

Budget Monitoring Report for the Year Ended 31st March 2009

1. Introduction

This report provides the Community Strategy Executive Board with a comparison of spend to budget for the financial year, to 31st March 2009, for allocated budgets supporting the Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement.

Following the CSEB meeting in Oct 2008 it was agreed to refocus the scope of the financial monitoring and to only report on aligned funding within GCC that is supporting the Local Area Agreement related activities. This report considers the whole budget within given cost centres where Area Based Grant and other LAA related grant funding has been allocated thus representing a greater proportion of the total resources being deployed in support of LAA related activity.

Attached to this report are six appendices. Appendix 1 gives summary information by Thematic Partnership for the 2008/09 budget allocations, totalling £38.7m. Appendices 2 to 6 give budget information for each of the individual budget allocations within the Thematic Partnerships.

The appendices detail variances between the actual spend to 31st March 2009 compared against the 2008/09 budget.

This report is only intended to highlight and provide explanations for variances of a material nature that are likely to have an impact on the overall financial position of the Local Area Agreement. Information on individual variations is principally provided by budget holders or the responsible finance officer.

2. Children & Young People - appendix 2

The Children & Young People's Thematic Partnership has spent £11.44m, against a full year budget of £11.86m, giving an under-spend of £427k.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health budget of £655k is under-spent by £83k at the end of the financial year, and has been used to partly offset agency placement over-spends.

The External School Improvement Partner's (SIP's) Primary and Special £274k over-spend, is mainly offset by the External SIP's Secondary and School Intervention grants under-spend of £262k.

An under-spend against budget of £118.5k has arisen against the Young People Substance Misuse allocation mainly due to unexpected additional PCT resource.

The Commissioning Board's budget of £755.5k was over-spent by £91.9k. However, this budget is managed collectively with other budgets not monitored as part of the LAA within the Children and Young People's Directorate, and, these budgets overall, were under-spent.

Only £5k of the Workforce Development funding has been spent against a £30k budget. The under-spend of £25k is due to the receipt of an additional grant, which meant the ABG funding was not required.

The Transitional Costs budget has under-spent by £91.7k. This will be used to offset projected over-spends elsewhere in the Children's & Young Peoples directorate.

Advanced Skills Teaching (AST) Projects under-spent by £16.8k against a £22.7k budget. Standards Fund was used to support the project rather than the full use of the ABG allocation.

Timing issues were a factor in the £40.7k under-spend that arose against the Excellence In Cities (EIC) Projects grant. Full spend is expected in 2009/10.

There is an under-spend of £79.8k against the Targeted Intervention budget. The project was not undertaken in the year.

An under-spend of £26k against a budget of £50k was reported against the Direct Delivery Courses allocation. This is an 18-month project, crossing financial years. The full number of enrolments onto NVQ's couldn't be achieved by 31st March 09.

3. Economic Development & Enterprise - appendix 3

The Economic Development & Enterprise Thematic Partnership has spent £81,550 against a full year budget of £81,842 resulting in a very small under-spend of £292.

4. Healthier Communities & Older People - appendix 4

The Healthier Communities & Older People Partnership has confirmed expenditure of £16.19m. There is therefore a slight under-spend of £8.8k against the full year budget of £16.20m.

An under-spend of £48k against the Fast Desk Nurse budget was reported. Actual expenditure of only £1.7k against a budget of £50k was incurred as following a review, the service was deemed to not be a good use of District Nurses time and was stopped.

The Community and Adult Care Training Team budget over-spent by £45.7k. This was offset by under-spends within other HR training budgets.

An £82.3K under-spend arose against the Adult Carers Grant at the end of the financial year due to ABG funding and carry forward grant not being utilised.

The Learning Development Fund cost centre is under-spent at the end of the year by £290.5k. This is due to problems in agreeing and committing expenditure. A request is being made to carry forward the £290.5k into 2009/10. A new multi-agency board is now in place, which should ensure agreed objectives, and responsibilities are fulfilled.

