Intelligent Client Function (ICF) Northamptonshire Children's Trust Budget Monitoring Period 06 – September 2024







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1. Key messages/High level movement

Key Messages

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Contract Sum Budget Heading	Contract sum £000's	Contract Change Requests £000's	Revised Contract sum £000's	Projected Outturn Position £000's	Variance £000's	Additional Funding £000's	Variance £000's	Movement from P5 £000's	Notes
Staffing	49,732	1,007	50,739	52,522	1,783	1,087	696	498	The contract change request relates to the Pay Award of £1.007m and the additional funding relates to the innovate teams of £1.087m. Staffing budgets are forecasting to overspend by £0.696m due to the continued pressure on recruitment and use of agency staff and the inherited vacancy factor of £3.269m.
Other Non- staffing Costs	358	0	358	358	0	0	0	0	Continued review of non-essential spend and reviews or mileage arrangements through the use of technology and utilisation of multi sites.
Placements	65,376	0	65,376	85,575	20,199	0	20,199	0	See detailed analysis under section 11 of this report.
Contracts	5,001	0	5,001	5,001	0	0	0	0	Risk around above inflation cost for contracts. Impact of continuation of short breaks contract.
Children's Homes	3,767	0	3,767	3,896	129	0	129	0	The forecast overspend mainly relates to Arnold house due to the level of staffing required to meet the complex needs of young people resident in this provision. Phoenix House has incurred additional agency costs this year to cover maternity leave. Challenges remain to maintain staffing ratios, around recruitment and through the use of agency/peri staff.
Legal	4,788	0	4,788	5,299	511	0	511	0	Forecast at current demand levels. Risk remains around increasing fee rates and shareholders status.
Adoption	7,776	0	7,776	7,643	-133	0	-133	0	Implementation of ombudsman's decision is factored into all projections. All historic payments have been made and included into the projection.
Transport	2,870	0	2,870	3,043	173	0	173	0	Based on current information provided through Transport SLA. Risk around increasing demand and above than budgeted inflation costs.
Other Care	6,799	0	6,799	6,799	0	0	0	82	Current service reviews, risks around increasing demand and Joint funding arrangements with Health. The increase this month relates to the increased costs of care provision for the cases within the Duty and Assessment teams due to cost of living inflation.
NCT Central	-762	0	-762	-997	-235	0	-235	-235	Risks around funding of demand led pressures and passporting of Funding. Delays in receipt of this funding will impact on the ability to continue investment and achieve savings target.
Support Services	5,233	0	5,233	5,233	0	0	0	0	Figure provided by the Local Authorities for the delivery of the services to the Trust including the occupation of buildings. A review will take place of all services prior to the agreement of the 2024/25 contract sum negotiations.
Total	150,938	1,007	151,945	174,372	22,427	1,087	21,340	345	







2. Operational Group - Key messages and recommendations

(populated as agreed at Pre OG Finance Meeting)

Key Messages

- 1) The development and robustness of finance projections for placements spend and forecasting have been agreed following a series of workshops with finance colleagues. Significant pressures in this area relating to the full year impact of placements in 2022/23 and ongoing increasing demand.
- 2) The agreed Contract Sum for 22/23 was £141.429m. It has been agreed that to account for the full year impact of demand led pressures as agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget the contract sum is to increase to £150.938m. It has subsequently been agreed to increase the contract sum to £151.945 to include the pay award for 2023/24. The full pressures from 2022/23 are not included in the original contract sum, these are reflected in the outturn report for 2023/24.
- 3) NCT are reporting a variance of £21.340m net of £1.087m for the managed teams. This does not include additional requests arising from NCT repositioning, risk of non delivery of savings and £2.844m for historic Joint Funding. NCT have submitted a type 1 in year change request allowing them to make an improved offer to the unions for a pay award for 2023/24. This amounts to additional funding of £1.007m which has been implemented and agreed and included in the revised contract sum figure of £151.945m.
- 4) Significant challenges in the recruitment of permanent social workers with increasing costs related to agency staff and managed teams. A Recruitment and Retention summit was held to discuss issues and a task and finish group has been established to develop a strategy.
- 5) Work ongoing with pathfinder to finalize the legal charges for the 2023/24 financial year following the ending of the agreement with North and West and the changes to the shareholding agreement.
- 6) Implementation of the new recharges for support services delivered to the trust, including occupation costs and property requirements for the Trust. Savings of £200k linked to the Trust property strategy.

Recommendations

- 1. To note the key messages above
- 2. To urgently resolve the outstanding payments
- 3. Agree to report variances as per previous years clearly showing where additions to the contract sum have been agreed in a separate column.
- 4. To note the associated risks that sit outside of the reported pressures as set out in point 3 above.







3. Actions – Carried Over

Ref	Date	Action	Owner	Planned date	Current position	Next Steps
				for completion		
1	Jan-23	NCT to reconfigure budgets in ERP.	A Tagg	Aiming for end November 2023	NCT and NNC have met with the Business Systems Team to review progress. Meeting with WNC colleagues has taken place and actions agreed to start implementing the changes onto ERP.	 Action from Business Systems and NCT to meet to implement. Additional support from the Councils may be needed. NCT to confirm changes required to ERP.
2	Mar-23	Payment of Outstanding passported grants to the Trust	R Woodward/ Mark Dickenson	Oct-23		 NNC to raise purchase orders for outstanding income relating to 2021/22 and 2022/23.
3	Apr-23	NCT to submit written request to WNC and NNC requesting outstanding balances for 2022/23.	A Tagg	Complete	Letter sent on the 21st June 2023 Action now complete	
4	Jun-23	NCT to submit written request to WNC and NNC requesting outstanding balances for 2023/24.	A Tagg	Jun-23	Letter sent on the 21st June 2023 Action complete for agreed contract sum 2 payment of £9.509m but the balance of £8.350m remains outstanding.	
5	Jun-23	22/23 OAS type one in year change request	A Tagg	Jun-23	Agreed by JOB	 NNC – have provided NCT with a PO# WNC and NCT are meeting 6/7 - PO's for additional demand and OAS

3. Actions – New actions in period

Ref	Date	Action	Owner	Planned date for completion	Current position	Next Steps
6	4 th July	1. Risks – Agree what RAG means.	All	By P3 report	Completed	
7	4 th July	To agree the creation of a plan for Benchmarking of children's social care costs	OG		Benchmarking was discussed at SG in May and June. Some informal enquiries have been made by North S.151. Issues with comparing like for like and out of date information.	-
8		Date for the MTFP to be provided by NCT to be agreed.	Andrew Tagg		NCT to the Councils by end of Q1 (June 23). To note: Schedule 5 financial mechanism does set	NCT to discuss internally and write to ICF/Councils proposing if the MTFP can be provided earlier than Sept 23 as part of Contract Sum.





