

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board	
Held on	23rd June 2021	
Agenda Item:	8	
Title:	Reserves Position and Investment Proposals	
Summary: The purpose of this report is to state the reserves position at 1 st April 2021 and to present investment proposals for approval from uncommitted reserves during 2021-22 and beyond.		
Author:	Lisa Duncan, Chief Finance Officer	
Recommendations: It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board i. Note the Reserves Position at the end of the year; ii. Approve the proposed investments; iii. Note work to be undertaken to develop future proposals for approval; iv. Note the Primary Care Improvement Fund position; and v. Approve use of remaining Primary Care Improvement Fund budget.		
Route to meeting: Directorate Management Team – 11 th June 2021 Budget Working Group – 16 th June 2021		
Directions:		Implications:
1. No Directions Required <input type="checkbox"/>		Financial <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran <input type="checkbox"/>		HR <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council <input type="checkbox"/>		Legal <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS <input type="checkbox"/>		Equalities <input type="checkbox"/>
		Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/>
		Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
		ICT <input type="checkbox"/>

Reserves Position and Investment Proposals

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to state the reserves position at 1st April 2021 and to present investment proposals for approval from uncommitted reserves during 2021-22 and beyond. Provide a brief update on Primary Care Improvement Fund and investment proposals for approval from unallocated funding.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board

- i. Note the Reserves Position at the end of the year**
- ii. Approve the proposed investments**
- iii. Note work to be undertaken to develop future proposals for approval**
- iv. Note the Primary Care Improvement Fund available funding**
- v. Approve use of remaining Primary Care Improvement Fund budget**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The year end outturn for financial year 2020-21 resulted in an overall underspend of £10.205m in the partnership budget.
- 3.2 The £10.205m underspend has been allocated to reserves and classified as either earmarked or unearmarked. Earmarked reserves are financial balances carried forward for specific purposes, as noted below. Uncommitted reserves are financial balances set aside to deal with unexpected events and emergencies to ensure financial balance in future years or to meet financial challenges that may emerge in the short to medium term.
- 3.3 The earmarked reserves are mainly from Scottish Government funding allocations for specific purposes to meet outcomes previously agreed and new outcomes identified in the Scottish Governments Budget for 2021-22, in responding to recovery and renewal from the pandemic.
- 3.4 During the financial year the IJB approved specific expenditure to be carried forward as expenditure had been delayed due to the pandemic, these funds have been earmarked and will be drawn down during the year as and when spend is incurred.
- 3.5 The total of earmarked reserves is £6.355m, with a balance of £3.851m uncommitted.
- 3.6 The uncommitted reserve can be used for specific purposes as detailed in the Reserves Strategy. Funds are set aside to deal with unexpected events and emergencies, otherwise known as financial planning or uncommitted reserves held to meet:

- Cost of potential commitments that may occur in the short to medium term
- To fund capacity with service priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan.

3.7 Due to the level of uncommitted reserve, it is good practice from a financial planning perspective to plan how these reserves will be used firstly to manage financial uncertainties and current known risks, then to invest in specific areas to ensure financial sustainability in future years.

3.8 As we start to recover from the pandemic and services resume the spend on specific areas will start to increase, the level of demand at present is uncertain and this creates a financial risk that requires to be managed, either through demand management and transforming services. However, it would be prudent at present to hold a reserves balance for specific financial risks that may emerge.

3.9 At present there are some known financial risks as noted below, it is recognised at that reserves may be required to meet these risks. As time progresses the financial implications of these risks will become clearer.

- an increase in care at home hours,
- non-recurring funding from Scottish Government for Mental Health priorities,
- interim funding of care home placements due to backlog in financial assessments and
- Council Pay Award negotiations outstanding

3.10 The proposals brought forward are to manage specific known risks and meet current demand. Future proposals will be presented for review and approval following an assessment of the financial risks and identification of any mitigating action required.

4. INVESTMENT PROPOSALS

4.1 **Learning Disability Lead Practitioner (£121k)** – at present there are 38 young adults within Children’s services to be transitioned to adult services over the next two years. This is peak in the age range of children being supported and once these transitions have been implemented, the cases revert back to a manageable level within the teams’ current resource. Investment was made in the budget for the cost of the care packages, however it is recognised that additional resource would be required to focus solely on supporting the young adults and their families through the transition process to adult services. Investment of £121k would fund a grade 12 practitioner for 2 years.

4.2 **Learning Disability Champions Board Officer (£47k)** – the current Learning Disability strategy is being reviewed and investment in a specific post to engage with service users and carers over the next 18 months will help to shape the service for the future based on learning from people’s experiences and what they need to support them to live as independently as possible and achieve their outcomes. Investment would fund a grade 9 officer for 18 months.

