

2023/24
Children &
Families
Budget
Monitoring

- Children & Families Scrutiny Committee
- 13th March 2024



Somerset
Council

Childrens Service budget monitoring position

– Month 10

General fund
£121.6m net budget

£14.9m forecast overspend
(12.3% overspend)

Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget	Current Income Budget	Current Net Budget	Full Year Projection	Month 10 Variance	A/(F)	RAG Status	Movement From Month 9
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m			£m
Children & Families								
Prevention Services	6.8	(1.1)	5.7	5.6	(0.1)	(F)	Green	(0.0)
Fostering & Permanence	13.3	0.0	13.3	12.9	(0.4)	(F)	Green	0.3
External Placements	49.6	(11.3)	38.3	49.3	11.0	A	Red	0.1
Fieldwork	9.1	0.0	9.1	9.9	0.8	A	Red	(0.5)
Disabilities	7.1	(0.3)	6.8	6.2	(0.6)	(F)	Green	0.0
Partnership, Audit & Quality	3.0	(0.3)	2.7	2.6	(0.1)	(F)	Green	0.0
Children Looked After	4.7	0.0	4.7	4.9	0.2	A	Red	(0.1)
Leaving Care	2.5	(0.3)	2.2	2.4	0.2	A	Red	(0.1)
CSC Management	(0.9)	0.0	(0.9)	0.9	1.8	A	Red	0.0
C&F Apportionments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
sub total	95.2	(13.3)	81.9	94.7	12.8	A	Red	(0.3)
Commissioning & Performance								
C&P Commissioning	4.9	(3.3)	1.6	1.5	(0.1)	(F)	Green	(0.1)
Performance & Transformation	4.5	(0.1)	4.4	4.2	(0.2)	(F)	Green	(0.1)
Business Support	4.3	(0.1)	4.2	4.2	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Children, Families & Education Team	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Early Help Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
sub total	13.7	(3.5)	10.2	9.9	(0.3)	(F)	Green	(0.2)
Inclusion								
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	59.3	(56.7)	2.6	2.7	0.1	A	Red	0.0
Vulnerable Learners	4.6	(4.4)	0.2	0.3	0.1	A	Red	0.1
Educational Psychology	3.3	(1.3)	2.0	2.1	0.1	A	Red	0.1
Inclusion Transformation & Partnerships	1.0	(0.7)	0.3	0.4	0.1	A	Red	0.0
SEND Transport	10.2	(0.7)	9.5	11.2	1.7	A	Red	(0.3)
Inclusion Strategic Management	1.4	(1.3)	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	Green	0.0
sub total	79.8	(65.1)	14.7	16.8	2.1	A	Red	(0.1)
Education, Partnerships & Skills								
Education Leadership	2.7	(2.6)	0.1	0.0	(0.1)	(F)	Green	0.3
Education Operations	6.1	(6.2)	(0.1)	(0.4)	(0.3)	(F)	Green	(0.1)
Curriculum & Literacy	3.2	(3.3)	(0.1)	0.2	0.3	A	Red	0.0
Education Places	2.1	(1.5)	0.6	0.6	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Home to School Transport	14.4	(1.5)	12.9	12.9	0.0	-	Green	0.1
EPS Management	1.2	(0.5)	0.7	1.3	0.6	A	Red	0.0
sub total	29.7	(15.6)	14.1	14.6	0.5	A	Red	0.3
Childrens Services								
Childrens Directorate	1.1	(0.4)	0.7	0.5	(0.2)	(F)	Green	(0.1)
sub total	1.1	(0.4)	0.7	0.5	(0.2)	(F)	Green	(0.1)
Children, Families & Education Services	219.5	(97.9)	121.6	136.5	14.9	A	Red	(0.4)

External Placements Monitoring & Forecasting

The table opposite provides a breakdown of the external placements budget by placement type.

