

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 10 December 2018

Report Title: Children and Families Budget proposals, 2019/20 to 2021/22

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Jos Saunders, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Senior Officer: Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. In October 2018 Cheshire East Council issued its Pre-Budget Consultation, setting out proposals for change across the Council for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22. This report sets out the proposals in relation to the Children and Families Service.

2. Recommendation/s

- 2.1. That Committee:
- a) Note the proposals set out in the Pre-Budget Consultation.
 - b) Provide feedback on the proposals as part of the consultation.

3. Reasons for Recommendation/s

- 3.1. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee provide essential ongoing scrutiny to the service.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. A number of other budget proposals were considered as part of the annual high level business planning process. However, those within the Pre-Budget Consultation were those supported through the initial stages of development.

5. Background

- 5.1. Cheshire East's Pre-Budget Consultation, published in October 2018, sets out proposals for change across the Council for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22. The consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties to review and comment on the Council's Budget proposals. It is available to

download on the Cheshire East Council website and has been distributed to Council buildings, such as libraries too. The deadline for consultation responses is 14th December 2018.

- 5.2. The extracts at Appendix 1 relate to the specific budget proposals for Children's Services and are provided to the Committee as an opportunity for discussion and scrutiny of the proposals.
- 5.3. The implications of individual proposals may be much wider for individuals affected by each proposal. Where this is the case, we intend to undertake full and proper consultation with key stakeholders.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. Legal advice will be sought, where applicable, to ensure that any changes in services do not impact on our ability to meet our statutory requirements.

6.2. Finance Implications

- 6.2.1. The financial implication of each proposal is set out at Appendix 1.

6.3. Policy Implications

- 6.3.1. There will be some policy implications of the proposals, in particular in relation to the review of allowances for previously cared for children.

6.4. Equality Implications

- 6.4.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for each business case.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

- 6.5.1. If approved, there will be some implications for staffing as a result of these proposals. These will be subject to the relevant consultations with staff.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

- 6.6.1. There is a risk that, following consultation, some of these proposals may be subject to change or be removed from the budget. Risks on individual proposals will be considered in detail as part of the consultation process.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

- 6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People

6.8.1. These proposals will impact on services for children and young people. Impact assessments have been completed for each proposal. We will work to mitigate any negative impact on children and young people.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. These proposals relate to business cases across Children's Services and all wards are likely to be affected.

8. Consultation & Engagement

8.1. The Children and Families proposals are subject to consultation through the pre-budget consultation process. The implications of individual proposals will be subject to full consultation with key stakeholders, where appropriate.

9. Access to Information

9.1. The full Pre-Budget Consultation document can be found at:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/cheshire_east_budget/cheshire-east-budget.aspx

10. Contact Information

10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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Children's Services Extract from the Pre-Budget Consultation 2019/22

Changing the way we work <i>Managing services in a way that gets more for less. Investing in modern technology to get better quality outputs, eliminating duplication and streamlining processes.</i>	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*
14. Children and Families Transport (Revenue Savings) Review of transport policies and delivery arrangements to achieve efficiencies. Work with the current school transport provider, Transport Service Solutions, to explore all options to provide a more cost effective solution. Provide support for ongoing management of transport provision and change programme. <i>Impact on Education Participation and Pupil Support Service Budget =</i>			
	+0.271	-0.009	-0.289
*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19 . Values are not cumulative			

Income generation <i>Charging strategies for each service area to increase income where appropriate based on market rates and considering the price elasticity of demand for services.</i>	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*
15. Provide Schools Meal Subsidy (Revenue Investment) Expectation of income targets from school meals to be removed due to increased food prices and competition from other providers. <i>Impact on Education Infrastructure and Outcomes Service Budget =</i>			
	+0.210	+0.210	+0.210

<p>16. Early Years Team Income (Income Generation)</p> <p>This proposal is to increase the income from selling training, conferences and materials from the Early Years Team both to local early years providers and to other local authorities beyond the basic universal offer.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Impact on Preventative Services Service Budget =</i></p>	-0.020	-0.020	-0.020
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Values are not cumulative</i></p>			

