

Directorate: Children, Education and Families
Subject: Finance Monitoring Report – August (period 5)

Contents

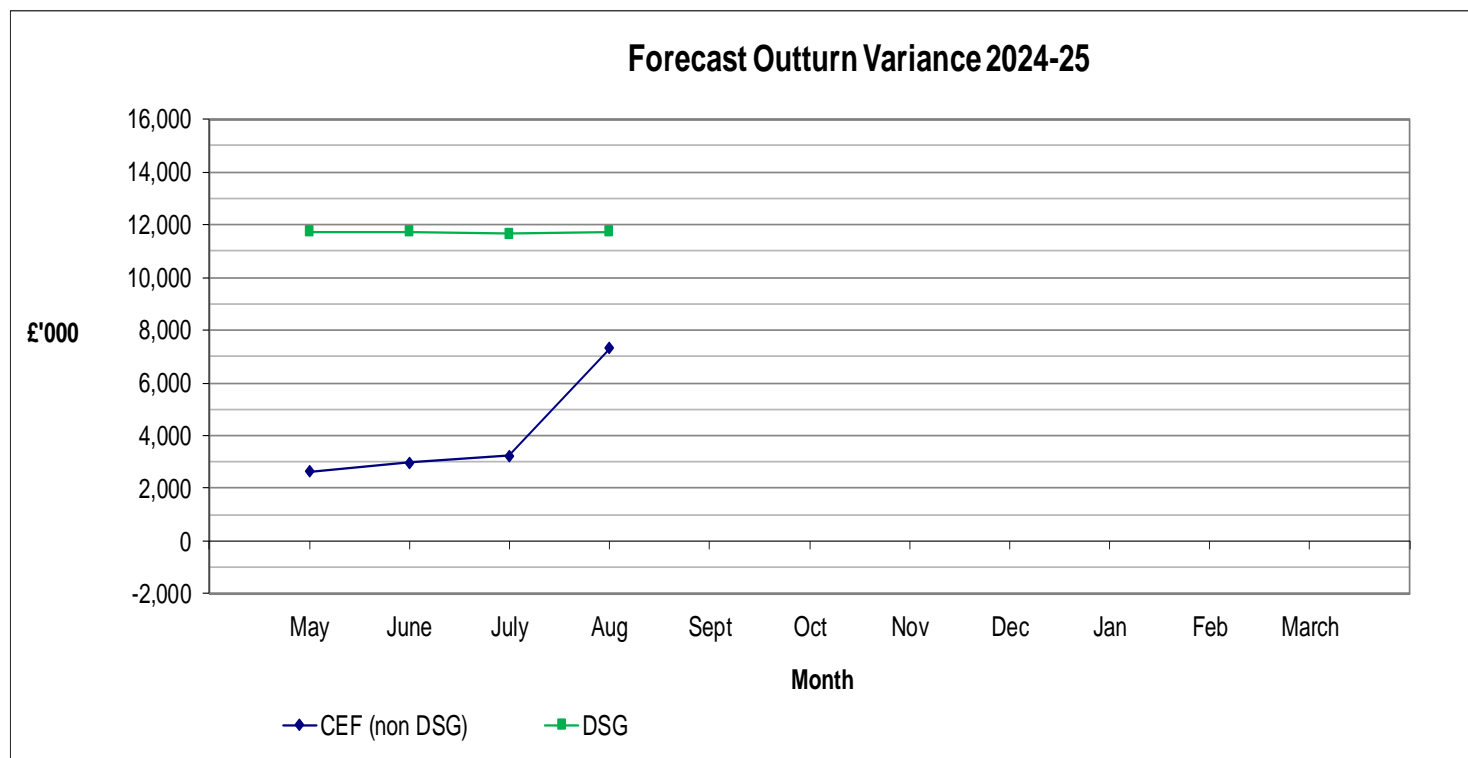
Section	Item	Description
1	Revenue Executive Summary	High level summary of information and narrative on key issues in revenue financial position
2	Capital Executive Summary	Summary of the position of the Capital programme within Children, Education and Families
3	Savings Tracker Summary	Summary of the latest position on delivery of savings
4	Technical Note	Explanation of technical items that are included in some reports
5	Key Activity Data	Performance information linking to financial position of main demand-led services
Appx 1a	Service Level Financial Information	Detailed financial tables for Children, Education and Families main budget headings
Appx 1b	Service Level Financial Information	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial tables for Children, Education and Families main budget headings
Appx 2	Service Commentaries	Detailed notes on revenue financial position of services that have a significant variance against budget
Appx 3	Capital Appendix	This contains more detailed information about the capital programme, including funding sources and variances from planned spend.
<i>The following appendices are included quarterly as the information does not change as regularly:</i>		
Appx 4	Savings Tracker	Each quarter, the Council's savings tracker is produced to give an update of the position of savings agreed in the Business Plan.
Appx 5	Technical Appendix	Each quarter, this will contain technical financial information showing: Grant income received Budget virements Earmarked & Capital reserves
Appx 6	Maintained Schools	Each quarter, this will contain summary financial information showing: Numbers of maintained school with deficit budgets Revised maintained school balance forecasts

1. Revenue Executive Summary

1.1 Overall Position

At the end of August 2024, Children, Education and Families is projected to be £7,308k overspent on core funded activities and £11,730k overspent on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) activities.