4. Key Risks

Date	Risk	Owner	Value of risk	RAG	Impact	B. Likelihood 1(Low)- 5 (High)	Combine d score (AxB)	Mitigation
June 23	21/22 & 22/23 – Joint Funding Protocol income not materialising v level of bad debts		£2.844m					Ongoing discussions with the ICB, escalated through the process in place. Robust evidence provided to support the funding requests. The lack of an agreed protocol and the case by case analysis provides a challenge. Full additional evidence provided to CCG on the 21st June.
May 23	23/24 – Additional Risks to forecasts / Joint Funding Protocol		£0.627m					This saving was proposed through the development of the MARP protocol. Each case will be reviewed on a case by case basis with an improved process through MARP, which will require each organisation to contribute to the placement. The non-delivery of this saving has been factored into the forecast outturn position.
May 23	23/24 Transport costs		£0.173m					Based on figures provided by the councils and subject to forecast demand levels. Work ongoing to finalise the SLA and improved transport commissioning
July 23	23/24 Placements costs		£20.199m					Based on forecasting and demand levels as agreed in the financial modelling. Risks remain around forecasting and complexity given the around this incredibly volatile area, with significant variations between each package of support.
Sept23	23/24 Continuation of managed teams.		£1.087m					Ongoing discussions and negotiations on agreed rates to obtain discounted rate. A change control has been submitted
Sept 23	23/24 Agreement of Pay Award		£1.007m					Subject to agreement by councils and acceptance by the workforce. The pay award is in line with the offer made by West Northamptonshire. This offer was sent to the unions on the 21st July and has now been agreed.
Oct 23	23/24 Legal Services non agreement of current discounted rates.		£1.348m					Ongoing discussions with pathfinder. New collaboration agreement due to be proposed by pathfinder. No immediate increase from the 1 st July 2023. Risks remain around non shareholder/preferential rates. Meetings with Pathfinder awaiting their revised proposal as at the end of July, no response has been received therefore the risk is reducing.
Oct 23	Delivery of 2023/24 savings (RED). Included in the forecast		£1.247m					See Savings Section 9. Updated September 2023 position. This includes the risk related to Joint Funding Protocol of £0.627m shown above. The red savings have been included in the outturn forecast
Oct 23	Delivery of 2023/24 savings (amber)		£2.292m					See savings Section 9. Updated September 2023 position. Positive progress in the circle to success. Reduction will be based on actual achieved

5. NCT Mitigations (where not included as a risk)

Mitigation	Owner	Planned date for completion
1) Continued review of children homes capacity and exploring additional options for increased capacity as part of the capital programme	SLT	Ongoing
2) Explore additional supported accommodation and provision for housing for care leavers. Details submitted too both councils, specific workstream as part of project within West Northamptonshire. Opportunities to reduce the high levels of spend in this area as part of a joint transformation board.	SLT	Ongoing
3) Ongoing work with councils to reduce accommodation costs – A number of sites have been visited and proposals to reduce our footprint will be included in the contract sum negotiations	SLT	Ongoing
4) Review of all current placements – Positive progress in the Circle to success project and package reductions. Monitored through the circle to success project board	SLT	Individual placement are reviewed
5) Development of Early Help Offer as part of the transformation workstream	SLT	Ongoing
6) Transport workshops to review commissioning of transport – project group to be established following initial discussions	SLT	ТВС







6. Contract Sum 2023/24

The Children's Trust Contract Sum 2023/24	100%	44.16%	55.84%
	Total	North	West
	£m	£m	£m
2022/23 Rebased Contract Sum	148.613	65.628	82.985
Fostering Cost of Living	0.103	0.045	0.058
Placements	5.295	2.338	2.957
Demand Growth	1.195	0.528	0.667
Staffing Adjustments	1.119	0.494	0.625
Other Adjustments	2.285	1.009	1.276
2023/24 Pay Award	1.007	0.445	0.562
Gross Budget	159.617	70.487	89.130
NCT savings (No dependency)	1.215	0.537	0.678
Council dependency savings	3.257	1.438	1.819
Improving Outcomes Transformation project (year 1)	3.200	1.413	1.787
Gross Contract Sum 2023/24	151.945	67.099	84.846
Less Support services	5.233	2.311	2.922
Net Contract Sum Approved at SCG on 30th November 2022	146.712	64.788	81.924







7. Costs Outside of the Contract Sum

Agreed One-Off items outside of 23/24 Contract Sum	Year	Value	Savings attached	Comments	Date Paid to NCT
Early Help (year 2)	2023/24	£0.400m	£1.9m (over 2 years)	It is recommended that SG agree for the ICF to work with NCT to assess the use and impact of year 1 funding prior to releasing	
Foster Care (year 2)	2023/24	£0.250m	£1.1m (over 2 years)	year 2 funding with NCT providing a refreshed/updated business case if required	
Children's Homes Implementation	2023/24	£0.293m	£0.600m	Business case to be provided by NCT	
Valuing Care+	2023/24	£1.300m	£3.800m	Programme plan to be finalised, expected savings to be ratified	







8. In Year Contract Sum Change Requests

Description	Year	Date Requested	Value	Savings attached	Current Position	Date Change Control Agreed	Date Paid to NCT
Structural Deficit 2022/23	22/23	May 23	£8.350m	£0	£7.888m placements, £0.174m Children's Homes, £0.365m Legal, £0.173m transport & - £0.250 other.		
Employee Pay Award	23/24	May 23	£1.007m	£0	Pay award has been paid in September 2023.		
Managed Teams	23/24	July 23	£1.087m	£0	Change request submitted and agreed.		
Structural external placement	23/24	May 23	£12.311m	£0	Forecast overspend at P5 is £20.199m, £7.888m relates to 2022/23 structural deficit.		
Variable - Transport drawdown payment	23/24	May 22	£0	£0	Current forecast overspend of £0.173m is 2022/23 structural deficit.		
Variable - Legal drawdown payment	23/24	May 22	£0.146m	£0	Forecast overspend at P5 is £0.511m, £0.365m relates to 2022/23 structural deficit.		

Note – Agree process for payments in 2023/24 relating to historic pressures and emerging in year pressures.