The Performance Management and Performance LAA/LIFT SW cost centres, which are managed collectively, give a net under-spend of £65.7k at the end of March 09. This is due to vacancies within the team.

Mental Capacity Act grant was under-spent by £93k against a budget of £165.7k. This was mainly due to a delay in appointing a Project Manager and other staff. A £93k carry forward will be requested.

The Mental Health Partner budget of £5.67m was under-spent at the end of the year by £174.9k. Staff vacancies were the main cause of this under-spend. Vacancies at the Arena Day Centre were due to a pending review of vocational services.

An over-spend of £129k against the GIS Special Placement grant was mainly due to an over-spend on salaries (£90k), and reduced workstep grant income.

The Activity Coordinator budget of £58k is unspent at the end of the financial year. The project's delivery crosses financial years. A £58k carry forward request has been made, which the CACD management team have supported.

5. Natural & Built Environment - appendix 5

The Natural & Built Environment Thematic Partnership has over-spent by £163k against a full year budget of £8.03m.

Bridges and Street Lighting budgets have over-spent by £195k. Both these overspends will be met from savings elsewhere in Gloucestershire Highways by budgets which are not monitored by the LAA.

The Routine Repair budget of £25k is unspent at the 31st March 2009. This under-spend has been used to offset over-spends within the service.

The Rural Bus budgets were collectively over-spent by £33k at the end of the financial year. However, Gloucestershire County Council funds rural bus routes from other budgets, which are not monitored as part of the LAA.

No expenditure has been incurred on the £50k renewable energy grant allocated late in the financial year to SWEA to boost the stretch targets for renewable energy. However, £29k of the grant has been approved for allocations to householders who have 6 months to claim their grant. Pump Priming funding is automatically carried forward and available next financial year as it funds 3-year stretch targets which conclude in March 2010.

6. Safer & Stronger Communities - appendix 6

The Safer & Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership has confirmed expenditure of £2.35m against a full year budget of £2.56m, leaving an under-spend of £206k.

The Community Counts funding is £40k under-spend. The three-year project wound up in January 2009 (earlier than the expected date of March 2009) and most staff have been re-deployed. The budget holder is requesting a carry forward of £28.5k to cover possible pay protection for these re-deployed staff.

Collectively a £33.7k under-spend arose on the Road Safety budgets for Camera Enforcement and the Transitional Project mainly due to slippage in the transitional project.

Crime Prevention funding is £18.5k under-spent at the end of March 2009. This under-spend offsets the over-spend of £18.1k on Domestic Violence.

The £20k grant allocated to the Forest of Dean District Council for the purchase of 1 mobile and 1 in-car automatic number plate recognition system is unspent at the end of March 2009. Quotes were received, however, due to budget cuts, and the concern regarding ongoing costs, the decision was made not to purchase the equipment.

The contribution to purchase the Vaughan Centre remains unspent at the end of the financial year. The purchase is still going ahead, but as there were timing issues in relation to the purchase, funds have been moved into the capital reserve to fund completion of the purchase.

A number of activities coming in under budget caused the £16k under-spend against the Pump Priming Grant SSC 4 (iii) and (v) in respect of Anti-Social Behaviour. As Pump Priming funding supports stretch targets over a 3-year period, the balance will be rolled forward for spend in 2009/10.

The Reducing Anti Social Behaviour Pump Priming Grant of £29k has not been spent during this financial year. The funding has been set aside for the Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator post for which the recruitment process is currently still ongoing. As this is Pump Priming Grant funding, it will be rolled forward into 2009/10.

7. Summary

The summary financial position after 12 months is that the Local Area Agreement overall, is under-spent by £479k representing 1.24% of budgets monitored. The main reasons for this under-spend are:

- Slippage in planned programmes and delayed starts on projects.
- Projects not going ahead in the year.
- Receipt of additional unbudgeted income streams and sources of government funding.
- Some forecast under-spends are offsetting over-spends forecast elsewhere on cost centres not being monitored by the LAA.
- Vacancy Savings

8. Recommendations

That the Community Strategy Executive Board notes the report.

9. Financial Resource Implications

None at present.

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