

Appendix A3 – Children & Education

2023/24 – P8 Budget Monitor Report

Section A: Revenue Budget Monitor

	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
P08	£112.7m	£131.2m	£18.5m overspend
P07	£110.0m	£127.3m	£17.3m overspend

May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
0.0	12.2	12.1	11.5	11.5	17.3	18.5			
▲↑	▼↓	▲↑	▲↑	▲↑	▼↓	▼↓			

Position by Division

Quarter 3 / Period 8 - Summary	Approved budget	Revised Budget	Q3/P8 Forecast	Total Variance YTD Q3/P8	Total Variance %
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
9 - Children & Education					
15 - Children and Families Services	89,051	90,053	104,010	13,957	15.5%
16 - Educational Improvement	21,644	22,655	27,201	4,546	20.1%
1B - Transformation – Our Families Programme	0	0	1	0	26.2%
Total 9 - Children & Education	110,695	112,709	131,212	18,503	16.4%

Key Messages:

Children and Education directorate is forecasting £18.5m adverse variance at Period 8 on a budget of £112.7m.

Children & Families: £14.0m pressure

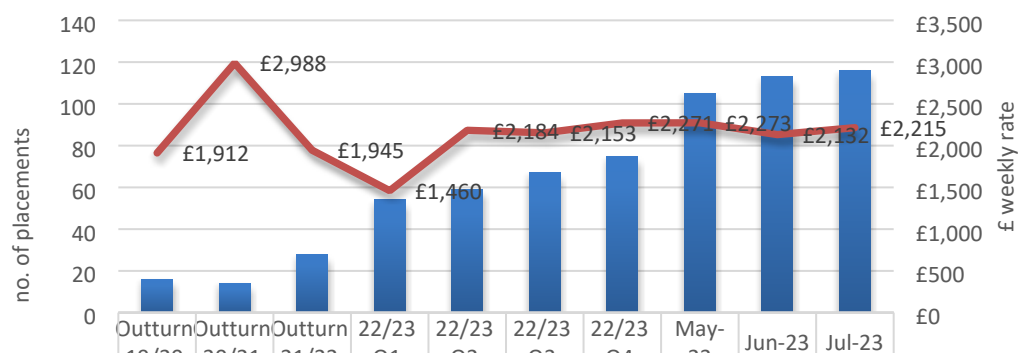
The forecast pressure is primarily in the placements budget which has seen an increasing number of very high-cost placements and continued reliance on External Supported accommodation (ESA).

The table below provides further detail on the forecast pressure.

	Revised Budget 2023/24	P08 Forecast	Variance	Change from last month			
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s			
Placements							
External Supported Accommodation	5,448	14,039	8,590				1,308
In House Fostering	6,606	6,086	(520)				8
Independent Fostering Agencies	6,775	7,584	809				188
Inhouse Supported Accommodation	99	24	(71)				4
RO & SGO	5,683	5,825	142				-45
Out Of Authority - Placements	15,770	24,213	8,443				3,381
Parent & Baby Unit - Citywide	571	1,298	727				492
Secure	148	429	281				266
Children's Homes	4,231	3,529	(702)				(3)
Post Adoption	381	248	(133)				(0)
Total placements				45,711	63,280	17,569	5,597
Other non-placement related budgets				44,342	40,730	(3,612)	2648
Total Children & Families				90,053	104,010	13,957	8,245

There has been a significant increase in the number of ESA placements this year as represented in the chart below. This cost of ESA provision is estimated to be £14.0m this year, a 43% increase on last year.

External Supported Accommodation



External supported accommodation - average no. of placements	16	14	28	54	59	67	75	105	113	116
External supported accommodation - average net weekly cost	£1,912	£2,988	£1,945	£1,460	£2,184	£2,153	£2,271	£2,273	£2,132	£2,215

Education Improvement: £4.9m pressure

The Educational Improvement Service is forecasting an adverse variance of £4.9m (21.8%) on a revised budget of £22.7m. This pressure is because of the increasing number of children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) requiring transport to school and the growing number reliant on having to travel longer distances from home.

	Revised Budget 2023/24 £000s	P08 Forecast £000s	Variance £000s	Change from last month £000s
Education Improvement				
Learning City for All	825	889	64	54
Education Management	5124	4,616	(509)	(247)
Additional Learning Needs	10,911	15,975	5,064	410
Employment, Skills & Learning	1,011	804	(206)	119
Trading with Schools	(307)	(112)	195	0
Schools PFI	0	0	0	0
Inclusive City	455	426	(29)	8
Accessible City	4,636	5,004	367	676
Total Education Improvement	22,655	27,601	4,946	1,012

The service saw a 50% increase in the number of routes to schools outside the local area in April 2023, compared to the same period last year.

School sufficiency has been a major driver in decreased capacity within the service to handle EHCPs. With lower capacity in schools, and mainstream schools driving for Children and Young people (CYP) to attend special schools, the pressure of funding places for CYP falls on the Local Authority service.

The demand for Home to School Travel is growing as a direct link between the number of CYP with an EHCP and travel support. Lack of capacity within the local area results in increasing number of routes the authority thereby increasing Home to School Travel costs.

Table: Number of Routes to Schools Outside the Local Area

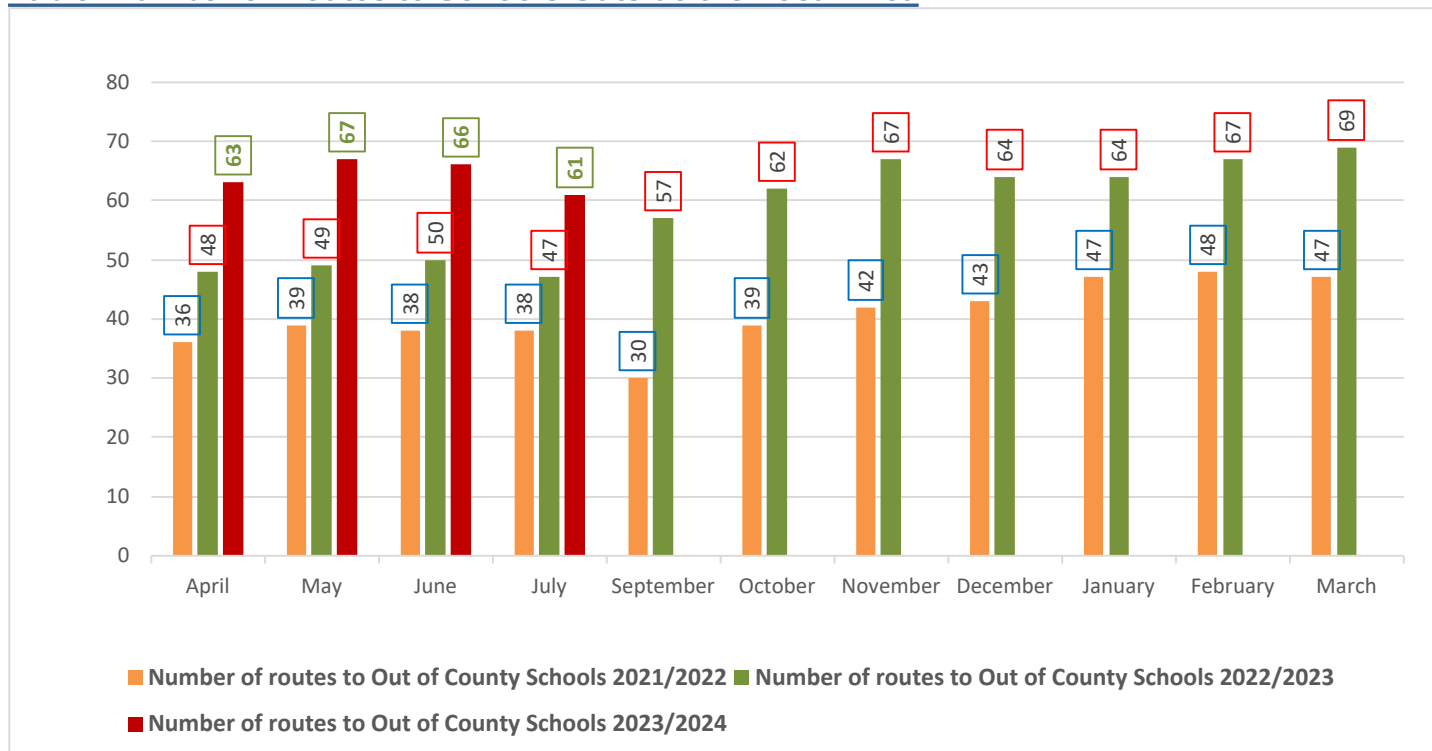
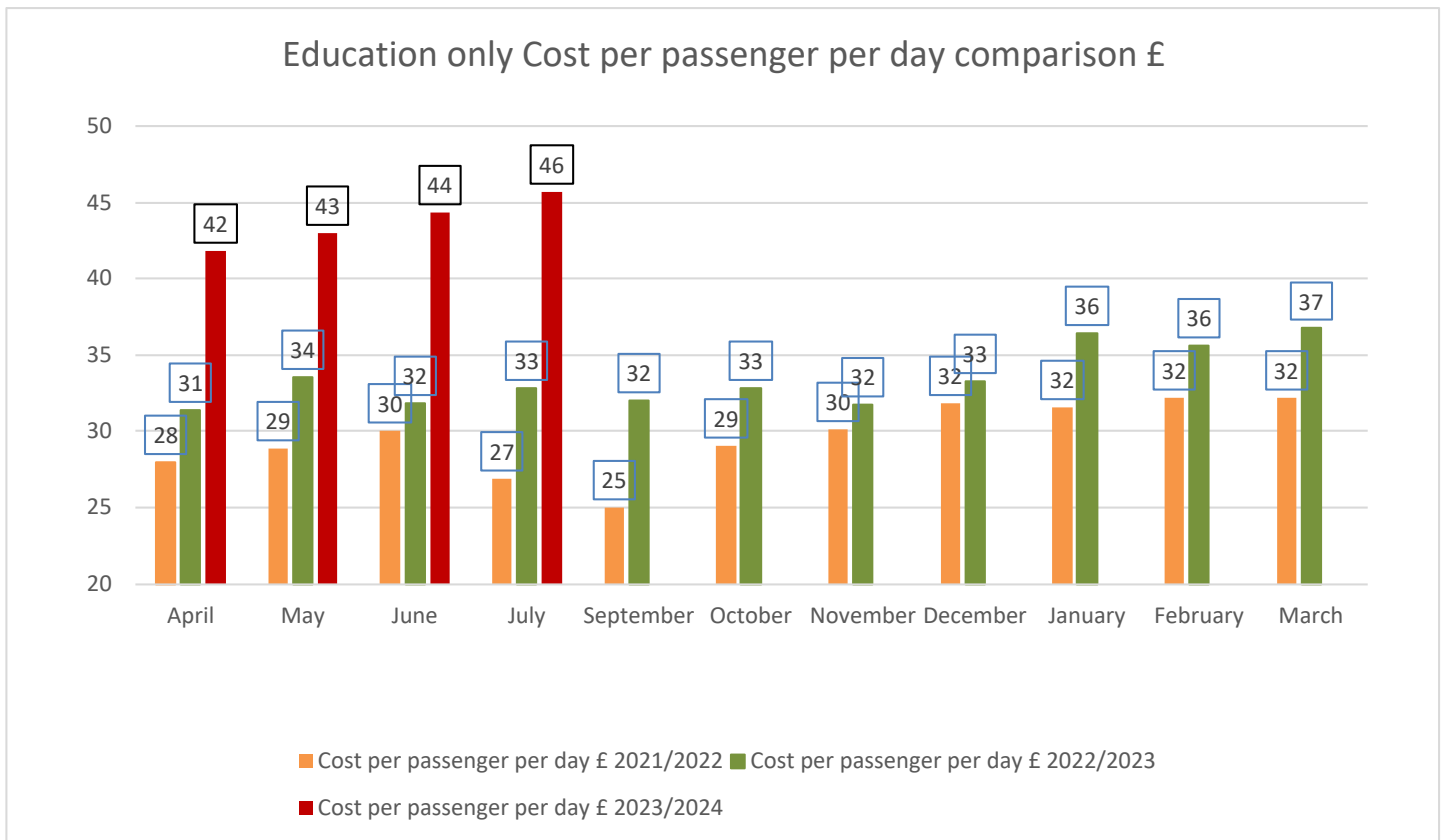
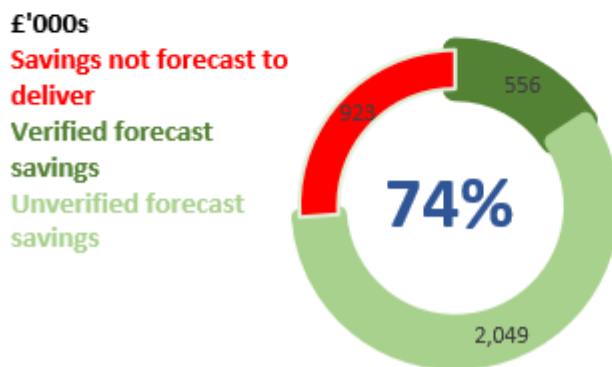


Table: Per Passenger Per Day Education Cost



Savings Delivery

Children's & Education					
BRAG	No. of Items	Plan £'000	Forecast £'000	Of Which Verified £'000	Variance £'000
Blue	4	161	161	146	-
Green	13	2,267	2,267	410	-
Amber	3	541	80	-	(461)
Red	3	559	97	-	(462)
Total	23	3,528	2,605	556	(923)



Section B: Risks and Opportunities

Children & Families

Identified risks and opportunities are now recognised within the forecast position at Section A.

Section C: Capital

Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Expenditure to Date	Forecast Outturn	Outturn Variance
£16.5m	£16.5m	£8.2m 49% of Budget	£18.0m 109% of Budget	£1.5

Gross Expenditure by Programme

Ref		Scheme	Current Year (FY2023) - Period 8				Performance to budget	
			Budget	Expenditure to Date	Forecast	Variance	Expenditure to date	Forecast
			£000s				%	
Children & Education								
CRF2		South Bristol Youth Zone	1,600	233	1,987	387	15%	124%
PE01		School Organisation/ Children's Services Capital Programme	6,083	2,060	6,056	(26)	34%	100%
PE02		Schools Organisation/SEN Investment Programme	6,154	4,794	6,154	0	78%	100%
PE03		Schools Devolved Capital Programme	1,468	832	1,468	0	57%	100%
PE05		Children & Families - Aids and Adaptations	127	60	127	0	47%	100%
PE06		Children Social Care Services	1,107	166	2,232	1,125	15%	202%
PE06A		Children Social Care Services - Pending Business Case Development	0	5	0	0		
Total Children & Education			16,539	8,150	18,025	1,486	49%	109%

Key Messages:

PE01 – Schools Organisation / Childrens Services (variance £5.9m)

This programme budget has been reprofiled. The re-profiling of projects within this programme primarily relates to main-stream schools that are managed by the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) provider / operator with any works to these schools being carried out by the PFI provider as per the PFI agreement. Works have begun later than first anticipated with project forecasts being significantly impacted.

PE02 – Schools Organisation / SEN Investment Programme (variance £4.0m)

This programme budget has also been reprofiled. The programme has numerous projects that have encountered technical, planning and procurement challenges reported by the project team.