

VOLATILE AND DEMAND LED BUDGET MONITORING - UPDATE FOR 2020-21					Quarter 3 Review																	
Item Ref.	Description	Approved Budget	Q3 Variations	Comments on Monitoring Results	Progress Indicator	Recovery Plan Details, if not on Target																
Lead Officer		£'000	£'000	Supporting Performance Information, Client Data etc. (cumulative)																		
(+ increased cost or reduced income / - reduced cost or increased income)																						
VB01  Clive Jones	Council Tax Income	-80,854		<div>The collection rate at Q3 is just over 80%. The collection rate is lower this year due to the impact of Covid-19 during which time recovery of arrears was suspended. Latest figures show £81m out of £100m has been collected (£81.2m out of £95.1m had been collected for the same time last year)</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>Change</td></tr><tr><td>Collection Rate 20/21</td><td>85.3%</td><td>80.8%</td><td>-4.5%</td></tr></table>		Base	now	Change	Collection Rate 20/21	85.3%	80.8%	-4.5%	AMBER	Reflects Impact of Covid 19 on local economy. Collection closely monitored								
	Base	now	Change																			
Collection Rate 20/21	85.3%	80.8%	-4.5%																			
VB02  Clive Jones	Business Rates Income	-54,410		<div>Business rates collection has been severely affected by Covid-19. Latest figures show £33.9m out of £46.2m has been collected (£61.4m out of £71.1m collected at the same stage last year)</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>Collection Rate 20/21</td><td>86.5%</td><td>73.3%</td><td>-13.2%</td></tr></table>		Base	now	change	Collection Rate 20/21	86.5%	73.3%	-13.2%	AMBER	Reflects Impact of Covid 19 on local economy. Collection closely monitored								
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Collection Rate 20/21	86.5%	73.3%	-13.2%																			
VB03  Claire Astbury	HRA Rent Income Collected	-32,832	150	<div>Loss of income due to increase in VOID properties which is at 0.84% due to COVID, mainly Sheltered Accommodation due to the increased risk.</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>Dec</td><td>Change</td></tr><tr><td>percentage of rent collected 2020/21 to Dec 2020</td><td>101.2%</td><td>96.0%</td><td>-5.2%</td></tr><tr><td>percentage of rent collected 2019-20</td><td>101.0%</td><td>96.3%</td><td>-4.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Income loss through void properties (%)</td><td></td><td>0.8%</td><td>0.8%</td></tr></table>		Base	Dec	Change	percentage of rent collected 2020/21 to Dec 2020	101.2%	96.0%	-5.2%	percentage of rent collected 2019-20	101.0%	96.3%	-4.7%	Income loss through void properties (%)		0.8%	0.8%	AMBER	Looking at how to let Sheltered properties due to the increased risks. Void loss data not available for December.
	Base	Dec	Change																			
percentage of rent collected 2020/21 to Dec 2020	101.2%	96.0%	-5.2%																			
percentage of rent collected 2019-20	101.0%	96.3%	-4.7%																			
Income loss through void properties (%)		0.8%	0.8%																			
VB04  Claire Astbury	Homelessness - Prevention & Temporary Accommodation	1,419	1,217	<div>Costs include increased bad debt provision (£209k), increased repair and maintenance costs (£493k) and costs associated with the rent deposit scheme (£277k). Property numbers below exclude Covid-19 numbers. Work continues to reduce the number of households in TA.</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>Oct</td><td>Nov</td><td>Dec</td></tr><tr><td>No of Temp Accommodation properties</td><td>1245</td><td>1224</td><td>1229</td></tr><tr><td>No of households in nightly let accommodation</td><td>109</td><td>106</td><td>108</td></tr></table>		Oct	Nov	Dec	No of Temp Accommodation properties	1245	1224	1229	No of households in nightly let accommodation	109	106	108	RED	Ongoing work to reduce nightly let accommodation into cheaper property through negotiation with landlords. TAPS 2 acquisition of up to 36 x 3 or 4 bedroom properties impacted by Covid. 11 offers but completions unlikely before year end.				
	Oct	Nov	Dec																			
No of Temp Accommodation properties	1245	1224	1229																			
No of households in nightly let accommodation	109	106	108																			
VB05  Clive Jones	Housing Benefit Payments (Net Cost)	670	0	<div>COVID-19 is impacting on the speed of claimants moving from HB to UC as they are impacted by the economic downturn. Increase in LHA due to COVID-19 putting pressure on subsidy as more is paid out in HB. Costs and income will continue to be monitored in detail up to year-end, to track any movement from the current forecast.</div>	GREEN	Costs and income are continuing to be monitored closely with the service																
VB06  Roger Kirk	Property Repairs and maintenance	707	240	<div>Property Repairs and maintenance is currently reported as an overspend of £240K. However, this cost is offset by reductions in premises costs of £350k due to buildings being closed as a result of Covid-19, otherwise the overspend would have been higher. The property estate as a whole is being reviewed with the aim of reducing the number of properties. The Council has incurred costs of £939k to make buildings Covid compliant, but these costs will be covered by funding received from Central government.</div>	RED	Ongoing dialogue with Members and partner organisations to rationalise the property estate with the aim of reducing costs																

