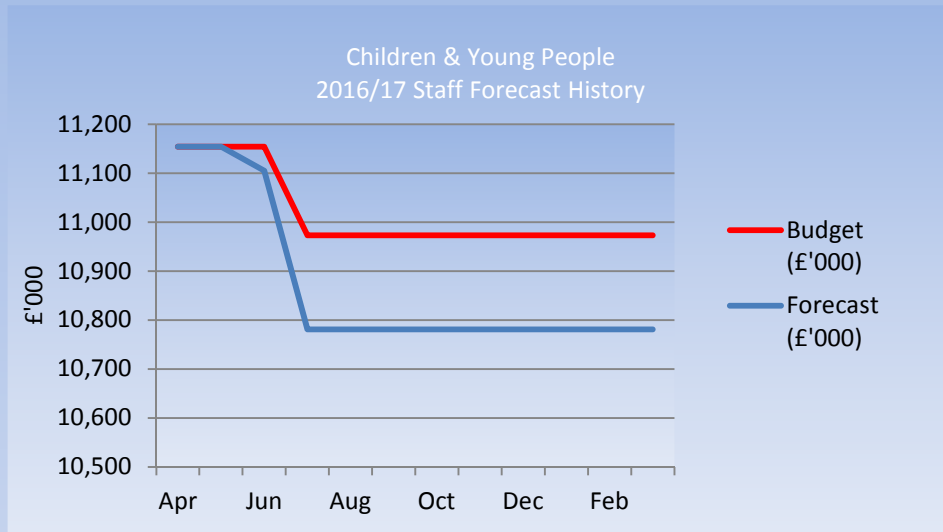




# Budget Monitoring Position – July 2016

## Children & Young People



AREA OF RISK	Budget £000	Forecast £000	Variance £000	Status	Comments
Out of Area Residential	1,593	2,199	606	R	Demand Led budget which has increased by £180k compared to the June forecast
Independent Fostering Agencies	1,198	1,380	182	R	Overspend is a result of an unachieved MTRP saving. This forecast has increased by £82k compared to June. Management indicate that this is volatile and could rise to the full £200k not being achieved.
Leaving Care	613	744	131	R	There is significant pressure on this budget as a result of new legislation to support care leavers up to the age of 25. There is a pressure identified in the 17-18 MTRP

# Budget Monitoring Position – July 2016

## Children & Young People

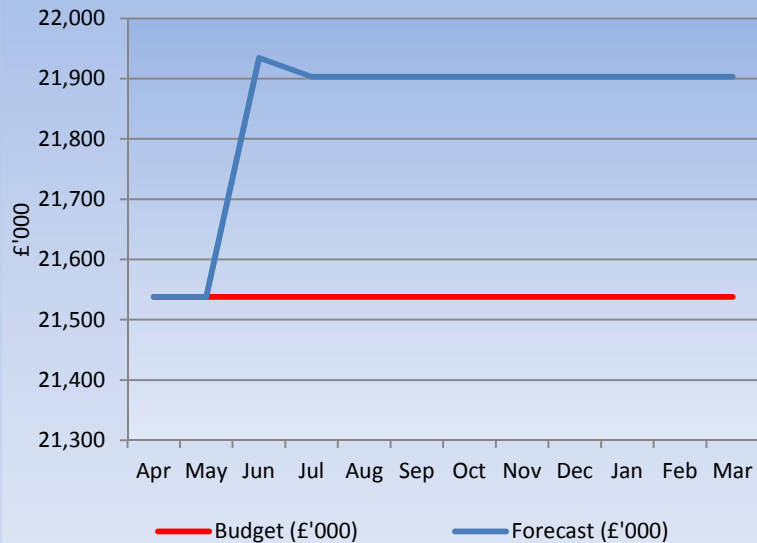
SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Out of Area Residential			426	606								
Independent Fostering Agencies			100	182								
In-House Fostering			-139	-212								
Kinship			-91	-115								
Staffing			-49	-192								
Leaving Care			131	131								
Other			19	-35								
Variance (£'000)	0	0	397	365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Movement since last month	Current & Emerging Risks / Opportunities (Including non delivery of MTRP savings)
	Independent Fostering Agencies – This is forecasting a £180k overspend due to an under achievement on this years MTRP saving, however there's a risk that this could rise.
	Out of Authority Residential forecasts do not currently anticipate an upward trend as it's very unpredictable. One placement could cost a further £150k for a full year.
	In House Fostering – This anticipates an upward trend however if we're unable to make more in-house placements this underspend could increase.
	Kinship – This budget has received investment in 16/17 for an anticipated pressure however current SGO's will not cost as much as anticipated in this financial year resulting in an underspend.
	Leaving Care – Despite a pressure being received for 'When I'm Ready' to support placements up to the age of 25, it is still projecting an overspend in this financial year.

