



Budget Monitoring Report 2024/25 - Period 3

For decision

For discussion

For information

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the budget monitoring position at Period 3.

OWNER

Report Author:

BfC Finance Team

DRAFT

V1.0

DATE

22nd July 2024

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1. Purpose of report

1.1 Board is recommended to:

- (i) Note the forecast over spend of **£4.825m** as at Period 3.
- (ii) Approve the following actions:
 - a) That all directors seek to make savings to mitigate the pressures highlighted in this report to bring spend back in line with approved budget resources. This will be reported through the Recovery Action Plan.
 - b) To identify any other actions which can avoid pressures carrying forward to 2025/26 and beyond.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 As at the end of Period 3, the company is forecast to overspend this year by **£4.825m**, with net expenditure of **£56.948m** against a contract sum of **£52.123m**. This compares to a forecast overspend of **£3.873m** at Period 2 and represents an increase of **£0.952m** for Period 3.
- 2.2 A full explanation for the variance reported in this period and the reasons for the movement is provided in the main body of the report and is summarised in the following table.

Table 1 – Summary of reasons for variance reported.

Service Area	Budget 24/25	Forecast 24/25 at Period 3	Variance at Period 3	Variance at Period 2	Movement from Previous month
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Family Help and Safeguarding					
Staffing	19.462	19.844	0.382	0.265	0.117
External Placements	14.841	19.638	4.797	3.977	0.820
Other Placement related costs	8.480	8.179	-0.301	-0.413	0.112
Other FHS budgets	-1.462	-1.224	0.238	0.239	-0.001
	41.321	46.437	5.116	4.068	1.048
Education (Includes DSG)	50.814	50.815	0.001	0.003	-0.002
Resources	2.855	2.563	-0.292	-0.198	-0.094
Corporate Services	1.882	1.882	0	0	0
Total	96.872	101.697	4.825	3.873	0.952

- 2.3 Company reserves and provisions at the start of 2024/25 are **£1.411m**. Reserves are currently being reviewed as part of the Recovery Plan and any expected changes to the forecast of reserves at 31st March 2025, will be reported at Period 4.
- 2.4 Cashflow. At the end of Period 3 (30th June 2024) the cash balance in the BfFC account was **£1.659m**, which is **£0.659m** above the minimum balance. The cash flow is being monitored on a regular basis in liaison with RBC Treasury finance colleagues and any corrective action needed to maintain the minimum cash balance will be taken as necessary.

Contract Sum

2.5 Table 2 shows the forecast year-end position broken down by service:

DEPARTMENTAL SUMMARY	23/24 Outturn £000	24/25 Budget YTD £000	24/25 Spend YTD £000	24/25 Variance YTD £00	24/25 Annual Budget £000	24/25 Forecast Outturn Period 3 £000	24/25 Forecast Variance P3 £000	Movement from Previous Month £000
Education	44,959	23,435	15,375	(8,061)	50,814	50,815	1	(2)
Family Help & Safeguarding Resources	43,461	10,320	11,869	1,549	41,321	46,437	5,116	1,049
Corporate	2,324	722	638	(84)	2,855	2,563	(292)	(94)
Dedicated Schools Grant	5,235	462	(1,774)	(2,236)	1,882	1,882	0	0
Contract sum	(41,794)	(11,187)	(6,892)	4,295	(44,750)	(44,750)	0	0
Total	(54,082)	(13,031)	(3,662)	9,368	(52,123)	(52,123)	0	0
	104	10,720	15,552	4,832	0	4,825	4,825	953

Family Help & Safeguarding

2.6 As at the end of Period 3, Family Help & Safeguarding is forecast to overspend this year by **£5.116m**, with net expenditure of **£46.437m** against a budget of **£41.321m**.

The overall budget is made up of:

- Placement & Placement-related budgets - **£23.321m** (detailed in Appendix 1)
- Family Help and other social care budgets - **£18.000m**

The forecast is an overspend of **£5.116m** at Period 3. The main variances are:

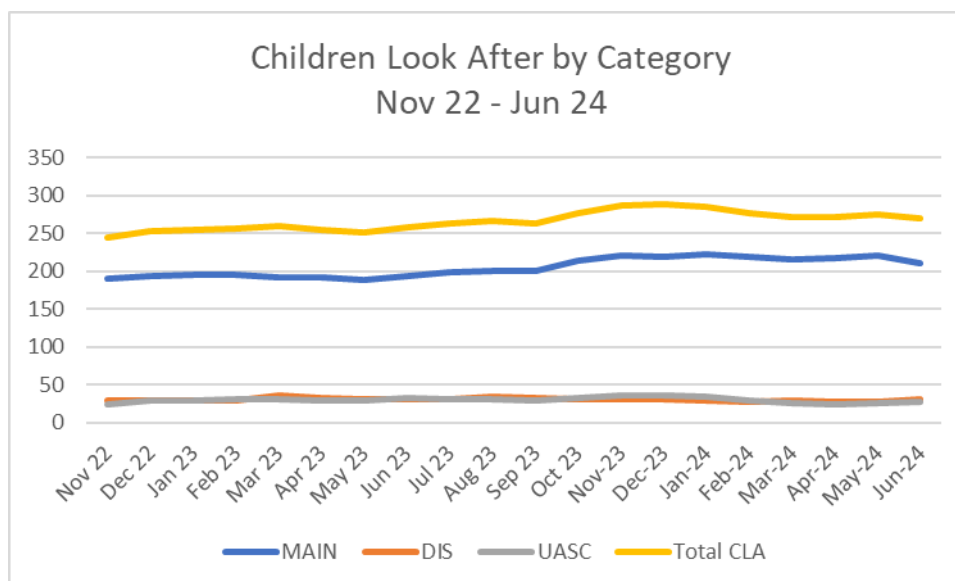
- **£4.766m** overspend on Corporate Parenting (**£5.067m** overspend on external children looked after placements, offset by underspends of **(£0.301m)** on other placements and allowances.
- **£0.421m** overspend on Together for Families (staff and Family Group Conferences)
- Overall underspend of **(£0.070m)** on Children and Young People with Disabilities (CYPDT) due to unachievable income **£0.200m** on Cressingham Short Breaks Provision, offset by a forecast underspend of **(£0.270m)** on CYPDT placements based on current forecast placement costs.

Children Looked After Data

2.7 The number of Children Looked After at the end of June, was 270, which include 28 who are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The number of Children Looked After previously reported at the end of May 2024 was 275, which represents a decrease of 5 Children Looked After. However, after backdated adjustments for packages which had ended the end of May position reduced the number of placements at the end of May to 271, which represents an actual reduction of 1 Child Looked After.

2.10 The graph below shows the changes in children looked after numbers from November 2022, the date on which the 2023/24 placement budget was based, to June 2024:

Chart 1. Graph of children looked after by category.



Savings Tracker

2.11 The budget for 2024/25 assumes the delivery of savings to a total value of **(£2.285m)**. This comprises:

- MTFS savings – **(£0.116m)**
- Transformation savings offsetting internal pressures – **(£1.205m)**
- Vacancy, efficiency and other savings offsetting internal pressures – **(£0.964m)**
- Forecast savings delivery is **(£1.957m)**, which assumes red-rated savings of **£0.328m**, which will not be delivered. The current RAG assessment against the savings is:
 - Red-rated – **£0.328m**
 - Amber rated - **£0.074m**
 - Green-rated - **£1.363m**
 - Blue rated - **£0.595m**

2.12 Further information on specific savings targeted and achieved is shown on the Savings Tracker in Section 8. These will be monitored closely on reported on a monthly basis.

MTFS Impact 2025/26

2.13 The additional spend pressure in 2024/25 is likely to have implications for the budget requirement. It is too early at this stage of the year to assess the impact on 2025/26, though this will be done as part of the preparation of the business case for Placement Demand for the 2025/26 MTFS which is due for submission in September.

3. Income and Expenditure Summary

3.1 The table below shows the forecast position by income and expenditure variance and the movement from the previous month.

Table 4: Summary of income and expenditure at Period 3

BUDGET SUMMARY	23/24 Outturn £000	24/25 Budget YTD £000	24/25 Spend YTD £000	24/25 Variance YTD £00	24/25 Annual Budget £000	24/25 Forecast Outturn Period 3 £000	24/25 Forecast Variance P3 £000	Movement from Previous Month £000	Key
Employee Expenditure	27,842	7,908	6,741	(1,167)	31,702	31,405	(297)	(99)	
Agency Expenditure	6,151	543	(854)	(1,398)	2,173	2,555	382	117	
Other Employee Related Expenditure	780	204	156	(48)	815	815	0	0	
Employee & Agency Total	34,773	8,655	6,043	(2,613)	34,691	34,776	85	18	
Premises Related Expenditure	(27)	31	(56)	(87)	125	125	0	0	
Transport Related Expenditure	4,156	1,435	709	(726)	4,338	4,344	6	6	
Supplies and Services Expenditure	12,436	15,424	4,509	(10,915)	17,523	17,523	0	0	
Contracted Expenditure	55,912	12,602	11,271	(1,331)	50,450	54,984	4,534	932	
Support Services & Recharges Expenditure	6,038	838	1,467	630	5,194	5,194	0	0	
Other Expenditure Total	78,514	30,330	17,902	(12,428)	77,630	82,170	4,540	938	
Government Grant Income	(7,731)	(1,569)	4,000	5,569	(6,075)	(5,875)	200	0	
Other Income	(9,578)	(2,479)	(1,838)	640	(9,373)	(9,373)	0	0	
Contract Sum Income	(54,082)	(13,031)	(3,662)	9,369	(52,123)	(52,123)	0	0	
Dedicated Schools Grant Income	(41,794)	(11,187)	(6,892)	4,295	(44,750)	(44,750)	0	0	
Income Total	(113,185)	(28,265)	(8,392)	19,873	(112,321)	(112,121)	200	0	
Grand Total	103	10,720	15,552	4,832	0	4,825	4,825	953	