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VB07	Waste Disposal Contract, including landfill costs.	9,143	150	With the increased time people have been spending at home we have seen a substantial increase in the levels of waste collected from the kerbside. Coupled with the contractual increased unitary rate, cost of landfill and EFW, the cost of disposal has increased by around 10% compared to 2019 equivalent.	AMBER	Reflect the impact of Covid-19 and resulting lockdowns, significantly increasing quantities of waste. Waste figures are being continually monitored
Shaun Askins						
VB08	Childrens Residential Placements (Tri-partite, Non Tri-partite & Secure Remand)	4,762	252	The number of children supported in residential care remains fairly static. Although there have been some reductions due to Children transitioning to leaving care or Adult Care as they turn 18, there have been a new high cost placement which has raised the average cost per placement this year. Work is ongoing to look at all children's residential placements with value for money reviews being undertaken and so far there are a number of placements with potential for reducing costs once notice is given and/or outcomes of the negotiations with providers are confirmed. This is a very volatile area and the number of children and placement costs can fluctuate considerably depending on the type of placement needed.	RED	
Allison Parkinson						
VB09	Foster Care - Agency (SPARC, IFA Preferred & Non Preferred)	6,600	427	Although there is still a significant overspend in this area, there has been a 17% reduction in spend compared to last years outturn. Both the number of children placed with agency foster carers and the average weekly cost of placements has decreased from 2019-20. There has been a comprehensive review of all agency foster care placements resulting in £145k of savings in year, with a further £200k expected to be achieved following confirmation from providers (£800k full year effect if delivered). The remaining reduction in projected spend is due to children being changed to different care settings including SGO's, in-house fostering, semi-independent or placed for adoption. There has also been a number of children returned to the care of their parents. However the number of PLO's has increased since March 2020 during lockdown and there is a risk that the outcome of these cases may result in court proceedings and more children being taken into care. Finding suitable placements may result in further increased spend on this budget.	RED	The Luton Families Programme has been developed to deliver change and improvement across Children services in Luton . The programme incorporates previous work from the former Glidepath programme and the PeopleToo recommendations. The planned work in the programme includes measures to assist areas which are under significant budgetary pressure. This a 5 year plan that will deliver a balanced budget across Children's Services by 2022-23.
Allison Parkinson						