# Budget Monitoring Position – July 2016

## Children & Young People

Children & Young People  
2016/17 Forecast History



### BMS Submission Data

% of cost centres submitted by  
budget holder deadline

%  
58.11%

### Head of Service Commentary

#### Management actions to address position:

**Leaving Care-** From April to June 16 one child has accounted for £106K of the current overspend. The package of care required was tied into her licence on release from custody and a very high risk assessment of both self-harm and risks poised to others. This placement has now ended and the young person is now subject to a mental health section. Work with homelessness and the RSL's along with supporting people has commenced to better address the need of young people on leaving care, leaving custody and presenting as homeless.

**Kinship-** In 2014/15 and 2015/16 across England and Wales there was an increase in the number of Kinship Care placements. This trend was mirrored within NCC. Whilst there is still an upward projection this currently appears as if it has flattened out slightly. In part this is potentially a result of a slight shift in behaviours in the current arena. It is too early to assume this is the case.

**IFA & In House Fostering-** The pressure on placements for teenagers has increased through the use of IFA's Placements. These are arising because of an increased breakdown in in-house fostering placements. In September, the Fostering team will be focussing on a recruitment drive for carers of older young people. The reduction in in house fostering is jointly because of a breakdown in teenage placements and a reduction in numbers of baby placements as a result on lower numbers entering care.

**Out of Area Residential -**This budget is used for a very small group of children with complex needs. Whilst some of this group are in long term care and we are able to forecast costs for the year, a handful each year become known to the local authority with very short notice. Of the current cohort, 3 placements were made between December 2015 and March 2016. Each of these placements arose following multiple breakdowns of previous placements. As a result of the late onset of placement it was not possible to build in the additional pressure within the 16-17 budget. Work is ongoing with all Out of Authority placements to mitigate and source more local and less costly options, including improving in house provision. In additions to these three placements that account for £397K of the variance there was an in year increase for one child whose needs increased to the point where he required 2-1 care. Again this was not an anticipated change.

# Budget Monitoring Position –July 2016

## Children & Young People

### Head of Service Commentary

#### **Head of Service comments/ summary:**

There is a project across Children's Services to improve the in house provision aiming to avoid further Out of Authority placements and a significant body of work has already been completed to test the robustness of the current processes and decision making.

### Strategic Director Commentary

#### **Strategic Director comments:**

The net position has improved by £32k but the key challenges remain (Out of Authority, Independent Fostering and placement for children leaving care. It is positive to note that the total number of children in care remains at the position we had in 2010 and if we had the same rate as other similar authorities we would be paying around £4-7m more on placements alone.

The projected overspend relates to specialist placement costs for children with complex needs and/or challenging behaviour. Placements for individual children can cost as much as £350k per annum. Presently we have 15 children in out of authority placements and the base budget is set at 10 children (based on last year's overall average cost). These pressures have arisen after the completion of last years MTRP.

Nationally there are major problems with finding out of authority placements for teenagers and there has been a great deal of activity across Wales in taking young people who originally came into care under a voluntary arrangement with parents but now are being taken into care proceedings. The court then makes a strong direction on placement decisions and we have experienced this problem.

We are preparing a major review and transformation of our residential and fostering provision in order to improve our capacity to manage children with complex needs and/or challenging behaviour.