3.2 The explanation of variances which are reflected above are included in the Directorate sections of this report.

4 Family Help and Safeguarding – Maria Young

4.1 The table below shows the forecast P2 position for Family Help and Safeguarding. The overall position is a forecast overspend of **£5.116m**.

Table 5: Overview of 2024-25 Family Help and Safeguarding budget as at Period 3

Departmental & Income and Expenditure Summary (Family Help & Safeguarding)	23/24 Outturn £000	24/25 Budget YTD £000	24/25 Spend YTD £000	24/25 Variance YTD £00	24/25 Annual Budget £000	24/25 Forecast Outturn Period 3 £000	24/25 Forecast Variance P3 £000	Movement from Previous Month £000	Key
By Directorate	-								
Family Help	2,674	698	926	228	2,568	2,568	0	0	2
Children's Single Point of Access	1,092	363	367	4	1,252	1,252	0	0	2
Youth Justice Service & Extra	480	145	337	193	579	579	0	0	2
Together for Families	6,342	1,483	1,558	76	5,931	6,351	421	117	
Children and Young People Disability	6,921	1,647	1,579	(68)	6,590	6,519	(70)	43	
Corporate Parenting	23,431	5,496	6,785	1,289	21,985	26,751	4,766	889	
Director of Family Help & Safeguarding	2,522	488	316	(173)	2,418	2,418	0	0	
Total Family Help & Safeguarding	43,461	10,320	11,869	1,549	41,321	46,437	5,116	1,049	
By Income and Expenditure	-								
Employee Expenditure	15,826	4,865	4,234	(631)	19,462	19,462	0	0	
Agency Expenditure	5,191	543	397	(146)	2,173	2,555	382	117	
Other Staff-related Expenditure	224	90	88	(1)	358	358	0	0	
Premises Related	90	28	(39)	(67)	113	113	0	0	
Transport Related	120	25	31	6	101	101	0	0	
Supplies and Services Expenditure	1,450	297	587	290	1,500	1,500	0	0	
Contracted Expenditure	26,162	5,858	4,306	(1,552)	23,431	27,965	4,534	932	
Support Services & Recharges	(292)	(107)	138	245	(1,360)	(1,360)	0	0	

Government Grant Income	(5,052)	(1,102)	2,283	3,385	(4,199)	(3,999)	200	0
Other Income	(259)	(177)	(158)	19	(258)	(258)	0	0
Total Family Help & Safeguarding	43,461	10,320	11,868	1,548	41,321	46,437	5,116	1,049

Overall Position

1. Family Help and Safeguarding

1. Overall position

The overall budget is £41.321m, which is made up of:

- Placement & Placement-related budgets - £23.321m (detailed in Appendix 1)
- Family Help and other social care budgets - £18.000m

The forecast is £5.116m (12.4% of budget) overspend at Period 3. The main variances are:

- £4.766m on Corporate Parenting (£4.833m on children looked after placements (line 12 minus line 1 in Appendix 1), offset by underspends of £0.046m on other placements (line 17, Appendix 1) and £0.021m on allowances (line 22, Appendix 1).
- £0.421m on Together for Families (staff and Family Group Conferences)
- (£0.070m) on Children and Young People with Disabilities (unachievable income £0.200m, offset by a forecast underspend of £0.270m on CYPDT placements)

FHS Summary of main variances			
Service	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
External placements	14.841	19.639	4.797
Other placement-related costs	8.480	8.179	-0.301
Staff	19.462	19.844	0.382
Other FHS Budgets	-1.462	-1.224	0.238
Total	41.321	46.437	5.116

The 2024/25 budget includes the increase in the contract sum of £5.941m for ongoing placement pressures. A contingency is held within Reading Borough Council's accounts for further potential pressure in this area.

