

2023/24  
Children &  
Families  
Budget  
Monitoring

- Scrutiny Committee – Children & Families
- 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024



**Somerset**  
Council

# Corporate budget monitoring position – Month 7

- Overall, predicted £18.3m overspend - 3.8% of budget.
- £400k improvement on month 6.
- Largest overspends in Adults & Children's.

Service Area	Original Budget £m	Current Budget £m	Full Year Projection £m	Month 7 Variance £m	A/(F)	RAG Status	Movement From Month 6 £m
<b>Adult Services</b>							
Adult Social Care Operations - Physical Disability/Sensory Loss/65 Plus	111.9	114.2	119.5	5.3	A	Red	0.0
Adult Social Care Operations - Mental Health	26.5	23.6	24.6	1.0	A	Red	0.0
Adult Social Care Operations - Learning Disabilities	119.4	109.8	117.3	7.5	A	Red	0.0
Commissioning	(62.2)	(62.2)	(61.1)	1.1	A	Red	0.0
<b>Adult Services Total</b>	<b>186.6</b>	<b>185.4</b>	<b>200.3</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Children, Families &amp; Education Services</b>							
Children & Families	81.8	82.1	94.1	12.0	A	Red	1.3
Commissioning and Performance	10.5	10.5	10.4	(0.1)	(F)	Green	0.2
Inclusion	12.6	15.4	17.5	2.1	A	Red	0.4
Education, Partnerships and Skills	17.4	14.1	14.1	0.0	-	Green	(0.3)
Childrens Services	9.7	9.7	0.6	(0.1)	(F)	Green	0.0
<b>Children, Family &amp; Education Services Total</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>122.8</b>	<b>136.7</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Community Services</b>							
Housing	5.9	6.1	6.1	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Customer Services	7.0	5.4	5.4	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Cultural Services	9.3	8.5	8.5	0.0	-	Green	(0.4)
Regulatory & Operational Services	12.4	12.4	12.4	0.0	-	Green	(0.9)
<b>Community Services Total</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>(1.3)</b>
<b>Climate &amp; Place</b>							
Climate, Environment & Sustainability	54.6	55.2	55.8	0.6	A	Red	0.0
Infrastructure & Transport	22.5	22.4	23.4	1.0	A	Red	(0.1)
Economy, Employment & Planning	10.6	10.5	10.5	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Accountable Bodies	3.7	3.5	(3.5)	(7.0)	(F)	Green	0.0
<b>Climate &amp; Place Total</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>(5.4)</b>	<b>(F)</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>(0.1)</b>
<b>Strategy, Workforce &amp; Localities</b>							
Partnership & Localities	0.8	2.8	2.8	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Strategy & Performance	3.2	4.5	4.5	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Workforce	6.0	5.9	5.4	(0.5)	(F)	Green	(0.1)
Governance, Democratic & Legal Services	10.2	9.3	10.7	1.4	A	Red	0.1
<b>Strategy, Workforce &amp; Localities Total</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Resources &amp; Corporate Services</b>							
Finance	11.9	13.2	11.8	(1.4)	(F)	Green	0.0
Strategic Asset Management	(9.2)	(9.5)	(9.4)	0.1	A	Amber	(0.3)
Information Communication Technology	17.8	17.3	15.8	(1.5)	(F)	Green	(0.3)
<b>Resources &amp; Corporate Services Total</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>(2.8)</b>	<b>(F)</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>
<b>Public Health</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Non-Service</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>(3.5)</b>	<b>(F)</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Traded Services</b>							
Dillington	0.0	0	0.3	0.3	A	Red	0.0
<b>Traded Services Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total Service Position</b>	<b>487.3</b>	<b>486.4</b>	<b>504.7</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>(0.4)</b>
Corporate Contingency	6.0	5.7	5.7	0.0	-	Green	0.0
<b>Total After Contingencies</b>	<b>493.3</b>	<b>492.1</b>	<b>510.4</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>(0.4)</b>
Reserves	(10.9)	(10.6)	(10.6)	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Transfers to Schools	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	-	Green	0.0
Council Tax	(345.4)	(345.4)	(345.4)	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Business Rates	(116.1)	(116.1)	(116.1)	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Revenue Support Grant	(7.9)	(7.9)	(7.9)	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts	(4.0)	(4.0)	(4.0)	0.0	-	Green	0.0
<b>Total Position</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>(0.4)</b>

