

STAFFORDSHIRE PROBATION BOARD

26th February 2010

FINANCE REPORT

Report of the Board Treasurer

1 Purpose of the Report

To advise Board Members of the financial position as at the end of January 2010 (month 10) and the financial projections for the year ended 31st March 2010.

2 Background

Appendix A sets out the financial information in the normal format. The changes since previous reports include the additional funds from NOMS that were applied for before Christmas (£80K) and the VACE (vehicle and capital equipment) budget for the year of £67K. The expenditure also includes the projected costs of the voluntary early and flexible retirements of £90K

3 Whole Area Budget

The overall month to date expenditure against budget is showing a virtual balanced position with an under spend of only £4K. The spread appears to be small underspends across of the organisation but items of note are reduced transport costs and some savings on third party payments. The year end position at present is showing a very close to balanced position at £1K As the year end approaches the finances will be closely managed to ensure that all of the available resources are properly utilised.

4 Variances

The significant variance relate to the employee costs. This includes the early/flexible retirement costs and is being off set by some additional income and reduced transport and third party payments.

5 Other issues

As raised in the finance report last month there are a number of other projects and work streams of work currently being managed within the finance arena:

a) PREview

NOMS have been working on preparing a revised toolkit to review all Areas budgets and activity to arrive at a consistent approach to unit costs. Training was rolled out during January and Areas are expected to have a trial run in February 2010. The full exercise needs to be completed by late June. This is immediately after final accounts have been completed. Both West Midlands

and Staffordshire have agreed not to attempt the pilot as issues in relation to the merger and trust budgets are more pressing.

b) Trust Chart of Accounts

A new project team to review the chart of accounts for the new organisation has been set up with representatives from both Staffordshire and West Midlands finance teams. There are two different systems and different methods of reporting that have been used in the past, which need to be refined to suit the requirements for the new organisation. This is being slightly delayed as the final organisation structure has yet to be made public.

c) Budget Setting 2010/11

An initial first cut of the budget for next year has been made. This also needs to be set between the two finance systems that will be used for the start of the new financial year.

d) Trust Finance System

The work to determine the finance system for the new Trust is ongoing and hopefully a proposal will be presented to the new Board early in April 2010.

List of Appendices/Background Papers

Appendix A – Board Management Report December 2009

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