2. Family Help, CSPOA, Supporting Families grant, YOS (includes budgeted savings of (£0.605m)).

Overall Family Help is forecast on budget at Period 3.

Family Help, Supporting Families grant and YOS has so far delivered gross savings of (£0.817m), offset by loss of income of £0.292m, realising a net saving of (£0.525m) of the budgeted savings of £0.605m, which it is responsible for delivering. The bulk of these is driven by vacancy savings. Further details are included in the Saving Tracker in section 8 of the report.

3. Together for Families (TfF)

The forecast overspend of £0.421m is made up of:

- £0.382m on staffing. This is due to a staffing budget and agency cost pressures of £0.257m and a shortfall on the saving requirement from the staffing restructure of £0.125m, which was originally targeted to save £0.151m. The shortfall is due to delay in the implementation of the staffing restructure due to a combination of the need to clarify costs of redundancies and the ILACS inspection and a reduced total savings expectation overall.
- £0.039m on Family Group Conferences (FGCs). There is growing demand for the use of FGCs to work with families to prevent family breakdowns and the potential to avoid children becoming looked after. It is also part of the edge of care transformation work to re-unify looked after children with their families.

The budget for No Recourse to Public Funds and s17 expenses are both forecast on budget for Period 3. Measures have been put in place for each area, to avoid overspends which arose in 2023/24. This will continue to be monitored during the year.

4. Children & Young People with a Disability (CYPDT)

The overall forecast is for (£0.070m) underspend. However, further detailed reviews of the various CYPDT budgets are to be carried out in period 3, following a review of the codes. The main variances are:

- (£0.270m) underspend on external residential & foster care, which is included as part of the placement and placement-related budgets (Appendix 1)
- £0.200m overspend on Cressingham Short Breaks Provision, due to an unachievable income budget of £0.270m.

5. Corporate Parenting

The total forecast overspend on Corporate Parenting is **£4.766m**, all of which relates to placement and placement-related costs. This is offset by (£0.270m) underspend on CYPDT external purchasing (line 1 of Appendix 1), giving a net overspend of **£4.496m** (line 30).

The key variances on Corporate Parenting are in the following areas:

- External placements - **£5.067m** overspend (line 7, Appendix 1), reflecting the ongoing increased costs of Children Looked After placements.
- Remand placements – (£0.075m) underspend (line 8, Appendix 1).
- Leaving Care Support (line 23, Appendix 1) - **On budget**. This is broadly in line with the 2023/24 outturn expenditure. A budget virement of £0.619m will be actioned to transfer budget from Leaving Care to External placements in Period 4 to take account of mis-codings and corrections at year end between respective budgets. This virement has been anticipated in the P3 forecast.
- Other underspend variations totalling (£0.229m) are: Connected carers (£0.124m), Fostering allowances (£0.038m), child arrangement orders (£0.040m), Staying put (£0.011m) and supported lodgings (£0.032m).

6. Management

There are no variances reported on the management budgets, most of which relate to staffing budgets, which will be reviewed in period 4. There is a budget of £0.300m for agency staff, which will offset approved agency spend in other staff budgets.

Children Looked After

The number of Children Looked After on 30 June 2024 was 270, a net decrease of five since 31 May 2024. This includes an increase of two Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), which are government grant funded. Excluding UASC, there were 148 external residential, foster care and supported accommodation placements on 30 June 2024.

There are 14 children looked after who have ceased to be Children Looked After and moved in to other types of care (summary in table below) and 9 new children looked after, which brings the total number of children looked after as at 30 June 2024 to 270.

Placement change to	No.
SGO	4
Adoption	2
Connected care	3
Leaving care	2
UASC over 18	2
Remand ended	1
Total	14

There are 37 placements, with a forecast cost in the year in excess of £0.200m, with a total aggregate forecast cost of £13.102m (£0.354m average), which represents 76% of the total budget of £17.134m direct placement costs and represents 60% of the total forecast of £21.695m direct placements costs.

The forecast includes 2 new placements, at a cost of £0.435m, that are either in or about to enter legal proceedings. Where court dates are known, the forecasts are based on those dates. Otherwise, an estimated date has been used.

In addition to the monthly placement review meetings, a weekly tracker has recently been introduced to monitor, and report on, variations in forecast placement costs of Children Looked After. This is reviewed at the weekly resource panel, chaired by the Director of Family Help and Safeguarding, where requests for approvals of changes in care package costs are considered, together with any proposed new placements and other resource implications.

