

Scrutiny Children & Young People Sub-Committee Supplementary Agenda



7. **Children, Young People & Education Budget Scrutiny Challenge** (Pages 3 - 18)

The Children & Young People Sub-Committee is asked to review the information provided on the identified budget proposals and reach a conclusion on the following:-

1. The savings are deliverable, sustainable and are not at unacceptable risk.
2. The impact on service users and the wider community is understood.
3. That all reasonable alternative options have been explored and no better options exist.

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Budget Scrutiny- Reduction in Spend on Care Packages (Children with Disabilities 0-17)

Page 3 Rodica Cobarzan- Head of Service, Social Work with Families and Children with Disabilities

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Scrutiny CYP Committee -18th January 2022

Context- What is the Access to Resources Panel

New care packages or variations to packages for children with disabilities aged 0-17 are heard by the children's Access to Resources Panel (ARP)

The Children's Access to Resources Panel:

- ensures consistency of practice and decision making across children's social care
- ensures that limited resources are managed as effectively as possible.

The Access to Resources Panel (ARP) hears requests in relation to care packages for children in need and children looked after.

Access to Resources Panel

The Access to Resources Panel (ARP) sits every Friday

The panel members include:

- Head of Service for Children with Disabilities (CWD);
- Service Managers – CWD,
- Special Educational Need (SEN) Representative,
- Continuing Health Care (CHC)– representative,
- Calleydown representative

Social workers or Team managers present the request following assessments or changes in children's circumstances or needs

Urgent adhoc support is considered by the Head of Service with Service Manager's support as required outside the panel

Breakdown of requests at ARP in November 2021

- Over November 2021 the Panel heard 32 requests:
 - 9 involved **continuation** of existing care package
 - 6 considered **changes** of the way the care package is provided (provider change)
 - 5 involved **additional one off payments**
 - 6 involved temporary or long term **increases** to existing care packages
 - 2 considered **reduction** in existing care package
 - 4 **new requests** for a care packages

How does Access to Resources Panel make decisions?

Care packages are recommended and reviewed according to:

- Children's needs and their circumstances
 - Impact that the disability has on the child and family
 - Support that is already in place
 - Family's overall circumstances
-
- Social workers and managers are requested to ensure that young people who approach transition are referred to Transition Service for Care Act Assessments and discussed at the monthly joint Operational meetings as set out in the Transition protocol.

Case Studies

Child A- example of reduction in care package

- **Child A-** a young child with additional needs who has an EHCP, she struggled to travel to school without an assistant ,as would not keep her seatbelt on.
- New package started September 2021.
- Additional hours were initially provided to ensure safety and provide travel training.
- This was achieved and the child is now able to travel safely without the need of an assistant
- Therefore support was reduced to hours of support at weekend
- Initial package during assessment and travel training 10h support £160/week reduced after training to 4h/week at weekend for an activity session £60. **Total cost for the year £2330.**

Child B- example of temporary increase in care package

- **Child B:** a young person with a very rare genetic disorder that is characterized by a variety of physical and development abnormalities.
- Also has Severe Learning Disabilities and presents with behaviour which can at times be challenging. His health needs have changed significantly and as a result he can't attend school for a period of time.
- To enable the family to care for him at home and provide some short respite to his carers a temporary increase in his care package was agreed.
- This is 15h /week for 8 weeks – total cost of increase £2,340. The YP's total care package for the year is **forecasted at £9,730.**

Child C- example of an increase to care package

- **Child C:** Young Person with a diagnosis of autism, severe learning disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and sleep disorder.
- Currently out of education as his provision felt unable to meet his needs.
- Whilst a search for an alternative Residential Education setting takes place an increase in his support at home has been provided to prevent harm to the young person and his family.
- His challenging behaviour has increased substantially in the last year.
- His safety and care at home is at risk and various options are explored for his long term care. He also has regular stays at Calleydown.
- Increase from 56h weekly at £1260 to 84h weekly at £1890. The high number of hours are due to the need to have two carers present at any one time. The total **forecast for the year is £63,380.**

Child D- example of new care package

- **Child D:** New referral received in relation to this young child. He has a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), severe delays in the development of his expressive and receptive language, social communication and play skills.
- His parents identified some activities that would be appropriate for him such as the "Enterprise swimming club" and "Wheels for well being cycling".
- 6h of support weekly were agreed so he can access these activities with a carer and give parent a break .
- **Cost £96/week.**

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Unaccompanied and separated children and young people – financial forecasting

