

Appendix 7 - Public Health

Lead Member for Public Health, Equalities and Diversity: Cllr Bill Revan (interim)
Executive Director: Professor Trudi Grant
Deputy Director Public Health: Lou Woolway

2024/25 Public Health as at the end of June 2024 (month 3)

- 2024/25 Net Budget £1m, no variance
- 2023/24 Net Budget £1.3m, outturn favourable variance £0.1m

Service Area	Current Expenditure Budget	Current Income Budget	Current Net Budget	Full Year Projection	Month 3 Variance	A/(F)	RAG Status
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m		
Public Health Grant	23.0	(23.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green
Somerset Council Budget	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	-	Green
Public Health Total	24.0	(23.0)	1.0	1.0	0.0	-	Green

Public Health - key explanations, actions & mitigating controls

The Public Health budget is currently projected to be on budget for both the ringfenced grant and the Somerset Council budget.

Public Health - key risks, future issues & opportunities

Both the Public Health Grant and the Somerset Council funding managed by Public Health are facing significant future pressures caused by unfunded contract and pay inflationary increases. We have not yet been notified of the Public Health Grant for the 2025/26 financial year.

There is a systemic underfunding of public health in Somerset. The Public Health Grant is significantly below the national average being 141st out of 153 local authorities nationally. Improvements in whole population health are not achievable within the constraints of the public health budget. A new operating model for public health is underway which focuses the activity of the Public Health Team towards influencing policy, commissioning and spend right across the Somerset system to improve health and tackle inequalities. This new model puts a significant focus on the need to maintain a well-resourced and specialist public health team as opposed to using the grant to fund nonmandated services.