

Cheshire East Council

Date of Meeting: 15th January 2018

Report to: Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject/Title: Children & Families Budget proposals 2018-21

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. In November 2017 Cheshire East Council issued its Pre-Budget Consultation setting out proposals for change for the period 2018/19 to 2020/21. The report provides an opportunity for interested parties to review and comment on the Council's Budget proposals.
- 1.2. The budget proposals described in the consultation document are Council wide proposals and the Council's intention at this stage is that consultation is invited on the broad budget proposals. The implications of individual proposals may be much wider for individuals affected by each proposal. Where this is the case, the Council intends to undertake full and proper consultation with people who would potentially be affected by individual budget proposals
- 1.3. The full Pre-Budget consultation document 2018/21 can be found below:
http://cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/cheshire_east_budget/cheshire_east_budget.aspx
- 1.4. 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.

2. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:

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Children and Families Budget Proposals – Extract from the Pre-budget Report

OUTCOME 3

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>		2018/19 £m*	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*
1. Transport - parental subsidy for Available Walking Routes phase 2 (Revenue Investment) Subsidies to parent / carer to support implementation of proposed phase 2 available walking routes. <i>Impact on Education and Skills Service Budget =</i>				
		+0.070	0.000	0.000
2. Children & Families Transport Policy review (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. <i>Impact on Education and Skills Service Budget =</i>				
		-0.410	-0.570	-0.570
Looking after children and young people <i>Review of current service offers to ensure high standards are maintained and demand is managed.</i>		2018/19 £m*	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*
3. Reduction in Children's commissioned services (Revenue Saving) The cyclical review of the wide variety of commissioned services that support the Council to deliver effective children's services will look to identify efficiencies as contracts come to an end and will also ensure a continuing fit with the internal capacity within Children's Services. <i>Impact on Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i>				
		-0.050	-0.050	-0.050

<p>4. Review of service provision for children with disabilities (Revenue Saving)</p> <p>Carry out a review to ensure efficient management and co-ordination of the short break local offer for children with a disability and their families. Put in place a whole system that is transparent, equitable and provides value for money, using advanced technology, to sustain a good offer to children, young people and their families.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i></p>	-0.200	-0.200	-0.200
<p>5. Care Placements (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 Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i></p>	+3.000	+4.000	+5.000
<p>6. Revise Interagency Income Budget (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>Interagency income has been significantly reduced due to the collaboration with Adoption Counts across the sub region. Therefore, a growth bid is required to offset this loss of income.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i></p>	+0.500	+0.500	+0.500
<p>7. Housing related accommodation and support facilities (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>Permanent funding will ensure the important accommodation and support for cared for children and care leavers at Watermill House can continue.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i></p>	+0.040	+0.040	+0.040

<p>8. Children and Families Staffing Gap (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>The completion of the needs led staffing budget review across children and families has highlighted some additional costs due to increased pay levels. There is a planned increased cost of ICT licenses and maintenance across children and families.</p> <p><i>Impact on People Directorate Service Budget =</i></p>	+0.260	+0.260	+0.260
<p>9. Childcare Sufficiency Programme (Capital Investment)</p> <p>To increase the capacity of early years places to enable all children to access their free entitlement.</p> <p><i>New Capital Investment 2018/19 =</i></p>	+0.234	0.000	0.000
<p>Reducing subsidy</p> <p><i>Ensure limited resources are redirected to the areas with the most critical need.</i></p>	2018/19 £m*	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*
<p>10. End of Early Intervention short-term funding allocation (non Public Health element) (Revenue Savings)</p> <p>End of investment in early help and prevention services that were used to reduce the demand for higher cost services in the longer term.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children and Families Directorate Budget =</i></p>	-1.000	-1.000	-1.000
<p>11. Children and Families Transport (Revenue Investment)</p> <p>Establish key posts with responsibility for school transport and ensure efficiency of future and on going arrangements.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children and Families Directorate Budget =</i></p>	+0.134	+0.075	+0.075

Income generation		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<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>		£m*	£m*	£m*
12. Provide Schools Meal Subsidy (Revenue Investment) PE1819				
Expectation of income targets from school meals to be removed due to increased food prices and competition from other providers.				
<i>Impact on Education and Skills Service Budget =</i>		+0.200	+0.410	+0.410

OUTCOME 5

Changing the way we work		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<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>		£m*	£m*	£m*
52. Restructure Prevention and Support (Revenue Savings)				
Integrate the Prevention Service into the wider Cheshire East Family Support (CEFS) service, and redesign the new service across a continuum of support needs.				
<i>Impact on Prevention and Support Service Budget =</i>		-0.937	-0.937	-0.937
53. Review Safeguarding Children in Education Settings Team (Revenue Savings)				
Charge schools for non-statutory activity carried out by the Safeguarding Children in Education Settings Team (SCIES).				
<i>Impact on Education and Skills Service Budget =</i>		-0.050	-0.050	-0.050
54. Review Early Help Commissioned Services (Revenue Savings)				
This proposal is not to re-commission Early Help services (Family Support and Youth Support) when the current group of contracts come to an end on the 31 st March 2018.				
<i>Impact on Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i>		-0.252	-0.252	-0.252

<p>55. Review Social Care Commissioning (Revenue Savings) Reduce existing contracts across Children's Social Care, reduce the use of a call-off contract and a move away from spot purchasing to a framework contract.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i></p>	-0.085	-0.085	-0.085
<p>56. Youth Support Service Restructure (Revenue Savings) As the number of NEET young people in Cheshire East has reduced this has resulted in smaller group of young people supported into EET. These young people have more complex needs which means the skills set will need to be addressed to respond to the changing demands for work with young people who are not in education, employment and training (NEET).</p> <p><i>Impact on Prevention and Support Service Budget =</i></p>	-0.263	-0.263	-0.263
<p>57. Alignment of teams to create a People's Commissioning Service (Revenue Savings) Align the functions of the children and adult commissioning services to generate savings. Initial savings would be met by not recruiting to duplicated vacancies within the People Directorate.</p> <p><i>Impact on People Directorate Service Budget =</i></p>	-0.030	-0.030	-0.030
<p>58. Realignment of Children's Social Care Management and Staffing (Revenue Savings) Children's Social Care (CSC) teams have been on a significant improvement journey since April 2013, following an 'inadequate' inspection judgment by Ofsted. At that time there was a need to provide a high level of management and support to drive improvements in social work practice. The service is no longer judged inadequate by Ofsted following an inspection in July 2015. CSC has more recently moved away from improvement planning to a 'business as usual' model of working. This targets the service to delivering the statutory requirement to protect and support vulnerable children, young people and families, including cared for children and care leavers. Increasingly CSC is working sub-regionally to collaborate on delivering key services, including adoption and fostering. This has led to the opportunity to reshape and realign remaining services to ensure a better and more targeted use of resources. This includes maximising and targeting which services are commissioned externally.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i></p>	-0.335	-0.335	-0.335

<p>66. Efficiency Savings in Children's Social Care (Revenue Savings)</p> <p>Continue to explore the possibility of improved efficiency of existing safeguarding services by collaborating with a number of other local authority areas to pool resources, share good practice and reduce duplication.</p> <p><i>Impact on Children's Social Care Service Budget =</i></p>	<p>-0.125</p>	<p>-0.125</p>	<p>-0.125</p>
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