The main areas of overspend are:

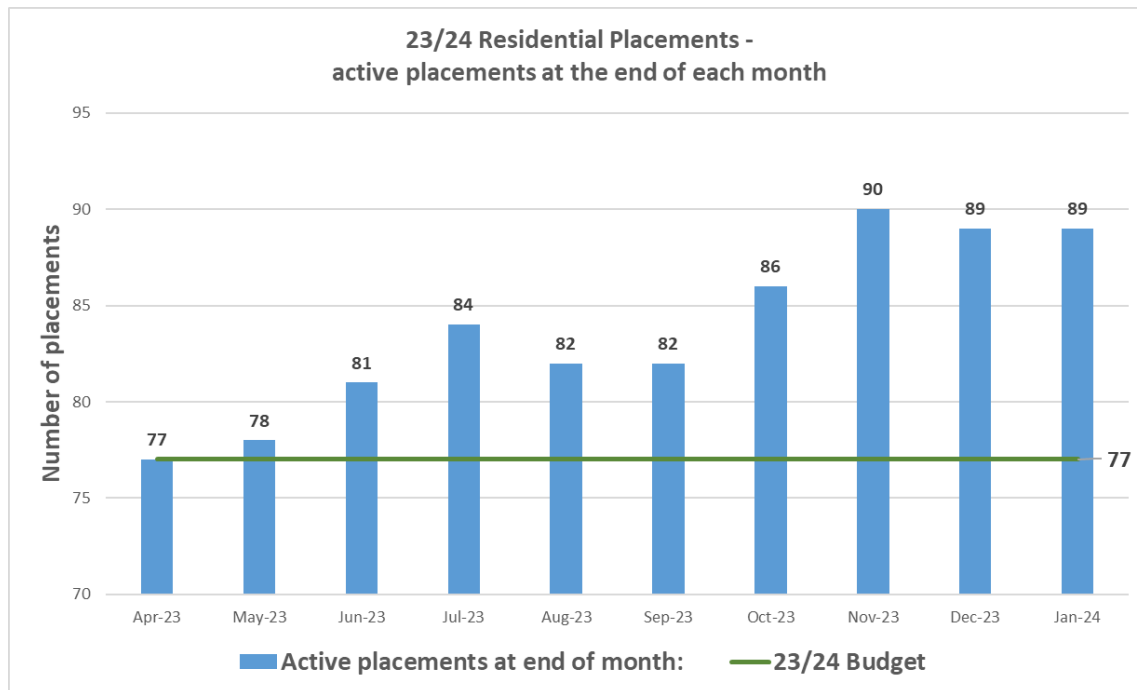
- Residential placements - £5.1m forecast overspend
- Unregistered placements - £4.0m forecast overspend

External Placements	23/24 Budget £m	Full Year Projection £m	Month 10 Variance £m	Change on Month 9 £m
Residential Placements	24.6	29.7	5.1	0.2
Independent Fostering Agencies	8.2	7.5	(0.7)	(0.1)
16+ Supported Accommodation	5.7	7.4	1.7	(0.1)
Homes & Horizons	4.1	3.5	(0.5)	(0.1)
Unregistered Placements	3.7	7.7	4.0	0.2
UASC Placements	1.9	2.8	0.9	(0.1)
Residential Parent & Child	1.1	1.0	(0.1)	0.1
Secure	0.9	1.4	0.5	(0.2)
Other	1.3	2.7	1.4	0.0
Total Expenditure	51.4	63.6	12.2	0.0
DSG Grant	(5.1)	(6.0)	(0.8)	0.1
UASC Grant	(2.4)	(2.8)	(0.4)	0.0
NHS Funding	(5.3)	(5.3)	0.0	(0.1)
Other	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	0.0
Total Income	(13.1)	(14.3)	(1.2)	0.1
Net Expenditure	38.4	49.4	11.0	0.1