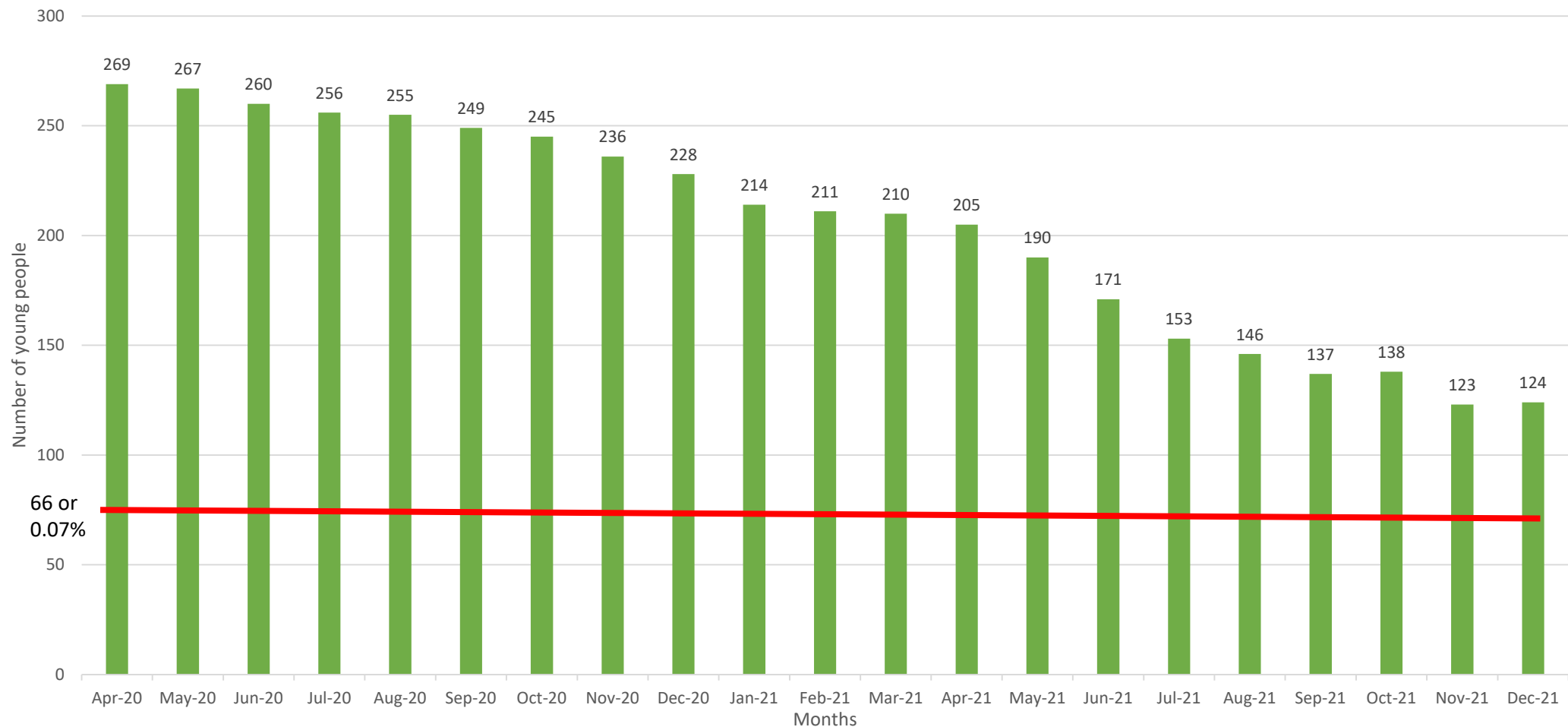
18th January 2022

Update since the Committee review in July 2021

- Croydon would absorb support for 0.07% of the child population like any other Local Authority. This is included in the budget and the financial modelling
- Following detailed scrutiny of the financial modelling and protracted negotiations the Home Office and DFE made a grant award of £2.357m in August 2021 to address the forecast 2021-22 pressure. 2022-24 was not addressed
- In December 2021 the Home Office made the National Transfer Scheme mandatory. LAs with above 0.07% will not be allocated new UASC
- In Croydon, as in many other LAs, asylum seekers accommodated as adults by the Home Office can dispute their age assessment resulting in new children coming into Croydon's care
- Overall, the trajectory remains downward. Our forecast is that 0.07% will be reached over 2022-23 for under 18s
- The proportion of over 18's will remain high for longer. This is where the financial pressures sit