# Childrens Service budget monitoring position – Month 7

General fund

£122.8m net budget

£13.9m forecast overspend  
(11.3% overspend)

Service Area	Current Budget	Actuals to M7	Further Forecasts	Full Year Projection	Month 7 Variance	A/(F)	RAG Status	Movement From Month 6
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m			£m
<b>Children &amp; Families</b>								
Prevention Services	5.7	3.1	2.6	5.7	0.0	-	Green	(0.1)
Fostering & Permanence	13.3	7.7	4.9	12.6	(0.7)	(F)	Green	(0.0)
External Placements	38.4	31.3	18.0	49.3	10.9	A	Red	0.5
Fieldwork	9.1	6.6	3.8	10.4	1.3	A	Red	0.4
Disabilities	6.8	4.2	2.1	6.3	(0.5)	(F)	Green	0.0
Partnership, Audit & Quality	2.7	1.5	1.2	2.7	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Children Looked After	4.8	2.2	2.7	4.9	0.1	A	Red	(0.1)
Leaving Care	2.2	0.9	1.6	2.5	0.3	A	Red	0.0
CSC Management	(0.9)	1.1	(1.4)	(0.3)	0.6	A	Red	0.6
C&F Apportionments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
<b>sub total</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Commissioning and Performance</b>								
C&P Commissioning	2.0	(0.5)	2.5	2.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Performance and Transformation	4.4	2.8	1.5	4.3	(0.1)	(F)	Green	(0.0)
Business Support	4.1	2.9	1.2	4.1	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Children, Families & Education Team	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.2
Early Help Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	Green	0.0
<b>sub total</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>(0.1)</b>	<b>(F)</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Inclusion</b>								
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	2.7	38.2	(35.5)	2.7	0.0	-	Green	0.0
Vulnerable Learners	0.2	0.6	(0.6)	0.0	(0.2)	(F)	Green	(0.2)
Educational Psychology	2.1	1.0	1.2	2.2	0.1	A	Red	0.1
Inclusion Transformation and Partnerships	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	A	Red	0.3
SEND Transport	10.1	5.7	6.4	12.1	2.0	A	Red	0.3
Inclusion Strategic Management	0.2	(0.4)	0.5	0.1	(0.1)	(F)	Green	(0.1)
<b>sub total</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>(27.7)</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Education, Partnerships and Skills</b>								
Education Leadership	0.1	0.6	(0.9)	(0.3)	(0.4)	(F)	Green	(0.2)
Education Operations	(0.1)	0.9	(1.2)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(F)	Green	0.0
Curriculum and Literacy	(0.1)	0.3	(0.2)	0.1	0.2	A	Red	(0.3)
Education Places	0.6	5.8	(5.1)	0.7	0.1	A	Red	0.0
Home to School Transport	12.9	(147.0)	159.6	12.6	(0.3)	(F)	Green	(0.3)
EPS Management	0.7	0.0	1.3	1.3	0.6	A	Red	0.5
<b>sub total</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>(139.4)</b>	<b>153.5</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>
<b>Childrens Services</b>								
Childrens Directorate	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.6	(0.1)	(F)	Green	(0.1)
<b>sub total</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>(0.1)</b>	<b>(F)</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>(0.1)</b>
<b>Children, Families &amp; Education Services Total</b>	<b>122.8</b>	<b>(30.4)</b>	<b>167.1</b>	<b>136.7</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>1.5</b>

# 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 - £6.2m forecast overspend
- Unregistered placements - £3.5m forecast overspend

<b>External Placements</b>	<b>23/24 Budget £m</b>	<b>Full Year Projection £m</b>	<b>Month 7 Variance £m</b>
Residential Placements	24.4	30.6	6.2
Independent Fostering Agencies	8.2	7.5	(0.7)
16+ Supported Accommodation	5.7	6.7	1.0
Homes & Horizons	4.1	3.9	(0.1)
Unregistered Placements	3.7	7.3	3.5
UASC Placements	1.9	2.8	0.9
Residential Parent & Child	1.1	0.8	(0.3)
Secure	0.9	1.4	0.5
Other	1.3	2.6	1.3
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>12.3</b>
DSG Grant	(5.0)	(6.0)	(1.0)
UASC Grant	(2.4)	(2.7)	(0.3)
NHS Funding	(5.3)	(5.3)	(0.0)
Other	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.1)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(12.9)</b>	<b>(14.3)</b>	<b>(1.4)</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>