Residential Placements

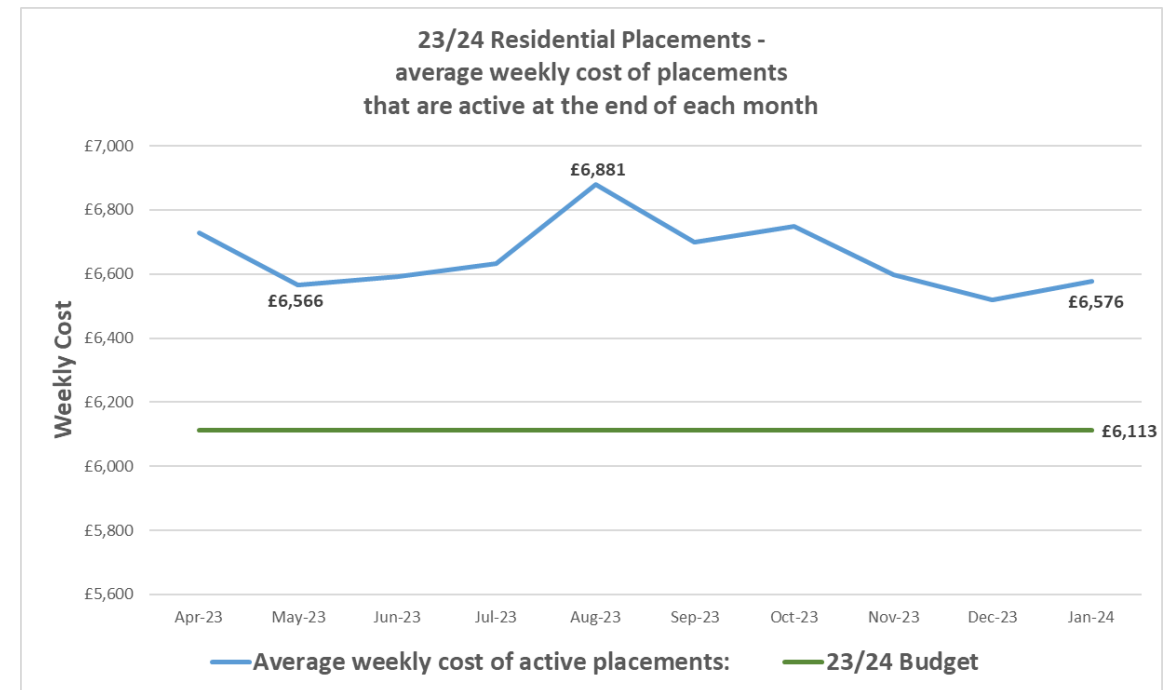
The graph below shows the trend in the **number of active residential placements** at the end of each month during 23/24.

The budgeted number of residential placements for 23/24 was 77.



The graph below shows the trend in the **average weekly cost** of residential placements that were active at the end of each month during 23/24.

The budgeted weekly cost of residential placements for 23/24 was £6,113.



Unregulated Placements and Homes & Horizons

The graphs opposite show the trend in the numbers of unregulated placements and Homes & Horizons placements.

