

Section A: Revenue Budget Monitor

Children and Young People (General Fund)

	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
P10	£130.3m	£153.6m	£23.4m overspend

May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
18.7m	25.2m	25.2m	23.8m	23.8m	21.4m	21.8m	21.8m	23.4m	
▼↓	▼↓		▲↑		▲↑	▼↓		▼↓	

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
P10	£491.7m	£509.3m	£17.6m overspend

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Gross Net	24.2m 7.6m	26.7m 10.8m	29.6m 13.0m	31.7m 15.0m	31.7m 15.0m	31.9m 15.3m	32.7m 16.0m	32.7m 16.0m	33.0m 17.6m	
Gross Net	▼↓	▼↓	▼↓	▼↓		▼↓	▼↓		▼↓	

Position by Division

Period 10 Budget Monitoring - Summary	Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Forecast	Forecast variance at P8/P9	Movement in forecast variance at P10	Forecast variance at P10	Forecast variance at P10
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%

Children and Young People							
15 - Children and Families Services	98,689	104,044	126,092	20,767	1,280	22,047	21.2%
16 - Education, Inclusion and Skills	26,458	26,208	27,535	1,068	258	1,327	5.1%
1B - Transformation – Our Families Programme	0	3	3	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Children and Young People	125,148	130,256	153,630	21,835	1,538	23,374	17.9%
Dedicated Schools Grant							

Period 10 Budget Monitoring - Summary	Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Forecast	Forecast variance at P8/P9	Movement in forecast variance at P10	Forecast variance at P10	Forecast variance at P10
Total Dedicated Schools Grant	491,736	491,741	509,294	16,020	1,533	17,553	3.6%
Total Dedicated Schools Grant	491,736	491,741	509,294	16,020	1,533	17,553	3.6%

Key Messages:

Children and Young People Committee is forecasting an adverse variance (General Fund and Ring-Fenced combined) of £40.9 million at Period 10 on a revised budget of £622.0 million, representing a forecast overspend of 6.6%.

The Children and Families Services Division are reporting the total forecast overspend of £22.0 million which is due to escalating pressures of increasing volumes and associated high costs for children and young people requiring external social care placements, reliance and associated costs of agency staff, high-cost remand placement, and increased rents due to utilities price increases. This is against a budget of £104.0 million and represents an overspend of 21.2%.

The Educational Improvement Division is currently forecasting an adverse variance of £1.3 million against a budget of £26.2 million, representing a forecast overspend of 5.1%. This is due to pressures of Home to School transport volumes.

2024-25 gross allocation for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is £491.7 million as approved at Full Council in February 2024 (net amount £220.1 million after deduction for academies recoupment, NNDR and direct funding of high needs places by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)).

The DSG budget is subject to ESFA revisions during the year for academy conversion recoupment and changes to validated pupil and place data determined from termly headcount and other data collections. The revised gross budget notified in November 2024 is £491.7 million (net amount £214.6 million after in-year deductions for academy conversions, revised Early Years headcounts, and High Needs import/export adjustments up to November 2024).

The forecast for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is currently an overspend of £33.0 million (6.7%) against the revised gross budget of £491.7 million. Following application of the Safety Valve combined with contribution from the General Fund, the net deficit to be carried forward at the close of 2024/25 is forecast to deteriorate in-year by £17.6 million (3.6% of revised gross budget) to £54.7 million (unmitigated this is £91.6 million).

The forecast overspend is due to the increasing numbers of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) being placed in high-cost Independent Non-Maintained Schools resulting from both a current lack of sufficiency of local maintained provision and delays in the development of new local provision so that some of this new provision may not now become available for use until 2025/26.

The forecast expenditure at P10 demonstrates an adverse movement since P8 of £1.5 million due reprofiling of contributions over the deficit recovery period, and due to the allocation of non-statutory top-up funding in respect to a Nursery cohort transitioning to Primary, together with increased volumes and associated costs of Personal Budgets and children being provided with education other than at school (EOTAS).

Early Years is forecasting a net balanced position, however this position includes a forecast pressure of £0.6 million demand for top up funding on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The Early Years forecast is subject to further in-year variation in line with termly head counts.

Schools Block and the High Needs Transformation programme are forecasting an in-year balanced position.

Bristol City Council formally joined the Safety Valve programme at the end of 2023/24, and the DSG ended the year with an £18.5 million in-year overspend. Whilst the forecast overspend in the DSG is continuing to grow, the Safety Valve programme is developing mitigations to meet demand for SEND support within available funding.

