

**Item: 11.2**

**Policy and Resources Committee: 17 February 2026.**

**Revenue Expenditure Monitoring – Orkney Health and Care.**

**Report by Head of Finance.**

---

## **1. Overview**

- 1.1. On 4 March 2025, the Council set its overall revenue budget for financial year 2025/26. On 17 June 2025, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended approval of the detailed revenue budgets for 2025/26, which form the basis of the individual revenue expenditure monitoring reports.
- 1.2. Individual revenue expenditure monitoring reports are circulated every month to inform elected members of the up-to-date financial position. Quarterly revenue expenditure monitoring reports are presented to individual service committees.
- 1.3. In terms of revenue spending, at an individual cost centre level, budget holders are required to provide an explanation of the causes of each material variance and to identify appropriate corrective actions to remedy the situation.
- 1.4. Material variances are identified automatically as Priority Actions within individual budget cost centres according to the following criteria:
  - Variance of £10,000 and more than 110% or less than 90% of anticipated position (1B).
  - Not more than 110% or less than 90% of anticipated position but variance greater than £50,000 (1C).
- 1.5. Priority Actions can be identified at the Service Function level according to the same criteria and these are shown in the Revenue Expenditure Statements. As with individual cost centre variances, each of these Priority Actions requires an explanation and corrective action to be identified and these are shown in the Budget Action Plan.
- 1.6. The details have been provided following consultation with the relevant Directors and their staff.
- 1.7. The figures quoted within the Budget Action Plan by way of the underspend (-) and overspend position will always relate to the position within the current month.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:

- i. Note the revenue expenditure monitoring statement in respect of service areas within the Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, for which the Council is responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2025, attached as Annex 1 to this report, indicating a budget overspend position of £1,806,500.
- ii. Note the revenue financial service area statement in respect of service areas within the Orkney Health and Social Care Partnership, for which the Council is responsible, for the period 1 April to 31 December 2025, attached as Annex 2 to this report.
- iii. Note the explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to this report.

### For Further Information please contact:

Pat Robinson, Service Manager (Accounting), extension 2621, Email:

[pat.robinson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:pat.robinson@orkney.gov.uk)

### Implications of Report

- 1. Financial:** The Financial Regulations state that Directors can incur expenditure within approved revenue and capital budgets. Such expenditure must be in accordance with the Council's policies and objectives and subject to compliance with the Financial Regulations.  
In addition, in accordance with the Orkney Integration Scheme, when forecasting an overspend, the Chief Officer and the Chief Finance Officer of the Integration Joint Board are required to prepare a recovery plan setting out how they propose to return to a breakeven position.
- 2. Legal:** Regular financial monitoring and reporting help the Council meet its statutory obligation to secure best value.
- 3. Corporate Governance:** In terms of the Scheme of Administration, monitoring the levels of revenue expenditure incurred against approved budgets, in respect of each of the service areas for which the Committee is responsible, is referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 4. Human Resources:** N/A.
- 5. Equalities:** An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for financial monitoring.
- 6. Island Communities Impact:** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required for financial monitoring.

- 7. Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
- ☐ Growing our economy.
  - ☐ Strengthening our Communities.
  - ☐ Developing our Infrastructure.
  - ☐ Transforming our Council.
- 8. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
- ☐ Cost of Living.
  - ☐ Sustainable Development.
  - ☐ Local Equality.
  - ☐ Improving Population Health.
- 9. Environmental and Climate Risk:** N/A.
- 10. Risk:** N/A.
- 11. Procurement:** N/A.
- 12. Health and Safety:** N/A.
- 13. Property and Assets:** N/A.
- 14. Information Technology:** N/A.
- 15. Cost of Living:** N/A.

### **List of Background Papers**

Policy and Resources Committee, 25 February 2025, Budget and Council Tax Level for 2025/26.

Policy and Resources Committee, 17 June 2025, Detailed Revenue Budgets.

### **Annexes**

Annex 1: Financial Summary.

Annex 2: Financial Detail by Service Area.

Annex 3: Budget Action Plan.

The table below provides a summary of the position across all Service Areas.

<b>General Fund</b>					<b>Annual</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Spend £000</b>	<b>Budget £000</b>	<b>Over/(Under) £000</b>	<b>Spend %</b>	<b>Budget £000</b>
Social Care	23,758.5	21,952.0	1,806.5	108.2	31,414.3
	<b>23,758.5</b>	<b>21,952.0</b>	<b>1,806.5</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>31,414.3</b>
<b>Service Totals</b>	<b>23,758.5</b>	<b>21,952.0</b>	<b>1,806.5</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>31,414.3</b>

Compared to last month, the total number of PAs has changed as follows:

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>No. of PAs</b>		<b>Service Functions</b>	<b>PAs/ Function</b>
	<b>P08</b>	<b>P09</b>		
Social Care	9	9	12	75%
<b>Totals</b>	9	9	12	75%

The following tables show the spending position by service function

### General Fund

		<b>Spend</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Social Care</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Administration - SW	<b>1B</b>	1,227.3	1,061.7	165.6	115.6	2,739.5
Childcare	<b>1B</b>	3,952.1	3,442.1	510.0	114.8	5,510.2
Older People - Residential	<b>1B</b>	6,465.6	5,786.9	678.7	111.7	7,156.4
Older People - Independent Sector	<b>1B</b>	777.3	469.2	308.1	165.7	702.9
Older People - Day Centres	<b>1B</b>	299.8	410.1	(110.3)	73.1	282.8
Disability	<b>1C</b>	4,877.2	4,781.3	95.9	102.0	6,024.6
Mental Health	<b>1B</b>	275.5	336.9	(61.4)	81.8	389.0
Other Community Care	<b>1B</b>	990.5	1,157.4	(166.9)	85.6	1,608.5
Occupational Therapy		363.7	393.3	(29.6)	92.5	562.4
Home Care	<b>1B</b>	4,318.4	3,890.9	427.5	111.0	5,382.1
Criminal Justice		148.8	161.3	(12.5)	92.3	243.8
Integration Joint Board		62.3	60.9	1.4	102.3	812.1
<b>Service Total</b>		<b>23,758.5</b>	<b>21,952.0</b>	<b>1,806.5</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>31,414.3</b>

## Social Care

Function	Function Description/ Explanation	Action Category/ Action Description	Responsible Officer	Deadline	Status
R19A	<b>Administration - SW</b> More than anticipated expenditure by £165.6K  Funding has yet to be received from NHS Orkney which should return this budget to balance once received.	<b>Monitor the situation</b> The Chief Finance Officer is in discussion with NHS Orkney in this respect.	Lynda Bradford	31/03/2026	Ongoing
R19C	<b>Childcare</b> More than anticipated expenditure by £510.0K  The current pressures on budgets are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency staff back fill costs and associated travel and accommodation costs to ensure ongoing provision of statutory services</li> <li>• Outwith Orkney Placements to ensure children and young people's care needs are met safely</li> <li>• Children with Disabilities has no budget; there are more assessments resulting in self-directed support awards and associated financial costs.</li> </ul>	<b>Monitor the situation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency staff – permanent recruitment and retention are underway; pace of permanent recruitment is improving with numerous positions to be filled in the next 6 months</li> <li>• HR are supporting with progressing staff absence issues – processes to be followed in line with policy and procedures</li> <li>• Outwith Orkney Placements – multi agency work will continue to bring children and young people back to their communities as soon as it is safe to accommodate this. There is a difficulty in securing local education provision for complex educational needs which is slowing the rehabilitation back to Orkney of a number of children and young people. A Service Pressure bid has also been submitted for 2026/27.</li> <li>• A Children with Disabilities budget required to comply with statutory legislation.</li> </ul>	Darren Morrow	31/03/2026	Ongoing