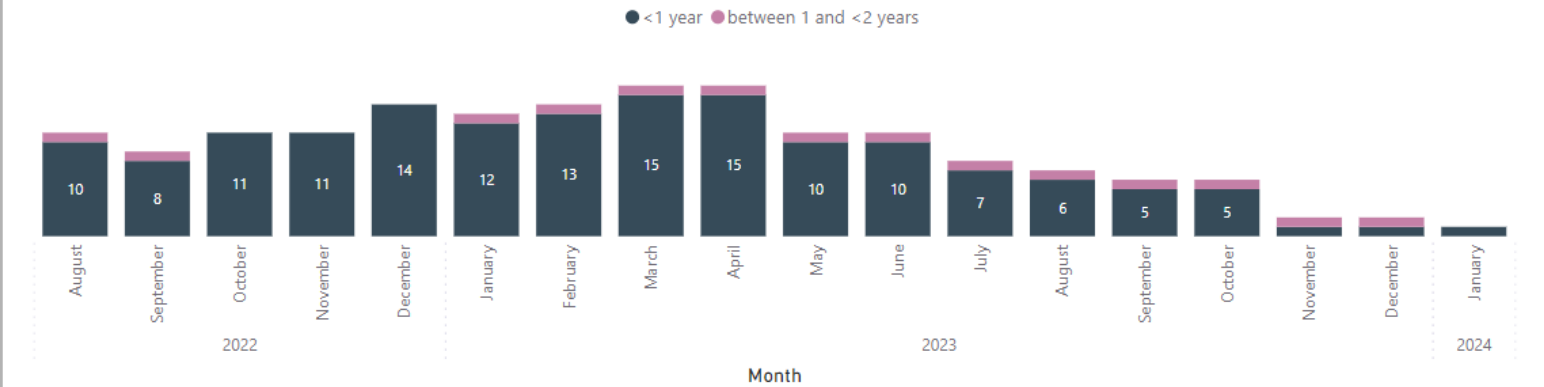
Young people in relatively high-cost unregulated placements have gradually been relocated to more cost-effective placements in Homes & Horizons residential homes.

Unregulated Placements:

1

CLA Cases in Unregulated Placements at end of last month

Number of CLA in Unregulated



Number of CLA in Homes and Horizons

10

CLA Cases in Homes and Horizons at end of last Month

Number of CLA in Homes and Horizons

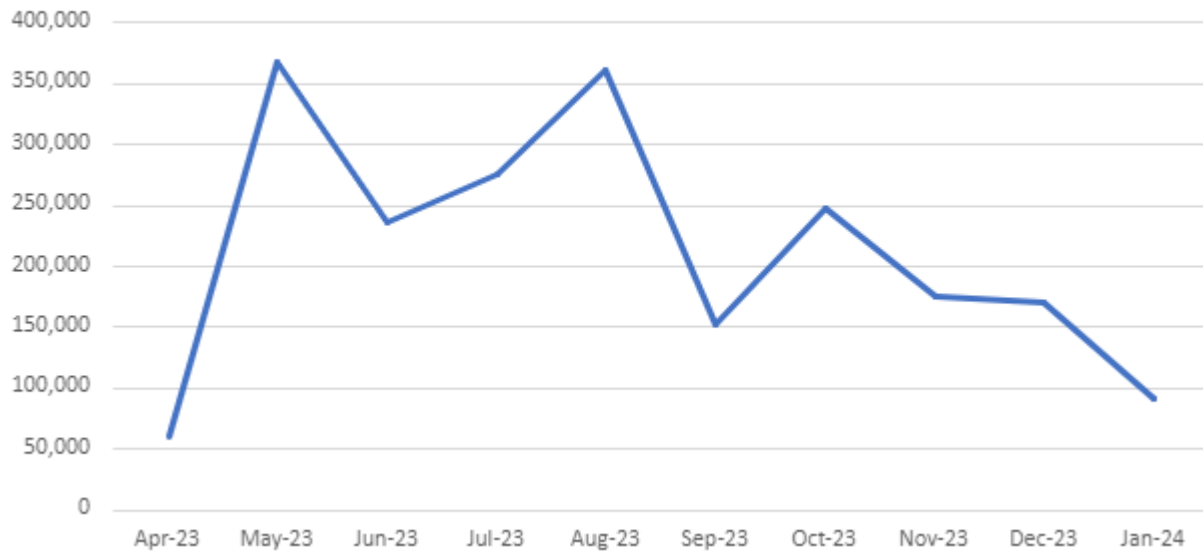


Fieldwork Spend

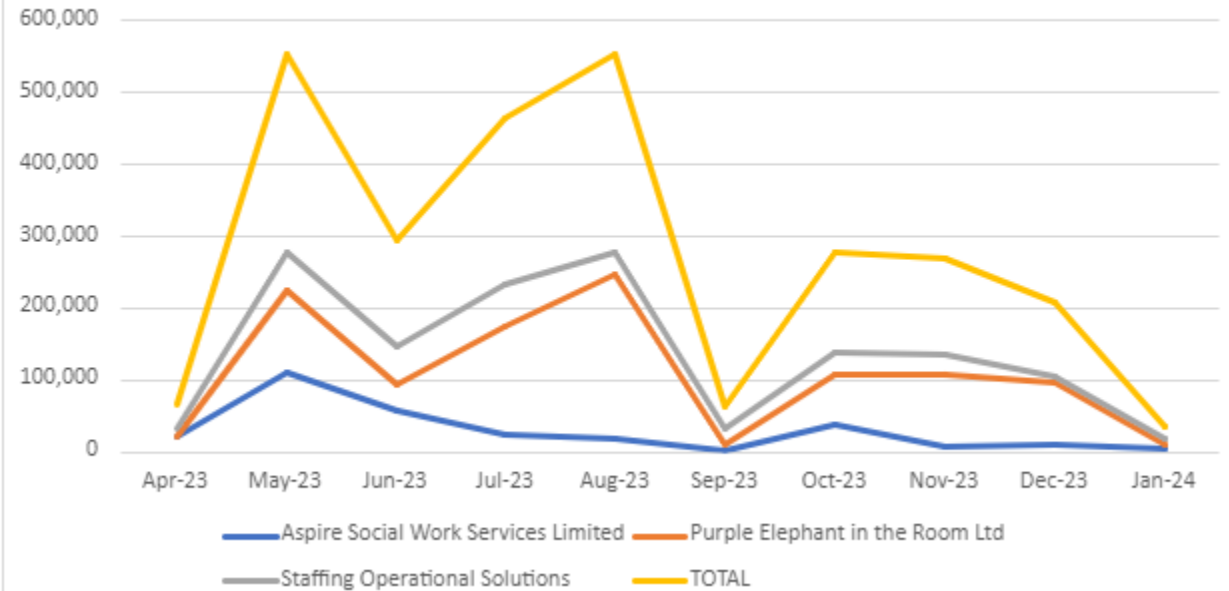
The graphs below shows the Assistance to Families and PLO spend per month plus the top 3 providers within this spend

The outcome of the Resource and Finance Panels has seen this spend reduce. This is particularly around court ordered assessments and creative transport solutions

Total Fieldwork spend by month



Top 3 Section 17 Providers



23/24 DSG Budget Monitoring Report

Forecast outturn as at the end of January (Month 10)

£15.5m forecast in year deficit; cumulative £38.0m deficit

DSG Block £m	Total funding available for services 2023/24	2023/24 Forecast Month 10	Forecast in-year variance surplus/ (deficit)	DSG Block £m	Balance b/f at 1 Apr 2023 Surplus/ (Deficit)	NFF drawn from Growth Fund	Forecast in-year variance surplus/ (deficit)	Forecast carry forward 31 Mar 2024
Schools	2.5	2.9	(0.4)	Schools	2.6	(1.2)	(0.4)	1.0
Central Schools	5.0	5.0	-	Central Schools	5.6	-	-	5.6
Early Years	31.1	31.1	-	Early Years	0.9	-	-	0.9
High Needs	73.5	88.7	(15.2)	High Needs	(29.8)	-	(15.2)	(45.0)
Total	112.1	127.7	(15.6)	Total	(20.7)	(1.2)	(15.6)	(37.6)

23/24 Budget Monitoring Report

Area £m	Budget	Forecast Month 10	Variance A/(F)	Forecast Month 9	Movement from Month 9
Home to School Transport	12.9	12.9	-	12.8	0.1
SEND Transport	9.5	11.2	1.7	11.5	(0.3)
Total	23.0	24.7	1.7	24.3	(0.2)

- Increased demand on SEN Transport due to rising numbers of children in Specialist provision combined with inflationary pressures
- SEN passenger numbers have doubled since 2018 from 674 to over 1,250
- Mainstream transport subject to inflationary pressure and passenger numbers remain flat

Questions

