Service: Adult Social Care

Narrative Overview:

Within the March MTFS, for Adult Social Care, from 2025/26 to 2026/27 the budget increased by £20.1m, resulting in a net budget of £66.6m. MTFS material budget movements included:

- Funding Changes – realignment of iBCF & Adult Social Care Grant - £7.2m
- Rebasing – existing pressure base budget deficiency - £6.6m
- Pressures new demand - £5.9m
- Inflation & Payaward - £2.7m
- Savings - (£2.3m)

The above demonstrates a year-on-year increase of £20.1m, including £13.8m in respect if the centralisation of grants and addressing the base budget deficiencies from 2025/26, therefore, the net growth is £6.3m.

The MTFS includes significant growth pressures for Adult Social Care, including those funded in 2026/27. As part of managing these pressures and reducing where possible, the Council plans to undertake meaningful benchmarking by service category, to demonstrate adult social care cost efficiency and effectiveness. Using key industry benchmarks include an average weekly cost, hourly cost, hours of care and other cost metrics to ensure value for money.

Within the MTFS additional risks were also highlighted, from Appendix 9 – Budget Risks:

- Adult Social Care (CR12 - Failure to deliver adult social care market sustainability) - £0.5m recurrent
- Adult Social Care (CR02 Failure to meet demands on Adult Social Care within budget) - £0.6m recurrent

These risks remain, however, latest Budget Management demonstrates these risks have not materialised in 2026/27.

Existing Savings Proposals in MTFS:

Savings - (£2.3m) in 2026/27 (£5.2m) over the MTFS

The following overall savings were included within the MTFS for Adult Social Care:

Savings	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
Focusing on working age adults undertake a review of complex and double handed care leading to a reduction in home care hours through reassessment and optimisation of care	0.150	0.100	0.000	0.250
Focusing on older (65+ years) adults undertake a review of complex and double handed care leading to a reduction in home care hours through reassessment and optimisation of care	0.300	0.150	0.000	0.450
Increased use of technological solutions to enable greater evidence based decision making resulting in appropriate and more timely provision of care	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275
Increased use of onsite Extra Care block contract provider rather than commissioning incremental alternative	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220
Service Led Savings	**0.945**	**0.250**	**0.000**	**1.195**

Savings	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
Review of current contractual arrangements, best value for money ASC Mental Health service commissioned with Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust - this identifying that SBC are meeting their Care Act responsibilities, providing good value for money and producing good outcomes for resident	0.442	0.307	0.299	1.048
Improved and streamlined preventative triage referral processes to optimise the outcomes	0.363	0.363	0.363	1.089
Development of a debt management reporting dashboard	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.186
Increased timeliness and volume of Continuing Healthcare applications to ensure Health are contributing appropriately to packages of care	0.271	0.271	0.351	0.893
Development of five priority business intelligence dashboards leading to a greater insights for making strategic decisions	0.202	0.215	0.215	0.632
Improved triage and better website signposting to services resulting in more Online Digital contacts and less telephone contacts	0.025	0.062	0.062	0.149
Transformational Led Savings	**1.365**	**1.280**	**1.352**	**3.997**
Total Savings	**2.310**	**1.530**	**1.352**	**5.192**

Risks & Opportunities

The main risks & opportunities are set out below:

Risks:

- Care Quality Commission related improvement plan
- Rising demand & increasing complexity of needs
- System fragmentation & integration barriers
- Workforce & Market Sustainability
- Future inflationary increases
- Data quality and reporting limitations

Opportunities:

- Redesign services to be more efficient, digital, and responsive
- Strengthen prevention and early intervention
- Improve outcomes for residents through integrated care and housing solutions
- Reduce reliance on high-cost services and temporary accommodation
- Empower communities and enhance local partnerships
- Benchmarking and work to model ongoing demand pressures, as set out above.

