

Croydon Specific Unfunded New Financial Pressures and Services

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	<p>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are children and young people who are seeking asylum in the UK but who have been separated from their parents or carers. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority. The local authority in which the child first presents is normally responsible for their care. As the Asylum Intake Unit is in Croydon this has put disproportionate pressure on local authorities such as Croydon.</p> <p>While at April 2022, the number of UASC young people was 108 which was itself a reduction of 97 on April 2021, as at August 2023 there remain 92. While grant funding is received for almost all and covers their direct care costs, they do consume capacity in the foster care system. Consequently, 30 of Croydon's non UASC children requiring care are looked after by an Independent Fostering Agency which is more than double the cost of in-house foster carers. The unfunded financial pressure to Croydon is £0.65m per annum.</p>
Former Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children cohort now over 18 years	<p>The growing financial pressure on Croydon is caused by the former UASC cohort who have now reached the age of 18 and are liable for ongoing support to 25. In total there are 452 former UASC and 92 current UASC for which Croydon provides a support team of 35 FTE in addition to the Home Office funded 4 FTE. Additionally, the Council bears the housing costs of over 18 Cohort. The unfunded financial pressure to Croydon is £2.7m per annum.</p>
Private Care Homes	<p>Due to the size of the care home market in Croydon and increases in care costs, there is a risk that self-funders will become eligible for adult social care means tested funding more quickly. This may have a significant impact on the budget.</p>
Council Tax Discount and Temporary Accommodation.	<p>Croydon has triple the London average of Care Leavers and double the next highest London Borough (Hillingdon). The disproportionate cost to Croydon is £1.25m.</p>
Education and social care	<p>Education and social care responsibility for families that move into the borough through the asylum system. Education and Children's social care responsibility for all placements in the borough by other councils. The Council is disproportionately impacted due to its relatively cheaper</p>

	accommodation costs drawing in large numbers of placements from outside the borough. Adult social care is put under pressure from the disproportionate number of homes aimed at the elderly and residential care homes in the borough. This draws in an older population and people living with disabilities who are initially self-funding but who often eventually have to turn to council support.
Transport Road Maintenance	Croydon has the largest road network length in London. It is disproportionately impacted by funding shortfalls.

Unfunded financial pressures on local government and the impact on Croydon

Council Tax Support	Council tax benefit was funded 100% by the government prior to 2013. Local authorities were asked to design their own Local Council Tax Support schemes from 2013 with funding cut by 10% (but more like 19%). Since 2013 no account has been taken of the increase in the cost of the LCTS scheme due to the change in council tax levels and caseload numbers. The cost to Croydon is £5m+ per annum.
Population Growth	Based on the 2021 census data the Croydon population size has increased by 7.5% from 363,400 in 2011 to 390,800 in 2021. Government funding streams have not been adjusted upwards to recognize such population pressure. The shortfall is estimated at £7m per annum.
Housing Benefit - Supported Exempted Accommodation	This accommodation is intended for people with support needs such as recent prison leavers; care leavers; those fleeing domestic violence; and homeless people with substance dependence or mental health issues. Croydon receives 100% housing benefit subsidy if the accommodation is provided by a Registered Social Landlord, but Croydon does not get 100% subsidy if the Landlord is a charity or a not-for-profit organisation. The shortfall in government funding is estimated at £6m per year for Croydon.
No Recourse to Public Funds/Appeal Rights Exhausted cohort	No Recourse to Public Funds/Appeal Rights Exhausted A person will be subject to immigration control when they have one of the following types of immigration status: Leave to enter or remain, which is subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition, such as: Leave to enter as a visitor. Leave to remain as a spouse. The Council currently supports 31 NRPF persons and 5 Appeal Rights Exhausted persons placed in temporary accommodation. The unfunded financial pressure to Croydon is £0.82m in 2023/24 and was £0.97m in 2022/23.

