

Verwood County Division Report October 2017

County Councillor Report –Cllr. Spencer Flower

Tricuro – The organisation recently published a update on the financial position, a forecast for 2017/18 and detailed the outturn for 2016/17 including a copy of the audited group financial statements for the Company.

The Cabinet received a report from the Finance Director confirming the financial statements have been audited by KPMG Tricuro's external auditors who will issue an unqualified audit report. Members were informed that 2016/17 had been a very difficult year with significant savings targets to be delivered, on-going pressures and delays in implementation of revised terms and conditions of employment which were finally implemented on 10 March 2017.

Officers explained that much has been done by services across the whole of Tricuro to halt non-essential spend, hold vacancies where possible, re-prioritise spend and to challenge planned expenditure and increase external income. This has resulted in the one-off surplus in 2016/17 of £314k which represents 0.75% of turnover.

Tricuro have continued to provide high quality services with recent CQC inspection reports highlighting good outcomes across regulated services. This was reported at the Annual General Meeting in August 2017.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities [SEND] - Children's Services and their partners were subject to a joint inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) of support for children and young people in the Dorset local area between 23 and 27 January 2017. This looked at how well partners in Dorset were putting the government's SEND reforms into practice.

Inspectors spoke with children and young people, parents and carers and staff from the council and NHS. They also visited schools and looked at a wide range of information, including what we said about ourselves.

On 16 March 2017, the Ofsted lead inspector informed partners their findings. There were a large number of strengths recorded in the report but the inspectors highlighted four main areas where they felt Dorset needs to improve:

- Strategic planning across education, health and social care; including checks to make sure leaders are held to account.
- Delays in turning statements of special educational needs into Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and completing new EHCPs.
- Parents experiencing a lack of support, communication and involvement.
- Monitoring and quality assurance to challenge and support services and improve outcomes for children and young people.

As a result the partners were required to produce a joint Written Statement of Action (WSOA) setting out how we will tackle these areas. This has now been accepted as fit for purpose by Ofsted and the CQC. This very clearly sets out our priorities and the actions that will be undertaken by partners to make the experience of children and young people with SEND and their families a good one in relation to the services provided by county.