1.2 Summary of Revenue position by Directorate



1.2.1 Childrens, Education and Families – Non DSG

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
-750	Executive Director	2,734	0	2,734	422	-750	-27.4%
0	Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement	3,766	-557	3,209	1,206	0	0.0%
0	Fostering, Adoption & Corporate Parenting	28,357	-8,707	19,650	15,151	0	0.0%
1,013	Targeted Support & Childrens Social Care	29,081	-4,212	24,869	9,176	782	3.1%
-41	Education	71,299	-15,325	55,975	14,036	2,846	5.1%
3,000	Commissioning	33,986	-715	33,271	12,167	4,000	12.0%
0	LDP and Prevention	9,864	-791	9,073	4,861	430	4.7%
3,222	Total Expenditure	179,088	-30,307	148,781	57,020	7,308	4.9%
0	Schools	0	0	0	-2,414	0	0.0%
3,222	Total	179,088	-30,307	148,781	54,606	7,308	4.9%

1.2.2 Children, Education and Families – DSG

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Service Area	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
14,000	Education (DSG)	117,721	-805	116,916	47,227	14,000	12.0%
0	Commissioning (DSG)	245	0	245	123	0	0.0%
14,000	Total Expenditure (DSG)	117,966	-805	117,161	47,349	14,000	11.9%
-2,270	Schools (DSG)	537,613	0	537,613	89,453	-2,270	-0.4%
0	Financing (DSG)	1,951	-656,725	-654,774	-131,190	0	0.0%
11,730	Total (DSG)	657,530	-657,530	0	5,612	11,730	0.0%

1.3 Significant Issues

The overall position for Children, Education and Families non-DSG budgets to the end of August 2024 is a forecast overspend of £7.308m.

Children in Care Placements –The council is facing a projected £4M deficit in the budget for children's external placements. This is primarily driven by an increase in the number of young people requiring care, rising placement costs and limited provider availability of suitable providers. To manage this, we are monitoring costs through weekly package reviews and implementing strategic initiatives such as the Sufficiency Strategy. We are engaging with providers to secure more sustainable and economical placements for children. There continues to be increasing demand of statutory care placements for children that are unable to remain in the family care setting affected by extra familial harm (risks outside the home); acute mental health needs and those are acutely affected by their neuro developmental needs resulting in family breakdowns.

Targeted Support and Childrens Social Care – A revised net forecast overspend of £782k is now being reported for Targeted Support and Childrens Social Care. Continuing reliance on agency staff within the Integrated Front Door (IFD), Assessment and Family Support & Safeguarding teams. This has been offset in part by the application of one-off grant carry forward and the cessation of previous Family Safeguarding contracts. As part of the business planning process for 2025-26 options to support the workforce in these areas have been developed based on demand analysis and forecasted improvement activity. In addition, the IFD/Assessment service will be receiving 6 newly qualified social workers (SWs) and 3 International SWs in September as part of its effort to recruit more permanent social workers. We are continuing to engage with our internal recruitment team to bolster our permanent recruitment drive and campaigns. We are also ensuring that any requests for agency staff are being rigorously reviewed at the Children's Expenditure Panel.

Education – A revised net forecast pressure of £85k is now being reported for Education services (excluding Home to School Transport). A reduction in the number of recipients has resulted in a forecast underspend on historic teachers' pensions of £350k. This is being offset by pressures within the ICT service (£175k) and SEND Specialist Services (£250k) as well as other small variances.

The SEND Specialist Services pressure is due to the continued pressures within the Educational Psychology service. The service continues to experience increasing demand which cannot be met from

within the substantive team and is therefore being met through use of locum Education Psychologists. This is as a direct result of the increase in requests for Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) that is impacting on all SEND services. This is a national trend and is not isolated to Cambridgeshire. The service is continuing to consider the best value approach to meeting the increasing demand. The current forecasting suggests this position will worsen by year end due to do the demand outweighing capacity.

To drive down demand for EHCPs and reduce spend, a SEND recovery plan has been agreed within an Inclusion for All 0-25 programme that will strengthen the focus on Inclusive Practice through an end-to-end review of SEND. This will enable a review of resources against the pressure points in practice to reconfigure spend so that there is funding in the right places. In scope of this work, all non-statutory provision across the wider Education department will be reviewed to ensure the gaps in capacity that is driving the reliance on high-cost locums is reduced. The strengthened governance within the Inclusion for All programme will accelerate the pace and tighten the grip and focus of this work. However, the scale of the issues are large and the changes implemented are in a dynamic environment where demand is outstripping the cultural shift in practice to generate change.

The ICT Service is forecasting an overspend of £175k as a result of the continued reduction in spend by schools on ICT hardware due to increasing financial challenges. The service is looking at ways to mitigate this overspend and amend the delivery model for future years.

Home to School Transport – The Home to School Transport Service is currently forecasting £2.7m overspend for the 24-25 Financial Year. This is because of unforeseen growth in demand, for example an additional 2,000 routes being implemented for the 24-25 Academic Year across just mainstream services.

