

Foster Care & Agency Placements TBM 12 - Final Outturn**Budget:**

The updated budget for critical budgets net of DSG is £15.780m and gross £20.147m.

The total budget for **disability** placements is £1.348m this is made up of a long term agency budget of £0.739m anticipating 8.0 placements at £1,767.68 unit cost per week plus £0.123m for respite placements and £0.486m for Pameira.

The budget for **foster agency** placements of £3.912m anticipates 71.0 FTE basic placements at £841.09 unit cost per week plus 20.0 FTE Parent & Baby placements at £734.14 per week.

The budget for agency **residential/schools** placements of £5.206m anticipated 40.0 placements at £2,488.95 unit cost per week (Residential - 29.0 FTE at £3,235.85 per week. Schools - 11.00 FTE at £519.87 per week.)

The budget for **in-house foster care** of £4.35m anticipated 118,5848 foster care days at £256.77 unit cost per week

The budget for **Secure Accommodation** of £0.233m anticipated 1.0 placement at £4,460.08 unit cost per week

The budget for **Leaving Care & Ex Asylum Seekers Payments** of £0.995m

The original budget for **Educational Agency placements** of £3.861m anticipated 134.0 placements at £552.58 unit cost per week

The net cost includes income from grants

Trends required:

Stabilisation or reduction in disability and residential placements in line with family support strategy

Reduction in unit costs of disability and residential placements in line with high-cost placement strategy

Shift from expensive independent foster agency placements to in-house foster care in line with new foster care payments system

Current position and projections

The overall position is an **overspend of £0.653m net of Dedicated Schools Grant.**

Disability agency placements

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Placements	9.61	9.36	9.11	8.94	8.70	8.67	8.65	8.61	8.57	8.83	8.81	8.73
Unit costs pw £	1,720.72	1,706.15	1,786.64	1,786.57	1,734.60	1,737.75	1,740.81	1,740.66	1,762.71	1,722.68	1,722.75	1,745.17
Net cost pa £	0.864m	0.835m	0.851m	0.835m	0.789m	0.788m	0.787m	0.784m	0.790m	0.795m	0.794m	0.796m

Analysis

The number of Disability placements during 2007/2008 was 8.78 FTE with an average unit cost of £1,745.17. The numbers of placements was 0.78 FTE above the budgeted level although the placements have a lower average unit costs than budgeted of -£22.51 per week. The combination of these two factors resulted in an **overspend of £56,900**. The number and cost of respite places resulted in an **underspend of -£6,400**. The final cost of the contract with NCH at Palmeira resulted in an **underspend of -£27,000**. Taking all Disability services together the final position for 2007/2008 was an **overspend of £23,500**.

Foster agency placements

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Placements	110.28	94.18	90.87	93.76	95.20	96.70	93.24	91.99	92.17	91.56	90.79	90.19
Unit costs pw £	861.94	865.34	891.32	894.80	878.06	872.66	881.53	878.09	869.79	867.71	865.06	865.84
Net cost pa £	4.970m	4.261m	4.235m	4.387m	4.371m	4.412m	4.298m	4.223m	4.192m	4.154m	4.106m	4.083m

Analysis

The number of IFA placements during 2007/2008 was 90.19 FTE. This is -0.81 FTE below that allowed in the budget. The unit cost of £865.84 per week is £43.73 above the budgeted level.

The combination of these two things has resulted in an **overspend of £171,600** in 2007/2008. This is a reduction of -£23,200 on the overspend reported last month due to the decreases in the number of placements by -0.60 FTE.

Agency residential placements

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Placements	38.42	38.77	38.58	37.78	38.17	37.92	41.09	42.08	42.70	42.58	42.53	42.42
Unit costs pw £	2,294.34	2,362.28	2,355.61	2,336.91	2,401.31	2,367.23	2,212.59	2,252.50	2,229.43	2,226.60	2,214.20	2,212.93
Net cost pa £	4.609m	4.789m	4.751m	4.616m	4.793m	4.694m	4.753m	4.957m	4.978m	4.957m	4.924m	4.908m

Analysis

The number of placements during 2007/08 was 42.42 FTE, this is broken down as 25.81 FTE residential, 14.27 FTE Schools placements and 2.34 FTE Family Assessment Placements. The budget allowed for 29.0 FTE Residential and 11.0 FTE Schools placements. The number of placements were 2.42 FTE above the budgeted level but the average unit cost was lower (-£275.88 per week) than allowed in the budget. The combination of these things has resulted in an **underspend of -£296,900**. This is a decrease of -£15,500 on the previously reported projection, due mainly to reductions of -0.11 FTE placements and -£1.27 in the average unit cost.

