21)	0.00	0.00	(2.21)	0.00
OP15	Income generation – Review of Section 75 grants	(0.06)	0.00	(0.06)	0.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal Adult Social Care</b>		<b>(6.77)</b>	<b>3.27</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>3.26</b>	<b>(1.14)</b>
OP112	Contract efficiencies	0.30	0.04	0.00	0.26	(0.26)
<b>Subtotal Public Health</b>		<b>(0.30)</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>(0.26)</b>
<b>Total STP 2023/24</b>		<b>(7.07)</b>	<b>3.31</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>(1.40)</b>

Each benefit is “BRAG” categorised as follows:

- Blue (delivered),
- Green (on track to be delivered with no issues at year end of 2022/23),
- Amber (not guaranteed at this stage but no major issues expected, some management action needed to ensure delivery) or,
- Red - (at high risk of not being achieved either in part or in full and therefore a robust delivery plan is required)

### 3.10 Capital Summary

The total capital programme related to the remit of the committee is £0.93m. The current forecast position is projected to be £0.93m. A summary is detailed in **Table 8** below:

<b>Table 8- Forecast Capital Outturn 2023/24</b>					
<b>Service</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Actual Year to Date</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Year End Variance</b>	<b>Carry forward to 2023/24</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Externally Funded</b>					
ICES (Integrated Equipment Store)	0.89	0.31	0.89	0.00	0.00
<b>Council Funded</b>	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00
Strategic Development					
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## 4. Public Health (Core Grant)

The current forecast position before the net use of/ transfer to reserves in an over spend of £2.13m. After use of planned reserves totalling (£2.13m) Public health is **on budget**.

The £2.13m over spend prior to planned net use of reserves can be split as follows:

- (£0.12m) – Mainly associated with an under spend on staffing due to part year vacancies across the service partially offset by agency staff.
- £1.99m – Planned projects funded from reserves for the financial year 2023/24. This includes investments into the Mental Health and Young Adults wellbeing services and Sexual Health.
- £0.26m - Partial delay in achieving the STP proposal relating to the ‘review of existing transformation fund’ (total saving £0.30m of which £0.04m has been delivered). This is mitigated corporately on a one-off basis for 2023/24, plans to be identified for 2024/25 onwards.

The balance of Public Health of reserves carried forward from 2022/23 was £3.91m. There is an expectation that the remaining £2.04m will be carried forward to be utilised against cost pressures and ongoing activity in future financial years in line with grant conditions..

## 5. Financial information

- 5.1 The financial implications are as set out in the main body of this report. The council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget and to ensure it has an adequate level of reserves. The council will take a medium term policy led approach to all decisions on resource allocation.

## 6. Reducing Inequalities

6.1 Services consider and respond to equality issues in setting budgets and delivering services. Irrespective of budgetary pressures, the Council must fulfil equal opportunities obligations

## 7. Decide

7.1 To approve the recommendations as set out in this report.

## 8. Respond

8.1 The Executive Director for Adult Social Care, with finance in support will be working with Directors and Heads of service to review the forecast, to continue to implement mitigating actions for any forecast overspends and to consider these financial implications in line with the council's budget setting process. With regards to the expenditure funded by the Public Health grant an annual assurance statement is completed and signed off by Director of Public Health and S151 officer as required by Department of Health and Social Care.

## 9. Review

9.1 Regular monitoring reports are presented to Cabinet to inform them of the financial forecast for 2023/24, including an update on risks and impact on the budget for 2024/25 and beyond.

**Background papers:** Various financial working papers

### Contact Officers:

Ross Hutchinson

Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer) – Finance Business Partnering and ESS projects

07415 308513, [ross.hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:ross.hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk)

Suzanne Letts

Finance Manager – Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub

01922 650462, [suzanne.letts@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.letts@walsall.gov.uk)



Kerrie Allward

Executive Director, Adult Social Care

[kerrie.allward@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:kerrie.allward@walsall.gov.uk)



Nadia Inglis

Interim Director of Public Health

[Nadia.Inglis@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Nadia.Inglis@walsall.gov.uk)



**Social Care and Health  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**7 December 2023**

**Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2027/28**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr K Pedley – Adult Social Care  
Cllr G Flint – Wellbeing, Leisure, and Public Spaces

**Executive Summary:**

The draft budget, as reported to Cabinet on 18 October 2023, includes the latest medium term financial outlook (MTFO) for the four-year period from 2024/25 to 2027/28. It also outlines the draft revenue budget for 2024/25 to 2027/28 (including savings proposals identified to date for consultation), the draft capital programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28, and sets out the process and timescale for setting a legally balanced budget for 2024/25.

