

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL WORK ADULT SERVICES OVERSPEND 2014/2015**  
**MEETING: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**DATE: 15 OCTOBER 2015**  
**AUTHOR: HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK ADULT SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Committee with information on the budget overspend in Social Work Adult Services during the financial year 2014/2015.
- 1.2 The report will also advise Members on actions being taken to monitor and manage expenditure in the current financial year.

**2. BUDGET EXPENDITURE IN 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/2015**

- 2.1 Over the past 2 years the Adult Care budget has out-turned as follows:
- 2012/13 – There was an underspend of £733,000 which was a variance of -1.1% against the allocated budget.
  - 2013/14 – There was an overspend of £301,000, a variance of 0.4% against the allocated budget.
- 2.2 The Adult Care budget in the last financial year was £68,980,930. The year-end outturn showed an overspend of £575,430 which is a variance of 0.8% against the allocated budget. The main area of overspend was 24 hour placements.
- 2.3 The main pressures on the budget were reported to the Executive by the Director of Social Work Services on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- 2.4 In addition a comprehensive report on budget pressures in Social Work was included as an appendix to the Revenue Budget Framework 2015/16 – 2017/18.
- 2.5 The September report highlighted that there was a potential overspend of £0.70 million which was brought down to £0.575 million by year end through a process of careful management and monitoring.
- 2.6 The pressures that contributed to the overspend centred to a large extent on increased demand which continues to be a feature going forward. The main areas of increased demand are summarised as follows:

•	8% increase in people assessed as needing community care services.
•	Significant increase in Adult Support and Protection work as this issue comes to the fore in communities through better communication and involvement.
•	Increase in Home Care provision.
•	6% increase in the requirement for Care Home places.
•	Increase in complex care expenditure in line with medical advances.

- 2.7 Much of these increases are as a result of demographic changes and a need to respond to referrals within current policy guidelines.

### **3. ACTIONS BEING TAKEN TO MANAGE THE PRESSURE**

- 3.1 The Adult Care budget for the current year is £70,071,240 and there is a real challenge for the service to constrain expenditure to those levels and meet demanding savings targets.

- 3.2 Work has started on re-profiling eligibility criteria to ensure that as we go forward scarce resources are targeted at those with the highest level of need. In addition work with partners is focussed on ensuring accessible services are in place which are aimed at preventing needs escalating.

- 3.3 The current predicted outcome is showing a potential overspend of around £1,400,000 which is a 2% variance against the budget. Considerable focus is being brought to bear on bringing down this amount.

- 3.4 The integration of services with Health partners offers an opportunity to transform our approach to service delivery. Going forward we will focus on delivering outcomes to support service users to maintain independence. In order to achieve this transformation the service will look to prevention and reablement services which can be delivered through an integrated approach.

- 3.5 There remains in particular a difficulty with the cost and volume of 24 hour placements and the service is targeting actions in this area. These include.

•	Intense scrutiny on each placement.
•	Training for staff on alternative ways of working.
•	Review of contract costs.
•	Work on service transformation to develop a closer partnership approach and outcomes focussed care plans
•	Re-profile of Eligibility Criteria.

### **4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Social Work Adult Services continue to face a difficult and challenging time. The service is rising to the challenge by reviewing working practice, integrating services and developing a partnership approach with service users.

- 4.2 However this change process is at the very start and will take time to be implemented throughout the service.

4.3 In the meantime Social Work Adult Services senior management will continue to monitor and manage expenditure on a regular basis.

4.4 **Members are asked to:**

- **Note the contents of this report.**

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Date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

FINANCIAL POSITION SOCIAL WORK SERVICES – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

REVENUE BUDGET FRAMEWORK 2015/16 – 2017/18