

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Children & Young People Sub-Committee
DATE	23 January 2024
REPORT TITLE:	Budget Scrutiny Challenge
LEAD OFFICER:	Debbie Jones - Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Kerry Crichlow - Director Quality, Commissioning & Performance (Deputy DCS) Róisín Madden – Director of Children’s Social Care
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Maria Gatland Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
ORIGIN OF ITEM:	This item was included on the Children & Young People Sub-Committee Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme for 2023/24 as part of Scrutiny’s budget assurance processes.
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	<p>The Children & Young People Sub-Committee is asked to review the information provided on the identified budget proposals and reach a conclusion on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the savings deliverable, sustainable and not an unacceptable risk? 2. Is the impact on service users and the wider community understood? 3. Have all reasonable alternative options been explored and do no better options exist?
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	Public

1 BUDGET SCRUTINY CHALLENGE

- 1.1** The Children & Young People Sub-Committee Scrutiny Sub-Committee has asked to review 2024/25 budget proposals for two high-risk areas that fall under the Children, Young People & Education directorate.
- 1.2** The Sub-Committee has identified the following areas that are covered in the main report:
- 2024-28 SAV CYPE 003 – Review of Children Looked After placements
 - 2024-28 SAV CYPE 001 – Children’s Social Care staffing budget realignment

1.3 Scrutiny Chairs have agreed that budget scrutiny will look to satisfy the three following questions:

- Are the savings deliverable, sustainable and not an unacceptable risk?
- Is the impact on service users and the wider community understood?
- Have all reasonable alternative options been explored and do no better options exist?

1.4 The Sub-Committee are asked to satisfy the questions above using the information provided in Appendix 1 to the report (that will be presented at the Sub-Committee), as well as the information available in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy update presented to [Cabinet in October 2023](#); the [Financial Performance reports](#); and the Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2023-29 presented to [Cabinet in December 2023](#).

2 APPENDICES

2.1 Appendix 1: Scrutiny Budget Challenge (*To Follow*)

3 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

3.1 25 October 2023 - Cabinet Paper: 2024-28 Medium Term Financial Strategy Update
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3575&Ver=4>

6 December 2023 – Cabinet Paper: Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2023-29
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3577>

Croydon Council - Corporate Performance and Finance Reporting
<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/council-leadership-committees-and-meetings/committees-boards-and-meetings/corporate-performance-and-finance-reporting>