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VB10	Foster Care - In-house	2,131	36	<div>There is an ongoing recruitment campaign to attract more in-house foster carers however the complexity of some cases means in-house provision is not always the most suitable placement however there has been some recent success in transferring children to in-house placements from more expensive agency fostering. The reduction in the number of contract carers due to retirement has resulted in the lower average unit cost of placements but this does pose a risk in terms of placing children in an emergency and could result in further use of agency foster placements. There rates and bandings for in-house carers that took effect from January which has increased costs</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>March '19</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>Average number of placements (FTE)</td><td>115</td><td>118</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Average weekly cost per placement</td><td>£394</td><td>£384</td><td>-£10</td></tr></table>		March '19	now	change	Average number of placements (FTE)	115	118	3	Average weekly cost per placement	£394	£384	-£10	RED	
	March '19	now	change															
Average number of placements (FTE)	115	118	3															
Average weekly cost per placement	£394	£384	-£10															
Allison Parkinson																		
VB11	SEN Transport	3,338	731	<div>The base budget has increased by £300k to reflect increased demographic growth in this area. Covid has had an impact as providers continue to be paid under mutual aid agreements and some children have continued to attend school so the number of externally provisioned trips has increased due to ensure social distancing rules are adhered to. However a change in providers has resulted in fewer externally provisioned routes and a significant increase iin support from the in-house service. The additional costs have been covered by a dedictated government grant to cover COVID related expenditure.</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of trips</td><td>13472</td><td>14062</td><td>590</td></tr><tr><td>average cost per trip</td><td>£141</td><td>£137</td><td>-£4</td></tr></table>		Base	now	change	number of trips	13472	14062	590	average cost per trip	£141	£137	-£4	RED	A review is underway and all viable options will be considered, including encouraging independence, to ensure suitable provision is maintained and to improve the sustainability of budget resources. There is also a proposal to have a centralised team to deal with all client transport requests and an options appraisal is currently being drafted to determine whether this will help deliver a balanced budget in this area.
	Base	now	change															
number of trips	13472	14062	590															
average cost per trip	£141	£137	-£4															
Sally Cartwright																		
VB12	Children's Legal Costs	1,258	163	<div>Legal Services spend is directly linked to the number of children being placed in care and resulting court proceedings. The budget has been increased to reflect the increased activity however there is still overspent projected based on present activity.</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of cases</td><td>98</td><td>103</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>average cost per case</td><td>£12,166</td><td>£13,689</td><td>£1,524</td></tr></table>		Base	now	change	number of cases	98	103	5	average cost per case	£12,166	£13,689	£1,524	AMBER	
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Denise Goodwin																		
VB13	Emergency Duty Team (EDT - Children and Adults)	620	-100	<div>The budget has been increased by £100k in ASC and £237k in Children's to reflect the cost pressure on this service over the past few years due to increased use of expensive agency staff to provide out of hours support. The projected spend has been based on last years activity and outturn as current year data is still to be provided by Central Bedfordshire Council. There is a projected underspend in Q3.</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of cases</td><td></td><td></td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>average cost per case</td><td></td><td></td><td>£0</td></tr></table>		Base	now	change	number of cases			0	average cost per case			£0	GREEN	
	Base	now	change															
number of cases			0															
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Denise Goodwin																		
VB14	Older Person's Private & Voluntary Residential and Nursing Care	4,796	-120	<div>The number of people placed permanently in residential and nursing placements has reduced significantly compared to 2019-20 due to increased mortality rates at the start of the Covid 19 outbreak. This coupled with the lower than budgeted cost increase across residential care has contributed to significant savings in older persons residential and nursing care (over £500k) Unit costs have risen as a result of National Living wage and inflationary increases in provider costs.</div>	GREEN													