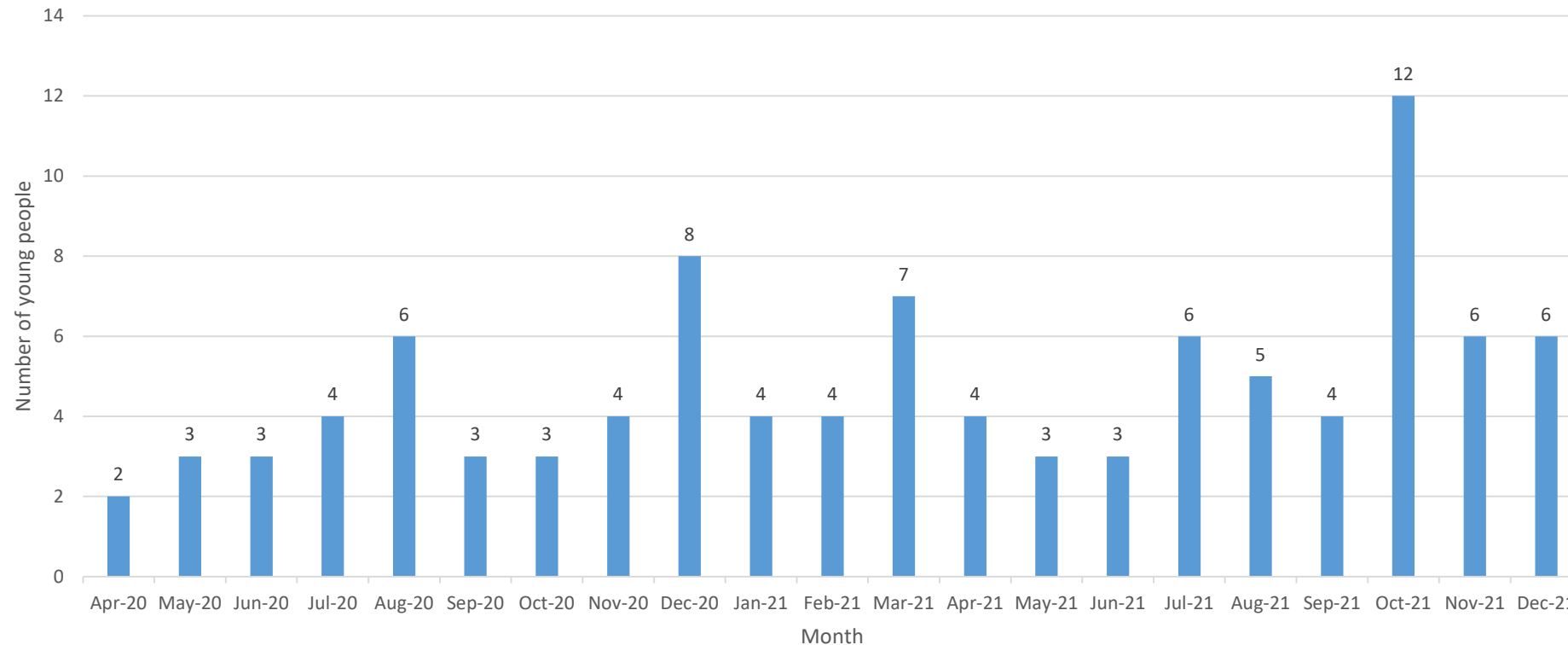
Unaccompanied children – numbers in care over time