## Social Care

Function	Function Description/ Explanation	Action Category/ Action Description	Responsible Officer	Deadline	Status
<b>R19D</b>	<p><b>Older People - Residential</b></p> <p>More than anticipated expenditure by £678.7K</p> <p>The majority of this overspend is due to the ongoing need to use overtime and agency staff to fill vacancies and sickness in order to meet care needs as per the safe staffing legislation. However, the overspend here is being masked by income of £337k received from NHS Orkney in November, which was profiled for receipt at the end of the financial year.</p>	<p><b>Monitor the situation</b></p> <p>There is continued effort to try to recruit to permanent posts. There are over 40 vacancies at the present time within the three care homes; at any given time, there are in the region of 30 agency staff covering both care homes and supported accommodation across social care. The recruitment campaign has yielded some benefit and continues to be used. There is also work to tackle sickness both short and long term.</p>	Lynda Bradford	31/03/2026	Ongoing
<b>R19E</b>	<p><b>Older People - Independent Sector</b></p> <p>More than anticipated expenditure by £308.1K</p> <p>Overspend is due to a growing number of people who have required care outwith Orkney. Whilst care packages are regularly scrutinised, the care needs of these adults are such that they will not be able to return.</p>	<p><b>Management input required</b></p> <p>New packages are subject to considerable scrutiny via the Extraordinary Package of Care process; it is then approved by the Chief Officer. Increases in established packages also required to be approved.</p>	Lynda Bradford	31/03/2026	Ongoing

## Social Care

Function	Function Description/ Explanation	Action Category/ Action Description	Responsible Officer	Deadline	Status
<b>R19F</b>	<p><b>Older People - Day Centres</b></p> <p>Less than anticipated expenditure by £110.3K</p> <p>Income received to date is ahead of the anticipated budget; £98k was received from NHS Orkney in November, which was profiled for receipt at the end of the financial year.</p>	<p><b>Raise virements request</b></p> <p>A virement will be raised to realign the budget with actual income received to date, where necessary.</p>	Lynda Bradford	31/03/2026	Ongoing
<b>R19G</b>	<p><b>Disability</b></p> <p>More than anticipated expenditure by £95.9K</p> <p>The majority of the overspend is due to the need to use agency to achieve staffing levels required to deliver care needs and meet safe staffing legislation.</p>	<p><b>Management input required</b></p> <p>A piece of work is getting underway to review services to the current position and the increasing demands faced by this service. In the meantime, there is a continued effort to recruit to permanent posts and robustly manage sickness.</p> <p>However, the overspend is being masked by income of £705k received from NHS Orkney in November which was profiled for receipt at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The overall year-to-date overspend of £1.8m across OHAC is thus closer to £2.8m when the effect of the income credits is reversed.</p>	Lynda Bradford	31/03/2026	Ongoing



## Social Care

Function	Function Description/ Explanation	Action Category/ Action Description	Responsible Officer	Deadline	Status
<b>R19H</b>	<b>Mental Health</b> Less than anticipated expenditure by £61.4K  Underspend due to staff vacancies.	<b>Monitor the situation</b> Recruitment is underway for Mental Health admin posts.	Lynda Bradford	31/03/2026	Ongoing
<b>R19I</b>	<b>Other Community Care</b> Less than anticipated expenditure by £166.9K  The underspend is primarily due to staff changes and vacancies within the Adult Social Work team.	<b>Monitor the situation</b> Recruitment efforts continue to be ongoing.	Lynda Bradford	31/03/2026	Ongoing
<b>R19K</b>	<b>Home Care</b> More than anticipated expenditure by £427.5K  This overspend is due to the need to use agency to achieve staffing levels required to deliver care needs and meet safe staffing legislation.	<b>Monitor the situation</b> There is a continued effort to try to recruit to permanent posts, however, to meet care needs we require staffing levels which meet the safe staffing legislation. The recruitment campaign has been of benefit and continues to be used. There is also work to tackle sickness both short and long term.	Lynda Bradford	31/03/2026	Ongoing