

**Decision Maker:** PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND HEALTH

**Date:** For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Adult Care and Health Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

**Title:** BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22

**Contact Officer:** James Mullender, Head of Finance, Adults, Health & Housing  
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**Chief Officer:** Director of Adult Social Care

**Ward:** All Wards

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report provides the budget monitoring position for 2021/22 for the Adult Care and Health Portfolio based on activity up to the end of December 2021.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 The Adult Care and Health PDS Committee is invited to:

- i) Note the net underspend of £113k on controllable expenditure based on information as at December 2021;
- ii) Note the full year effect cost pressures of £6,427k in 2022/23 as set out in section 3.6;
- iii) Note the comments of the Director of Adult Social Care in section 3.8; and
- iv) Refer the report to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

2.2 The Adult Care and Health Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- i) Note the projected underspend of £113k on controllable expenditure based on information as at December 2021; and
- ii) Agree the release of amounts carried forward to 2022/23 as set out in section 3.7.

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None directly arising from this report
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## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Sound financial management
  2. MBEB Priority: For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices. To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
  3. Budget head/performance centre: AC&H Portfolio Budgets
  4. Total current budget for this head: £74.4m
  5. Source of funding: AC&H approved budget
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## Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 351 Full time equivalent
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not applicable
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: The statutory duties relating to financial reporting are covered within the Local Government Act 1972; the Local Government Finance Act 1998; the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996; the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government Act 2002
  2. Call-in: Applicable
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## Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The 2021/22 budget reflects the financial impact of the Council's strategies, service plans etc. which impact on all of the Council's customers (including council tax payers) and users of the services
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

### 3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The 2021/22 projected outturn for the Adult Care and Health Portfolio is detailed in Appendix 1A, broken down over each division within the service. Appendix 1B gives explanatory notes on the movements in each service. The current position is a projected underspend of £113k on the controllable budget, and some of the main variances are highlighted below.

3.2 It should be noted that although this budget monitoring position is as at the end of December 2021, there have been some issues with the migration of data from CareFirst to LiquidLogic as well as the creation of Business Object reports that meant the data could not be relied on for budget monitoring purposes. Care package projections are therefore based on data from CareFirst as at 20<sup>th</sup> October.

3.3 Senior officers meet on a regular basis to scrutinise and challenge the expenditure position and formulate management action to address any issues.

#### 3.4 **Adult Social Care**

3.4.1 Overall the position for Adult Social Care is a projected £34k underspend. The main reasons for this are:

##### Assessment and Care Management - £1,349k overspend

3.4.2 Assessment and Care Management is currently estimated to overspend by £1,349k. This is mainly due to a significant overspend on care packages, partly offset by projected underspends on Day Care, Transport, Extra Care Housing, D2A and Community DoLS.

##### Quality Assurance & Safeguarding - £166k overspend

3.4.3 An overspend of £166k is projected mainly due to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard assessments, partly offset by an underspend in staffing costs.

##### Learning Disabilities - £530k overspend

3.4.4 The overspend in Learning Disabilities is currently projected to be £530k, mainly due to pressures from new and increased care packages and underachievement of budgeted savings.

##### Mental Health - £107k overspend

3.4.5 Projected spend on mental health placements is an overspend of £107k. Although the final result of the full year effect of 2020/21 spend was lower than the growth included in the 2021/22 budget, this is more than offset by increased activity during the year.

##### CCG Funding and COVID grants - £1,920k credit

3.4.6 In November 2021, South East London CCG confirmed they had allocated one-off financial support to the six local authorities to help maintain a robust social care offer over the remainder of the financial year, with £1,430k allocated to Bromley. £920k of this funding is being used to help offset some of the additional care packages and other pressures during the pandemic.

3.4.7 In addition, £1,000k of COVID grant funding from the un-ringfenced Contain Outbreak Management Fund has been legitimately allocated to offset much of the pressures above. Details of the use of COVID grant funding was included in the Council-wide budget monitoring report to Executive in November 2021.

### **3.5 Integrated Commissioning**

3.5.1 There is a projected underspend of £79k within Integrated Commissioning as a result of underspends on staffing and contract budgets.

### **3.6 FULL YEAR EFFECT GOING INTO 2022/23**

3.6.1 The cost pressures identified in section 3.4 above are projected to impact in 2022/23 by £6,427k as detailed in Appendix 2.

### **3.7 AGREEMENT TO RELEASE AMOUNTS CARRIED FORWARD TO 2022/23 BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

3.7.1 It is requested that the following amounts are released in 2022/23, subject to Executive approving the carry forwards on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022. These amounts are being requested now rather than as part of the outturn report to enable initiatives to continue uninterrupted:

#### S31 Action Plan Manager – Dr £20k

3.7.2 A joint review of the Mental Health partnership arrangements (Section 31 Agreement) between the Council and Oxleas NHS Trust whereby LBB social care staff are seconded to Oxleas as part integrated teams was conducted in 2021. The Council and Oxleas are to employ an interim project manager to support both agencies in developing the implementation plan coming out of this review. The funding of this temporary role is to be paid from carrying forward underspent funds from the joint budget held between the Council and Trust as part of the partnership arrangements.