9. Savings Delivery – 2023/24

Savings Proposals	SRO	2023/24 £'000	Red	Amber	Green	Mitigations	Total (A,G,M)	Comments
Review of Social Care transport, journey planning and contact through the Asset a management strategy	Andrew Tagg	100	0	100	0	0	100	Workshop to be held on the procurement and efficiency in transport journey planning. Working with external providers to ensure providers are delivery transport as part of there weekly fee charges. Development of local provision to remove transport costs.
Review of placements supply (Homes)	Louise De Chiara	600	0	600	0	0	600	Based on current schedule of children's Homes places coming on stream. Additional capacity above savings target, linked to Circle to Success project savings as more local provision is developed to reduce reliance on the independent sector
Increase provision in supported accommodation	Louise De Chiara	240	0	179	61	0	240	Additional capacity for supported accommodation to reduce the costs in provision through the private sector. Partnership with the university underway
Review of Business Operations	Andrew Tagg	70	0	0	70	0	70	Part of the business admin review to more from a centralised model to direct service level , reducing management costs
Review of Children's Legal Costs	Olivia Ives	100	0	100	0	0	100	Ongoing implementation of best practice following the review undertaken in Nov 2022
Review of Contracts	Louise De Chiara	100	0	0	100	0	100	Review of contracts
Asset Management Strategy	Colin Foster	200	0	200	0	0	200	The property aspirations for NCT have been submitted to allow the rationalisation of buildings. A geographical spread across the county will deliver travel savings on mileage and contact.
Increase in In house Fostering	Olivia Ives	620	620	0	0	0	620	A coordinated plan aimed at increasing the capacity and utilisation of existing carers. Review of the capacity of the current operating model to recruit and support a larger inhouse foster carer community. Creation of a new Foster Friendly Offer with contributions from the wider partnership. Revised comms and marketing plan aligned to a modern fostering agency. Capital plan to support carers.

Review of External placements to develop effective Joint Funding Commissioning	Olivia Ives/Andrew Tagg	627	627	0	0	0	627	Review terms of reference for the Multi Agency Resource panel. Agree a joint funding protocol with partners (Health and Education). Identification of Cohort and develop pipeline of cases for MARP. Revised and improved referral process. QA process for MARP cases
Review of Care provision	Olivia Ives	200	0	0	200	0	200	Review of care packages and continued work with Health partners around funding packages. Focus work on disabled children care packages
Review of Non Essential Budgets including mileage, supplies and provisions.	Andrew Tagg	50	0	0	50	0	50	Review of non essential spend through improved governance arrangements. Review of non essential travel
Review of Learning Development/ Social work academy	Louise De Chiara	65	0	0	65	0	65	Coordination of Social work academy and learning and development functions
Implementation of treasury management strategy	Andrew Tagg	900	0	0	900	0	900	£13m currently in investment. Payment of outstanding income and demand led pressures will allow the investment to £20m to achieve the remaining target. Timely passporting of grants and in year pressures will impact on delivery.
TOTAL		3,872	1,247	1,179	1,446	0	3872	
Additional Valuing care (see NCT 3b)	Olivia Ives	3,200	0	1,113	2,087	0	3,200	See Valuing care programme board savings delivery forecast. Delivery based on medium assurance delivery. Potential mitigation from review of packages
Supporting families to stay together - valuing care (see NCT 18)	Debbie Lloyd	600	0	0	600	0	600	valuing care programme - cost avoidance element of the programme
TOTAL SAVINGS		7,672	1,247	2,292	3,533	0	7,672	







10. Valuing Care+ Savings Delivery Monitoring - £3.800m

Circle to Success



Finance dashboard



Forecasted savings 23/24
Cost savings
£3,677,074
Cost avoidance
£1,166,330

Actual savings 23/24
Cost savings
£1,120,832
Cost avoidance
£23,585



Forecasted savings 24/25
Cost savings
£7,944,160
Cost avoidance
£2,498,860

Actual savings 24/25
Cost savings
£1,416,514
Cost avoidance
£23,331

Step down to fostering	Reunification	Step down to SGO	Placement stabilisation	Edge of care	Reducing time in care	Permanence
£571,788	£549,044	£-	£-	£-	£-	£23,585









11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Summary

NCT Monitoring Summary		Budget 2023/24 To Capture Any Budget Movement and Ensure correct Governance Process has been followed												
Description	Original Budget	P05	P06	Movement	P05 Actuals	%	P06 Actuals	%		P06 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P05 Forecast Variance	P06 Forecast Variance	Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total	150,938	150,938	151,945	1,007	71,724	47.5%	87,019	57.3%	174,027	174,372	345	23,089	22,427	-662
Less Income	-8,817	-8,817	-8,817	-	-3,674	41.7%	-3,674	41.7%	-8,817	-8,817	-	-	-	
Net Total	142,121	142,121	143,128	1,007	68,051	47.9%	83,346	58.2%	165,210	165,555	345	23,089	22,427	-662
NNC	62,761	62,761	63,205	444	30,051	47.9%	36,805	58.2%	72,957	73,109		10,196	9,904	
WNC	79,360	79,360	79,923	563	38,000	47.9%	46,540	58.2%	92,253	92,446		12,893	12,523	







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring - Summary

NCT Monitoring Summary		Budget	2023/24											
Description	Original Budget	P05	P06	Movement	P05 Actuals	%	P06 Actuals	%	P05 Forecast Outturn	P06 Forecast Outturn	Movement	P05 Forecast Variance		Movement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Staffing	49,732	49,732	50,739	1,007	24,863	50.0%	30,849	60.8%	52,024	52,522	498	2,292	1,783	-509
Other non staffing costs	358	358	358	-	149	41.7%	179	50.0%	358	358	-	-	-	-
Placements	65,376	65,376	65,376	-	32,986	50.5%	39,951	61.1%	85,575	85,575	0	20,199	20,199	0
Contracts	5,001	5,001	5,001	-	1,176	23.5%	1,329	26.6%	5,001	5,001	-	-	-	-
Children's Homes	3,767	3,767	3,767	-	1,749	46.4%	2,216	58.8%	3,896	3,896	0	129	129	0
Legal	4,788	4,788	4,788	-	1,926	40.2%	1,991	41.6%	5,299	5,299	-	511	511	-
Adoption	7,776	7,776	7,776	-	3,317	42.7%	4,070	52.3%	7,643	7,643	-	-133	-133	-
Transport	2,870	2,870	2,870	-	540	18.8%	588	20.5%	3,043	3,043	-	173	173	-
Other Care	6,799	6,799	6,799	-	5,278	77.6%	6,269	92.2%	6,717	6,799	82	-82	0	82
NCT Central - Other budget	-762	-762	-762	-	-260	34.1%	-421	55.3%	-762	-997	-235	-	-235	-235
Support Services / SLA	5,233	5,233	5,233	-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	5,233	5,233	-	-	-	-
Total	150,938	150,938	151,945	1,007	71,724	47.5%	87,019	57.3%	174,027	174,372	345	23,089	22,427	-662
Less Income	-8,817	-8,817	-8,817	-	-3,674	41.7%	-3,674	41.7%	-8,817	-8,817	-	-	-	
Total	142,121	142,121	143,128	1,007	68,051	47.9%	83,346	58.2%	165,210	165,555	345	23,089	22,427	-662
NNC	62,761	62,761	63,205	444	30,051	47.9%	36,805	58.2%	72,957	73,109		10,196	9,904	
WNC	79,360	79,360	79,923	563	38,000	47.9%	46,540	58.2%	92,253	92,446		12,893	12,523	