# External Placements Monitoring & Forecasting

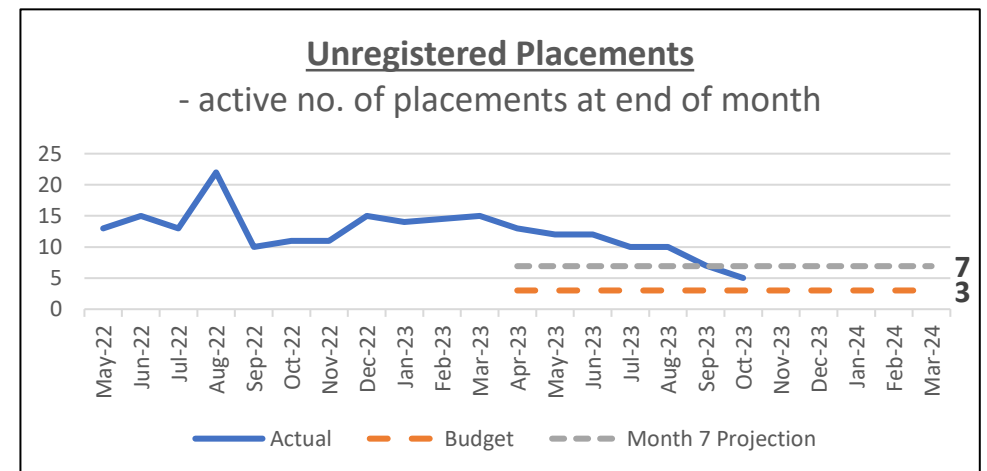
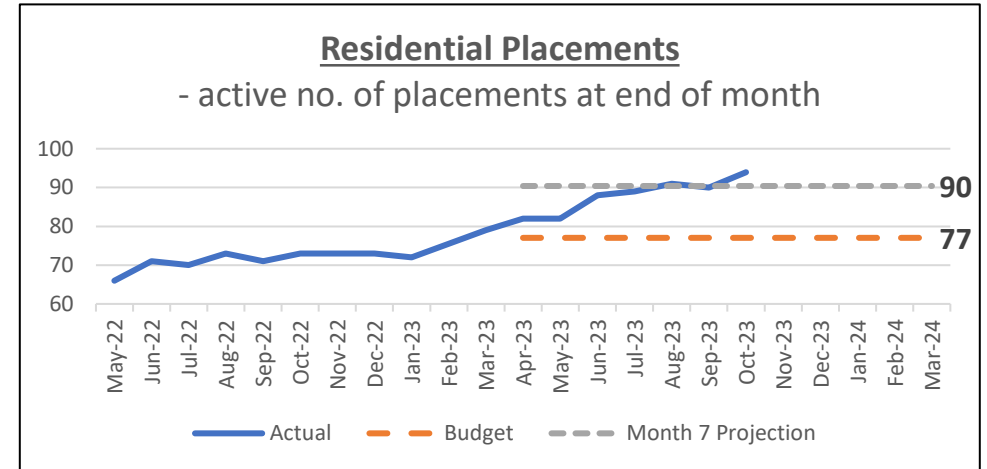
The graphs opposite show the trend in the numbers of residential and unregistered placements over the past 18 months.

