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To: Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview & Scrutiny
Committee – 22 March 2012

Subject: **SPECIALIST CHILDRENS SERVICES BUDGET FORECAST
REPORT 2011/12**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A report on the forecast outturn & savings position against the budget for the Specialist Children's Services of the Families & Social Care Directorate for the third quarter.

Introduction

1. (1) This is the fourth report for 2011-12 to this Committee on the forecast outturn against budget for the Specialist Children's Services element of the Families & Social Care Directorate.

Background

2. (1) Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees (POSCs) annually consider the draft Medium Term Financial Plan at their November and January meetings. To enable a more informed discussion, reports will be presented to the Committee on a regular basis:

a) **Budget Monitoring reports**

A detailed quarterly budget monitoring report is presented to Cabinet, usually in September, December and March, with a draft final outturn report in July. A report for each directorate is annexed to the summary report, and the annex for the Specialist Children's Services will be presented to this Committee at the meetings following those Cabinet meetings. This will help inform this POSC about current trends, pressures and management actions in advance of the next year's budget setting

b) **Performance data**

This will be reported at least half-yearly to this Committee.

c) **Outturn report**

Effectively an amalgam of the above two, the outturn report will summarise both the financial and performance information for the whole of the preceding year.

(2) Informed by these reports, the POSCs will be in a stronger position to question and comment on the future budget and medium term proposals, as they will be asked to do at the November and January meetings.

Third Quarter Updated Monitoring Report - Revenue

3. (1) The full monitoring report for the third quarter for Specialist Children's Services as presented to Cabinet on 19 March 2012, is attached at Appendix 1 and this indicates an overall overspend of £14.704m.

(2) The revenue over spend breaks down as follows:

	£'m
Looked After-Residential Care	2.386
- Fostering	5.083
- Legal Costs	2.840
- Childrens Centres	-939
Support Services	85
Virtual Schools For Kent	-79
Early Years	-660
Leaving Care - 16+Service (Catch 22)	749
Adoption	713
Other Preventative Services	71
Assessment of Vulnerable - Children (inc Ind Supp)	3.007
Directorate Mgmt & Support	28
Safeguarding	110
Asylum Seekers	1.530
TOTAL	14,704

(3) This forecast assumes all but £1.150m of savings identified within the Medium Term Plan will be achieved.

(4) The main areas to note within the latest position are:

- £1.150m of savings are assumed red within the latest forecast in relation to the following:

	£'m
Children's High Cost Placements	0.750
Out of County Placements	<u>0.400</u>
Total	1.150

Third Quarter Monitoring Report – Capital

4. (1) The full monitoring report for the third quarter for Specialist Children's Services as presented to Cabinet on 19 March 2012, is attached at Appendix 2 and this indicates a slight under spend of £0.093m, of which £0.085m is requested to be re-phased into 12-13.

Recommendations:

5. Members of the Specialist Children's Services Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee are asked to **NOTE** the Quarter 3 monitoring position for revenue, capital and savings, reported to Cabinet in March.

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Background documents: None