

Appendix B – Risk Reconciliation Report

Significant changes* to the Children's Services departmental risk register since it was last presented in January 2018 as part of the Performance Management report.

Since the last reporting of risks to the Children's Services Committee in January 2018, there has been a change to 4 risks that are reported by exception. Risk scores haven't changed. This is as follows;

Risk 1 SEND and associated transport costs:

- The year-end figure for FY2017/18 confirmed ongoing underspends for mainstream and post 16 transport and ongoing overspend for SEN transport; we anticipate a similar pattern of spend against budget for the FY2018/19 with potential pressure of approx. £900k. Currently, the strategy to address this overspend pressure remains the same, i.e.: Norfolk County Council have now progressed to the next stage of the Hackney Community Transport independent travel training initiative; following on from the formal contract sign-up the provider has now recruited a local manager and implementation is now underway with key NCC services and partners

Risk 2 Lack of Corporate capacity and capability reduces the ability of Children's Services to improve.

- Expected improvements following significant investment into new recording system to be used by Children's Services, Finance and Adults. The functionality of this system will have an impact on the services previous reliance on the I+A service in as much as managers will be able to self-serve with reports.
- The proposed support service made up of officers from across the 3 services using LL including I+A will mean that IT, reporting, system training, system change and customer support will be integrated with service experts.
- Functionality of the system will bring about efficiencies in worker time thus impacting on overall performance.
- Functionality of system is workflow led thus impacting positively on quality of data being produced.

Risk 3 Overreliance on agency social workers

- NIPE cohorts continue to impact positively on increasing workforce numbers.
- Initial cohorts have already seen some promotions to senior roles.
- Enhanced recruitment package to attract permanent social workers to Norfolk.

- Regular meetings with HR to better understand social work vacancy rates, reasons and long term absence. To be included in weekly report to DCS.

Risk 4 Looked After Children overspend

- Responsibilities for budgets moved to localities thus enabling Heads of Locality to have responsibility for and accountability of their local spend.
- Review of Locality Panels to better understand what has led to accommodation being requested at a point in time.
- Development of intervention service to support families in crisis where only other alternative would be coming in to care for just a few days.
- Analysis of LAC cohort and their social care history.

Closed risks

Risk RM14147 - Potential failure to move out of Intervention

Given the positive result of the recent Ofsted inspection of Children's Services, with the department moving out of intervention, this risk has now been closed.

New risks

New risks have not been identified

Changes to risk scores

No change has been made to current risk scores

* A significant change can be defined as any of the following;

- A new risk
- A closed risk
- A change to the risk score
- A change to the risk title, description or mitigations (where significantly altered).