## Residential placements

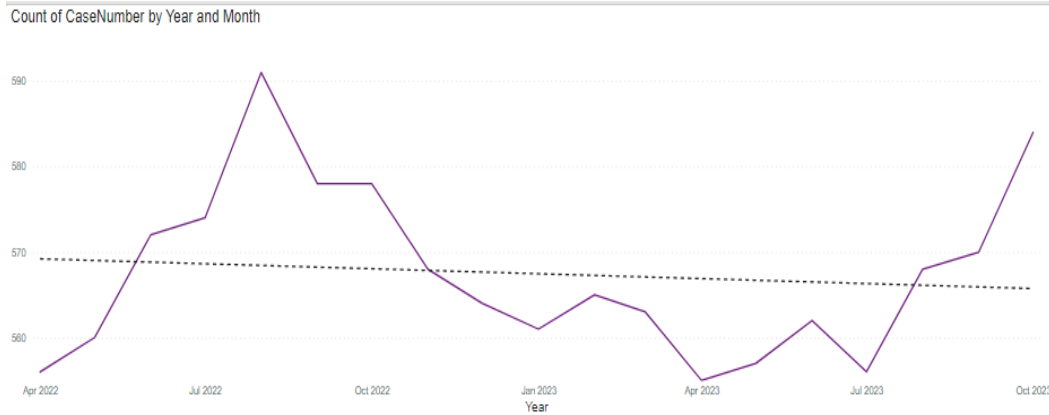
- 77 placements were budgeted for in 23/24
- Month 7 projections for 23/24 assume an average of 90 FTE

## Unregistered placements

- 3 placements were budgeted for in 23/24
- Month 7 projections for 23/24 assume an average of 7 FTE



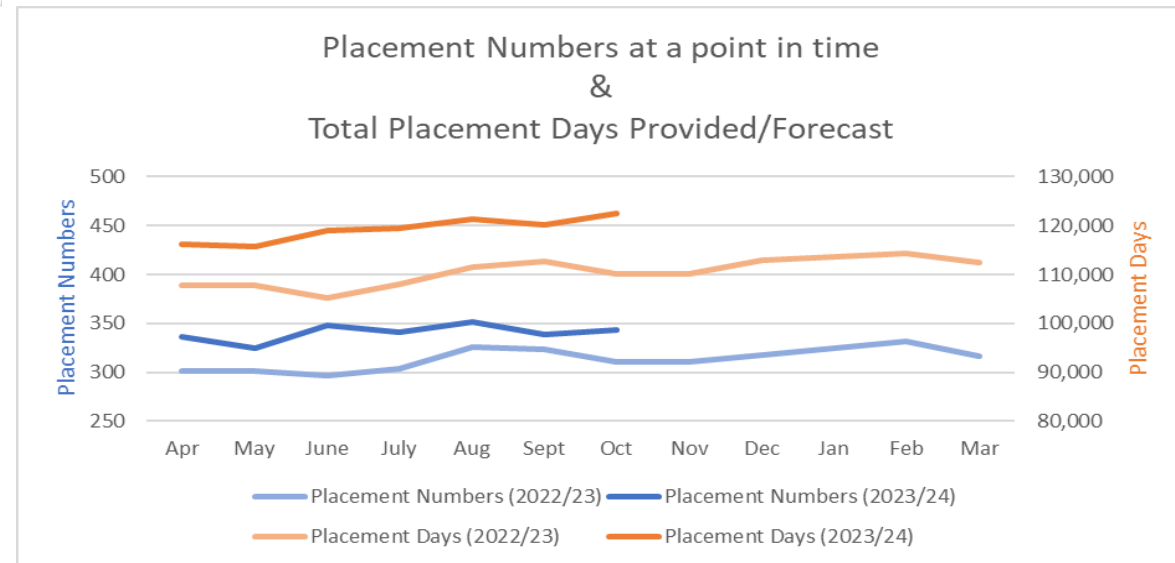
# CLA Key Cost Drivers



- Relatively stable no. of CLA since Jan 2022
- Unexpected spike in summer 2022 – CYP with complex needs
- Recent increase – sibling groups/non-accidental injury
- Impact on no. of external placements and high cost of placement

