



## CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURT ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Paper for the Board Meeting on Friday 24 March 2017

### FINANCE REPORT

#### KEY POINTS

- The forecast outturn against budget for the full year remains an underspend of £0.5m.
- At the time of writing, our grant allocation for 2017/18 remains to be announced, although we are confident of an increase given ongoing demand pressures. In that context, we must continue to balance the need to invest in resources to keep work allocated and safe, but without undermining our budgetary parameters.

#### 1 AIM AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 To confirm the financial results for the eleven months ended 28 February 2017 and the latest forecast position for the current year.

#### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BOARD

- 2.1 To note the financial results for the current year.

#### 3. ELEVEN MONTHS' RESULTS AND FORECAST FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

- 3.1 Budget holders have completed their work on the eleven months management accounts and updated their forecasts for the remainder of the current financial year. The detail of this work is shown in the appendices to this report.
- 3.2 At the end of eleven months, expenditure is running £1.445m behind budget. Of this £0.566m relates to operational area spending with the balance of £0.879m across corporate and central budgets. Within the operational area, much of the underspend continues to relate to staff costs where vacancies still exist, although flexible workforce is used where possible to cover work. Significant successful efforts continue to expand workforce capacity.
- 3.3 The forecast outturn against budget for the full year remains an underspend of £0.5m which remains judged as not presenting any significant risk to service delivery.
- 3.5 Final formal confirmation of funding for 2017/18 remains pending at the time of writing.
- 3.6 In summary, the position at the nine month stage and full year are set out below:

	£'000
Budget to 28 February 2017	104,719
Spend to 31 December 2016	103,274
<b>Underspend at 30 September 2016</b>	<b>1,445</b>
Budget for remainder of year	17,630
Forecast spend for remainder of year	18,575
<b>Forecast outturn (underspend)</b>	<b>500</b>

**4. KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER**

4.1 These are dealt with within the body of the report.

**5 BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN**

5.1 The delivery of safe, high quality and timely services remains a priority for service delivery. In order to achieve this, a budget plan is needed that is sufficient in size and appropriately allocated across functions and geographic areas to ensure resources are available to support service delivery.

**6 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

6.1 The financial implications of this paper are contained in the main body of this report.

**7 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 These are dealt with within the main body of this report.

**8. DIVERSITY ANALYSIS**

8.1 Ensuring Equality and Diversity are central to all our work remains a key operational priority. In much the same way as ensuring the objectives of benefits for children are met through financial planning and management, so the active management of spending against a properly constructed budget will help ensure an equitable distribution of resources to enable equality of access to services.

**Anthony Douglas, Chief Executive**  
**Julie Brown, Director of Resources**  
**9 March 2017**