Our MTFO has been updated for all known pressures, including best professional assumptions around the cost-of-living impact, and that on rising demand on our services. Due to the size and breadth of cost pressures, this has had a significant impact on the assumptions in relation to the 2024/25 budget, with additional growth now required of c£57.69m, resulting in a budget gap of c£18.06m.

The Council is legally obliged to set a one-year balanced budget (2024/25), however a medium-term approach is beneficial to allow for sound financial planning and to support future financial stability. The proposals set out in this report do not yet balance the budget for 2024/25, so there will be a requirement to report back on changes and options to close the gap at the next meeting of Cabinet on 13 December 2023. All draft proposals are subject to changes arising from the Autumn Statement due on 22 November 2023, and a provisional settlement yet to be received (anticipated mid December). A number of savings proposals are also included for 2025/26 to 2027/28, with further options being identified to allow for a balanced budget over the period 2025/26 to 2027/28 aligned to the Council Plan and Proud activity.

The 2024/25 draft budget assumes a 2.99% general council tax increase and a further 2% precept for Adult Social Care in line with current referendum assumptions, with a 1.99% per annum increase thereafter. This is expected to be confirmed when we receive our draft 2024/25 settlement in December 2023.

The draft capital programme for 2024/25 totals £132.08m. It sets out capital investment funded from the council's own resources of £75.23m (funded by capital receipts and borrowing) and externally funded schemes of £56.85m (funded by capital grants) and represents a balanced programme for 2024/25. In addition, the report sets out a further three years of indicative proposals to 2027/28. Despite reductions in capital funding in recent years and going forward, the draft capital programme contains significant investment into regeneration initiatives, highways, education, and into adult and children's social care and housing to support vulnerable households through Health through Warmth and provision of aids and adaptations.

This report provides an extract of the Proud draft revenue savings proposals and investments/cost pressures for 2024/25 – 2027/28 by Proud Outcomes identified to date, which fall within the remit of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. It also provides a summary of the draft capital programme for schemes within the remit of this Committee.

Feedback from the Committee on the draft revenue and capital proposals to date will be reported back to Cabinet on 13 December 2023 for consideration.

The revenue proposals set out in the report to Cabinet on 18 October 2023 do not yet balance the budget for 2024/25, so there will be a requirement to report back on changes and options to close the remaining c£18m gap at the next meeting of Cabinet on 13 December 2023, and subsequent report to this committee should any changes relate to services within the remit of this committee.

The final draft budget will be considered by Cabinet on 7 February 2024 for recommendation to Council on 22 February 2024. Any changes to draft revenue and capital budget proposals as a result of equality impact assessments and consultation will also be fed into the final budget report.

### **Reason for scrutiny:**

To enable consultation of the draft revenue and capital budget proposals for services within the remit of this Committee.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **That:**

1. The Committee are recommended to consider the draft revenue budget proposals to date as attached that relate to the remit of this committee as shown in **Appendices 1 and 2**, and that feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 13 December 2023.
2. The Committee note that the revenue budget for 2024/25 is currently not balanced, with a gap of c£18m, and therefore a further report may be required to this committee if any changes to draft proposals outlined relate to services within the committee's remit.
3. The Committee are recommended to consider the draft capital schemes included in the draft capital programme attached that relate to the remit of this committee as shown in **Appendices 3 and 4**, and that feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 13 December 2023.

### **Background papers:**

Various financial working papers.

### **Resource and legal considerations:**

Cabinet on 18 October 2023 were presented with a list of draft Proud revenue savings proposals for consultation and a list of investment/cost pressures by Proud outcome, along with a draft capital programme over the period 2024/25 to 2027/28.

The full Cabinet report can be accessed at the following link:

### Maximising Outcomes through Budgeting 2024/25 onwards

Our approach to budget setting was established in 2020 with overall financial savings expected to be delivered via Proud activity. For 2024/25 Proud work streams will continue to provide the 'enablers' to allow Directorates to deliver through Service Transformation Plans (STP's).

Directors reviewed their STP's to identify how individual services can be transformed to generate further efficiencies, along with any short-term investment requirements to enable this to progress, linking their current and future service delivery with Council priority outcomes as per the Council Plan. This allows for identification of potential transformation activity and associated savings for future financial years. Those identified to date are outlined within the draft budget report to Cabinet on 18 October 2023, with further work in train to identify further opportunities to close the financial gap for 2024/25 and future years.

The Council Plan direction of travel approach sets out how the budget will be aligned to deliver the desired outcome i.e., through different amounts of delivery, coordination, influencing, signposting, or regulating. A review of the current delivery model will be undertaken alongside the direction of travel and re-prioritised where appropriate to maximise value for money and overall delivery of outcomes and ensuring the 2024/25 onwards budget is built and developed on this moving forward.