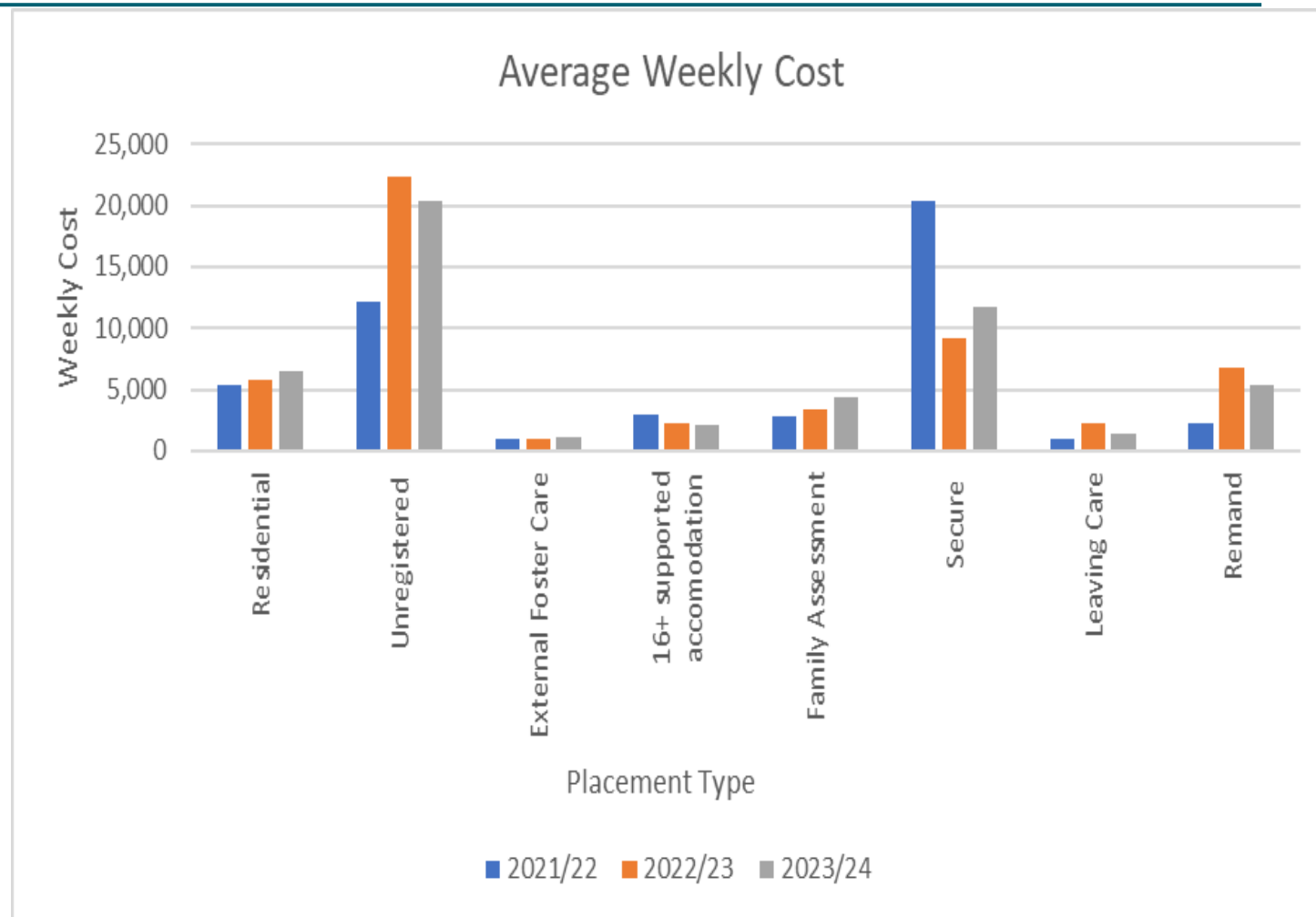
Increases in placements numbers and placement days...

- UASC – National Transfer Scheme
- Residential placements – complexity of need and lack of sufficiency in fostering sector
- Bespoke 16+ supported accommodation – complexity of need
- Reduction in in-house fostering placements



# CLA Key Cost Drivers

- Average weekly cost of unregistered placements is now £20.3k (9% reduction on 22/23)
- Increase of 12% on average cost of residential placements



# 23/24 DSG Budget Monitoring Report

Forecast outturn as at the end of September (Month 7)

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

DSG Block £m	Total funding available for services 2023/24	2023/24 Forecast Month 7	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	89.1	(15.6)	High Needs	(29.8)	-	(15.6)	(45.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>112.1</b>	<b>128.1</b>	<b>(16.0)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(20.7)</b>	<b>(1.2)</b>	<b>(16.0)</b>	<b>(38.0)</b>



# 23/24 Budget Monitoring Report

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Area £m	Budget	Forecast Month 7	Variance A/(F)	Forecast Month 6	Movement from Month 6
Home to School Transport	12.9	12.6	(0.3)	12.9	(0.3)
SEND Transport	10.1	12.1	2.0	11.8	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>-</b>

- 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