The demand underpinning escalated transport costs is driven by a combination of a surge in demand for children and young people meeting the criteria for transport (largely through the growth in children with SEND) and the costs associated with meeting this demand where the transport itself is costing more to deliver. To drive down these costs, a transformation programme is in place that is aiming to reduce demand by a consistent application of The Home to School Transport Policy, alongside a review of contractual arrangements and routes.

A lack of local special school places has contributed to the increase in transport demand as children are more often requiring transport to a specialist private school that can meet their needs.

Despite changes in the transport team structure and processes, there is a strong focus on service review to mitigate continued overspends. This is to include processes for earlier forecasting, transport procurement plans and utilising the opportunity of the pending consultancy review.

Children's Disability Service - The 0-25 Disability Service is currently forecasting an overspend of £430k due to the increase in demand and need across the direct payment budget, community support and Camplay holiday clubs, as well as a budget pressure created by the intensive therapeutic support hub (ITSH).

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Appendix 1b provides a detailed breakdown of all DSG spend within Children, Education & Families Services. The budget figures are gross of recoupment for academies and High Needs place funding.

A cumulative DSG deficit of £40.015m has been brought forward into 2024-25. To the end of August, the reported net DSG forecast is £11.730m. Work is underway to remodel demand and develop new approaches to manage costs whilst meeting the increase level of need. This will form part of a resubmission of our Safety Valve Agreement to the DfE later this term.

Maintained Schools – An increasing number of schools have submitted deficit budgets for the 2024-25 financial year. Work is currently underway to review revised deficit recovery plans and work with schools to develop further options for sustainable budgets in future years. Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee have now approved delegated responsibility to the Executive Director: Finance and Resources to be able to approve license deficit applications for schools with deficits in excess of 5% of their annual school budget. Appendix 6 provides a summary of the latest status of those schools which submitted a deficit budget for the 2024-25 financial year.

2. Capital Executive Summary

At the end of August 2024, the capital programme forecast underspend is zero. The level of slippage and underspend in 2024-25 is currently anticipated to be £3,065k and as such has not yet exceeded the Capital Variation Budget. A forecast outturn will not be reported unless this happens.

3. Savings Tracker Summary

The savings trackers are produced quarterly to monitor delivery of savings against agreed plans.

4. Technical note

On a quarterly basis, a technical financial appendix will be included as Appendix 5. This appendix covers:

- Grants that have been received by the service, and where these have been more or less than expected.
- Budget movements (virements) into or out of the directorate from other directorates, to show why the budget might be different from that agreed by Full Council.
- Service earmarked reserves – funds held for specific purposes that may be drawn down in-year or carried-forward – including use of funds and forecast draw-down.

5. Key Activity Data

5.1 Key activity data to the end of August 2024 for **Children in Care Placements** is shown below:

Service Type	BUDGET				ACTUAL (August 2024)				OUTTURN		
	No of placements Budgeted	Annual Budget	No. of weeks funded	Average weekly cost per head	Snapshot of No. of placements Aug 2024	Yearly Average	Forecast Outturn	Average weekly cost per head	Yearly Average budgeted placements	Net Variance to Budget	Average weekly cost diff +/-
Residential - disability	4	£1,462k	52	£7,028	11	5.53	£2,358k	£8,442	1.53	£896k	£1,414
Residential - secure accommodation	1	£1,396k	52	£26,852	0	0.00	£k	£0	-1.00	-£1,396k	-£26,852
Residential schools	6	£662k	52	£2,122	6	5.13	£614k	£2,360	-0.87	-£48k	£238
Residential homes	51	£15,421k	52	£5,815	53	51.87	£15,547k	£6,642	0.87	£126k	£827
Independent Fostering	151	£7,346k	52	£936	186	177.01	£9,270k	£1,031	26.01	£1,924k	£95
Tier 4 Step down	1	£348k	52	£6,695	0	0.00	£k	£0	-1.00	-£348k	-£6,695
Supported Living	2	£776k	52	£7,460	2	1.41	£532k	£6,319	-0.59	-£244k	-£1,141
Supported Accommodation 16+	33	£3,286k	52	£1,915	32	24.31	£3,357k	£2,541	-8.69	£71k	£626
Unregulated	5	£101k	52	£387	4	2.54	£48k	£373	-2.46	-£53k	-£14
Growth/Replacement	2	£1,664k	52	£16,002	14	6.21	£5,485k	£23,651	4.21	£3,821k	£7,649
Additional one off budget/actuals	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	£k	£0	-	£k	£0
Mitigations required	0	£k	0	£0	0	0.00	-£748k	£0	-	-£748k	£0
TOTAL	256	£32,462k			308	274.01	£36,462k		18.01	£4,000k	
In-house Fostering	170	£4,224k	56	£444	162	150.69	£3,823k	£452	-19.31	-£401k	£8
In-house fostering - Reg 24	35	£400k	56	£204	20	27.85	£282k	£206	-7.15	-£118k	£2
Family & Friends Foster Carers	20	£400k	52	£385	37	32.20	£727k	£402	12.20	£327k	£17
Supported Lodgings	0	£k	0	£0	2	1.24	£18k	£0	0.00	-£5k	£0
Mitigations / growth							£198k			£198k	
TOTAL	217	£5,062k			221	211.98	£5,047k		-18.94	£k	
Adoption Allowances	80	£991k	52	£238	80	80.00	£858k	£206	0.00	-£133k	-£33
Special Guardianship Orders	292	£2,482k	52	£163	286	286.85	£2,165k	£145	-5.15	-£317k	-£19
Child Arrangement Orders	41	£350k	52	£164	40	39.63	£281k	£136	-1.37	-£69k	-£28
Mitigations / growth							£518k			£518k	
TOTAL	413	£3,822k			406	406.48	£3,822k		-6.52	£k	
OVERALL TOTAL	886	£41,346k			935	892.47	£45,331k		-7.45	£4,000k	