<p>Investment in services</p> <p><i>Investment will be put in to systems that support key services and in to other assets to ensure they remain fit for purpose. The impact of capital spending will be managed at affordable levels.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2019/20 £m*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2020/21 £m*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2021/22 £m*</p>
<p>17. People Directorate Business Management Service (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>To align the business management and support functions in Children and Adult Services to provide a People Directorate Business Management Service. The team is currently staffed with a number of temporary positions, funded from temporary grant budgets. This funding ends on 31st March 2019. The aim is to establish these posts on a permanent basis from April 2019 and to extend its functions across the People Directorate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Impact on People – Children and Families Service Budget =</i></p>	+0.345	+0.345	+0.345
<p>18. Realignment of Children’s Services funding streams (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>Provide additional funding to help manage pressures from Special Educational Needs Placements with independent providers while funding levels are reviewed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Impact on People – Children and Families Service Budget =</i></p>	+0.600	+0.600	+0.600

<p>19. Extension of Traded Service Opportunities with Schools (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>This business case continues to widen our ability as a Council to shape and influence our trading arrangements with Schools/Educational Institutions. This proposal is to request a small growth item to invest in detailed analysis of current trading arrangements in order to consider future models of delivery and establish savings/efficiencies based upon a structured evaluation of existing trading arrangements.</p> <p><i>Impact on Education Infrastructure and Outcomes Service Budget =</i></p>			
	+0.040	+0.040	+0.040
<p><i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19.</i></p> <p><i>Values are not cumulative</i></p>			

<p>Changing the way we work</p> <p><i>Managing services in a way that gets more for less. Investing in modern technology to get better quality outputs, eliminating duplication and streamlining processes.</i></p>	<p>2019/20</p> <p>£m*</p>	<p>2020/21</p> <p>£m*</p>	<p>2021/22</p> <p>£m*</p>
<p>38. Review and reduction of contract values (Children's Services) (Revenue Savings)</p> <p>Across the children's services (social care, education and early intervention) there are a significant amount of external contracts worth circa £21 million. A systematic review of all contracts will be undertaken and a negotiation will take place with the providers to ensure outcomes for children and young people remain person focused.</p> <p><i>Impact on People – Children and Families Service Budget =</i></p>			
	-0.500	-0.500	-0.500
<p><i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19.</i></p> <p><i>Values are not cumulative</i></p>			

Looking after young children	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<i>Review of current service offers to ensure high standards are maintained and demand is managed.</i>	£m*	£m*	£m*
<p>42. Growth Bid Cared for Children and Care Leavers (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>There has been a 17% increase in the numbers of cared for children in Cheshire East over the last year, which is a situation being experienced elsewhere, both regionally and nationally. Although we are still below national and local comparators, admissions to care have continued to exceed the number of discharges and the complexity of needs of individuals are increasing due to improved assessments and effective prevention arrangements. This increase in numbers and complexity has resulted in the need for additional placement purchases, including high cost placements, and additional staffing to support children, young people and care leavers.</p> <p><i>Impact on Commissioning – Social Care – Cared for Children Service Budget =</i></p>			
<p>43. Extension of the Fact22 model (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>Additional investment to provide an intensive support offer for families who have experienced repeat care proceedings and / or who have children in need, where alcohol and substance misuse is negatively impacting upon their ability to care safely for their children.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children in Need and Child Protection Service Budget =</i></p>			
<p><i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19.</i></p> <p><i>Values are not cumulative</i></p>			

Looking after young children	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<i>Review of current service offers to ensure high standards are maintained and demand is managed.</i>	£m*	£m*	£m*
45. Review of allowances for children previously cared for (Revenue Savings) To review the existing policies for the financial support provided to Special Guardians, Adopters and those with Child Arrangement / Residence Orders. Review and re-assess suitability for existing arrangements, how these compare to other similar authorities and consider implementing a new policy for any future financial arrangements. <i>Impact on Cared for Children and Care Leavers Service Budget =</i>			
	-0.075	-0.150	-0.300
<i>*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19.</i> <i>Values are not cumulative</i>			

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£m*	£m*	£m*
71. Council Tax % charge increase Cheshire East Children and Families Local Precept (1% in 2019/20) Nationally Children's Services are under increased financial pressure to sustain effective services to keep children safe and to meet their educational needs. There is a current financial pressure in Cheshire East's Children and Families Service of circa £2.3m in 2018/19. Permanent investment is needed to maintain effective services.	+2.064	+2.064	+2.064