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Vamsi Pelluri	packages			<table><thead><tr><th></th><th>Base</th><th>now</th><th>change</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>number of permanent clients in care homes</td><td>227</td><td>233</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>average weekly net cost per client</td><td>£389</td><td>£434</td><td>£45</td></tr></tbody></table>		Base	now	change	number of permanent clients in care homes	227	233	6	average weekly net cost per client	£389	£434	£45	GREEN	Purchased Care Budgets (items VB11 - VB17) need to be viewed as a whole, due to changes in the level and type of care required to best support changes in individual client needs.				
	Base	now	change																			
number of permanent clients in care homes	227	233	6																			
average weekly net cost per client	£389	£434	£45																			
VB15	Learning Disability Private & Voluntary Residential and Nursing Care packages	10,635	-1,271	<table><tbody><tr><td colspan="4">There is a underspend in Learning Disability placements due to lower than expected cost of transition placements although not all placements have transpired. There has also been a reduction in placements since 2019-20 due to mortality rates and lower than expected cost increases for out of area placements.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of permanent clients in care homes/</td><td>165</td><td>166</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>average weekly net cost per client</td><td>£1,009</td><td>£1,144</td><td>£135</td></tr></tbody></table>	There is a underspend in Learning Disability placements due to lower than expected cost of transition placements although not all placements have transpired. There has also been a reduction in placements since 2019-20 due to mortality rates and lower than expected cost increases for out of area placements.					Base	now	change	number of permanent clients in care homes/	165	166	1	average weekly net cost per client	£1,009	£1,144	£135		
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number of permanent clients in care homes/	165	166	1																			
average weekly net cost per client	£1,009	£1,144	£135																			
Ian Hillsden																						
VB16	Physical Disability Private & Voluntary Residential and Nursing Care packages	1,365	30	<table><tbody><tr><td colspan="4">The average cost has increased due to national living wage and inflation (4% residential and 5.2% for Nursing) The increase in number of clients supported also includes people that need more intensive support following discharge from health rehabilitation for long term degenerative conditions. Agreement to fund these placements as per Section 75 agreements i.e. 50:50 has still not been agreed and the Council continues to bear a signification proportion of these costs compared to Health.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of permanent clients in care homes</td><td>45</td><td>52</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>average net weekly cost per client</td><td>£701</td><td>£656</td><td>-£45</td></tr></tbody></table>	The average cost has increased due to national living wage and inflation (4% residential and 5.2% for Nursing) The increase in number of clients supported also includes people that need more intensive support following discharge from health rehabilitation for long term degenerative conditions. Agreement to fund these placements as per Section 75 agreements i.e. 50:50 has still not been agreed and the Council continues to bear a signification proportion of these costs compared to Health.					Base	now	change	number of permanent clients in care homes	45	52	7	average net weekly cost per client	£701	£656	-£45	AMBER	
The average cost has increased due to national living wage and inflation (4% residential and 5.2% for Nursing) The increase in number of clients supported also includes people that need more intensive support following discharge from health rehabilitation for long term degenerative conditions. Agreement to fund these placements as per Section 75 agreements i.e. 50:50 has still not been agreed and the Council continues to bear a signification proportion of these costs compared to Health.																						
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number of permanent clients in care homes	45	52	7																			
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Vamsi Pelluri																						
VB17	Mental Health Private & Voluntary Sector Residential & Nursing Care Packages	3,975	863	<table><tbody><tr><td colspan="4">The number of people requiring residential and nursing care following discharge from hospital has significantly increased since last financial year. As at April 2019 there were a total of 98 adults with mental health needs supported in permanent placements. There as been a 37% increase in the number of people placed - with the majority of these placements occurring in the latter part of the last financial year so were not known at the time the 2020-21 budget was set. The full year effect of these placements have had a significant impact on this years projected spend. Measures are being undertaken to ensure proper protocols have been adhered to when making these placements. The reduced average cost is due to securing contributions from health for S117 placements.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of clients in care homes</td><td>134</td><td>144</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>average weekly net cost per client</td><td>£759</td><td>£646</td><td>-£113</td></tr></tbody></table>	The number of people requiring residential and nursing care following discharge from hospital has significantly increased since last financial year. As at April 2019 there were a total of 98 adults with mental health needs supported in permanent placements. There as been a 37% increase in the number of people placed - with the majority of these placements occurring in the latter part of the last financial year so were not known at the time the 2020-21 budget was set. The full year effect of these placements have had a significant impact on this years projected spend. Measures are being undertaken to ensure proper protocols have been adhered to when making these placements. The reduced average cost is due to securing contributions from health for S117 placements.					Base	now	change	number of clients in care homes	134	144	10	average weekly net cost per client	£759	£646	-£113	RED	