### Investment / cost pressures

Further to the changes in assumptions, the draft budget 2024/25 – 2027/28 includes provision for growth and investment of c£133m (£57.69m of this is in 2024/25). Those investments relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 1** and total £49.09m over 4 years.

### Savings proposals

The Proud service transformation plans have identified £13.58m of financial benefit for 2024/25 (including the review of the £8.10m identified in the budget report to Council in February 2023). There is also £9.37m identified for 2025/26, £7.91m for 2026/27 and £6.72m for 2027/28. Benefits / savings are classified into two categories:

1. Policy Proposals - which require an Executive decision to proceed, and which will be referred for public consultation and equality impact assessment. These total £333k in 2024/25 (£453k over the four years to 2027/28).
2. Operational Proposals – savings which officers have delegations to implement; examples include restructures, back-office savings, operational efficiencies. These total £13.25m in 2024/25 (£37.12m over the four years to 2027/28).

Some proposals require investment to support delivery. Such investment will only be allocated if the relevant saving proposal is included within Cabinet's final budget report in February, once consultation and equality impact assessment has concluded.

Savings proposals outlined in the report to Cabinet on 18 October 2023 will assist in closing the gap over the four years to 2027/28. A gap of £18.06m remains after the delivery of the £13.58m saving identified for 2024/25, with a further £14.24m saving requirement for 2025/26, £8.57m for

2026/27 and £9.36m for 2027/28. Through budget week and beyond, a number of themes were identified for prioritisation to take forward to support the 2024/25 position and also form the foundations of the medium-term financial strategy, building on the work of the Proud programme. Directors continue to work on identifying additional options for Members consideration, and further reports will be presented to Cabinet outlining further options to balance the budget for 2024/25 onwards. A work stream review of the STP's is taking place to ensure that they maximise opportunities from the Proud ways of working and capabilities, and therefore capture the full benefits; to ensure they capture innovative thinking; and to challenge any opportunities to accelerate identified savings.

Those savings proposals relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 2** and total £14.44m over 4 years.

### Net investment / savings

The following summarises the net investment /(savings) by Directorate for 2024/25.

<b>Net Investment/savings by Directorate 2024/25</b>	<b>Investment £m</b>	<b>Savings £m</b>	<b>Net £m</b>
Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub	28.61	(4.59)	24.02
Children's Services	14.09	(4.14)	9.95
Children's - Customer Engagement	1.30	(0.43)	0.87
Economy, Environment and Communities	3.73	(3.06)	0.68
Resources and Transformation	0.86	(1.35)	(0.49)
Central / Capital Financing*	9.09	0.00	9.09
<b>Total Net Investments by Directorate</b>	<b>57.69</b>	<b>(13.58)</b>	<b>44.11</b>

\*Central investment includes £8.09m of pay and pension costs which will be allocated to services following a detailed review of salary budget requirements.

Therefore, when central investments are taken into account, all Directorates will see a net increase in budgets.

### Draft Capital Programme

The draft capital programme for 2024/25 is balanced and totals £132.08m. It sets out new capital investment funded from the council's own resources of £75.23m (funded by capital receipts and borrowing) and externally funded schemes of £56.85m (funded by capital grants). In addition, the report sets out a further three years of indicative proposals to 2027/28.

Those council funded schemes relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 3** totalling £68k over 4 years, and external funded schemes of £3.55m at **Appendix 4**.

### **Contact Officers:**

Kerrie Allward - Executive Director, Adult Social Care, ☎01922 654713,

✉ [kerrie.allward@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:kerrie.allward@walsall.gov.uk)

Vicky Buckley – Head of Finance and Assurance, ☎ 07983 604698,

✉ [Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk)

Ross Hutchinson – Head of Finance (Finance Business Partnering & ESS projects),

☎ 07415 308513, ✉ [Ross.Hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Ross.Hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk)

## **APPENDIX 1**

**Summary of New Growth and Investment 2024/25 to 2027/28 aligned to Proud Outcomes relating to the remit of this Committee.**