- 4.3 **Public Protection Policy Officer (£121k)** - a full time resource for two years to allow for the preparation for, and implementation of, the new national child protection guidance as well as the anticipated review of adult protection guidance. This post would also support the learning reviews of adult social work and public protection. This post would also provide capacity in relation to the change activity the 2 reviews will likely bring forward in relation to practice that will require a new policy framework.
- 4.4 **Health Visiting investment in I-Phones (£22k)** – purchase of mobile phones for 55 staff to provide more accessible support specifically to children who find it easier to communicate by text. The team will be able to use the technology to demonstrate to families and children apps and resources available via technology that can provide early intervention and preventative support. The devices can be used to support appointments and enable swift responses. A small recurring cost of £3k per annum will be met from current budget.
- 4.5 **Young Carers Officer (£50k)** - investment was approved in the budget for 2021-22 for a Carers Officer to support Adult Carers Strategy. Request is being made to recruit an officer to support young carers for a period of 12 months initially, with proposals to make permanent at a later date in the annual budget setting process.
- 4.6 **Wallacetown investment (£10k)** – provision of a small fund in Wallacetown targeted specifically to the area as part of the collective Community Planning response to need in the area.
- 4.7 **Adult Social Work Review (£150k)** – a review of adult social work is underway, looking at transformational change in how services support our vulnerable communities. The outcome of this review is unknown at present, however it is recognised that there will be a requirement to invest in training and resources to meet any recommendations, proposal is to earmark £150k for this purpose to be used in future when the outcome of the review is presented. Use of the earmarked resource will come to IJB for approval in due course.
- 4.8 **Commissioning team resource (£40k)** – quality assurance is key to assessing best value in commissioned services and ensuring services are meeting the needs and outcomes of service users. A Quality Assurance Officer post was approved last year and is now in place, a new quality assurance framework has been designed and full implementation requires additional resource in the commissioning team to support the information and data collation from quality assurance visits and triangulate information from other sources eg. Care Inspectorate, Carefirst, Public Health. Request is for a temporary post for one year, with proposals to make permanent at a later date in the annual budget setting process.
- 4.9 **District Nursing Workforce review (£100k)** – an assessment of demand and capacity within the district nursing workforce is being undertaken due to the level of demand from an aged population and the requirement for additional staffing at the weekend. A request is being made to earmark £100k to meet any resource needs following the review. Use of the earmarked resource will come to IJB for approval following review and presentation of recommendations. It is recognised the earmarked funding is non-recurring in nature and any recommendations to

increase the staffing establishment on a permanent basis will be brought forward as a budget pressure proposal in the 2022-23 budget process.

4.10 **ADP Development Officer Post (£70k)** – creation of a new full time post in the ADP structure to support the ADP Coordinator with the planning and organisation of the partnership, and taking forward ADP activities in line with strategic priorities. The post holder will support the development, implementation and monitoring of the ADP strategy and related documents, as well as undertaking research and evaluation activities, and supporting the collation of performance information. The new job description is currently being submitted to Job Evaluation and is anticipated will be graded a Level 9 or 10. This would be a temporary post to 31st March 2023.

4.11 **Developing community capacity (£100k)** – to be used to strengthen and build on from the significant response to Covid within local communities, and provide support to longer term work within community groups. Funding for participatory budgeting events to allow communities to bid for specific projects to address the following priorities:-

- o the impact of shielding
- o mental health and well-being
- o physical activity and physical well-being
- o social isolation
- o dealing with bereavement
- o the need to support carers especially with restrictions to day care models
- o low key rehabilitation
- o addressing suicide prevention

4.12 **Further investment proposals for Uncommitted reserves**

Other proposals are in the early stages of development and will be presented following further analysis and review. Current proposals being developed include:-

- investment into a home first model to reduce delayed discharge by promoting a home to assess model and also to enhance community
- resources to prevent admission to hospital;
- early intervention frailty workstream – this will seek to offer supports much earlier on patient journeys and to ameliorate their frailty through a variety of multi-disciplinary team related interventions

4.13 **Primary Care Improvement Fund**

The Primary Care Improvement Fund or Plan is lead by East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. The fund delivers on the commitments set out in the General Medical Services (GMS) 2018 contract. The pandemic has impacted on some of the original timescales in delivering elements of the plan. During 2020, the plan has progressed in the following areas:-

- Increase in total number of pharmacotherapy staff
- Increase in advanced MSK Physiotherapists
- Increase in Mental Health Practitioners
- Investment in Community Treatment and Care Services

4.14 The Primary Care Improvement Plan paper presented to the IJB details the broad workstreams that need to be resourced from the allocated funding. There is a remaining recurring balance of £267k for South Ayrshire to support and strengthen multi-disciplinary working.

4.15 The Scottish Government announced £120m funding for Mental Health Recovery and Renewal will be allocated on a non-recurring basis in 2021-22. Allocations have been made to support Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and NHS 24 Mental Health hub. Further allocations are anticipated in primary care and community services investment, however at present this is not known.

4.16 Following conversations with GP and Mental Health Leads, a request is being made to approve investment in the following posts from the £267k recurring funding. If at a later date funding is provided from the Mental Health Recovery and Renewal fund for this purpose, funds can be transferred to meet the costs on a temporary basis.

4.17 Current recruitment is being progressed for Mental Health Practitioners from approved Mental Health Action 15 monies and in the HSCP budget for 2021-22, there is an opportunity to recruit more if the funding proposal is approved.

4.18 Investment proposed for the following additional posts to strengthen multi-disciplinary working in GP practices:-

- | | |
|--|-------|
| • 1 FTE - Assistant Nurse Practitioner to support Care Homes | £53k |
| • 2 FTE - Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist | £106k |
| • 2 FTE – Mental Health Practitioners | £88k |

TOTAL	£247k
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4.19 SUMMARY

Proposals for investment from uncommitted reserves balance total £0.831m leaving a remaining balance of £3.020m. The proposals meet the current challenges the HSCP is experiencing along with setting aside funding to be used following specific reviews in adult social care and district nursing.

The investment from the Primary Care Improvement Fund will further embed and support multi-disciplinary working to enhance community-based services enabling early intervention and prevention approaches.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 Proposals meet with the Strategic Plan objectives in supporting focus on prevention and tackling equality, working together to provide the right care in the right place and being an ambitious and effective partnership.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 Financial implications are outlined in this report.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 Human resource Implications in the report create opportunities for employment including secondment opportunities for existing employees enhancing career development.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no legal implications within this report.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 There are no equalities implications within this report.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There is no sustainability implications within this report.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 Not applicable

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 This report has been drafted through collaboration with Council and NHS colleagues with input on proposals from service leads and Heads of Service of both NHS and Council.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 There are no risks pertaining to the content of this report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS