

# 24/25 Month 5 Budget Monitoring Report

- Scrutiny Committee - Children & Families
- 21 October 2024



**Somerset**  
Council

# Children's & Families Budget Monitoring – Month 5

Forecast overspend of £7.512m. Increase of £1.112m from Month 4.

Mainly external placements, change of placement type to more expensive placements. Permanence increase in kinship costs (care allowances). SEND, Local Gov Ombudsman fines and mediation costs.

	Budget 24/25 £m	Month 5 24/25 £m	Variance £m	Movemen t from month 4 (Under) / Over £m
Children & Families	98.0	105.1	7.1	0.8
Commissioning & Performance	11.1	10.7	(0.4)	(0.1)
Education & Transport	32.4	33.2	0.8	0.4
Childrens Services Team	0.4	0.4	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>149.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	

# External Placements Month 5 24/25

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

The main areas of overspend are:

- Residential placements - £4.5m gross overspend, £6.3m overspend (net of DSG and NHS income)
- Unregistered placements - £2.6m gross overspend

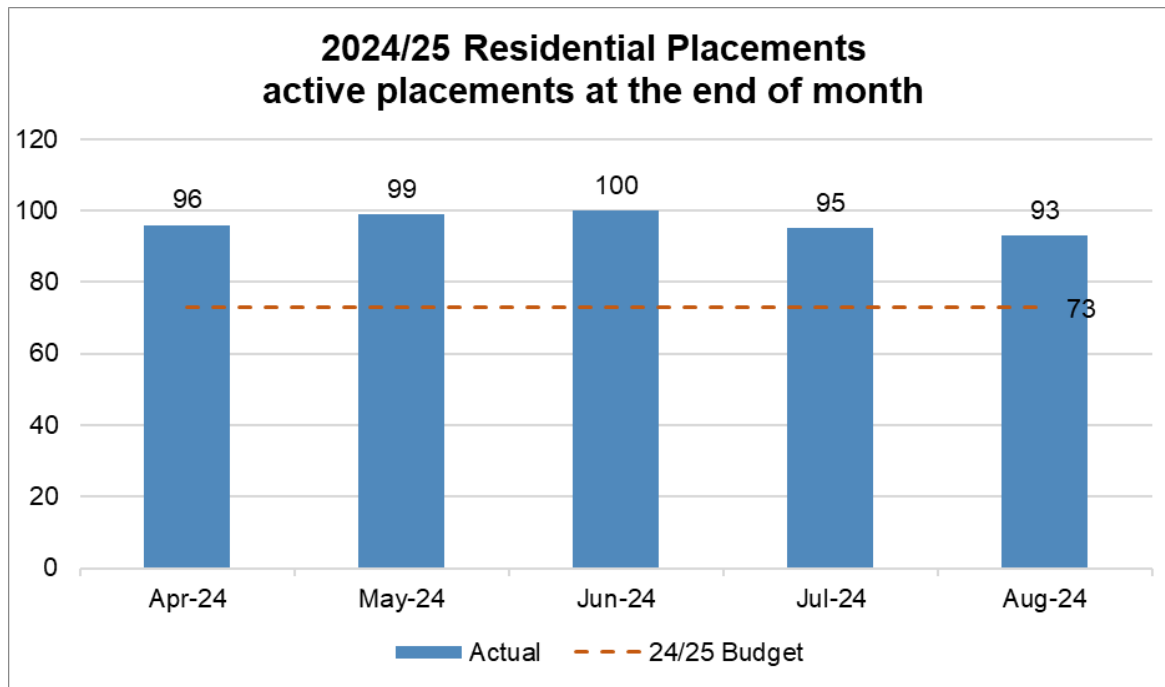
\* 'Other' spend relates to a combination of smaller budgeted placement types – IFA Staying Put, IFA Parent & Child, Remand, Leaving Care Accommodation

External Placements	24/25 Budget	Full Year Outturn	Overall Variance Over / (Under) £m	Movement from Month 4 £m
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Residential Placements	29.704	34.221	4.517	(0.281)
Independent Fostering Agencies	7.915	8.090	0.175	(0.020)
16+ Supported Accommodation	5.630	4.523	(1.107)	0.449
Homes & Horizons	5.943	5.943	-	-
Unregistered Placements	0.818	3.415	2.597	0.764
UASC Placements	2.472	3.000	0.527	(0.181)
Residential Parent & Child	0.748	2.279	1.531	0.182
Secure	1.333	0.764	(0.569)	0.035
Thrive 16+	4.065	3.636	(0.428)	(0.428)
Other	1.421	2.784	1.363	(0.055)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>60.049</b>	<b>68.655</b>	<b>8.606</b>	<b>0.464</b>
DSG Grant	(6.500)	(5.311)	1.189	-
UASC Grant	(2.305)	(2.392)	(0.087)	0.012
NHS Funding	(4.511)	(3.888)	0.624	(0.046)
Other	(0.817)	(0.764)	0.053	0.053
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(14.133)</b>	<b>(12.355)</b>	<b>1.778</b>	<b>0.019</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>45.916</b>	<b>56.299</b>	<b>10.384</b>	<b>0.484</b>

# Residential Placements Month 5 24/25

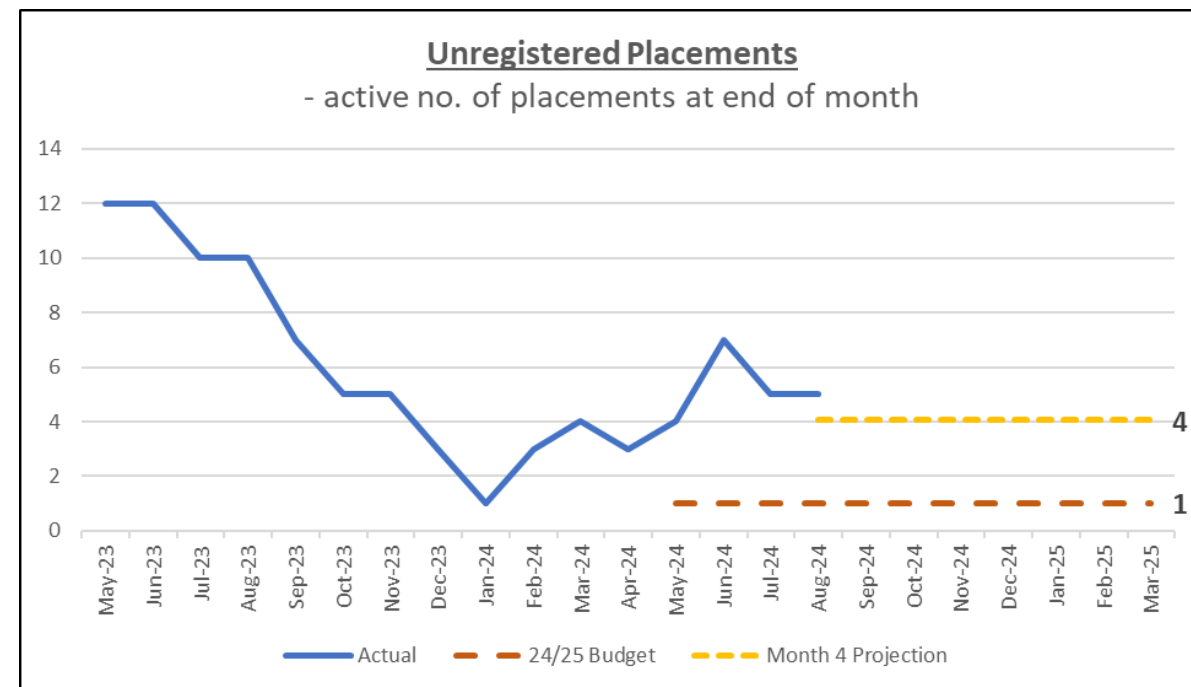
The graph below shows the trend in the **number of active residential placements** at the end of each month during 24/25.

The budgeted number of residential placements for 24/25 is 73.



After seeing an increase in unregistered placements from January 24, numbers are starting to level off and decline slightly with current active numbers at the end of August being 5.

The budgeted number of unregistered placements for 24/25 is 1.

