

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
25 November 2021

Children's Integrated Services financial position, budget proposals and transformation activity

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To scrutinise action being taken to address in-year financial pressures in relation to Children's Integrated Services; consider proposals related to Children's Integrated Services in the draft Medium Term Financial Plan; and review progress in undertaking longer term transformational activity.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) identify any comments to feed into a response to consultation on the draft Medium Term Financial Plan;
 - b) identify any further scrutiny required, including focus and timescale.

3 Background information

- 3.1 In July 2021, the Committee discussed a range of challenges facing Children's Integrated Services, including demand pressure with increasing numbers of children coming into care and increasing complexity of need; the financial pressure arising from this and work taking place to address it, including management of placement costs, savings proposals and drivers for more significant service transformation. At that stage, thinking on this was at a relatively early stage and the Committee decided to look in more detail at plans for addressing demand and budget pressures and service transformation at a later date.
- 3.2 Information about the Council's in-year budget pressures, the financial context and the Council's response to addressing budget gaps was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 November. In December that Committee will focus on the detail of the draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26 (MTFP) and in January the Committee will agree its response to the budget proposals. This meeting aims to give members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee opportunity to focus on the financial position for Children's Integrated Services, including the current forecast overspend for 2021/22; and proposed savings related to Children's Services in the draft MTFP which is currently being consulted on. The draft MTFP was published as part of the papers for the meeting of Executive Board on 16 November 2021.

- 3.3 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in October, councillors were advised that a key potential solution to the pressures facing the organisation is transformation of services leading to different models of delivery. Information on the Council's Transformation Programme, to support delivery of the Recovery and Improvement Plan was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October. This informed councillors that the programme related to delivery of changes to mitigate the substantial challenges facing the Council now, and enabling it to prosper in the future. It currently consists of 33 programmes and projects at different stages of development. This includes a Children's Portfolio encompassing managing demand, efficiency and effectiveness, whole system change and SEND travel.
- 3.4 In January 2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be agreeing its response to the budget proposals. This Committee may wish to identify comments on the draft MTFP to feed into that response. The Committee will also need to identify how it wishes to take forward further scrutiny on the future management of in-year financial pressures, delivery of agreed savings and progress of transformation activity relating to Children's Integrated Services.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 'Children's Integrated Services: budget proposals, current financial position and transformation' paper from Corporate Director for People, Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services and Portfolio Holder for Children and Adults

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26' report to Executive Board on 16 November 2021
- 6.2 'The Council's Budget' report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 November 2021 and minutes of that meeting
- 6.3 'The Council's Transformation Programme' report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 October 2021 and minutes of that meeting
- 6.4 Minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting on 29 July 2021

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

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