Directorate	Ref No	Details of Growth by outcome	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	Total £
<b>People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life</b>							
Adult Social Care, Public Health & Hub	10	Social Care increase in demand pressures (inflow/attrition)	15,903,627	2,981,815	1,661,716	1,024,037	21,571,195
	11	Contract price uplift (for under 65's not covered by Fair Cost of Care)	3,992,391	2,450,079	2,517,776	2,608,130	11,568,376
	12	Adult Social Care affordability model including inflation - Housing 21	1,364,484	274,652	281,518	311,449	2,232,103
	13	Hospital discharge - fully funded from grant	1,325,436	0	0	0	1,325,436
	14	Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	495,860	0	0	0	495,860
	15	Section 117 expenditure in Mental Health	150,063	61,967	64,446	67,024	343,500
	16	Client income – all care types	0	2,639,181	0	0	2,639,181
	17	Health income - Learning Disability Joint Funding tool	201,520	0	0	0	201,520
	18	Trix - online policy and procedures for Safeguarding	11,333	0	0	0	11,333
	19	Better Care finance system - ongoing licence costs	98,000	0	0	0	98,000
	20	Mosaic trainer post	39,000	0	0	0	39,000
	21	Additional social work capacity within Access Care Management Localities and Complex teams	353,257	298,910	0	0	652,167
	22	Co-production and consultation post	56,262	18,754	0	0	75,016
	23	Future arrangements for safeguarding	228,537	198,801	0	0	427,338
	24	Community Reablement and Technology - linked to saving OP16	644,008	644,008	0	0	1,288,016
	25	Revised Management Structure within Adult Social Care	443,069	49,230	0	0	492,299
	26	Financial Assessment and Charging Team (permanent structure)	316,952	107,327	0	0	424,279
	27	Client Money and Case Management Solution for Deputies and Appointees	20,000	0	0	0	20,000
	28	Mosaic Case Management solution development – introduction of Electronic Document Management system via Sharepoint and Access Community Gateway	47,500	0	0	0	47,500
29	Carecubed investment for contract extension	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	
Directorate	Ref	Details of Growth by outcome	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	Total £

<b>Adult Social Care, Public Health &amp; Hub</b>	<b>30A</b>	Public Health - Residential Detox Placements	91,300	0	0	0	91,300
	<b>30B</b>	Public Health - Pay awards/increments	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
	<b>30C</b>	Public Health - Inflation of 0-19 Healthy Child Programme	247,440	0	0	0	247,440
	<b>30D</b>	Public Health - Drug and Alcohol contribution to Family Safeguarding	100,000	0	0	0	100,000
	<b>31</b>	Public Health grant increase	0	275,901	261,300	264,745	801,946
	<b>32</b>	Supplementary Drugs and Alcohol - fully funded from grant	462,436	(462,436)	0	0	0
	<b>33</b>	Intermediate Care Service (Increased demand and uplifts)	1,302,070	412,053	412,053	412,053	2,538,229
	<b>34</b>	Integrated Equipment Store	232,182	0	0	0	232,182
	<b>35</b>	Better Care Fund - Integrated Community Equipment Service rent/overheads, pay	232,972	229,456	229,456	229,456	921,340
	<b>36</b>	Occupational Therapists to support reviews post Intermediate Care Services discharge - linked to saving OP21	105,048	0	0	0	105,048
<b>Total People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing, and quality of life</b>			<b>28,564,747</b>	<b>10,179,698</b>	<b>5,428,265</b>	<b>4,916,894</b>	<b>49,089,604</b>
<b>Total Growth and investment relating to the remit of this Committee</b>			<b>28,564,747</b>	<b>10,179,698</b>	<b>5,428,265</b>	<b>4,916,894</b>	<b>49,089,604</b>

**Benefits Realisation (Savings) for Proud activity by Outcome 2024/25 to 2027/28 relating to the remit of this Committee.**

**A: Summary of Policy Proposals by Outcome 2024/25 – 2027/28 - None relating to the remit of this Committee**

**B: Summary of Operational Proposals by Outcome 2024/25 – 2027/28**

Directorate	Ref No	Detail of Operational Proposals by Outcome	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	Total £
<b>People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing, and quality of life</b>							
Adult Social Care, Public Health & Hubs	OP14	Demand - Develop and deliver additional support to Carers	(270,241)	0	0	0	(270,241)
	OP15	Shared lives	(142,812)	0	0	0	(142,812)
	OP16	Community reablement service – to prevent and delay long term care and support – subject to financial modelling and linked to investment 24	(1,147,248)	(2,535,965)	(2,586,685)	(2,638,418)	(8,908,316)
	OP17	Market management of Learning Disability/Mental Health provider market – use of Care Cubed technology and dedicated commissioning resources to better calibrate and control the price of care provision – link to investment in commissioning capacity and requiring licence	(574,282)	(371,821)	(20,733)	(19,337)	(986,173)
	OP18	Additional client income based on net inflow of clients	(257,369)	(260,316)	(260,316)	(260,316)	(1,038,317)
	OP19	Deferred payments income	(265,344)	0	0	0	(265,344)
	OP20	Health Income - S117/ Continuing Health Care / Part Health Funded	(1,047,615)	(249,636)	(263,274)	(271,559)	(1,832,084)
	OP21	Review of high-cost domiciliary care packages post Intermediate Care Services discharge - linked to investment 36	(176,407)	(159,542)	0	0	(335,949)
	OP22	Contractual uplifts funded by Market Sustainability Improvement Fund	(57,621)	0	0	0	(57,621)
	OP23	Occupational Therapist funded from Disabled Facilities Grant capital	(52,000)	0	0	0	(52,000)
	OP24	Flex360 supporting in business-as-usual reviews - double to single handed care	(464,453)	0	0	0	(464,453)
	OP25	Increased Housing 21 community based / accommodation income	(89,000)	0	0	0	(89,000)
<b>Total People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing, &amp; quality of life</b>			<b>(4,544,392)</b>	<b>(3,577,280)</b>	<b>(3,131,008)</b>	<b>(3,189,630)</b>	<b>(14,442,310)</b>
<b>Total Operational Proposals relating to the remit of this Committee</b>			<b>(4,544,392)</b>	<b>(3,577,280)</b>	<b>(3,131,008)</b>	<b>(3,189,630)</b>	<b>(14,442,310)</b>

