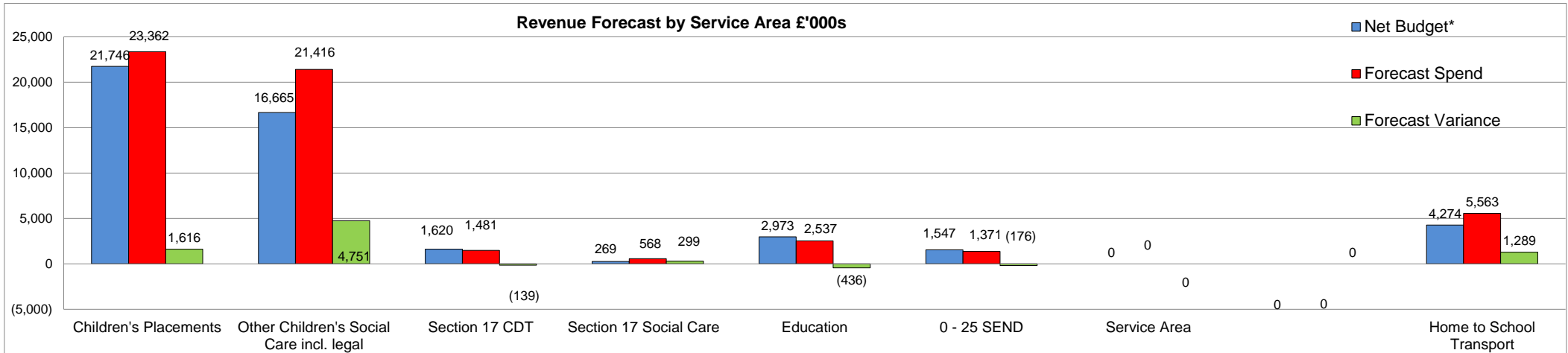


**Children's Services Core - Portfolio 2022/23 Position**  
**Period 6 (Sept 2022)**

**1. Revenue Position**



**2. Explanations for Key Revenue Variances**

Service Area	Net Budget* £000s	Forecast Spend £000s	Forecast Variance £000s	Commentary on material variances
Children's Placements	21,746	23,362	1,616	This projection is based on detailed case review of all children in the care system. There has been an increase in demand for placements. +£431,000 is related to the revenue set up costs of Residential Homes, with the aim of having places and costs for some residential placements within Council control.
Other Children's Social Care incl. legal	16,665	21,416	4,751	Agreed additional funding for YOS +£132,000, LSCP +£96,000, Social Care Demand £3.714m, +£399,000 Legal costs due to case demand and complexity, +£339,000 Other improvement activities including JTAI recommendations, +£154,000 Fostering Spend to save, offset by (£83,000) Officers travel. Any relevant external income, such as the DfE £642,000 Improvement Grant and any specific additional reserves have been applied.
Section 17 CDT	1,620	1,481	(139)	Based on Social Care System Manager forecast and analysis of other system payments and expected contract payments.
Section 17 Social Care	269	568	299	Based on Social Care System Manager forecast and analysis of other system payments and expected contract payments.
Education	2,973	2,537	(436)	Majority of (£436,000) positive variance relates to (£119,000) Early Retirement historic commitment costs positive variance, with the remaining (£317,000) positive variance relating to vacancies across several teams.
0 - 25 SEND	1,547	1,371	(176)	Comprising of: (£387,000) relating to vacancies in Education Psychology team, +£203,000 forecast additional pay forecast in StART (EHCP), and +£8,000 EHCP team related transport costs.

Service Area	Net Budget*	Forecast Spend	Forecast Variance	Commentary on material variances
	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Home to School Transport	4,274	5,563	1,289	3 major cost pressures: driver shortages, fuel inflation, continued demand increase linked to increased EHC Plan pupils. 4 initiatives to constrain costs underway: Major revaluation of routes, New route planning software from Sep-22; new guides on vehicles policy reducing usage to where necessary for pupil safety; maximising usage of Council fleet options.
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>49,094</b>	<b>56,298</b>	<b>7,204</b>	
Children's Contingency Reserve	0	(2,500)	(2,500)	Cabinet Member approved full use of the £2.5m in CPH meeting 21/09/2022 and this requirement has also been reported in the in-year and MTFS update to Cabinet 06/10/2022.
Council's Budget Strategy Reserve	0	(192)	(192)	6th of October 2022 Cabinet approved £0.192m allocation from the Budget Strategy Reserve for Early Help Level 2 implementation.
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,692)</b>	<b>(2,692)</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,094</b>	<b>53,606</b>	<b>4,512</b>	

### 3. Three Year Savings Targets £000s

None for Children's Services

### 4. Capital Position

Schemes	Budget	Spend to Date	Forecast Spend	Forecast Variance	Comments
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Total North Solihull Primary Programme	30	0	0	(30)	Programme complete, contingency for residual costs.
Total Schools Improvement Programme	7,526	1,060	6,850	(676)	Cheswick Green on site. Phase 2 at Alderbrook now started Discussions taking place with Valley regarding future options. Variance key element: (£676k) general contingency.
Total Schools Improvement Programme - High Needs Block (HNB)	3,214	(67)	2,262	(952)	Demolition works to enable the Free School are now complete. Targeted completion for the building works, to enable the Summerfield move to the former Daylesford Infant's site is for December 2022. Variance key elements: (£550k) Yew Tree SEMH expansion slippage, and (£402k) creation of additional school places with allocation to be determined linked to strategic HNB priorities.
Total Schools Maintenance Programme	907	3	890	(17)	This sub programme continues to address our stock condition priorities. Most projects commenced during the summer break.
Total General Programme	1,724	87	1,697	(27)	Includes new grant funded project for £1.2m to develop Children's Residential Homes, with property transfer only just completed. Works need to be completed within the grant spend deadline of 31/3/23 or an extension in writing obtained. Also covers other ongoing schemes, including DDA Compliance and Temporary Classrooms.
Total School Managed Programme	1,119	174	500	(619)	Ongoing school managed projects. Variance key elements: (£319k) estimate of schools devolved capital requirements, (£300k) Fordbridge double modular classroom will not now go ahead due to affordability issues.
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,520</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>12,199</b>	<b>(2,321)</b>	

