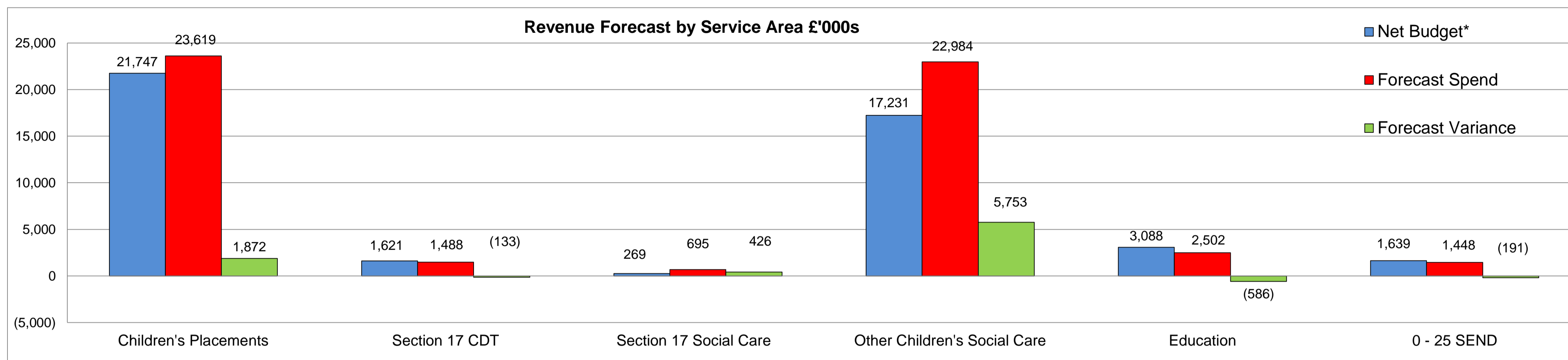


Children's Services Core - Portfolio 2022/23 Position
Period 9 (December 2022)

1. Revenue Position



2. Explanations for Key Revenue Variances

Service Area	Net Budget*	Forecast Spend	Forecast Variance	Commentary on material variances
	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Children's Placements	21,747	23,619	1,872	This projection is based on detailed case review of all children in the care system. There has been an increase in demand for and unit costs of 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. There is a risk, due to delays and cost implications, this figure will change accordingly once revised plans have been agreed.
Section 17 CDT	1,621	1,488	(133)	Demand is gradually returning to pre-covid levels.
Section 17 Social Care	269	695	426	Increased demand has resulted in increased support levels.
Other Children's Social Care	17,231	22,984	5,753	Due to demand increases and focused improvement: +£485,000 Legal costs, +£5.579m staffing, +£100,000 Youth Offending Remand, +£100,000 Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP), +£50,000 marketing internal foster (spend to save) and +£81,000 other minor forecasts. Supported by (£642,000) DFE Improvement Grant.
Education	3,088	2,502	(586)	(£123,000) Early Retirement and the remaining (£463,000) primarily due to staffing vacancies.
0 - 25 SEND	1,639	1,448	(191)	Primarily due to vacancies in Education Psychology team, due to recruitment difficulties related to the market for the sector.
Home to School Transport	4,274	5,606	1,332	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 September 2022; new guides on vehicles policy reducing usage to where necessary for pupil safety; maximising usage of Council fleet options.
Subtotal	49,869	58,342	8,473	
Budget Strategy Reserve and Other Funding	0	(2,500)	(2,500)	Cabinet Member approved full use of the £2.5m in his CPH meeting 21/09/2022 and this requirement has also been reported in the in-year and MTFS update to Cabinet 06/10/2022.
Business Strategy Reserve	0	(192)	(192)	Contribution from the Business Strategy Reserve to implement Level 2 Support within a new Early Help Team as approved by Cabinet on 06/10/2022.
Subtotal	0	(2,692)	(2,692)	
Total	49,869	55,650	5,781	Cabinet will be asked as part of the Budget Strategy paper on 9th February 2023 to underwrite the funding of this net forecast £5.781m variance, from the Budget Strategy Reserve.

3. Three Year Savings Targets £000s (2022/23 MTFS)

None for Children's Services

4. Capital Position

Schemes	Budget £000s	Spend to Date £000s	Forecast Spend £000s	Forecast Variance £000s	Comments
Total North Solihull Primary Programme	30	0	15	(15)	Programme complete, contingency for residual costs to be used at Yorkswood.
Total Schools Improvement Programme	7,746	2,230	4,424	(3,322)	Cheswick Green phasing adjusted by (£2.025m), with an increased proportion of the works to take place in 2023/24. Phase 2 at Alderbrook is on programme to deliver the required additional 150 secondary pupil places by September 2023. Discussions taking place regarding future options at Valley Primary. Other Rephasing includes General contingency (£0.786m), Widney Manor modular classrooms (£0.300m) and St Peter's RC (£0.139m) modular classroom replacements. Other minor movements totalling (£0.072m)
Total Schools Improvement Programme - HNB	3,237	708	2,035	(1,202)	Yew Tree SEMH Expansion rephasing (£0.600m). and Creation of additional special school places not yet allocated (£0.602m) whilst options are evaluated. Targeted completion for the building works, to enable the Summerfield move to the former Daylesford Infant's site is on programme for occupancy in the spring term 2023.
Total Schools Maintenance Programme	937	449	912	(25)	This sub programme continues to address our stock condition priorities. Most projects commenced during the summer break, awaiting final invoices.
Total General Programme	1,797	159	1,614	(183)	Minor rephasing of (£97k) on four projects including DDA Compliance and Temporary Classrooms and (£86k) forecast capital underspend on Programme Administration. Grant funded project for £1.2m to develop Children's Residential Homes. Surveys have identified additional costs and evidence of bats roosting in all 3 properties. Ongoing discussions with the DiE to agree extension and/or amendments to the grant. Financial impact of revised completion date of February 2024 (previously Spring 2023) will be assessed and managed appropriately when outcomes known.
Total School Managed Programme	964	376	814	(150)	Ongoing school managed projects. Estimated schools devolved capital requirements rephasing (£0.150m) into future years. Fordbridge double modular classroom will not go ahead due to affordability issues.
Total	14,711	3,922	9,814	(4,897)	The rephasing of the capital programme reported to Cabinet on 13th January 2023 is not included in this report.