Movement from Period 2

The overall change from Period 2 is an adverse movement of £1.049m, which is mainly due to:

- 1. Together for Families (TfF) (Adverse movement £0.117m)**
 - Increase in spend on staffing within the TfF teams due mainly to updated information on agency costs.

2. Corporate Parenting (Adverse movement £0.889m)

Children Look After and other placements movements

- Increase in children’s external residential placements of **£0.781m** due to cost impact of new and changed placements in Period 3. This is largely reflected in the movements shown in tables 6 and 7 below which show the impact of placement changes of greater than £10,000. Increased costs are **£1.606m**, which are part offset by reductions of **(£0.817m)** resulting in a net additional cost of **£0.789m**. This includes a new high-cost placement of **£0.368m**.
- Other children looked after movements are reductions in Parent and child placement **(£0.089m)**, fostering allowances **(£0.008m)**, and connected carers **(£0.013m)**.
- External foster care increases of **£0.086m**
- Staying Put allowances increase **£0.082m**.
- Overall movement is **£0.050m**

Individual Placement Changes

- There are 21 placements, across all placement types, where the costs in 2024/25 have increased by £10,000 or more since May 2024. In aggregate these account for additional costs of **£1.607m**. Details are in the table below.

Table 6. Increased Children Looked After costs of more than £10,000 since May

Increase > £10k Period 2 to Period 3		
Reason for increase	No.	Cost (£)
New placement	7	608,286
Placement change	5	582,188
Placement extended	6	363,226
Cost changes	1	26,043
One-off/respice	2	27,047
Total	21	1,606,790

- There are 17 placements where costs have reduced by more than £10,000 since May 2024, a total reduction in forecast of **(£0.817m)**. Details are in the table below.

Table 7. Reduced Children Looked After costs of more than £10,000 since May

Reduction > £10k Period 2 to Period 3		
Reason for increase	No.	Cost (£)
Placement change	2	(200,138)
Ending of placements	4	(152,973)
Ending of supported accommodation	4	(96,780)
Ending of enhanced support	2	(67,830)
12 weeks for cast for parent and child	3	(254,919)
Ending of No Resource to Public Finds	1	(17,371)
Ending of foster carer fee	1	(27,061)
Total	17	(817,072)

3. Children and Young People Disability team (Adverse movement £0.043m)

- Disabled children’s residential placements – reduction of **£0.043m**.

5 Education Services – Brian Grady

6.1 The table below shows the forecast P3 position for Education. The overall position is a forecast in line with budget. A more detailed review of all budgets will be undertaken for Periods 4 and 5.

Table 9: Overview of 2024-2025 Education Budget at period 3

Departmental & Income and Expenditure Summary (Education Services)	23/24 Outturn £000	24/25 Budget YTD £000	24/25 Spend YTD £000	24/25 Variance YTD £00	24/25 Annual Budget £000	24/25 Forecast Outturn Period 3 £000	24/25 Forecast Variance P3 £000	Movement from Previous Month £000	Key
By Directorate	-								
Director of Education	225	75	(19)	(93)	(64)	(64)	0	0	
Education Access & Support	303	264	274	10	440	440	0	0	
Virtual School	0	62	756	693	25	25	0	0	
School Effectiveness	0	76	303	226	24	24	0	0	
SEND & School Travel	32,521	1,457	1,157	(300)	4,628	4,629	1	(2)	1
Dedicated Schools Grant	10,873	21,540	11,553	(9,987)	44,750	44,750	0	0	
Education Psychology	558	143	195	52	610	610	0	0	
Mental Health	344	108	514	406	432	432	0	0	
Early Years	136	(290)	642	932	(30)	(30)	0	0	
Total Education Services	44,959	23,435	15,375	(8,061)	50,814	50,815	1	(2)	
By Income and Expenditure	-								
Employee Expenditure	7,151	2,121	1,754	(367)	8,553	8,548	(5)	(5)	1
Agency Expenditure	243	0	19	19	0	0	0	0	
Other Staff related Expenditure	70	3	25	22	13	13	0	0	
Premises Related	23	3	(17)	(20)	12	12	0	0	
Transport Related	3,999	1,409	673	(735)	4,231	4,237	6	6	1
Supplies and Services Expenditure	9,201	15,060	4,574	(10,486)	15,710	15,710	0	0	
Contracted Expenditure	28,315	6,744	6,981	237	27,020	27,020	0	0	

Support Services & Recharges	(800)	(959)	187	1,146	(995)	(995)	0	0
Government Grant Income	(1,178)	(467)	1,173	1,639	(1,866)	(1,866)	0	0
Other Income	(2,064)	(480)	5	484	(1,863)	(1,863)	0	0
Total Education Services	44,959	23,435	15,375	(8,061)	50,814	50,815	1	1

Overall Position

1. Education Access and Support (On Target)

- Education Welfare – The position remains unchanged from Period 2 and the service continues to experience in-year pressure on their DSG funded budgets due to the on-going support required for pupils outside of education including pupils excluded from the PRU during the latter part of last financial year.