**APPENDIX 3**

**Draft Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28 – Council Funded Schemes relating to the remit of this Committee.**

**New Capital Schemes**

Directorate	Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	Total £
<b>The Council will deliver trusted, customer focused, and enabling services, which are recognised by customers and our partners for the value they bring</b>							
Adult Social Care, Public Health and Health Hub	Mosaic Case Management Solution	Access Community Gateway - self assessment; social care reforms tool to support compliancy areas linked to care cap; self-funders; statements	68,425	0	0	0	68,425
<b>Total The Council will deliver trusted, customer focused, and enabling services, which are recognised by customers and our partners for the value they bring</b>			<b>68,425</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,425</b>
<b>Total New Capital Programme requests</b>			<b>68,425</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,425</b>

<b>Total Draft Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes within the remit of this Committee</b>	<b>68,425</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,425</b>
--	---------------	----------	----------	----------	---------------



**APPENDIX 4**

**Draft Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28 – External Funded Schemes relating to the remit of this Committee.**

Directorate	Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	Total £
<b>People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home</b>							
Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub	Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES)	Supplies equipment to people with both a social care and a health need on an assessed needs basis. This is a pooled budget between the CCG and the council, this capital funding will be used to purchase this equipment which will enable people to return home or continue to remain at home. This now forms part of the Better Care Fund (BCF) for which the council is host. (Department of Health).	888,000	888,000	888,000	888,000	3,552,000
<b>Total People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home</b>			<b>888,000</b>	<b>888,000</b>	<b>888,000</b>	<b>888,000</b>	<b>3,552,000</b>
<b>Total Draft Capital Programme – External Funded Schemes within the remit of this Committee</b>			<b>888,000</b>	<b>888,000</b>	<b>888,000</b>	<b>888,000</b>	<b>3,552,000</b>

## **Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**7 December 2023**

### **Primary Care Access and GP Services Working Group – Terms of Reference**

**Ward(s):** All

**Portfolio:** Councillor G. Flint – Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces  
Councillor K. Pedley – Adult Social Care

At its meeting on 26 October 2023, the Committee agreed to establish a working group to consider issues surrounding Primary Care Access and GP Services.

The working group met on 27 November 2023 to discuss and agree its draft terms of reference. A copy of the terms of reference agreed at this meeting is attached at Appendix 1 for approval by the Committee.

#### **Recommendation:**

**That the Primary Care Access and GP Services Working Group Terms of Reference be approved.**

#### **Contact Officer:**

Jack Thompson  
Democratic Services Officer  
 01922 654196  
 Jack.Thompson@walsall.gov.uk

# Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Primary Care Access and GP Services Working Group

## Initiation Document

Working Group Name:	Primary Care Access and GP Services Working Group
Committee:	Social Care and Health
Municipal Year:	2023/24
Chair:	Councillor Hussain
Lead Officers:	Andrew Osborn (Director of Commissioning, Lead Health and Social Care Officer) Jack Thompson (Democratic Services Officer) Matt Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
Membership	Councillors P. Gill, R.K. Mehmi, K. Hussain, R. Martin and W. Rasab.
Co-opted Members	Not specified

### 1. Context

- 1.1. On 28 September 2023, the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered issues surrounding patient access to Primary Care and GP Services.
- 1.2. Members noted that since the Covid-19 Pandemic there has been significant pressure on GP Practices and Primary Care Access nationally and within the Borough. This has made it harder for residents to secure appointments with GPs and other health professionals in a timely manner, causing frustrations and affecting health outcomes. Coupled with this has been the increase in wait times for referrals, elective care and mental health services which further adds pressure onto GP Practices.
- 1.3. The General Practice Improvement Programme (GPIP) is being implemented by NHS England and delivered by the Black Country Integrated Care Board (ICB) to help improve support for GP Practices to meet demand and improve patient satisfaction. In addition, continued work is being undertaken by the ICB to improve GP telephone systems and complaints processes.
- 1.4. There was a consensus that the Committee needed to establish a working group to investigate and review obstructions within the industry and work with partners to improve patient outcomes.