The number of people requiring residential and nursing care following discharge from hospital has significantly increased since last financial year. As at April 2019 there were a total of 98 adults with mental health needs supported in permanent placements. There as been a 37% increase in the number of people placed - with the majority of these placements occurring in the latter part of the last financial year so were not known at the time the 2020-21 budget was set. The full year effect of these placements have had a significant impact on this years projected spend. Measures are being undertaken to ensure proper protocols have been adhered to when making these placements. The reduced average cost is due to securing contributions from health for S117 placements.																						
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VB18	Private & Voluntary Sector Home Care Packages	8,169	-293	The Side by Side project showed a positive impact in the reduction in the number of people supported in the latter part of 2019-20 and the full year effect of this is also contributing towards the underspend. This has now been embedded across care management teams and continues to abate growth. The number of clients requiring home care has also reduced due to COVID 19 lockdowns as family members who have been furloughed or are able to work from home have been able to provide care previously provided by the council which has also resulted in reduced spend. The Council spend on hospital discharges continues to be reimbursed by Health so ensure there is bed capacity in respect of Covid-19 and this is reducing spend further but it is difficult to determine what the long term impact COVID will have on home care activity and payments to providers. The average cost of a care packages has decreased possibly due to the strength based approach to assessment			AMBER													
Vamsi				<table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of clients receiving home care</td><td>1063</td><td>935</td><td>-128</td></tr><tr><td>average weekly cost per client</td><td>£167</td><td>£162</td><td>-£5</td></tr></table>					Base	now	change	number of clients receiving home care	1063	935	-128	average weekly cost per client	£167	£162	-£5	
	Base	now	change																	
number of clients receiving home care	1063	935	-128																	
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Pelluri																				
VB19	Direct Payment Packages	8,430	-31	The Direct Payment (DP) review project has resulted in a reduction of nearly 100 DP clients in a year - 800 supported at March 2019, compared to 701 currently. This has been done in conjunction with the Side by Side project which has now embedded a different way of initially assessing care needs across care management. There has been a budget reduction of £300k allocated across ASC direct payments as part of the emergency budget which is related to the introduction of prepaid cards later this year. Although there are ongoing referrals for care funded by DP the current projection is now under budget and this is a result of reviews for people as part of the prepaid card project which is a significant achievement compared to previous years. Due to the nature of the Side by Side project, the cohort of people supported by Adult Care with a DP are those with higher care needs. This coupled with increased costs in relation to national living wage is resulting in a higher unit cost. The recovery of money from holding accounts significantly reduced the outturn position in previous years and it is anticipated this will level out as the introduction of prepaid cards will limit the allocation of funds that go on to be unutilised and need to be reclaimed.			RED													
Vamsi				<table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of clients receiving a direct</td><td>725</td><td>639</td><td>-86</td></tr><tr><td>average weekly cost per client</td><td>£218</td><td>£253</td><td>£35</td></tr></table>					Base	now	change	number of clients receiving a direct	725	639	-86	average weekly cost per client	£218	£253	£35	
	Base	now	change																	
number of clients receiving a direct	725	639	-86																	
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Pelluri																				
VB20	Non Residential Income	-3,233	1,118	There has been a significant reduction in income due to Covid-19 and lockdown as people are not attending day care or are requiring less home care as family members step in and provide support instead. The projection has been based on current levels, however income levels should increase if lockdown is lifted but there is uncertainty around the level of uptake in particular day care as vulnerable clients may continue to shield themselves. The current income loss has been offset by significant lower spend across day care provision. Many day care providers have furloughed staff reducing the level of mutual aid payments made by the Council. It is expected the income loss will be covered in part by Covid grant.			GREEN													
Vamsi				<table><tr><td></td><td>Base</td><td>now</td><td>change</td></tr><tr><td>number of clients charged for non</td><td>914</td><td>816</td><td>-98</td></tr></table>					Base	now	change	number of clients charged for non	914	816	-98					
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number of clients charged for non	914	816	-98																	
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				average weekly charge per client	-£74	-£50	£24	
		-103,312	3,561					

Key to Status of Budgets

GREEN

Budget on target - no issues

AMBER

Issues arising - recovery / mitigations in place

RED

Budget not on target and is and ongoing pressure