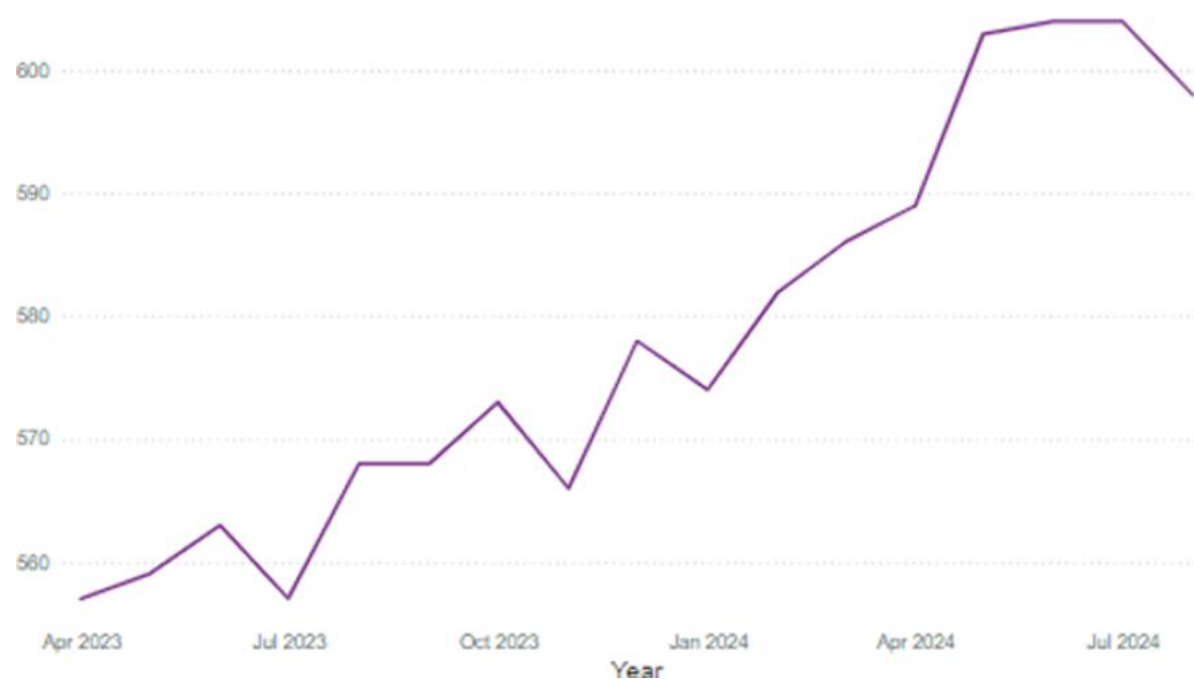


# Children Looked After Numbers

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The graphs opposite shows the total children looked after (CLA) numbers over the last 12 months. There has been a rise of 30 CLA with the more recent numbers coming into care moving into high-cost residential placements.

CLA Total by Month



# Education & Transport Forecast Month 5 24/25

Area – all in £m	Current Budget 24/25	Forecast 24/25	Month 5 Variance A/(F)	Month 4 Variance A/(F)
Education	5.7	7.0	1.3	1.0
Home to School Transport	13.3	12.7	(0.6)	(0.6)
SEND Transport	13.4	13.4	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>

£0.3m adverse variance from month 4 – main explanations

- Overspend of £0.3m additional LGO fines and mediation costs in SEND due to growth in numbers of CYP challenging their EHCP decision
- Overspend of £0.1m costed plans for children at risk of exclusion (possible transfer to HNB)
- Additional income of £0.1m from Core Offer due to delayed academisations

Note that the transport forecast will be reviewed at month 6 in detail

# Dedicated School Grant HNB Forecast Month 5 2024/25

Category	2024/25 Budgeted Pupils	2024/25 Current Budget £m	2024/25 Forecast £m	Month 5 Variance Over/ (Under) £m	Change from Month 4 Over/ (Under) £m
Special schools places & top up	1,147	24.728	25.500	0.772	0.272
INMS & Pre 16	508	32.842	34.841	1.999	0.399
Post 16	845	8.883	8.989	0.106	-
Mainstream top up & costed plans	2,119	12.510	17.038	4.528	1.228
Pupil Referral Units	348	8.916	8.916	-	-
Autism Spectrum Disorder Bases	177	2.152	2.172	0.020	-
Advisory Services & Virtual School	-	4.063	4.063	-	-
SEN Transformation & Other Services	-	2.255	2.339	0.084	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,144</b>	<b>96.349</b>	<b>103.858</b>	<b>7.509</b>	<b>1.899</b>
Net funding after recoupment		77.496	77.496	-	-
<b>Forecast in-year deficit</b>		<b>18.853</b>	<b>26.362</b>	<b>7.509</b>	<b>1.899</b>

INMS placements  
Budget – 415  
Forecast - 454

Increased numbers receiving top ups & costed plans, and average cost of mainstream costed plans and top ups

# Acronyms (for information)

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- CLA – children looked after
- UASC – unaccompanied asylum seeker children
- IFA – independent foster agency
- DSG – dedicated school's grant
- DMP – deficit management plan
- INMS – independent non-maintained schools
- SEND – special educational needs and disabilities
- EHCP – education, health and care plan



# Questions



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