

EDUCATION SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Q2 FINANCIAL MONITORING POSITION FOR 2023/24

21 November 2023

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Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

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1. Forecast Overview

The forecast revenue outturn for 2023/24 for the services under the remit of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is an overspend of **£0.83m** after the net use of reserves of £0.08m.

For completeness, the forecast revenue overspend for services under the remit of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is an overspend of **£2.45m**. This gives a total forecast position of an overspend of **£3.28m** for Children's Services directorate as of 30 September 2023.

This is broken down further in Table 1 of the report.

2. Key Variances

The key variances contributing to the services overspend of **£0.83m** are:

- £0.70m use of agency within the educational psychologist team to cover vacant posts and increased demand.
- £0.13m unachieved savings due to increased demand over and above expected levels (estimated 10%, actual increase 14%). Benefit will be achieved in full in 2024/25.

The above is detailed in Table 2 of the report.

3. Movement from Jun 23 (P3) to Sep 23 (P6)

The forecast outturn position as at Period 3 (Jun 23) was an overspend of **£0.82m** therefore there is a net increase in the forecast overspend of **£0.01m**. There are no significant movements to detail in this report.

4. Reserves

The total allocated reserves for 2023/24 for services under the remit of this committee are **£1.91m**, of which (**£0.24m**) has been used or committed to date and **£0.16m** will be transferred to reserves at the year-end, ringfenced for expected spend in 2024/25.

Further information around the reserves can be found in section 3.6 and Table 4 of the report.

5. Risks

Low Impact (Green) **£0.10m** Medium Impact (Amber) **£0.63m** High Impact (Red) **£0.14m**

For the services under the remit of this committee, there are total risks of **£0.87m** which are not included in the above forecast. At this stage the risks are not a certainty and as such are not included in the monitoring position.

If any risks became a certainty, they would need to be included in the forecast position as an overspend, unless alternative action can be identified to mitigate these costs.

Further information around the risks can be found in section 3.7 and Tables 5 & 6 of the report.

6. 2023/24 STP Summary

Included within the budget for 2023/24 for services within the remit of this Committee are **£0.40m** of approved savings of which:

- £0.10m has been fully achieved to date;
- £0.17m is on track to be delivered by 31st March 2024;
- £0.13m is not expected to be achieved in this financial year.

Savings not expected to be achieved in year are shown in the current forecast overspend.

Plans are in place to ensure all unachieved savings are achieved in 2024/25 financial year.

Further information around the risks can be found in section 3.8 and Table 7 of the report.

7. Capital Forecast

The capital programme for the services under the remit of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as at the end of September 2023, is £13.30m. As at September, it was expected that all £13.30m will be fully spent within the current financial year.

Further information around the risks can be found in section 3.9 and Table 8 of the report.