

Now the holiday period is over, it is back work. There has not been much happening lately, although we will be now looking to put our next year's precept together, it will not be easy as most of our budgets are under pressure.

What I have done is to give you a flavour of what the budgets are looking like for Month 8 compared to month 6, some have improved while some are still overspent. This is time of year when we have to give a balance budget, or make it up from reserves, and we do not like that.

The total projected overspend at month 8 is £3.4m, which is £1.9m reduction from reduction from the £5.3m forecasted at month 6.

Adult Care and Health Services are forecasting to overspend by £6.8m, £137k worse than month 6. Adult Care Operations is forecasting an overspend of £8.9m, an increase of £160k from month 6. The pressure continues to primarily be the result of residential and nursing price and volume pressure. Client numbers for these areas are 126 higher than the budgeted level of 1995, giving rise to the overspend £2.8m. the remaining projected overspend of £3.6m is price related and due to the higher costs having to be paid for services provided.

Adult Commissioning and Health is forecast to underspend by £527k. Mental Health is forecasting to overspend by £497k. Pressures are being experienced by higher client numbers, residential services have 24 over the budgeted level of 151, have been offset by additional funding support for out of County placements from the Better Care Fund confirmed at Month 6.

Children's Social Care is forecasting to be a little over £1m, a reduction of £227k from month 6.. Support accommodation continues to be driving this pressure. Disabled Children's Service are forecasting a overspend of £1.4m, a reduction of £459k from 6months. As a matter of interest, we have over 700 Children in care.

All other costs which include Staffing, Quality Assurance Reviewing, the Atkinson Home and Safeguarding Service and Strategic Management budgets are forecasting an overspend of just over £1.2m, an increase of £122k from month 6.

Highways infrastructure Development and waste is forecasting an underspend of £516k, at month 8, an increase of £113k from month 6. Highways maintenance are forecasting an overspend of £885k, a worsening of £170k from month 6. This movement is primarily as a result of sustained heavy rainfall in Oct & Nov on safety reaction expenditure.

Waste management is forecasting an underspend of £1.4m, an increase of £453k from month 6. The movement from month 6 is mainly the result of lower waste tonnage. Communities, Public Health, Environment are forecasting an underspend of £482k, an increase of £478k from month 6.

This just a flavour of the situation at month 8, we have 4 more months to go, when the position, hopefully, will bring us to, or nearer a balanced budget. Next month I will be able to update you more on the likely forecast for the end of year.