



Audit Committee

17 October 2014

Finance and Performance Working Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

Two meetings have been held in the period to discuss the Q1 Financial Overview and Forecast report and another to meet the Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director People to discuss concerns relating to continuing overspends in Adult Social Care and underspends in Children's Services.

A series of questions had been compiled and a report submitted to the Group for consideration. Both sides benefited from the close scrutiny of the Service and Members welcomed the greater clarity provided regarding the future running of the service. Assurances have been given that the projected overspend at year end in Adult Services will be £100K and not £4.9M as stated in one report. The situation will continue to be closely monitored.

Both Group meetings were observed by the Wales Programme Manager of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) as agreement has been reached with CfPS to deliver a programme of scrutiny support to strengthen financial scrutiny in the Authority. The Joint Chairs Steering Group have agreed that an additional Group be established, the Finance Scrutiny Panel, lead by the Chair of Audit and including the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and non-executive Group Leaders, to develop scrutiny of the medium term financial plan and budget setting process. CfPS will lead the work supported by Grant Thornton and CIPFA Wales – they will be observing a number of meetings during the autumn to establish a baseline of current practice and work to develop a bespoke training programme for Members relevant to their different finance scrutiny roles. The project will be completed by March 2015.

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Sources/background papers: Notes of meetings 8 August and 18 September 2014

Group Members: County Councillors A W Davies (Lead Member), J Brunt, J G Morris, T J Van Rees, and Mr J Brautigam