NOTES: In house fostering payments fund 56 weeks as carers receive two additional weeks payment during the summer holidays and one additional week each for Christmas and birthday.

Appendix 1a – Children, Education and Families Detailed Financial Information (non DSG)

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Executive Director									
-750	CYP	1	Executive Director	79	0	79	422	-750	-949%
0	CYP		Central Financing	2,655	0	2,655	0	0	0%
-750			Executive Director Total	2,734	0	2,734	422	-750	-27%
Service Director – Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement									
0	CYP		Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement	3,766	-557	3,209	1,206	0	0%
0			Service Director – Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement Total	3,766	-557	3,209	1,206	0	0%
Service Director – Fostering, Adoption & Corporate Parenting									
0			Fostering and Supervised Contact Services	10,689	-396	10,293	4,372	0	0%
0			Corporate Parenting	11,411	-7,619	3,793	8,415	0	0%
0	CYP		Adoption	6,257	-693	5,564	2,365	0	0%
0			Service Director – Fostering, Adoption & Corporate Parenting Total	28,357	-8,707	19,650	15,151	0	0%
Service Director – Targeted Support & Childrens Social Care									
-258		2	Strategic Management - Children's Social Care	3,604	0	3,604	1,277	-375	-10%
1,600		3	Integrated Front Door	4,398	-208	4,190	2,617	1,600	38%
-329		4	Family Support & Safeguarding	4,733	-175	4,558	1,414	-329	-7%
0			Youth Offending Service	4,175	-1,331	2,844	1,392	-0	0%
0		5	Targeted Support Service	9,845	-376	9,469	4,002	-114	-1%
0	CYP		Support to Parents	2,326	-2,122	204	-1,527	0	0%
1,013			Service Director – Targeted Support & Childrens Social Care Total	29,081	-4,212	24,869	9,176	782	3%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Service Director Education									
0			Strategic Management – Education	3,176	-61	3,115	2,352	0	0%
31			Early Years Service	4,672	-4,057	615	-533	31	5%
0			School Improvement Service	1,466	-607	859	488	-0	0%
-66			Virtual School	1,987	-1,501	486	566	-66	-14%
16			Outdoor Education (includes Grafham Water)	2,304	-2,381	-77	-276	15	20%
-25			Cambridgeshire Music	2,826	-2,851	-25	462	-25	-100%
104	6		ICT Service (Education)	1,632	-1,832	-200	-468	175	88%
-350	7		Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	4,750	-579	4,171	2,646	-350	-8%
<u>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)</u>									
250	CYP	8	SEND Specialist Services	4,962	-79	4,883	2,401	250	5%
0	CYP		High Needs Top Up Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0%
0	CYP		Alternative Provision and Inclusion	743	0	743	760	0	0%
250			SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	5,705	-79	5,625	3,161	250	4%
<u>0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service</u>									
0	CYP		0-19 Organisation & Planning	1,553	-980	573	147	55	10%
0	CYP		Education Capital	213	0	213	-7,321	0	0%
0	CYP	9	Home to School Transport – Special	25,260	-180	25,080	7,825	2,090	8%
0	CYP		Children in Care Transport	2,165	0	2,165	563	-0	0%
0	CYP	10	Home to School Transport – Mainstream	13,591	-216	13,374	4,425	671	5%
0			0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	42,782	-1,376	41,405	5,638	2,816	7%
-41			Service Director Education Total	71,299	-15,325	55,975	14,036	2,846	5%
Service Director Commissioning									
3,000	CYP	11	Children in Care Placements	33,157	-695	32,462	12,180	4,000	12%
0	CYP		Commissioning Services	829	-20	809	-13	0	0%
3,000			Service Director Commissioning Total	33,986	-715	33,271	12,167	4,000	12%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual to date £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Service Director LDP and Prevention									
0	CYP	12	Children's Disability Service	9,864	-791	9,073	4,861	430	5%
0			Service Director LDP and Prevention Total	9,864	-791	9,073	4,861	430	5%
3,222			Total	179,088	-30,307	148,781	57,020	7,308	5%
Schools									
0	CYP		Primary and Secondary Schools	0	0	0	1	0	0%
0	CYP		Schools Financing	0	0	0	0	0	0%
0	CYP		Pools and Contingencies	0	0	0	-2,014	0	0%
0			Schools Total	0	0	0	-401	0	0%
3,222			Overall Children, Education and Families Total	179,088	-30,307	148,781	54,606	7,308	5%