2. Virtual School (On target)

- The Virtual school has a savings target of (£0.025m). The service is exploring cost savings measures as well as income generation options. They remain confident that the savings target will be achieved.

3. SEN & School Transport (Overspend £0.001m)

- Mainstream School Transport – The service projects slight underspend of (£0.005m). As with all transport costs, projections will be more accurate after September and the start of the new academic year when pupils movements and demand have been finalised.
- Special School Transport – Now projecting a reduced overspend of £0.006m. The number of routes has fallen since the start of the year and contracts have been retendered at lower rates. As with all transport costs, projections will be more accurate after September and the start of the new academic year.

Movement from Period 2

With the school summer break approaching, most budget projections remain unchanged from Period 2. Special School Transport is projecting a small reduction in it projected overspend from £0.008m to £0.006m. This is due to the ongoing work to rationalise transport routes and the early retendering of existing routes. However, as with all budgets effected by pupil numbers, a more accurate projection will be available post September and the commencement of the new academic year when pupil numbers, location and number of transport routes required will be better known.

6 Resources

7.1 The table below shows the forecast P3 position for Resources. The overall position is a forecast underspend of (£0.292m).

Table 10 : Overview of 2024-2025 Resources Budget at Period 3

Departmental & Income and Expenditure Summary (Resources)	23/24 Outturn £000	24/25 Budget YTD £000	24/25 Spend YTD £000	24/25 Variance YTD £00	24/25 Annual Budget £000	24/25 Forecast Outturn Period 3 £000	24/25 Forecast Variance P3 £000	Movement from Previous Month £000	Key
By Directorate	-								
Communications & Marketing	355	107	85	(22)	427	401	(26)	(26)	
Information, Advice and Support Service	112	40	26	(13)	148	126	(22)	(22)	
Commissioning	325	149	236	87	525	465	(60)	(46)	
Performance Management	335	109	107	(2)	441	441	0	0	
Business Support	1,069	294	209	(85)	1,176	992	(184)	0	
Resources Other	128	24	(25)	(49)	138	138	0	0	
Total Resources	2,324	722	638	(84)	2,855	2,563	(292)	(94)	
By Income and Expenditure	-								
Employee Expenditure	2,520	741	558	(184)	2,966	2,674	(292)	(94)	
Agency Expenditure	(41)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Staff related Expenditure	108	25	26	1	101	101	0	0	
Premises Related	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transport Related	1	1	0	(1)	4	4	0	0	
Supplies and Services Expenditure	297	59	106	47	280	280	0	0	
Contracted Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Support Services & Recharges	(134)	0	0	0	(100)	(100)	0	0	
Government Grant Income	17	0	(45)	(45)	(10)	(10)	0	0	
Other Income	(449)	(105)	(7)	99	(387)	(387)	0	0	
Total Resources	2,324	722	638	(84)	2,855	2,563	(292)	(94)	

Overall Position

Resources are forecasting an underspend of (£0.292m) arising from savings mainly driven by vacancies.

- The commissioning team has delivered (£0.060m) of savings due to vacancies and the proposed restructure / change of grades.
- Business support has generated (£0.184m) of savings against and overall savings target of (£0.268m). The balance of the savings is expected to be achieved through further vacancy management.
- Two more vacancies have been identified in the Marketing team (£0.026) and IASS (£0.022m), which deliver further savings.

Movement from Period 2

The favourable movement (£0.094m) is driven by vacancy management and further underspends.