### 2. Objectives

- a. Review the current GP commissioning model, the National General Practice Improvement Programme and rights of patients under the NHS Constitution;
- b. Understand changes made to GP and primary care access in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and review delivery plan for recovering access to primary care;
- c. Explore the current issues raised by residents, in particular those who are vulnerable, in regard to accessing GP appointments and primary care access and identify salient themes;
- d. Investigate improvements that could be made to primary care access and healthcare pathways.

### 3. Scope

- 3.1. Consider the issue around primary care and GP access within the Borough.
- 3.2. Investigate and consider the actions of local health partner led services:
  - a. GP practices (commissioned through the Black Country ICB)
  - b. Walsall Urgent Care Centre (Walk in Centre - commissioned through the Black Country ICB)
  - c. Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (A&E – Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust)
  - d. Referrals and elective surgery (Black Country ICB and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust)
  - e. Mental health services (Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)

- f. West Midlands Ambulance Service
- 3.3. To identify key points for the improvement in access to primary care and access to GP services within the Borough, and develop a joint strategy with partners to improve the healthcare pathways for residents.
- 3.4. Review delivery plan for recovering access to primary care.

**4. Equalities Implications**

- 4.1. The Equality Act 2010 protects children, young people and adults against discrimination, harassment and victimisation in relation to housing, education, clubs, the provision of services (including healthcare) and work.
- 4.2. The public sector equality duty in Section 149 of the Equality Act requires public bodies, including local authorities and healthcare providers, to take active steps to eliminate discrimination and to do positive things to promote equality.

**5. Who else will contribute**

- 5.1. In addition to lead officers and members contributions will be required from the following partners and stakeholders:
  - a. Black Country Integrated Care Board (ICB)
  - b. Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
  - c. Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
  - d. West Midlands Ambulance Service
  - e. Public Health (Walsall Council)
  - f. Healthwatch Walsall
  - g. Adult Social Care (Walsall Council)
  - h. Child Services (Walsall Council)
  - i. Walsall Housing Group and WATMOS

**6. Timescale and Reporting Schedule**

- 6.1. The following dates are based upon the need for the working group to be completed in the same municipal year:
  - a. Terms of Reference – November 2023
  - b. Terms of Reference to be approved by Overview Scrutiny Committee – 7 December 2023
  - c. Draft report to be considered by Working Group – TBC
  - d. Final report to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee - TBC
- 6.2. A detailed timetable of meetings and activities can be found at Appendix A.

**7. Risk Factors**

- 7.1. The following table documents potential obstacles to the progress of the working group:

Risk	Likelihood	Mitigation
Input from officers will detract from service delivery.	Medium	Identify a manageable scope.
A lack of engagement from external partners.	Medium	Early engagement to provide the best opportunity to identify a mutually convenient time for input.
Complexity of current overlapping health systems	Medium	Provide the working clear guidance on current systems and processes operated.

## Appendix A Timetable

Date	Activity
27/10/2023	Issue draft Terms of Reference for consideration and comment
03/11/2023	Comments on Terms of Reference returned to officers
07/11/2023	Final Terms of Reference agreed with group members
07/12/2023	Terms of Reference presented to Scrutiny Overview Committee
TBC	Review the current GP commissioning model, the National General Practice Improvement Programme and rights of patients under the NHS Constitution.
TBC	Understand changes made to GP and primary care access in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and review delivery plan for recovering access to primary care.
TBC	Explore the current issues raised by residents, in particular those who are vulnerable, in regard to accessing GP appointments and primary care access and identify salient themes.
TBC	Investigate improvements that could be made to primary care access and healthcare pathways.
TBC	Review evidence and draw conclusions in preparation for a draft final report with recommendations.
TBC	Present final report and recommendations to Scrutiny Overview Committee.

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Recommendation Tracker 2023/24

Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer responsible	Status	Target Completion Date	Notes
13 July 2023	Areas of Focus	A work programme for the municipal year be produced containing agreed areas of focus.	Jack Thompson	Complete	6 September 2023	Sent with agenda papers.
		Information on Social Worker referrals for Adult Social Care be shared with Members of the Committee.	Jack Thompson/	In progress		
		The Committee be provided with the cumulative impact of the Fair Cost of Care exercise.	Jack Thompson/	In progress		
		That the Committee be provided with the amount and percentage of the Council's Council Tax spent on Adult Social Care.	Jack Thompson/	In progress		
14 September 2023	Access to GP Services – Update on telephone systems	That the Committee be supplied with figures of the money allocated through National General Practice Improvement Programme to Walsall.	Jack Thompson/ Black Country ICB	In progress		
		That information on how to raise complaints to the ICB be shared with Members of the Committee.	Jack Thompson/ Black Country ICB	In progress		
26 October 2023	Update on Opening of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Urgent and Emergency Care Centre	That the Committee request a future update on the Trust's Urgent and Emergency Treatment Centre.	Jack Thompson/ Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust	In progress		

## Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work programme 2023/24<sup>1</sup>

Main agenda items	14/09/23	26/10/23	07/12/23	18/01/24	19/02/24	04/04/24
<b>Theme: Primary Care Access</b>						
Access to GP Services - Update on telephone system						
Social Prescribing (Walsall Healthcare Trust – Walsall Together)						
<b>Theme: Emergency and Hospital Care</b>						
Update on the new Urgent Treatment Centre						
Update on the midwifery led unit & maternity services (neonatal birthweights) ICB/Walsall Healthcare Trust						
Manor Hospital CQC inspection report feedback						
<b>Theme: Waiting times</b>						
Elective care waiting times (inc. Surgery)						
<b>Adult Social Care</b>						
Adult Social Care Continues Improvement Programme & CQC ratings of service providers						
Adult Social Care – CQC Inspection Readiness						
Adult Social Care Debt						
<b>Budget Scrutiny</b>						
Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring						
Budget Setting 2024/25						

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the work plan can be edited, and items can be added and removed at the discretion of the chair.



## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Council House,  
Lichfield Street,  
Walsall, WS1 1TW**  
[www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)

**6 NOVEMBER 2023**



## FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW [craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk) and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk). The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change. Please contact the above addressee if you wish to check the date for a particular item.

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet on the Council’s website. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Cabinet and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they are confidential. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer. These details can also be found in the forward plan.

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. The forward plan will show where this is intended and the reason why the reports are confidential. Enquiries regarding these reasons should be directed to Democratic Services ([craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk)).

“Key decisions” are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. With regard to key decisions the Council’s Constitution states:

- (1) A key decision is:
  - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or
  - (ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.
- (2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £500,000.

- (3) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS  
DECEMBER 2023 TO MARCH 2024 (06.11.2023)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
37/23 (7.8.23)	<p><b>Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28 – Update:</b></p> <p>To provide an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28, including update to savings proposals, impact of Autumn Statement, and progress on budget consultation to date including feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the draft revenue and capital budget.</p>	Cabinet  Non-key Decision	Vicky Buckley  <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations.  Internal services	Cllr Bird	13 December 2023
55/23 (6.11.23)	<p><b>Walsall Borough Local Plan - Call for Sites:</b></p> <p>To agree authorisation for the Council to publicise and implement a Call for</p>	Cabinet  Key Decision	David Holloway  <a href="mailto:David.Holloway@walsall.gov.uk">David.Holloway@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	13 December 2023

	Sites exercise for the Walsall Borough Local Plan.					
56/23 (6.11.23)	<b>Walsall Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2022-2025:</b>  To note and forward to Council for approval the Walsall Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2022-2025.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Phil Rutherford  <a href="mailto:Philip.Rutherford@walsall.gov.uk">Philip.Rutherford@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services  YJS Partnership Board	Cllr Elson	13 December 2023
38/23 (7.8.23)	<b>Treasury Management Mid Year Position Statement 2023/24:</b>  To note and forward to Council, for consideration and noting (and in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017), the mid year report for treasury management activities 2023/24 including prudential and local indicators.	Council  Non-key Decision	Treasury Management Code of Practice.  Richard Walley  <a href="mailto:Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk">Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Cllr Ferguson	13 December 2023
39/23 (7.8.23)	<b>Strategic Leisure Review:</b>  To update on the performance and impact of the four leisure facilities. To approve recommendations around the current and future facility stock.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Stuart Webb  <a href="mailto:Stuart.Webb@walsall.gov.uk">Stuart.Webb@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Cllr Flint	13 December 2023
36/23 (7.8.23)	<b>Healthy Eating for Children and Young People Programme:</b>  To seek approval to procure a new healthy eating and weight	Cabinet  Key Decision	Esther Higdon  <a href="mailto:Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk">Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services  Walsall Healthcare Trust	Cllr Flint	13 December 2023