April 2020 – December 2021



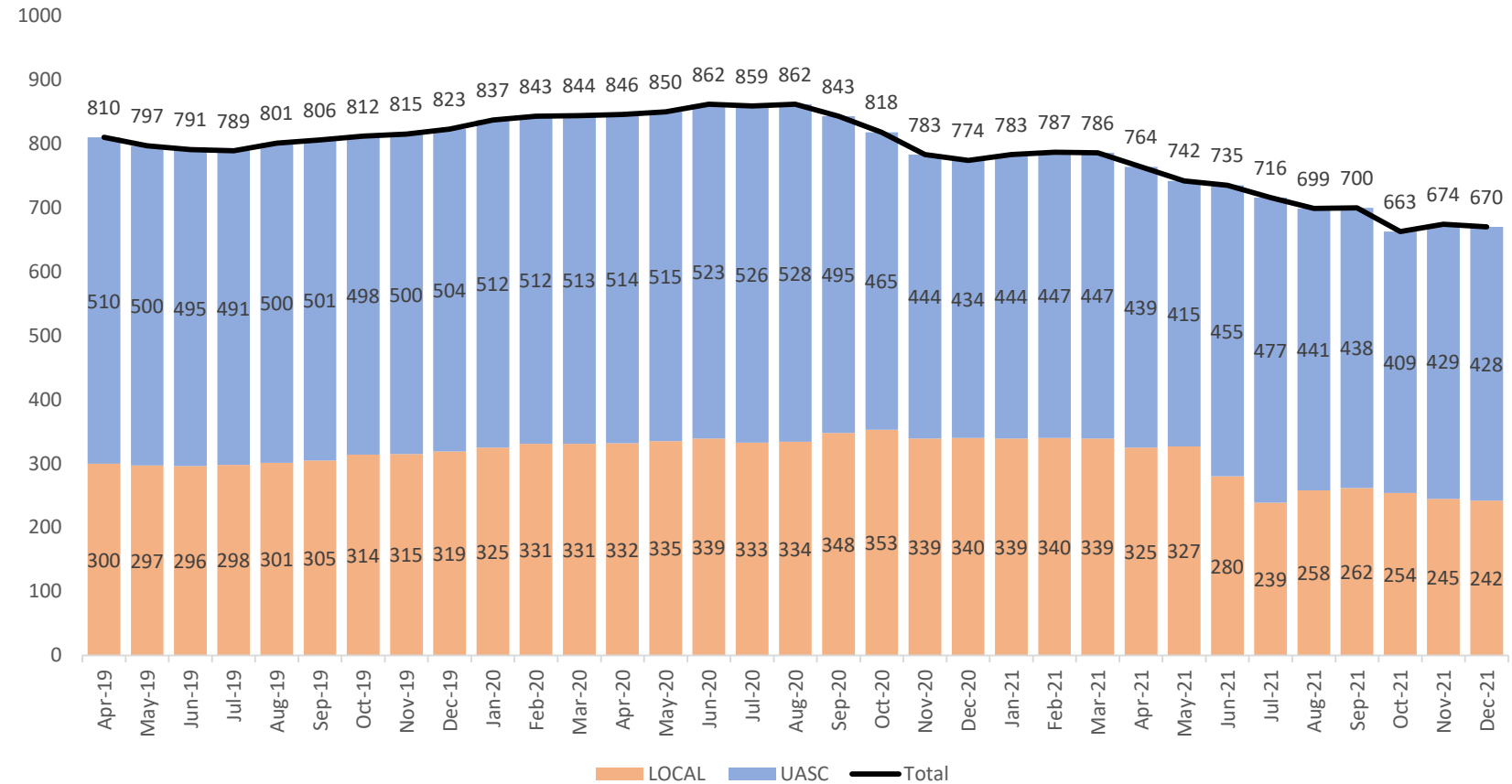
Unaccompanied children – monthly new arrivals

April 2020-December 2021



Care experienced young people (care leavers): local and formerly UASC

April 2019 - December 2021



Financial Forecast for UASC

	21-22	22-23	23-24
Cases:			
<18	146	127	66
>18 Eligible	363	322	260
>18 Not Eligible	36	36	30
Total Placements	545	485	356
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Staffing	2,727	2,355	1,884
CFE Support Teams	1,724	1,425	1,046
Placements	11,636	10,297	6,710
Legal	546	443	359
Corp Recharges	738	610	448
Sub-total Expenditure	17,371	15,130	10,447
Home Office Grant Income	-12,717	-11,151	-7,095
Contribution Home Assessment team	-321	-69	0
Contribution Home Office Duty	-204	-204	-201
Net Expenditure	4,129	3,706	3,151
Less Existing Budget	-795	-795	-795
Pressure	3,334	2,658	2,031
Less 21-22 Grant	-2,357		
Net Pressure	977	2658	2031

Managing budget pressures

- The consequence of 3 or 4 times above the 0.07% over many years is the high number of care leavers who were formally unaccompanied children, where the gap in grant funding versus actual costs is greatest
- The Croydon Renewal Plan commits Croydon to balancing the budget. It remains the case that additional savings would need to be found on top of the substantial, existing MTFS savings to meet UASC budget pressures in 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- To make an additional saving of £2.658m in 2022/23 to meet the forecast pressure would require a substantial reduction in statutory services
- The council will be reopening discussions with central government on these on-going and disproportionate costs borne by Croydon

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