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Staffing

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here							
ERP Ledger Codes	Various							
Agreed budget	£50.739m							
YTD Actuals	£30.849m							
Forecast	£52.522m							
Current Variance	£1.783m							
Previous Variance	£2.292m							
Movement in Variance	-£0.509m							
Actuals Period	April to September 2023							
Basis of Forecast	Projections based on actual mix of agency, vacant and permanent staffing structure configuration. The additional pay award is included in the forecast.							
Risk in Forecasts	There is a vacancy factor of £3.269m across all teams. There are a large number of vacancies across the social work teams which are being covered by agency staff. Increasing agency rates above 4% contract sum allocation.							
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.							

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
The agreed budget has increased by £1.007m this	Reduced employee contributions rates as agreed in the
month to reflect the Pay award.	contract sum
A change control has been submitted re the continuation of the managed teams which is forecast of £1.087m. The movement in variance relates to additional budget of £1.007m less additional staffing costs of £0.498m. These additional costs have arisen due to the vacancy factor which is not fully achievable and use of agency staff to cover vacancies.	Restructures planned for commissioning, Business support and central operations to manage the savings targets and vacancy factor applied to this area. The vacancy factor inherited as part of the contract sum was 14% for business support arrangements. The contract sum submission will look to address this historic funding issue
The recruitment of social workers is a key challenge both locally and nationally. There is a shortage of social workers across the country, with the agency market and the associated costs attracting a greater number of social workers. NCT remains competitive with its pay and agency rates and regular benchmarking is undertaken. However, we are starting to see an increase in neighboring authorities increasing their rates through significant retention and pay increases to social care staff. The actuals year to date are high compared to forecast as the grants funding a large portion of the staffing costs have not yet been received.	





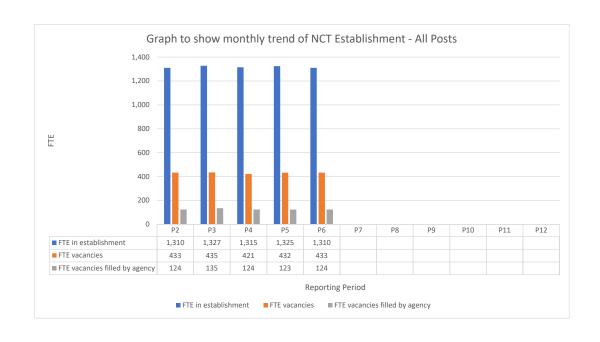


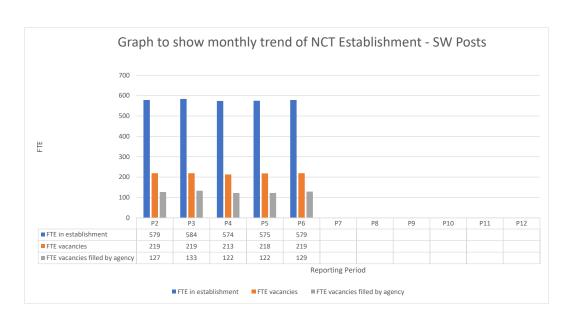
Team Summary – September 2023

	Full Establishment								SW Posts On	У	-	SW Sickness	
	Numbers			%					%				
Grouped Teams	Grand Total	Vacancy	Permanent	Agency	Office Holder	Casual /Zero Hours	Grand Total	Vacancy	Permanent	Agency	Relief	Absence Rate	Fte Days per Fte Employee (12m to Sep 23)
Integrated Support Service & Admin Team	102	19.6%	80.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-						
SQAS Business Support Team	29	6.9%	89.7%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	-						
Child Protection Officers	15	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Independent Reviewing Officers	21	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
NQSW Academy Team	8	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	1.26
Strengthening Families North	41	4.9%	95.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0						
Strengthening Families West	62	9.7%	90.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-						
Strengthening Families SEND	8	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-						
Youth Offending Team	77	20.8%	79.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0						
MASH	56	8.9%	73.2%	17.9%	0.0%	0.0%	27	3.7%	63.0%	33.3%	0.0%	6.1%	15.40
EDT	24	20.8%	58.3%	8.3%	0.0%	12.5%	21	23.8%	52.4%	9.5%	14.3%	13.4%	33.97
Duty & Assessment	63	19.0%	39.7%	39.7%	0.0%	1.6%	57	21.1%	33.3%	43.9%	1.8%	2.6%	6.63
DCT	32	6.3%	84.4%	9.4%	0.0%	0.0%	30	6.7%	83.3%	10.0%	0.0%	3.3%	8.45
Safeguarding North	69	11.6%	69.6%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%	57	12.3%	64.9%	22.8%	0.0%	3.6%	9.12
Safeguarding West	75	21.3%	54.7%	22.7%	0.0%	1.3%	63	22.2%	49.2%	27.0%	1.6%	5.6%	14.12
CiC - Court Teams (N1/2 and W1/2)	53	24.5%	45.3%	30.2%	0.0%	0.0%	47	23.4%	42.6%	34.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.47
CiC Teams (non-court teams)	70	12.9%	77.1%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	63	11.1%	77.8%	11.1%	0.0%	3.9%	9.92
CiC North (all teams)	59	11.9%	66.1%	22.0%	0.0%	0.0%	52	11.5%	63.5%	25.0%	0.0%	2.3%	5.83
CiC West (all teams)	52	26.9%	55.8%	17.3%	0.0%	0.0%	48	22.9%	58.3%	18.8%	0.0%	4.5%	11.53
Leaving Care	39	15.4%	84.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8	12.5%	87.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	7.75
Childrens Homes	184	21.7%	48.4%	0.5%	0.0%	29.3%	2	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.00
Adoption & Post Adoption Support	70	20.0%	60.0%	0.0%	14.3%	5.7%	23	8.7%	60.9%	30.4%	0.0%	2.4%	6.11
Fostering Teams (inc Friends & Family Support)	85	24.7%	52.9%	4.7%	9.4%	8.2%	26	19.2%	61.5%	19.2%	0.0%	9.0%	22.86
Separated Children	16	18.8%	62.5%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%	12	8.3%	75.0%	16.7%	0.0%	1.3%	3.27

11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Staffing

Service	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	Average
FTE in establishment		1,323	1,327	1,323	1,325	1,310							
FTE vacancies		429	435	429	432	433							
FTE vacancies filled by agency		127	135	127	123	124							
% Agency Usage		9.6%	10.2%	9.6%	9.3%	9.5%							





11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Other Non Staffing

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£0.358m
YTD Actuals	£0.179m
Forecast	£0.358m
Current Variance	£0
Previous Variance	£0
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Forecast in line with YTD actuals.
Risk in Forecasts	None at present.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
No variance reported for P6.	