Appendix 1b – Children, Education and Families Detailed Financial Information (DSG)

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous)	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget	Actual to date	Forecast Outturn Variance	Forecast Outturn Variance
£000				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
			Service Director Education						
0	CYP		Early Years Service	2,626	0	2,626	603	0	0%
0	CYP		Virtual School	0	0	0	0	0	0%
			<u>SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years)</u>						
0	CYP		SEND Specialist Services	7,250	-10	7,240	3,199	-0	0%
0	CYP		Funding to Special Schools and Units	47,798	0	47,798	13,578	0	0%
0	CYP		High Needs Top Up Funding	37,817	0	37,817	13,255	0	0%
0	CYP		SEN Placements	20,290	-588	19,702	10,197	-0	0%
0	CYP		Out of School Tuition	7,035	0	7,035	2,973	-0	0%
0	CYP		Alternative Provision and Inclusion	7,085	-101	6,984	2,858	-0	0%
14,000	CYP	13	SEND Financing – DSG	-14,686	0	-14,686	287	14,000	95%
14,000			SEND Specialist Services (0 - 25 years) Total	112,590	-699	111,891	46,348	14,000	13%
			<u>0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service</u>						
0	CYP		0-19 Organisation & Planning	2,442	-106	2,336	249	0	0%
0	CYP		Home to School Transport – Special	63	0	63	26	0	0%
0			0-19 Place Planning & Organisation Service Total	2,505	-106	2,399	275	0	0%
14,000			Service Director Education Total	117,721	-805	116,916	47,227	14,000	12%
			Service Director Commissioning						
0	CYP		Commissioning Services	245	0	245	123	0	0%
0			Service Director Commissioning Total	245	0	245	123	0	0%
14,000			Total	117,966	-805	117,161	47,349	14,000	12%

Forecast Outturn Variance (Previous) £000	Committee	Note	Budget Line	Gross Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Actual £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %
Schools									
0	CYP		Primary and Secondary Schools	473,785	0	473,785	54,944	0	0%
0	CYP		Nursery Schools and PVI	60,921	0	60,921	34,037	0	0%
-2,270	CYP	14	Schools Financing	2,907	0	2,907	473	-2,270	-78%
0	CYP		Pools and Contingencies	0	0	0	0	0	0%
-2,270			Schools Total	537,613	0	537,613	89,453	-2,270	0%
Financing									
0	CYP		Financing DSG	1,951	-656,725	-654,774	-131,190	0	0%
0			Financing Total	1,951	-656,725	-654,774	-131,190	0	0%
11,730			Overall Children, Education and Families DSG Total	657,530	-657,530	0	5,612	11,730	0%

Appendix 2 – Service Commentaries on Forecast Outturn Position

Narrative is given below where there is an adverse/positive variance greater than 2% of annual budget or £100,000 whichever is greater for a service area.

Note	Commentary vs previous month	Service Area / Budget Line	Net Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %	Commentary
1	Previous	Executive Director CEF	79	-750	-949%	The Vacancy Factor for Children Education Families (CEF) is currently forecast to overachieve by £750k.
2	Previous	Strategic Management - Children's Social Care	3,604	-375	-10%	One off underspend within the Strategic Management budget. Committed to be used in FY 2025-26.
3	Previous	Integrated Front Door	4,190	1,600	38%	The Integrated Front Door and Assessment service is forecasted to overspend by £1.6m in FY 2024-25. Additional agency staff have been recruited in MASH and Assessment's whilst the current structures are being reviewed. There are high levels of agency staff both within and over budgeted establishment, which is more expensive than employing permanent staff.
4	Previous	Family Safeguarding	4,558	-329	-7%	The Family Safeguarding budget is forecasted to underspend by £329k due to grant carry forward, coupled with 2 of the Family Safeguarding model contracts not being renewed in FY 24-25.
5	New	Targeted Support Service	9,469	-114	-1%	Targeted Support Service is forecasting an underspend of £114k due to the ending of a contract and non-salary underspend
6	Previous	ICT Service (Education)	-200	175	88%	The £175k forecast position is a result in the continued reduction in spend by schools on ICT hardware due to increasing financial challenges. The service is looking at ways to mitigate this overspend and amend the delivery model for future years.
7	Previous	Redundancy & Teachers Pensions	4,171	-350	-8%	Based on the reduction in the number of eligible recipients an opening forecast underspend of £350k is being reported for teachers pensions.
8	Previous	SEND Specialist Services	4,883	250	5%	The Education Psychology service is currently forecasting an overspend of £250k. The service continues to experience increasing demand which cannot be met from within the substantive team and is therefore being met through use of locum Education Psychologists. This is as a direct result of the increase in requests for Education Health and Care Needs Assessments (EHCNA) that is impacting on all SEND services.