The DfE Safety Valve Agreement includes a commitment between DfE and the council to reduce the deficit on the DSG reserve to zero by the end of the financial year 2029/30.

Savings Delivery

Children and Young People					
Spread of Risk	No. of Items	Plan £'000	Forecast £'000	Of Which Verified £'000	Variance £'000
Blue	9	3,097	3,097	3,097	-
Green	9	2,426	2,255	-	(171)
Amber	1	353	250	-	(103)
Red	5	1,026	-	-	(1,026)
Total	24	6,902	5,602	3,097	(1,300)

Blue	Savings Realised (delivered)
Green	Savings Forecast to be Realised (as plan or through alternative action)
Amber	Medium Risk to Savings Delivery-mitigating action being considered/worked on
Red	High Risk to Savings Delivery- Limited Scope of Mitigation

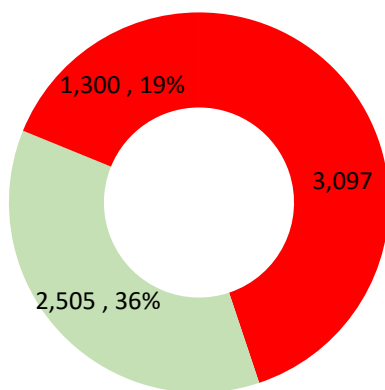
FORECAST POSITION – VERIFIED, UNVERIFIED AND FORECAST UNDER-DELIVERY

£'000s

Savings not forecast to deliver

Verified forecast savings

Unverified forecast savings



List of forecast underdelivered savings

Directorate	Saving Name	Variation Explanation / Commentary	TOTAL Savings Tracker 24/25 Budget £000	TOTAL Savings Tracker 24/25 Forecast £000	Savings Forecast Variation to Plan 24/25 £000
Children's & Education	Bristol Children's Homes	Programme on track in the delivery of our own provision and through reprofiling of homes	300		(300)
Children's & Education	Home to School Travel	Superseded 6.2.25 following DE	0		0
Children's & Education	Home to School Travel	Remaining undelivered saving to be rolled into 25/26.	620		(620)
Children's & Education	Rebaseline F&C budgets	Waiting for validation from Finance to confirm not created a pressure elsewhere - CAMHS, Education Properties, Homes from Ukraine. This includes £79k of over delivery of 2425_C&E_C&Y_001. Split out to allow element to be secured and delivered. Awaiting Change form and S&D form	6		(6)
Children's & Education	Recruitment & Retention of Foster Carers	Savings developed with strategic partner, not been able to undertake the volume of planned reviews across the service that was originally benchmarked. Challenges regarding price negotiations.	100		(100)
Grand Total			1,026		(1,026)

Section B: Risks and Opportunities

No risks and opportunities at Period 10.

Section C: Capital

Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Expenditure to Date	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
£42.5m	£18.0m	£10.9m	£15.4m	£(2.6)m
		61% of Budget	85% of Budget	

Gross Expenditure by Programme		Current Year (FY2024) - Period 10				Performance to budget	
		Budget	Expenditure to Date	Forecast	Variance	Expenditure to date	Forecast
Ref	Scheme	£000s				%	
Children & Young People							
CRF2	South Bristol Youth Zone	891	701	1,391	500	79%	156%
PE01	School Organisation/ Children's Services Capital Programme	4,825	4,058	5,106	281	84%	106%
PE02	Schools Organisation/SEN Investment Programme	7,876	3,201	5,723	(2,153)	41%	73%
PE03	Schools Devolved Capital Programme	787	832	787	0	106%	100%
PE05	Children & Families - Aids and Adaptations	111	0	111	0	0%	100%
PE06	Children Social Care Services	3,410	2,102	2,166	(1,243)	62%	64%
PE06A	Children Homes and Fostering Sufficiency - Invest to Save (ITS) investment	75	0	75	0	0%	100%
Total Children & Young People		17,974	10,894	15,359	(2,615)	61%	85%

Key Messages:

£(4.0) million of the budget for the South Bristol Youth Zone was previously reprofiled to future years. The development agreement has now been signed, and work is progressing quicker than previously envisaged, with milestone payments of around £0.5 million due this financial year. Further net slippage of around £(1.9) million is expected across the School Organisation Programmes, including Harry Crook Centre (£0.3m), Oasis New Oak (£0.3m), Oasis Longcross (£0.7m), North Star 82 (£0.3m) and Broomhill Infants and Juniors (£0.2m). Approximately £(1.2) million of conversion and renovation work to Children's Homes is not expected to complete until June 2025.