7 Corporate Services –Lara Patel

7.1 The table below shows the forecast P2 position for Corporate Services which is forecast on budget.

Table 11: Overview of 2023-2024 Corporate Budget at period 3

Departmental & Income and Expenditure Summary (Corporate Services)	23/24 Outturn £000	24/25 Budget YTD £000	24/25 Spend YTD £000	24/25 Variance YTD £00	24/25 Annual Budget £000	24/25 Forecast Outturn P3 £000	24/25 Forecast Variance P3 £000	Movement from Previous Month £000	Key
By Directorate	-								
Operational Directors	470	150	52	(99)	460	460	0	0	
Support Services SLAs Including property leases	303	273	(808)	(1,081)	1,267	1,267	0	0	
Chair and Non-Executive Directors	115	39	36	(3)	155	155	0	0	
Holding Codes and Old Codes	4,347	0	(1,054)	(1,054)	0	0	0	0	
Total Corporate Services	5,235	462	(1,774)	(2,236)	1,882	1,882	0	0	
By Income and Expenditure	-								
Employee Expenditure	2,344	180	195	15	722	722	0	0	
Agency Expenditure	758	0	(1,270)	(1,270)	0	0	0	0	
Other Staff related Expenditure	378	86	16	(70)	343	343	0	0	
Premises Related	(146)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Transport Related	37	0	5	5	1	1	0	0	
Supplies and Services Expenditure	1,487	8	(758)	(766)	33	33	0	0	
Contracted Expenditure	1,436	0	(16)	(16)	0	0	0	0	
Support Services & Recharges	7,264	1,904	1,142	(761)	7,649	7,649	0	0	
Government Grant Income	(1,518)	0	590	590	0	0	0	0	

Other Income	(6,805)	(1,717)	(1,679)	38	(6,866)	(6,866)	0	0
Total Corporate Services	5,235	462	(1,774)	(2,236)	1,882	1,882	0	0

Overall position

Corporate Services are trending on budget. SLA legal costs are currently being reviewed. The outcome of the review will be reported in Period 4.

8 Savings Tracker

- 8.1 The savings tracker below shows all the savings which are targeted in the current year which total **(£2.285m)** and the current RAG status of those savings.
- 8.2 The current forecast for the Period 2 is that **(£1.957m)** of the savings will be achieved, with **£0.328m** of the savings which are red rated and not likely to be achieved, will need alternative action to mitigate through the Recovery Plan. The table below shows RAG rated position on all savings targeted.

Transformation and Internal Pressure Savings 2024/25 : Period 3							
			2024/25 Savings				
Description	Lead Officer	Savings/Income 2024/25	Red	Amber	Green	Blue	Total Savings Target for 2024-25
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Transformation Savings							
Included in MTFS:							
Increase in in-house Foster Carers	Maria Young	74		74			74
Development of Edge of Care	Maria Young	(190)			(190)		(190)
Offsetting internal pressures:							
Childrens Residential Home	Kelly Hallett	0					0
Family Hub	Maria Young	(605)			(80)	(525)	(605)
School Transport	Brian Grady	(395)			(395)		(395)
Service Reductions - Education	Brian Grady	(205)			(205)		(205)
Further Internal Pressure Savings:							
Vacancy Savings	Service wide	(163)			(163)		(163)
Efficiency Savings	Service wide	(276)	(125)		(138)		(276)
Funding changes	Service wide	(396)	(163)		(128)	(70)	(396)
Other Budget savings	Service wide	(129)	(40)		(64)		(129)
Total Savings		(2,285)	(328)	74	(1,363)	(595)	(2,285)

Further information on savings already delivered and red-rated savings is outlined below.

Savings already achieved

- **Family Hub** – current vacancies within Family Help are forecast to achieve gross savings of **(£0.817m)** in the current year. These have been offset some pressures within the service, including loss of income, which total £0.292m leaving a net saving of **(£0.525m)**.

Red rated savings

- **Together for Families** - efficiency savings of **(£0.125m)** in Together for Families through social worker recruitment are not expected to be achieved.
- **Pineroft and Cressingham** – additional income from other local authority placements for Pineroft **(£0.063m)** and additional income from capital investment at Cressingham **(£0.100m)** will not be realised.
- **Education Psychology** – planned savings not achievable **(£0.040m)**.

Appendix 1 – Children Social Care Analysis

Appendix 1. Summary of placement and placement-related costs at period 3 (June 2024)