Note	Commentary vs previous month	Service Area / Budget Line	Net Budget £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000	Forecast Outturn Variance %	Commentary
9	New	Home to School Transport – Special	25,080	2,090	8%	The revised £2.7m forecast across mainstream and SEND transport is a result of a continuing increase in demand and complexity of need.
10	New	Home to School Transport – Mainstream	13,374	671	5%	
11	Previous	Children in Care Placements	32,462	4,000	12%	The revised £4m forecast overspend is primarily due to a small number of young people in very high-cost placements. If forecast to year-end, these placements would result in a more significant overspend position, however, the service is working hard with relevant agencies to secure placements at more manageable costs and therefore we do not expect these to continue for the full year.
12	New	Disability Service	9,073	430	5%	The 0-25 Disability Service is currently forecasting an overspend of £430k which predominantly reflects the increase in demand and need across the direct payment budget, community support and Camplay holiday clubs. In addition to this there has been pressure created by the intensive therapeutic support hub (ITSH) which is no longer being implemented.
13	Previous	SEND Financing – DSG	-14,686	14,000	95%	The current forecast DSG deficit is reflective of continuing pressures and increasing demand within the High Needs Block (HNB).
14	Previous	Schools Financing - DSG	2,907	-2,270	-78%	Budgeted underspend on the DSG Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) to mitigate HNB pressures.

Appendix 3 – Capital Position

3.1 Capital Expenditure

Original 2024-25 Budget as per Business Plan £000	Committee	Scheme Category	Total Scheme Revised Budget £000	Total Scheme Forecast Variance £000	Budget Carried-forward 2024-25 £000	Budget Re-phasing 2024-25 £000	Additional/Reduction in Funding 2024-25 £000	Revised Budget for 2024-25 £000	Actual Spend (August) £000	Forecast Outturn Variance (August) £000
17,767	CYP	Basic Need - Primary	119,409	0	1,018	-995		17,790	6,718	-1,103
43,433	CYP	Basic Need - Secondary	173,348	0	8,102	-17,566		33,969	18,361	-516
1,040	CYP	Basic Need - Early Years	8,531	0	588	0		1,628	168	0
2,435	CYP	Adaptations	11,473	0	1,228	-890		2,773	597	-846
3,250	CYP	Conditions Maintenance	24,375	0	507	0	375	4,132	959	0
780	CYP	Devolved Formula Capital	6,999	0	2,079	0	-21	2,838	0	0
20,951	CYP	Specialist Provision	89,120	0	597	-5,221	416	16,743	8,336	-600
150	CYP	Site Acquisition and Development	750	0	0	0		150	0	0
550	CYP	Temporary Accommodation	6,300	0	0	0		550	104	0
1,749	CYP	Children Support Services	9,521	0	0	0		1,749	0	0
-16,707	CYP	Capital Variation	-46,817	0	0	4,359		-12,348	0	3,065
1,213	CYP	Capitalised Interest	2,844	0	0	0		1,213	0	0
76,611		Total CEF Capital Spending	405,853	0	14,119	-20,313	770	71,187	35,243	0

There are six schemes with significant variances (>£250k) either due to changes in phasing or changes in overall scheme costs to be reported this month.

Ref	Directorate / Committee	Commentary vs previous month	Scheme	Scheme Budget £m	Budget for 2023-24 £m	Forecast Outturn Variance £m	Cause	Commentary
1			Basic Need - Primary					
1a	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Littleport	6.0	4.2	-1.2	Phasing	Planning delays has resulted in works starting start September 24 with expected completion late summer 25 with kitchen works carried out in holidays in 2025.
2			Basic Need - Secondary					
2a	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Darwin Green (North West Fringe) secondary	34.66	1.0	-0.3	Phasing	Slippage due to lack of progress in design. Due to developer planning issues scheme will be delivered for 2027 completion.
2b	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Witchford Village College	1.380	1.316	-0.416	Underspend	Underspend due to tender price lower than planned.
4			Adaptations					
4a	CEF CYP	New	Townley Primary	1.60	1.396	-0.496	Phasing	Delays due to highways work required and the timing of this. Further £200k slippage due to delay in authorising the project spend. Completion now slipped to May 2025
4b	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Willingham Primary	.892	.40	-0.3	Phasing	Design work has not yet completed and has been slower than originally anticipated, start on site delayed until next financial year.
8			Specialist Provision					
8a	CEF CYP	Previous Month	Highfield Littleport	8.0	2.8	-0.6	Phasing	Slippage due to revised start on site from November 2024 to January 2025 due to redesign, omission of alterations and for increased externals due to requirement for turning circle.

3.2 Capital Variations Budget

Variation budgets are set annually and reflect an estimate of the average variation experienced across all capital schemes, and reduce the overall borrowing required to finance our capital programme. There are typically delays in some form across the capital programme due to unforeseen events, but we cannot project this for each individual scheme. We therefore budget centrally for some level of delay. Any known delays are budgeted for and reported at scheme level. If forecast underspends are reported, these are offset with a forecast outturn for the variation budget, leading to a balanced outturn overall up to the point when rephasing exceeds this budget.