In-house Foster Care

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Foster care days	10,041	10,298	9,922	10,345	10,252	10,017	10,165	9,781	10,138	10,269	9,526	10,238
Unit cost pw £	271.39	278.31	278.25	275.60	275.59	275.11	275.23	275.44	273.46	273.42	272.60	274.87
Net cost pa £	4.853m	4.852m	4.838m	4.792m	4.790m	4.785m	4.777m	4.770m	4.729m	4.729m	4.712m	4.751m

Analysis

Based on the current level of In-House foster placements and assuming no more growth in basic placements the current projected position is an **overspend of £405,800**. A breakdown and movement from previous report is shown below:

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	Variation	Movement
Fostering Allowances	-25,000	-18,200
Placements with relatives	12,700	-6,700
Residence orders	415,700	2,800
Intensive Placements	53,200	-900
Special Guardianship	73,800	6,700
Transport & taxis	-124,600	55,100
Total	405,800	38,800

Secure Accommodation

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Placements	1.01	1.17	1.07	1.33	1.17	1.20	1.20	1.17	2.06	1.40	1.59	1.59
Unit costs pw £	4,425.72	4,186.86	4,643.96	4,563.32	4,852.43	4,944.42	4,911.08	4,651.90	2,938.04	3,639.98	3,358.06	3,335.49
Net cost pa £	0.233m	0.255m	0.259m	0.316m	0.296m	0.332m	0.309m	0.284m	0.317m	0.267m	0.279m	0.278m

Analysis

There were 1.59 FTE secure placements in 2007/2008 which is above the budgeted provision. The average unit costs is lower than anticipated and the combination of these two things has resulted in a year end **overspend of £44,600**.

Leaving Care Payments

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Placements	n/a	n/a	n/a	na	125.00	131.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00
Unit costs pw £	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	175.80	175.02	175.02	175.02	176.96	176.73	178.28	190.94
Net cost pa £	1.060m	1.060m	1.060m	1.075m	1.149m	1.221m	1.186m	1.186m	1.201m	1.198m	1.209M	1.298M

Analysis

The Post 16 Service, Leaving Care and Ex Asylum Seekers Payments budget has ended the year with an **overspend of £304k**, which is an increase of £88k since last month. This overspend is due to £273k for Accommodation costs; £28k for Ex Asylum Seekers; Other £24k and underspends of -£16k Post 16 fostering allowances and -£5k on living costs. The movement from last month is mainly due to greater expenditure on living allowances than anticipated which has resulted in a reduction in the underspend in this area from £80k to £5k.

Educational Agency

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Placements	128	130	131	133	132	130	133	136	134	133	132	128
Unit cost pw £	631.23	619.16	616.04	607.35	612.53	632.73	616.15	605.21	604.36	604.29	593.29	608.87
Net cost pa £	4.213m	4.197m	4.208m	4.212m	4.216m	4.288m	4.273m	4.292m	4.223m	4.191m	4.084m	4.064m

Analysis

The final position showed that there were 128 FTE educational agency school placements with an average unit cost £608.87 per week. Previously we reported that since the budget was set there had been 3 new high costs placements totalling over £300k and also an increase in education costs from Children's Social Care Agency budgets and as a result the estimated overspend was £427k. The Director previously agreed to transfer £214k unallocated budget to offset this and then a further £292k from unallocated DSG giving a projected underspend of £79k. Movement since shows a further reduction of £224k due mainly to reductions in numbers and successful tribunal cases which results in a underspend of £303k. As this budget forms part of the DSG the underspend will be carried forward at the year end.