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Agency Placements

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£65.376m
YTD Actuals	£39.951m
Forecast	£85.575m
Current Variance	£20.199m
Previous Variance	£20.199m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Forecast based on the database as at 1st October 2023. This has been adjusted for young people turning 18 during the financial year. Further growth has been included of £0.758m and has been calculated using placement trends over the last 2 years. This forecast assumes all savings will be achieved.
Risk in Forecasts	Forecast demand is higher than currently estimated. The savings identified against placements are not fully achieved. Income from ICB is not received at forecasted levels.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance

placements table below.

The forecast overspend is as a result of the following -Increased package costs due to inflation and more complex care needed for young people. The average weekly cost of providing care has increased significantly over the last year. -A number of placements started towards the end of 2022/23 and would only of been a part year impact last year. The full year impact is reflected in the current forecasts for 2023/24. -Demographic Growth – The original forecasts included £3.245m of growth in agency placements. This is updated on a 96% of all care costs, which is high compared statistical monthly basis.

The number of packages has reduced to 640 this month as shown in the chart below relating to the net impact of new packages, ended packages, package changes including the ongoing savings work. This has been reflected in the forecast spend against packages this month, however the forecast has remained the same due to growth and savings being included with the forecast.

Actuals to date are low compared to forecast as the majority of invoices are paid in arrears.

Mitigations

The forecast variance of £20.199 is shown in more detail in the $\| NCT \|$ has continued to develop its placement sufficiency strategy and the use of external placements strategy.

> NCT has submitted a capital bid to increase capacity of inhouse provision and is working with property colleagues to identify additional properties as part of the placement sufficiency strategy.

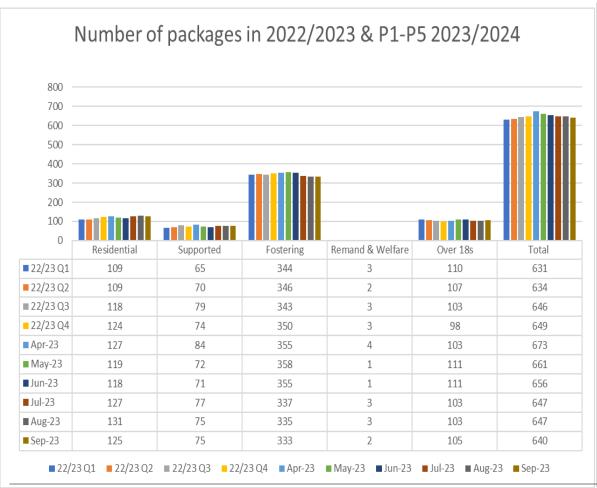
The Multi Agency Resource Panel was reviewed, and a new term of reference was proposed in July 2022. A review by People Too has indicated that social care currently picks up neighbours and national. The refreshed the terms of reference, we are currently working through all joint funded cases to review allocations and finalise the protocol. The increased contributions from partners which had been forecast have now been removed from the provisional outturn position and impacted on the outturn position for 22/23. As part of the contract sum negotiations increased levels of contributions were accepted as part of the savings proposals from NCT.

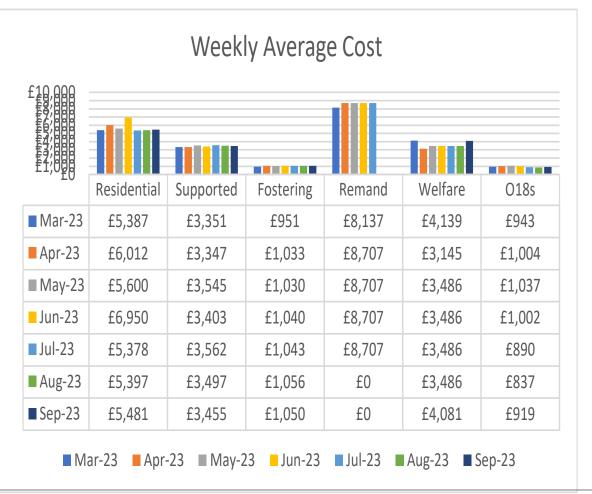






11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Agency Placements











11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Homes for Children

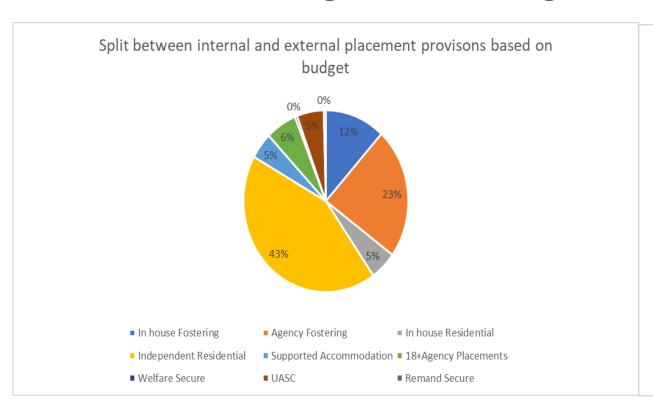
Placement Type	Expenditure Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance – This period	Variance – Last period	Mix - This period	Mix – Last period
In house Fostering	£8.532m	£8.599m	£0.067m	£0.067m	0.3%	0.3%
Agency Fostering	£16.895m	£18.654m	£1.759m	£1.781m	8.6%	8.6%
Independent Residential	£31.087m	£38.319m	£7.232m	£7.434m	36%	36%
Supported Accommodation	£3.400m	£13.662m	£10.262m	£10.424m	50.5%	50.5%
18+Agency Placements	£4.400m	£5.752m	£1.352m	£0.887m	4.3%	4.3%
Welfare Secure	£0.339m	£0.127m	-£0.212m	-£0.212m	-1%	-1%
UASC	£3.812m	£3.812m	£0	£0	0%	0%
Remand Secure	£0.300m	£0.485m	£0.185m	£0.261m	1.3%	1.3%
Total	£68.765m	£89.410m	£20.645m	£20.642m	100%	100%
Grant Income/Contributions	£3.389m	£3.835m	£0.446m	£0.443m		
Net Total	£65.376m	£85.575m	£20.199m	£20.199m		

