

Cabinet – 14 July 2016

Written Response to Councillor Question 15 not Reached at Cabinet

15.

Questioner:	Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Asked of:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Question:	“How robust and realistic do you consider the expected savings (PC05 and PC07) to be and will you achieve them?”
Written Response:	<p>PC05 is The Firs and PC07 is Children’s Placements – CLA.</p> <p>PC05 The Firs £52k savings will definitely be achieved and can therefore be blue. This will be through efficiencies rather than Income generation. This has been possible through careful matching of short breaks arrangements and planning of staffing rotas.</p> <p>PC07 Children’s Placements savings of 500k is challenging due to increased demand and the complexities of the children coming into care. We are having regular challenge panels to ensure every detail of spend is monitored and we are engaging with colleagues in the CCG so that health funding for therapeutic needs of children is maximised. We are also ensuring that children return home where safe and that high cost placements are only for time limited periods whilst more cost effective options are explored. Due to the volatility of demand it is difficult to be absolute around achieving this savings target but there is considerable work and specific actions being undertaken in Harrow and also with our colleagues in the WLA to drive down costs in this area which is being overseen by senior managers and will see longer term savings.</p>