Assumptions used in MTFS, latest assumptions and differences

Total Cost £m:

	Actual	**Adjusted ***	**Forecast**			
Cost	**25/26 £m**	**25/26 £m**	**26/27 £m**	**27/28 £m**	**28/29 £m**	**29/30 £m**
FY	**Actual 25/26 £m**	**Adjusted 25/26 £m**	**Forecast 26/27 £m**	**Forecast 27/28 £m**	**Forecast 28/29 £m**	**Forecast 29/30 £m**
Latest Position	50.039	60.586	66.638	73.835	80.760	88.333
Scenario 1 -5%	47.537	57.557	63.306	70.143	76.722	83.917
Scenario 2 +5%	52.541	63.615	69.970	77.527	84.798	92.750
Feb 26 MTFS	50.039	60.586	66.638	73.835	80.760	88.333

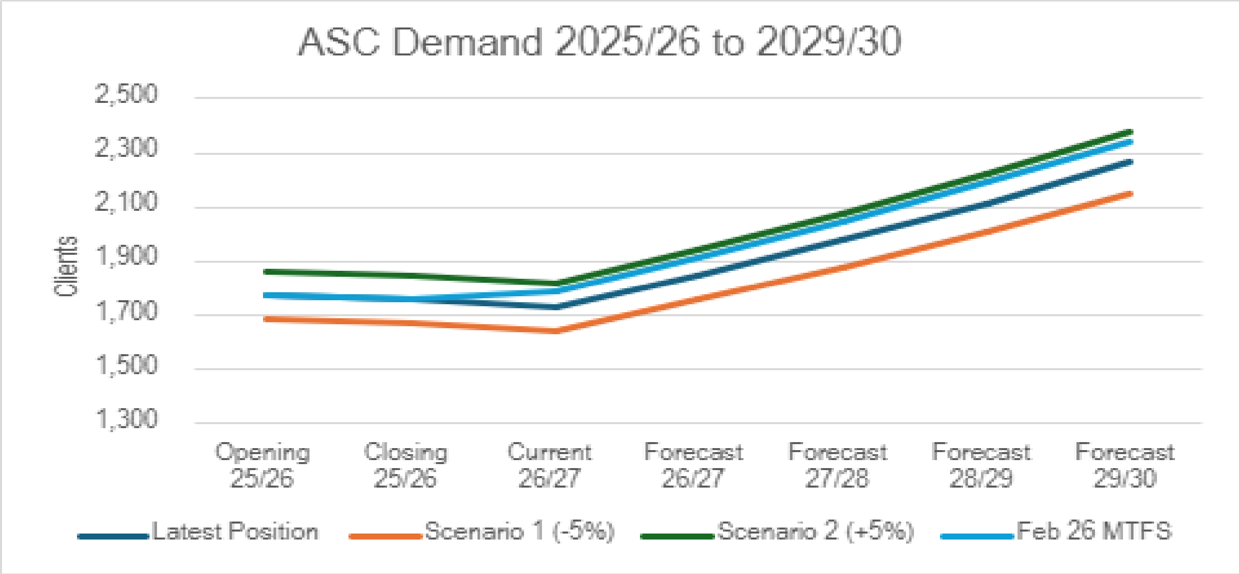
- For onward comparison actual 2025/26 has been adjusted as follows:
- Centralisation of grants £7.2m
- One-off BCF funds £1.9m
- One-off redlining £0.9m
- Positive Saving Plan £0.6m

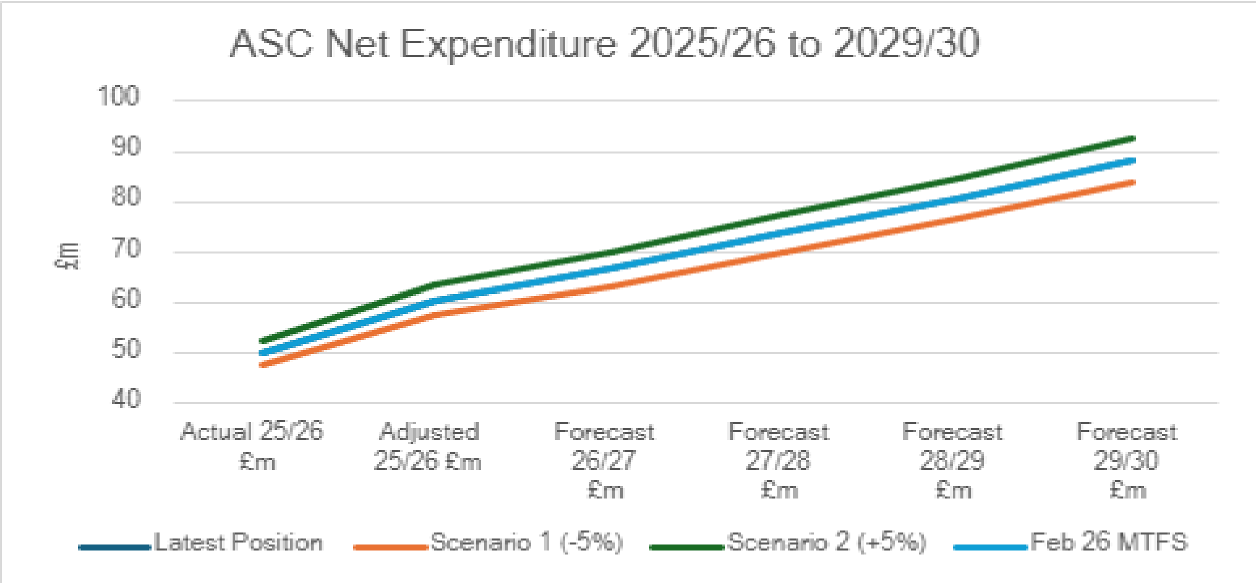
Demand:

	Actual				**Forecast**			
	25/26		**26/27**					
	Opening	**Closing**	**Opening**	**Current**	**Forecast**	**Forecast**	**Forecast**	**Forecast**
FY	**Opening 25/26**	**Closing 25/26**	**Opening 26/27**	**Current 26/27**	**Forecast 26/27**	**Forecast 27/28**	**Forecast 28/29**	**Forecast 29/30**
Latest Position	1,772	1,757	1,757	1,727	1,848	1,977	2,116	2,264
Scenario 1 -5%	*1,683*	*1,669*	1,669	1,641	1,755	1,878	2,010	2,151
Scenario 2 +5%	*1,861*	*1,845*	1,845	1,813	1,940	2,076	2,221	2,377
Feb 26 MTFS	1,772	1,757	1,788	1,788	1,913	2,047	2,190	2,344

- Data quality and reporting limitations impact on the confidence & reliability of the MTFS modelling, above are best estimates.

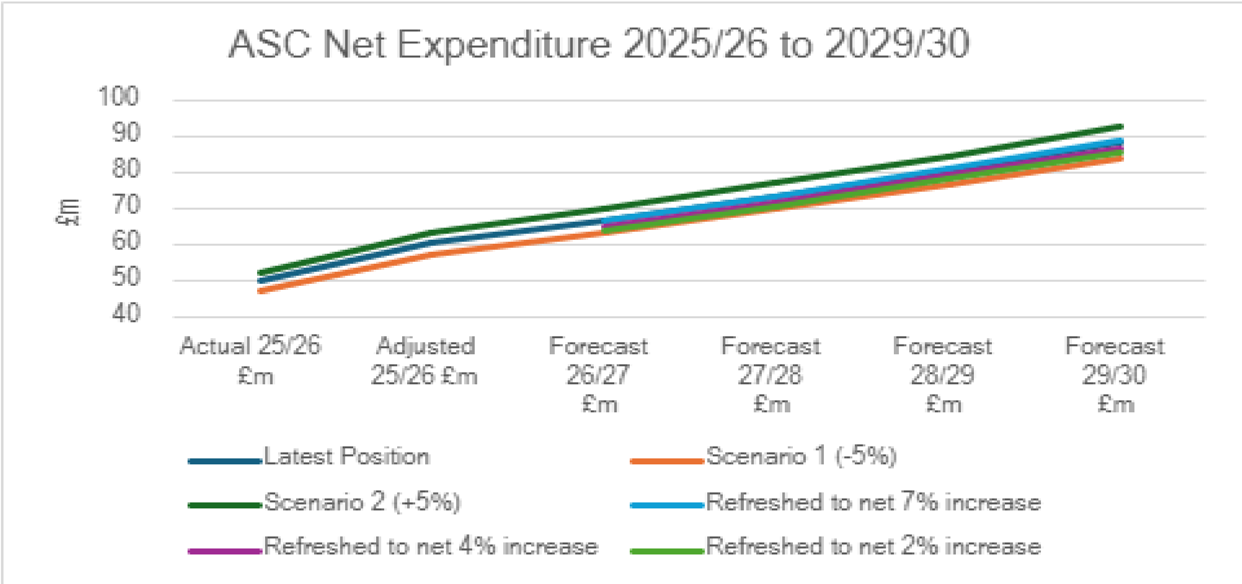
Table showing expected variance to MTFS in each scenario



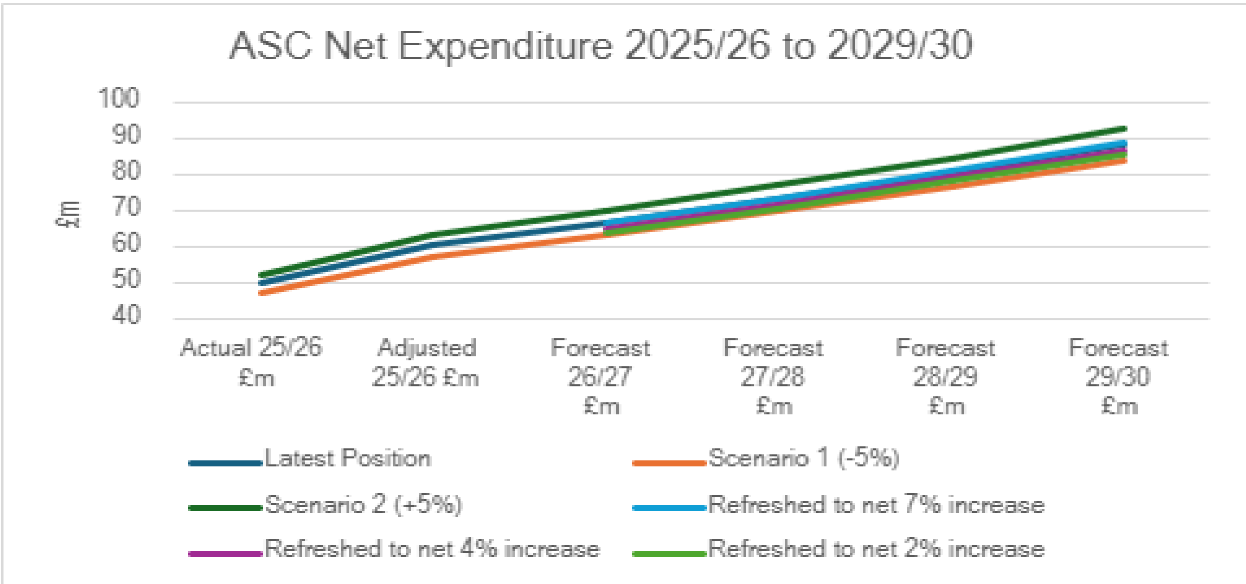


Note: Latest Position & Feb 26 MTFS returning same data points

Additional scenario modelling has been provided reflecting 2%, 4% & 7% increase



Note: Latest Position & refreshed to net 7% returning similar data points



Note: Latest Position & refreshed to net 7% returning similar data points