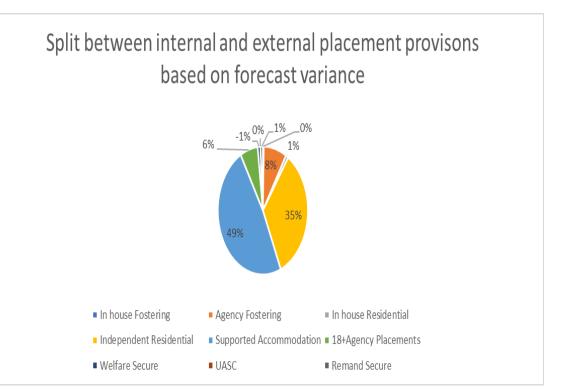






11. Revenue Budget Monitoring



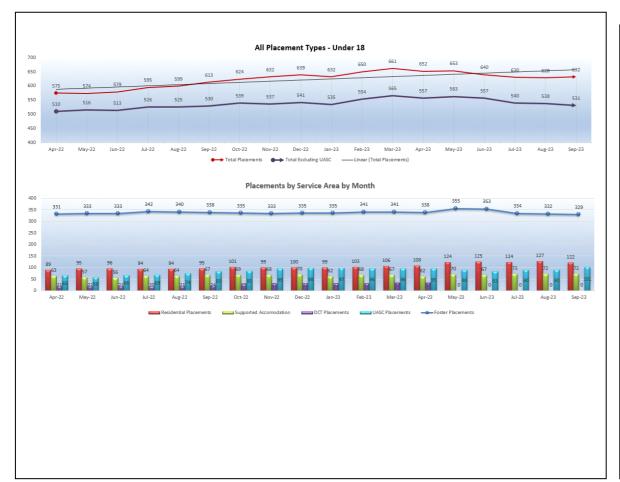


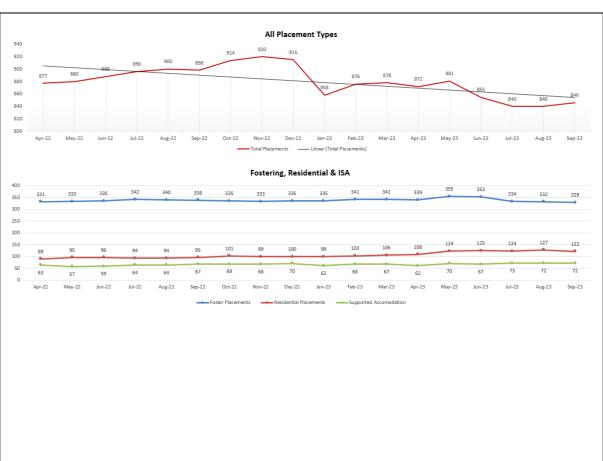






11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Homes for Children











Internal Placement, Managed Provision & Block Contract

These tables show the utilization of in-house, block contract and managed provision.

Internal Service Values	Period	Capacity	Capacity Used	Vacant	Utilization	Notes
Arnold House		3	2	1	67%	10/01/2023 - Arnold will remain at 3 placements so capacity changed to reflect this
Raven House		3	3	0	100%	10/01/2023 – Reduced capacity (3) due to staffing
Welford House		6	4	2	67%	
Thornton House		2	1	1	50%	
Phoenix House		4	2	2	50%	
Total for Residential		18	12	6	67%	

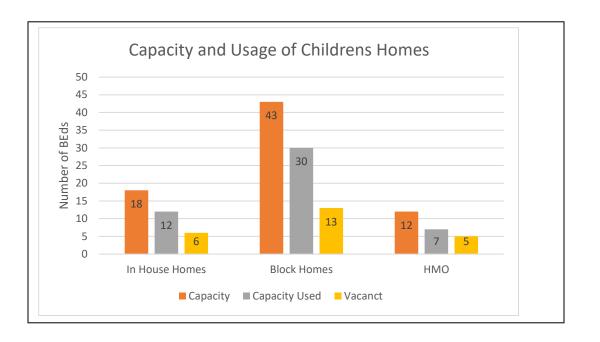
HMO Provision	Period	NCT Bed Capacity	NCT Used Capacity	Vacant	NCT Block Utilization	Notes
Adams Avenue		0	0	0	0%	Closed
Hood Street		6	2	4	33%	
Stimpson Avenue		6	5	1	83%	
Totals		12	7	5	58%	

Provision Name	Home Capacity	NCT Home Capacity	NCT Used Capacity	Vacant	NCT Block Utilization	Comments
Abbey House	5	5	5	0	100%	
Buckby House	5	4	3	1	75%	
Danetree House	2	2	2	0	100%	
Eversley House	5	5	5	0	100%	
Franklin House	2	2	2	0	100%	
Hatton House	5	3	2	1	67%	
Lansdowne House	5	5	4	1	80%	Second bed blocked ref. N1376099
Poppy House	1	1	1	0	100%	
Wallis House	5	5	1	4	20%	Second bed blocked ref. N0917733
Harpury House	5	5	4	1	80%	
Lillibet House	3	3	1	2	33%	New three bed emergency provision
Burtone House	3	3	0	3	0%	New three bed emergency provision
Totals	46	43	30	13	70%	





11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Homes for children





11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Contracts

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£5.001m
YTD Actuals	£1.329m
Forecast	£5.001m
Current Variance	£0
Previous Variance	£0
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Cost of existing contracts
Risk in Forecasts	None at present
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
No variance reported for P6.	NCT launched a Commissioning Strategy and Framework
	2021-25 setting out our overall vision and plan to use
Actuals to date are low compared to forecast as the	commissioning to contribute to the delivery of our
contracts for 2023/24 are being paid in arrears	Business Plan, and to improve outcomes for children,
	young people, and families and to support our staff to do
Contracts are forecast on budget, work is ongoing with	their work effectively and efficiently. The Commissioning
providers to maintain current provision. Pressure from	\$trategy and Framework is also intended to inform our
providers around reconfiguration of service provision is	Board, stakeholders, partners and our staff of the
intensifying given inflation pressures. Contractual	purpose of our commissioning; our expectations of
inflation was incorporated into the contract sum and has	commissioned services; how they align with and support
been passported to providers.	our service delivery function; our approach to
	commissioning; what good commissioning looks like;
The shorts breaks contract has been extended for the	what we intend to commission over the next four years
23/24 financial year, NCT is mitigating the additional	and how we will know what difference we have made for
costs following a review of other contracts and	children, young people and families in Northamptonshire
mitigating actions. A risk remains around any additional	as a result ensuring value for money in the use of
increase following the finalisation of pay negotiations	resources.
within the health service. As contracts expire following	
the novation to NCT as part of the commissioning	
strategy, NCT will look to recommission and reconfigure	
provision in line with priorities and available resources.	