#### Shared Lives posts – Dr £100k

3.7.3 This request is for Shared Lives Project money to be carried over. There have been significant financial savings included in the Shared Lives budget and due to operational issues the Scheme has failed to deliver any efficiencies in 21/22.

3.7.4 Officers have now recruited a Team Manager who has been tasked with developing the service, and achieving the identified efficiencies. To support and enable the Shared Lives Manager to develop the service and to make efficiencies the money earmarked for 21/22 (should this request be agreed) would support the Team Manager to grow the service, this would be a combination of increasing the number of carers and develop the range of people who would be able to use the service.

3.7.5 The net result would be greater service capacity and a wider the range and diversity of people who could be supported through the Shared Lives scheme.

#### Winter Resilience Funding from SEL CCG – Dr £400k & Cr £400k

3.7.6 £510k of the winter resilience funds from SELCCG referred to in paragraph 3.4.6 above has been allocated to manage the additional pressures of winter and Covid demands. £400k is requested to be carried forward to 2022/23 as part of post-pandemic recovery arrangements to support the gradual stepping down of the additional care and health schemes and resources in the absence of government covid grants.

### **3.8 COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

3.8.1 We had a particularly busy period of activity over Christmas as is usual, but with the added pressure of the acute service continuing to seek to reduce the waiting lists for treatment. As such demand for assessments resulting in support have continued at a high level. The SPA

has however kept pace with the increase in demand to discharge patients from acute settings. Continued funding from health to support discharge has been confirmed to the financial year end; this is currently expected to cover the cost of these packages. SEL CCG has also just confirmed additional funding into the new financial year to assist with ongoing pressures and in recognition of the increase in demand.

- 3.8.2 Relationships with partners have continued to be strong and we have jointly used the learning from the pandemic and embedded this in our practice and forward planning. Further funding was released by the government very recently to respond to the Omicron variant, plans are in place to use this to support the wider system.
- 3.8.3 We continue to focus efforts in the process of hospital discharge to avoid placements through support plans that focus on support at home and promoting independence. The new contractual relationships with home care providers are enabling us to keep pace with demand.
- 3.8.4 Since the last meeting the government has removed the mandatory requirement for staff working in care homes to be vaccinated, although this is still recommended. We continue to support care providers who experience outbreaks in infections to ensure the system is sustainable.
- 3.8.5 Work continues to deliver savings identified through the Transformation programme and progress is monitored on a monthly basis. New targets are being developed to help offset the overall pressures on the Council's budget as we move into the next financial year.

#### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 One of the "Making Bromley Even Better" ambitions is to manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents and to meet this we will need to maintain a relentless focus on efficiency, outcomes of services and prudent management of our finances.
- 4.2 The "2021/22 Council Tax" report highlighted the financial pressures facing the Council. It remains imperative that strict budgetary control continues to be exercised in 2021/22 to minimise the risk of compounding financial pressures in future years.
- 4.3 Chief Officers and Departmental Heads of Finance are continuing to place emphasis on the need for strict compliance with the Council's budgetary control and monitoring arrangements.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 A detailed breakdown of the projected outturn by service area is shown in appendix 1A with explanatory notes in appendix 1B. Appendix 2 shows the latest full year effects. Other financial implications are contained in the body of this report and Appendix 1B provides more detailed notes on the major services.
- 5.2 Overall the current overspend position stands at £113k underspend (£6,427k overspend full year effect). As reported in the draft budget report in January 2022, £4,481k growth has been included in the 2022/23 budget for the full year effect.
- 5.3 Costs attributable to individual services have been classified as "controllable" and "non-controllable" in Appendix 1. Budget holders have full responsibility for those budgets classified as "controllable" as any variations relate to those factors over which the budget holder has, in general, direct control. "Non-controllable" budgets are those which are managed outside of individual budget holder's service and, as such, cannot be directly influenced by the budget holder in the shorter term. These include, for example, building maintenance costs and property rents which are managed by the Property Division but are allocated within individual

departmental/portfolio budgets to reflect the full cost of the service. As such, any variations arising are shown as “non-controllable” within services but “controllable” within the Resources Portfolio. Other examples include cross departmental recharges and capital financing costs. This approach, which is reflected in financial monitoring reports to budget holders, should ensure clearer accountability by identifying variations within the service that controls financial performance. Members should specifically refer to the “controllable” budget variations relating to portfolios in considering financial performance.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Legal, Personnel and Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	2021/22 Budget Monitoring files in ECHS Finance Section