3.3 Capital Funding

Original 2024-25 Funding Allocation as per Business Plan £000	Source of Funding	Budget Carried- forward 2024-25 £000	Budget Revisions 2024-25 £000	Revised Budget for 2024-25 £000	Forecast Spend - Outturn (August) £000	Forecast Variance - Outturn (August) £000
12,479	Basic Need	0	0	12,479	12,479	0
3,450	Capital maintenance	2,051	350	5,877	5,877	0
780	Devolved Formula Capital	2,079	-21	2,838	2,838	0
0	Schools Capital	0	0	0	0	0
20,354	S106 contributions	21,619	-14,945	27,028	27,028	0
9,312	Other Specific Grants	797	-5,155	4,954	4,954	0
0	Other Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
0	Other Revenue Contributions	0	0	0	0	0
30,236	Prudential Borrowing	1,518	-2,884	28,870	28,870	0
0	Prudential Borrowing (Repayable)	21,619	3,087	-10,859	-10,859	
76,611	Total Funding	14,119	-19,543	71,187	71,187	0

Appendix 4 – SAVINGS TRACKER – CEF Quarter 1

Directorate	Committee	Type	Business Plan Reference	Title	Planned Savings 2024-25 £000	Forecast Savings £000	Variance from Plan £000	% Variance	RAG	Forecast Commentary
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.001	Children's Disability operational savings	-96	-96	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.003	Targeted Support operational savings	-65	-65	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.004	Family Safeguarding Service	-200	-200	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.005	Social Care and Education Transport	-582	0	582	100%	Black	Continuing increases in demand and complexity of need have result in additional cost pressures across transport budgets.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.007	Children in Care Placements High-Cost Placements Review	-1,000	0	1,000	100%	Black	Despite efforts to drive down costs from unregistered placements the budget is still showing a pressure relating to a small cohort of Young People who are unable to step down provision.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.008	Children in Care Placements Unregulated Placements reduction in costs	-250	0	250	100%	Black	Despite efforts to drive down costs from unregistered placements the budget is still showing a pressure relating to a small cohort of Young People who are unable to step down provision.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.009	Early Years Service contract savings	-19	-19	0	0%	Green	On Track

Directorate	Committee	Type	Business Plan Reference	Title	Planned Savings 2024-25 £000	Forecast Savings £000	Variance from Plan £000	% Variance	RAG	Forecast Commentary
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.010	Home to School Transport	-87	-87	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.011	Residential Strategy - Children in Care placements Saving	-435	0	435	100%	Black	Budget adjustments made based on investment and savings assuming a January 2025 start however project rescope and revised start date Oct 2025 which will be reflected in 25-26 Business Plan.
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.012	School Improvement Service operational savings	-49	-49	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 saving	A/R.6.013	Corporate Parenting	-200	-200	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2023-24 cfwd	A/R.6.255 (2023-24)	Children in Care Placements	-1,000	0	1,000	100%	Black	Despite efforts to drive down costs from unregistered placements the budget is still showing a pressure relating to a small cohort of Young People who are unable to step down provision.
CEF	CYP	2023-24 cfwd	A/R.6.255 (2023-24)	Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance	-45	-45	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.101	Early Years additional income	-4	-4	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.102	School Improvement Service	-47	-47	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.103	Children's Targeted Support	-15	-15	0	0%	Green	On Track

Directorate	Committee	Type	Business Plan Reference	Title	Planned Savings 2024-25 £000	Forecast Savings £000	Variance from Plan £000	% Variance	RAG	Forecast Commentary
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.104	Children's Disability - increase in external income	-10	-10	0	0%	Green	On Track
CEF	CYP	2024-25 income	A/R.7.105	Educational Safeguarding additional income	-7	-7	0	0%	Green	On Track

APPENDIX 5 – Technical Note

5.1 The table below outlines the additional Children, Education and Families grant income, which is not built into base budgets.

Grant	Awarding Body	Amount £000
Grants as per Business Plan		
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	Home Office	7,040
Supporting Families	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)	1,977
Early years Wraparound	DfE	1,944
Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)	DfE	1,928
Cambridgeshire Music Hub	Arts Council	823
Supported Accommodation Reforms Grant	DfE	809
Youth Offending Good Practice Grant	Youth Justice Board	707
Adoption Support Fund	DfE	625
Public Health	Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)	616
Staying Put	DfE	285
Virtual School	DfE	227
Personal Advisor Support to Care Leavers & Homelessness	DfE	176
Social Worker Apprenticeship	DfE	154
Turnaround Programme 2022-2025	Secretary of State for Justice	150
Leaving Care allowance - uplift	DfE	134
Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant	Police & Crime Commissioner	127
Non-material grants (+/- £160k)	Various	184
Total Non-Baselined Grants 24-25		17,907
Financing DSG	DfE	117,161
Total Grant Funding 24-25		135,068

The non-baselined grants are allocated across the Children, Education and Families directorates as follows:

Directorate	Grant Total £000
Children & Safeguarding	14,215
Education	3,076
Various (Public Health)	616
TOTAL	17,907

5.2 Virements and Budget Reconciliation (Children, Education and Families)

(Virements between Children, Education and Families and other service blocks)

	Period	£000	Notes
Budget as per Business Plan		148,900	
Multiple Directorates (all)	Apr	14	Post BP, pre initial budget load adjustments
Multiple Directorates (all)	Apr	-200	Public Health Strategic Management in budget reduction 2023-24
Commissioning Services	May	194	Children's Advocacy new contract
Executive Director - CEF	May	73	Salary budget transferred from Adults Exec to Children Exec
Children's Centres Strategy	June	-200	Transfer contribution from PH reserves via Corporate to CEF
Budget 24-25		148,781	

5.3 Children, Education and Families Earmarked Reserve Schedule

Budget Heading	Opening Balance 2024-25 £000	Movements 2024-25 £000	Balance at Quarter 1 £000	Year End Forecasted Balance £000	Reserve Description
Strategic Framework Priorities Reserves:					
Transport invest to save	292	0	292	144	To support programme of work to deliver savings in Social and Education Transport.
SAFE Project	96	0	96	0	Partnership Development Approach to Data Analyst in respect of Extra Familial Harm & Exploitation
Cambs Art Reserve	65	0	65	55	Art Collection Restoration Fund. Providing cultural experiences for children and young people in Cambridgeshire.
Other investment reserves	241	0	241	118	Small grant balances
Corporate risk reserves relating to services in this directorate:					
Children's risk reserves	163	0	163	100	Reserve for exceptional staffing costs
Other risk reserves	1	0	1	0	Union reps funding for 2024-25
Ringfenced Reserves:					
Regional Adoption Agency Reserve	793	0	793	419	Funding to cover CCC legacy adoption costs following transition to a Regional Adoption Agency.
Local Safeguarding	354	0	354	304	Local Safeguarding carry forward amount. Annual contributions from internal and external bodies.
Trading unit account	146	0	146	0	Cambs Music building fund and commissioned work reserve
Improvement programme	154	0	154	0	Children's improvement programme reserve
UASC Grant Reserve	170	0	170	0	Risk reserve to mitigate Home Office grant funding decisions
PFI School Sinking Fund	2,188	0	2,188	2,038	Thomas Clarkson PFI reserve to cover inflation increases.
Other ringfenced contributions	464	-340	124	65	Grant funding to support education settings and Residual school facing grants.
Earmarked Reserved Relating to CEF	5,129	-340	4,789	3,245	

(+) positive figures represent surplus funds.

(-) negative figures represent deficit funds.

5.4 Children, Education and Families Capital Reserve Schedule

Budget Heading	Opening Balance 2024-25 £000	Movements 2024-25 £000	Year End Forecasted Balance £000	Reserve Description
Education Capital	2,079	0	279	Devolved Formula Capital
Education Capital	11,145	0	6,146	Capital Other Grants
Education Capital	0	0	0	Capital Basic Need
Education Capital	2,252	0	0	Capital Schools Condition
Primary Schools	36	0	36	Insurance – Primary
Central Financing	314	0	314	Schools General
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVES	15,827	0	6,775	

(+) positive figures represent surplus funds.

(-) negative figures represent deficit funds.

APPENDIX 6 – Maintained Schools

The table below provides a summary of the value of balances held by maintained schools as at 31st March 2024 (excluding academy convertors):

2022-23	(Deficit) / Surplus	Nursery	Primary	Special	Total	Change from 2022-23
4	(£100k+)	2	3	1	6	2
3	(£60k) – (£100k)	0	3	0	3	0
3	(£20k) – (£60k)	1	11	0	12	9
3	(£10k) – (£20k)	0	3	0	3	0
1	(£1k - £10k)	0	7	0	7	6
7	£0k - £10k	0	5	0	5	-2
6	£10k - £20k	0	5	0	5	-1
28	£20k - £60k	0	19	0	19	-9
17	£60k - £100k	0	17	0	17	0
19	£100k - £150k	2	16	0	18	-1
11	£150k - £200k	1	8	1	10	-1
13	£200k - £300k	0	10	0	10	-3
2	£300k - £400k	0	3	1	4	2
8	£400k+	1	4	0	5	-3
125	Total	7	94	3	124	-1

School level balances can be viewed in Appendix A of [Schools Balances and DSG Financial Health - July 2024](#) presented to Cambridgeshire Schools Forum in July 2024.

The following maintained schools have all submitted deficit budgets for the 2024-25 financial year:

School	Status
Brunswick Nursery School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Colleges Nursery School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Huntingdon Nursery School	Formal Warning Notice issued – Structural solutions being explored.
The Fields Early Years Centre	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Ashbeach Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Castle Camps Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Eastfield Infant School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Fen Drayton Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required (extension granted due to fire).
Grove Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Revised budget balances in-year.
Gt & Lt Shelford Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Hardwick and Cambourne Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Hauxton Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Hemingford Grey Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Linton Infant School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit License approved.
Lionel Walden Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Mayfield Primary School	Notice of Concern to be issued – Deficit License approved.
Meridian Primary School	Notice of Concern to be issued - Budget resubmission required.
Orchard Park Comm. Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Queens Federation	Notice of Concern issued and RIG in place. Deficit to be addressed across the Federation.
Shirley Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Spinney Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Spring Meadow Infant School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
St Anne's Primary School	Notice of Concern issues – Budget resubmission required. Structural solutions being explored.
St Helen's Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
St Matthew's Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Steeple Morden Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Trumpington Meadows P	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required recognising use of balances across the Federation.
Westfield Junior School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Wheatfields Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Budget resubmission required.
Wyton Primary School	Notice of Concern issued – Deficit Licence approved.
Castle Special School	Sector review to be undertaken.
Granta Special School	Sector review to be undertaken.
Samuel Pepys Special School	Sector review to be undertaken.