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Children's Homes

	<u> </u>
Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£3.767m
YTD Actuals	2.216m
Forecast	£3.896m
Current Variance	£0.129m
Previous Variance	£0.129m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Mainly staffing budgets.
Risk in Forecasts	Staffing expenditure makes up 90% of the budget allocation with pressures around agency and sickness. Recruitment in this area is a significant challenge given the salary levels.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
The forecast overspend mainly relates to Arnold house due to the level of staffing required to meet the complex needs of young people resident in this provision. Phoenix House has incurred additional agency costs this year to cover maternity leave of the service manager. The spend to date is high compared to forecast as this relates to the use of agency staff across the homes which has reduced significantly. The increase in forecast spend relates to increased payroll costs to meet the needs of young people in the homes.	Alternative delivery options are been developed as part of a strategic partnership







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Legal

	<u> </u>
Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£4.788m
YTD Actuals	£1.991m
Forecast	£5.299m
Current Variance	£0.511m
Previous Variance	£0.511m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	The forecast is based on the current level of demand and continued delivery of improvement measures.
Risk in Forecasts	Risk around additional increases in charges and the impact of the application of non shareholder rates.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
The overspend relates to inflationary costs and	NCT has taken legal advice on the Shareholder matter
increasing demand for legal services.	and NCT has challenged the in year uplift in May 2023
	outside of the normal November 2023 uplift.
Actuals to date are low compared to forecast as the	
legal invoices are paid in arrears.	Despite the increased demand the transformation
	workstream has had a number of successes in terms of
Increasing demand and complexity of cases and the	cost mitigation and also improving the understanding of
implementation of the fee increase of 4% implemented	the data.
from November 2022. workshops have been held with	
pathfinder around there billing, there remains concern	Our 3 biggest areas of focus in FY22-23 were Counsel
around this with the potential for retrospective charges	
and late billing.	are £245k underspent compared to last year.
	Acknowledging that demand has increased there are 90
Significant risks around the provision of legal services	more matters billed to DEC 2022 than DEC 2021. With an
for 23/24 and future years	average cost per matter last FY of £1115 – that is worth
	£100k.
	Removal of Pathfinder attendance as standard from
	weekly Gateway meetings at the start of the financial
	vear avoided c£90k in billed time.







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Adoption

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£7.776m
YTD Actuals	£4.070m
Forecast	£7.643m
Current Variance	-£0.133m
Previous Variance	-£0.133m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	See table on the right.
Risk in Forecasts	Cost of adoption allowances is increasing which could potentially put pressure on the budget.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance

The current forecast variance is to underspend by £0.133m as a result of a reduction in other care adoption costs, which has been reported this month.

Table below sets out how the forecast has been calculated.

			2023/2024		
Expenditure	Baseline	Growth	Baseline & Growth	Weekly Cost	Forecast 2023/2024
SGO	588	25	613	198.48	£6,343,782
RO	63	-16	47	144.17	£353,300
Adoption	78	-20	58	228.5	£691,011
Total Allowances	729	-11	718	571.15	£7,388,094
Other Costs					£254,906
Total allowances & other costs					£7,643,000







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Transport

Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£2.870m
YTD Actuals	£0.588m
Forecast	£3.043m
Current Variance	£0.173m
Previous Variance	£0.173m
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Based on current information provided through the transport SLA.
Risk in Forecasts	Increased demand and inflation on transport increasing above current levels.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
The forecast overspend relates to increased cost as a result of inflationary pressures.	A workshop has been arranged to review transport procurement arrangements as part of the finalization of
Actuals to date are low due to accruals from 2022/23. In	the SLA for the delivery of social care workshop. The aim
Improvement in the invoicing and forecasting arrangements would improve the budget monitoring in this area	Within NCT, the transport hub will continue to seek efficiencies and manage demand. Detailed below are a summary of the current actions of the transport hub.
	The service has implemented the Transport hub to review all transport arrangements and historic provision. Each case is reviewed annually. To ensure best value all transport provision is directed through the hub, to ensure the most effective provision is put in place and transport arrangements can be amended or withdrawn
	ransport arrangements can be amended or withdrawn following changes in circumstances. Review of historic eligibility and arrangements. Improved management information and route planning. The service is working with its external providers to ensure transport related expenditure is not duplicated through the analysis of the placement fees.
	•A savings target of £100k is built into the budget as part of the savings programme.







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Other Care

_	<u></u>
Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£6.799m
YTD Actuals	£6.269m
Forecast	£6.799m
Current Variance	£0
Previous Variance	-£0.082m
Movement in Variance	£0.082m
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Expenditure incurred to date.
Risk in Forecasts	Risk around increasing demand and joint funding arrangements with Health.
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
The forecast underspend relates to non-placement costs	Review of all current packages
across the service which includes ICB income for direct	
payment and day care packages. The increase this month	•
relates to the increased costs of care provision for the	improved commissioning arrangements
cases within the Duty and Assessment teams due to cost of living inflation.	oint Funding work with providers from Health and
or living illiation.	Education
Actuals to date are high compared to forecast as some of	
the payments made under other care are paid in	
advance, for example direct payments made to families.	
In addition, the forecast income against these packages	
has not yet been received.	







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – NCT Central

	<u> </u>
Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	-£0.762m
YTD Actuals	-£0.421m
Forecast	-£0.997m
Current Variance	-£0.235m
Previous Variance	£0
Movement in Variance	-£0.235m
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Forecast based on investments currently in place.
Risk in Forecasts	Funding of demand led pressures and passporting of funding. Delays in receipt of funding will impact on the ability to continue investment and achieve savings target. Investment dependent and timely payment of contract sum funding
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
No variance reported for P6. Current Investments in Treasury Bonds now total £15m.	When the outstanding funding in relation to the 2022/23 financial year and an improved process for the payment of passthrough grants for the 2023/24 financial year. This will allow the Trust to invest the additional funding to achieve the savings target of £900k. the cash flow of the trust is dependent on the timely payment of funding to the Trust.