	management programme for children and young people in Walsall.					
61/23 (6.11.23)	<b>Walsall Tobacco Control Plan 2023-2027:</b> To approve the Tobacco Control Plan	Cabinet Non-key decision	Joe Holding <a href="mailto:Joe.Holding@walsall.gov.uk">Joe.Holding@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services SWPB	Cllr Flint	13 December 2023
60/23 (6.11.23)	<b>Community Grant – Bloxwich Community Partnership:</b> To agree funding and leasing arrangements in relation to Palace Play, Shop and Eat Blakenall Row, Walsall WS3 1LW	Cabinet Key Decision	Sarah Oakley <a href="mailto:Sarah.Oakley@walsall.gov.uk">Sarah.Oakley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Bloxwich Community Partnership	Cllr Perry	13 December 2023
62/23 (06.11.23)	<b>Adult Social Care Contributions Policy</b> To approve the continuation of an Adult Social Care Contributions Policy rather than a Charging Policy which encompasses a number of charging areas under the Care Act. The Contributions Policy will detail the framework as to how customers will be assessed for their adult social care contributions. The policy will however cover both residential and community assessments. The current policy is community assessments only.	Cabinet Key Decision	Kerrie Allward <a href="mailto:Kerrie.Allward@walsall.gov.uk">Kerrie.Allward@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Pedley	13 December 2023
14/23 (6.2.23)	<b>Growth Funding for Schools:</b> To enable the Local Authority to fulfil its duty to secure sufficient primary and	Cabinet Key Decision	Alex Groom <a href="mailto:Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk">Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services, Schools Forum	Cllr M. Statham	13 December 2023

	secondary school places, through the adoption of a policy for the application of revenue funding for school growth.					
46/23 (4.9.23)	<b>SEN Place Requirement:</b>  To approve finance for additional special educational needs school places.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Alex Groom  <a href="mailto:Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk">Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Cllr M. Statham	13 December 2023
50/23 (2.10.23)	<b>Corporate Financial Performance 2023/24:</b>  To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2023.	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley  <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Corporate Management Team and Internal Services	Cllr Bird	7 February 2024
51/23 (2.10.23)	<b>Corporate Budget Plan 2024/25 – 2027/28, incorporating the Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2024/25:</b>  To recommend the final budget and council tax for approval by Council.	Cabinet  Council  Key decision	Vicky Buckley  <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations,  Corporate Management Team and Internal Services	Cllr Bird	Cabinet 7 February 2024  Council 22 February 2024
52/23 (2.10.23)	<b>Council Plan 2022/25 – Q2 23/24:</b>  To note the Quarter 2 2023/24 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25.	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Elizabeth Connolly  <a href="mailto:elizabeth.connolly@walsall.gov.uk">elizabeth.connolly@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	7 February 2024
57/23 (6.11.23)	<b>Walsall Net-Zero 2041 Climate Strategy:</b>	Cabinet	Katie Moreton	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	7 February 2023

	To approve the Walsall Net-Zero 2041 Strategy.	Key Decision	<a href="mailto:Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk">Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk</a>			
54/23 (2.10.23)	<b>Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy 2023 – 2026:</b>  To approve an interim commissioning strategy.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Nigel Imber – <a href="mailto:Nigel.Imber@Walsall.Gov.uk">Nigel.Imber@Walsall.Gov.uk</a>	Internal consultees  Local and regional partners	Cllr Pedley	7 February 2024
53/23 (2.10.23)	<b>Determination of the Scheme for coordinated admissions, and the Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for the 2025/26 academic year:</b>  To determine the scheme of admissions and admission arrangements for community and voluntary-controlled primary schools for 2025-26.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Alex Groom  <a href="mailto:Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk">Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal consultees  Public  Local Authorities  Schools  Faith Groups	Cllr M. Statham	7 February 2024
58/23 (6.11.23)	<b>High Needs Funding Formula 2024/25:</b>  To approve changes to the High Needs Funding Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant	Cabinet  Key Decision	Richard Walley  <a href="mailto:Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk">Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Schools Forum  Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	20 March 2024

	– High Needs Block to schools in Walsall for the 2024/25 financial year.					
59/23 (6.11.23)	<p><b>Early Years Funding Formula 2024/25:</b></p> <p>To Cabinet approve the Early Years Funding Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used as the allocation of funding to early years providers in Walsall.</p>	<p>Cabinet Key Decision</p>	<p>Richard Walley <a href="mailto:Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk">Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Schools Forum Internal Services</p>	<p>Cllr M. Statham</p>	<p>20 March 2024</p>

**Black Country Executive Joint Committee**  
**Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

**Published up to February 2024**

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	<b>Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance</b>			
04/09/2023	<p><b>Change Control and Delegated Authority</b></p> <p>Approval of BCJC Delegated Authority to the Single Accountable Body Section 151 Officer (SAB s151 officer) and approval of the revised Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) Assurance Framework Change Control and Delegated Authority delegations, as detailed in the attachment of the report (BCLEP Assurance Framework Appendix 23).</p>	<p>David Moore <a href="mailto:david.moore@walsall.gov.uk">david.moore@walsall.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Mark Lavender <a href="mailto:mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk">mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Walsall Council	01/11/2023