Service Area	Line No.	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	Period 2		Period 3		Movement from Period 3 to Period 2
				Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Children Looked After Placements	-							
CYPDT Placements (External)	1	1,414,600	3,115,300	2,802,038	-313,262	2,844,923	-270,377	42,885
External Placements (see note 1)							0	0
- Residential	2	4,148,693	6,749,300	10,801,773	4,052,473	11,583,117	4,833,817	781,344
- Foster care	3	2,562,707	4,500,000	4,995,542	495,542	5,081,111	581,111	85,569
- Parent & Child	4		177,000	218,913	41,913	129,496	-47,504	-89,417
- Education	5		200,000	0	-200,000	0	-200,000	0
- Alternatives to care	6		100,000	0	-100,000	0	-100,000	0
Total external placements	7	6,711,400	11,726,300	16,016,228	4,289,928	16,793,725	5,067,425	777,497
Remand (see note 2)	8	0	0	-81,099	-81,099	-74,525	-74,525	6,574
Fostering Allowances	9	1,633,000	1,774,300	1,745,402	-28,898	1,736,678	-37,622	-8,724
Connected Carers	10	203,600	518,100	407,159	-110,941	394,476	-123,624	-12,683
UASC	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
						0	0	0
Sub-total	12	9,962,600	17,134,000	20,889,728	3,755,728	21,695,277	4,561,277	805,549
CLA Expenses	13	479,200	798,400	798,400	0	798,400	0	0
Total Children Looked After	14	10,441,800	17,932,400	21,688,128	3,755,728	22,493,677	4,561,277	805,549
Other placements								0
Staying Put Arrangements	15	229,800	349,900	278,838	-71,062	360,919	11,019	82,081
Supported Lodgings	16	40,800	43,700	11,276	-32,424	11,276	-32,424	-0
Total Other placements	17	270,600	393,600	290,114	-103,486	372,194	-21,406	82,080
Total All Placements	18	10,712,400	18,326,000	21,978,242	3,652,242	22,865,872	4,539,872	887,630
Allowances (not CLA)								0
Adoption	19	483,100	502,400	469,079	-33,321	498,263	-4,137	29,184
Child Arrangement Orders	20	219,600	185,200	145,399	-39,801	145,399	-39,801	0
Special Guardianship	21	2,162,300	2,098,800	2,084,118	-14,682	2,096,317	-2,483	12,199
Total Allowances	22	2,865,000	2,786,400	2,698,596	-87,804	2,739,979	-46,421	41,383
Other support costs								0
Leaving Care Support	23	1,547,500	638,700	637,873	-827	640,933	2,233	3,060
CYPDT Packages and Short Breaks	24	449,100	281,100	281,100	0	281,100	0	0
Direct Payments	25	317,400	430,100	430,100	0	430,100	0	0
CIN & S17 Expenses	26	386,600	502,100	502,100	0	502,100	0	0
CYPDT Expenses	27		200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	0
No Recourse to Public Funds	28	57,000	157,000	157,000	0	157,000	0	0
Total other support	29	2,757,600	2,209,000	2,208,173	-827	2,211,233	2,233	3,060
Total Placements & Support	30	16,335,000	23,321,400	26,885,011	3,563,611	27,817,084	4,495,684	932,073

The table below shows the number of CLA placements at 31/6//24 compared to those previously reported at 31/5/24.

No. CLA Placements	31/05/2024			30/06/2024			Change
	External	Internal	Total	External	Internal	Total	
Residential/Supported Accommodation							
- Mainstream	40		40	37		37	-3
- Disability	12		12	13		13	1
- UASC	24		24	26		26	2
Total	76	0	76	76	0	76	0
Foster Care							
- Mainstream	90	44	134	95	37	132	-2
- Disability	3	7	10	3	7	10	0
- UASC		2	2		2	2	0
Total	93	53	146	98	46	144	-2
Connected Carers							
- Mainstream		31	31		28	28	-3
- Disability		0	0		0	0	0
Total	0	31	31	0	28	28	-3
Other							
- Mainstream	3	11	14	2	12	14	0
- Disability		8	8		8	8	0
Total	3	19	22	2	20	22	0
Total CLA	172	103	275	176	94	270	-5
Total by child category							
- Mainstream	133	86	219	134	77	211	-8
- Disability	15	15	30	16	15	31	1
- UASC	24	2	26	26	2	28	2
Total CLA	172	103	275	176	94	270	-5

There have been backdating of placement data on Mosaic in respect of packages which were ended which resulted in the end of May placement numbers being reduced to 271, which means an effective reduction in placement numbers between May and June of 1 placement.

Appendix 2 – Monthly Budget Monitoring Information Schedule 2024/25

Information Sets	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8	Period 9	Period 10	Period 11	Outturn
Income and Expenditure		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Estimated Outturn		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Risks and Opportunities		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Help and Safeguarding		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education Summary		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Resources Summary		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corporate Summary		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Savings Tracker		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dedicated Schools Grant						✓			✓			✓
High Needs Monitoring			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
School Transport (Review)						✓						✓
Agency (Review)					✓							✓
Children Placements Review		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UASC (Review)							✓					✓
Inflation (Review)												✓
Cash Flow			✓			✓			✓			✓
Debtors Update						✓						✓
Inter-Company Update						✓			✓			✓
Grants Update						✓			✓			✓
Reserves Update						✓			✓			✓
Other Funding						✓			✓			✓

End of Report