11. Revenue Budget Monitoring – Support Services

	311313 - 31313111
Overview	Explain what costs are included in here
ERP Ledger Codes	Various
Agreed budget	£5.233m
YTD Actuals	£0
Forecast	£5.233m
Current Variance	£0
Previous Variance	£0
Movement in Variance	£0
Actuals Period Covered	April to September 2023
Basis of Forecast	Forecast to budget.
Risk in Forecasts	None at present
MTFP Impact - 2024/25	To be reviewed.

Reasons for Variance	Mitigations
No variance reported for P6.	Support services review as part of the 2024/25 contract
The actuals to date are £0 as the invoices are paid later in the year. Finalisation of agreed recharges for the 2023/24 financia year. No proposed changes to the delivery of the current SLA for the 2023/24	sum arrangements. Finalisation of the Transport SLA. This is still not finalised following the disaggregation the transport arrangements in November 2022.







12. MTFP - Summary

		2023/24 Budget		2024/25 Budget		2025/26 Budget			2026/27 Budget			
Summary	Expenditure	Income	Net budget	Expenditure	Income	Net budget	Expenditure	Income	Net budget	Expenditure	Income	Net budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Staffing	49,732	3,105	46,627		0	Į.		8				
Other non-Staff costs	358	0	358									
Placements (inc. Fostering)	65,376	5,046	60,330									
Contracts	5,001	0	5,001									,
Children's Homes	3,767	0	3,767									
Legal	4,788	0	4,788									
Adoption	7,776	100	7,676									,
Transport	2,870	566	2,304									
Other care	6,799	0	6,799									
NCT Central - Other budget	-762	0	-762							ш.		
Support Services / SLA	5,233	0	5,233									
Grand Total	150,938	8,817	142,121	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	







12. MTFP - Pressures

Category	Proposal Title	Proposal Description	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Total Pressures			0	0	0	0







12. MTFP - Savings

NCT Ref	Description	LA Dep	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000			
NCT01	Review of Social Care Staffing	Υ	£0m	£	£0.500	£0.500			
NCT02	Review of Social Care Transport	Y	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.100m	-			
NCT 03a	Review of placements supply	Y	£0.600m	£1.200m	£1.200m	-			
NCT 03b	Supporting families to stay together	Y	£0.600m	£0.700m	£0.700m	£0.700m			
NCT04	Increase provision in supported accommodation	Y	£0.240m	£0.240m	£0.240m	-			
NCT05	NCT Service Review	Y	£0m	£0.240m	£0.240m	-			
NCT08	Review of Business Operations	Y	£0.70m	£0.180m	£0.180m	£0.090m			
NCT10	Review and digitalisation of conferences & admin costs	Y	£0m	£0.045m	£0.045m	-			
NCT11	Review of Children's Legal Costs	Y	£0.100m	£0.600m	£0.600m	-			
NCT12	Review of Contracts	Y	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.100m	-			
NCT13	Asset Management Strategy	Y	£0.200m	£0.100m	£0.100m	-			
NCT14	Increase in In house Fostering	Υ	£0.620m	£1.000m	£1.000m	-			







12. MTFP - Savings

NCT Ref	Description	LA Dep	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
NCT15	Review of External placements to develop effective Joint Funding Commissioning	N	£0.627m	£0.627m	-	-
NCT16	Consolidate Business Analyst team	N	£0m	-	-	-
NCT06	Review of Care Costs	N	£200m	-	-	-
NCT07	Review of Non Essential Budgets including mileage, supplies and provisions.	N	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.050m
NCT09	Review of Learning Development/ Social work academy	N	£0.065m	-	-	-
NCT17	Implementation of Treasury Management Policy	N	£0.900m	-	-	-
NCT18	Targeted work with Children in Complex Settings	Y	£3.200m	-	-	-
	Total		£7.672	£5.014m	£5.055m	£1.340







13. Capital – To be updated as part of finance reviews

Agreed Capital Items	Value	Year	NNC Approval	WNC Approval	RAG	Current position	Next steps
John Greenwood Shipman	WNC NNC	22/23	Yes	Yes	G	WNC - Approved NNC - Approved	NCT to project manage delivery with WNC Property Services
New 4 bed children's home	WNC NNC	22/23	Yes	Yes	G	WNC - Approved NNC – Approved Site yet to be identified	NCT to project manage delivery with WNC & NNC Property Services
Thornton House	Total - £123,890 WNC 55.84% - £69,180.18 NNC 44.18% - £54,743.60	23/24	Yes	In progress	G	WNC - NNC – Approved by Children's & Strategic Capital Board	WNC - CAB/ELT 20th Feb NNC – Full Council March 23
DfE Funded Project (matched funded)	WNC - TBC NNC – TBC	22/23	TBC	Yes	G	WNC – In main budget approvals NNC - TBC	NCT to project manage delivery with WNC Property Services
Fostering Rolling Programme		23/24	In progress	In progress	G	WNC – NNC -	WNC – Full Council March 23 NNC – Full Council March 23

Future Requests







14. Invoicing and Cashflow Management

Date		NNC		WNC		Total
Apr'23	£	5,204,583.33	£	6,581,166.67	£	11,785,750.00
May'23	£	5,204,583.33	£	6,581,166.67	£	11,785,750.00
Jun'23	£	5,204,583.33	£	6,581,166.67	£	11,785,750.00
Jul'23	£	6,604,308.13	£	8,351,108.53	£	14,955,416.67
Aug'23	£	5,554,514.53	£	7,023,652.13	£	12,578,166.67
Sep'23	£	5,554,514.53	£	7,023,652.13	£	12,578,166.67
Oct'23	£	5,813,917.73	£	7,351,665.62	£	13,165,583.36
Nov'23	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Dec'23	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Jan'24	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Feb'24	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Mar'24	£	5,591,572.13	£	7,070,511.20	£	12,662,083.34
Grand Total:	£	67,098,865.60	£	84,846,134.44	£	151,945,000.00







15. Year End

Year-End Tasks	NNC & WNC Requirements	Timetable
Year-End accruals alignment between NCT, NNC and WNC.	Both councils will work with the ICF and NCT to ensure that all accruals can be substantiated.	TBC
True Ups (In scope) between NNC and WNC: Buyback Income Grants & Partnership Contributions	NNC and WNC will work with the ICF to ensure that all True Ups are aligned to the contract sum splits.	TBC
Establish Intercompany Year-End Positions between NCT, NNC and WNC	All three entities will liaise with the ICF to establish InCo balances as at 31.03.2023.	TBC
Inter Authority Arrangements: reviewed & agreed.	NNC and WNC to adhere to agreed IAA and work with the ICF where challenges are raised.	TBC







16. Audit

Track actions agreed as part of:





