



Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming March 2020

LATEST NEWS

Children's Social Care – net growth of £1.995m

Delivering improvement in Children's Social Care

Since the 2017 Ofsted inspection, we have continued to invest in Children's Services, addressing pressure in a range of areas including covering costs associated with additional placements and additional social workers. An additional one-off investment of £20m via the Council's Transformation Reserve has also been used to support the implementation of the Children's Services improvement plan.

In order to continue on our journey to excellence further net growth will be applied to the areas of the service where permanent resources will secure continuous improvement by:

- Investing in early help for our most vulnerable children and young people;
- Advancing systemic practice;
- Developing intelligence led commissioning and procurement of places for our looked after children; and
- Enhancing our provision for children with disabilities.

Troubled Families Programme (TFP)

The TFP has been extended, with an additional maximum investment of £1.115m, securing our successful targeted intervention for families and delivering wider system change at the local level.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC)

The Council continues to lobby the government to fund overspends against the budget for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, leaving care costs for former Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and Appeal Rights.

Education Estates

The overall cost of the Education Capital Programme is estimated at £53.515m over the period 2019/20 – 2021/22 and includes funding from the Education Skills Funding Agency.

Getting the basics right for residents' has contributed to the delivery of the following key priority / outcome:

'Our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential':

- *Children and young people in Croydon are safe, healthy and happy, and aspire to be the best they can be.*

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- *Every child and young person can access high quality education and youth Facilities.*
- *Ensure there are high quality school places for Croydon's increasing numbers of children and young people.*

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block – net growth £5.718m

DSG deficit recovery plan

Croydon submitted a plan to recover the 2018/19 in-year High Needs Block deficit of £5.612 million over a five year period to the DfE (in line with the five year SEND (strategy). The DfE letter of response commended Croydon on the high quality and detail of our plan and informed us that as the High Needs Block allocation for 2020/21 would be increased (see below) and that subsequent year's allocations for 2021/22 and 2022/23 were under review, the Council would need to review and revise the previously submitted recovery plan.

In that revised recovery plan, the DSG will break even and start paying back the cumulative deficit in Year 6 (2024/25).

Legacy

Croydon's new £6.5m Legacy Youth Zone in Whitehorse Road offers young people aged between eight and 19, or 25 for those with additional needs, the chance to enjoy more than 20 different activities.

The initial £6.5million building costs have been joint funded by Croydon Council contributing £3.25million with the remainder sourced by OnSide from a number of founder patrons including the Queen's Trust, the Stone Family Foundation and The Seroussi Foundation via UBS Optimus Foundation.

Legacy's Capital Funders and Founder Patrons turned a dream into a reality, for the young people in Croydon.

By investing in this stunning new Youth Zone, and working with OnSide and all the young people who have worked so hard to make this happen, we are helping them to reach their full potential, by giving them access to new opportunities, new experiences, and a truly amazing place to have fun and make friends.



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