

Unaccompanied and separated children and young people – financial forecasting

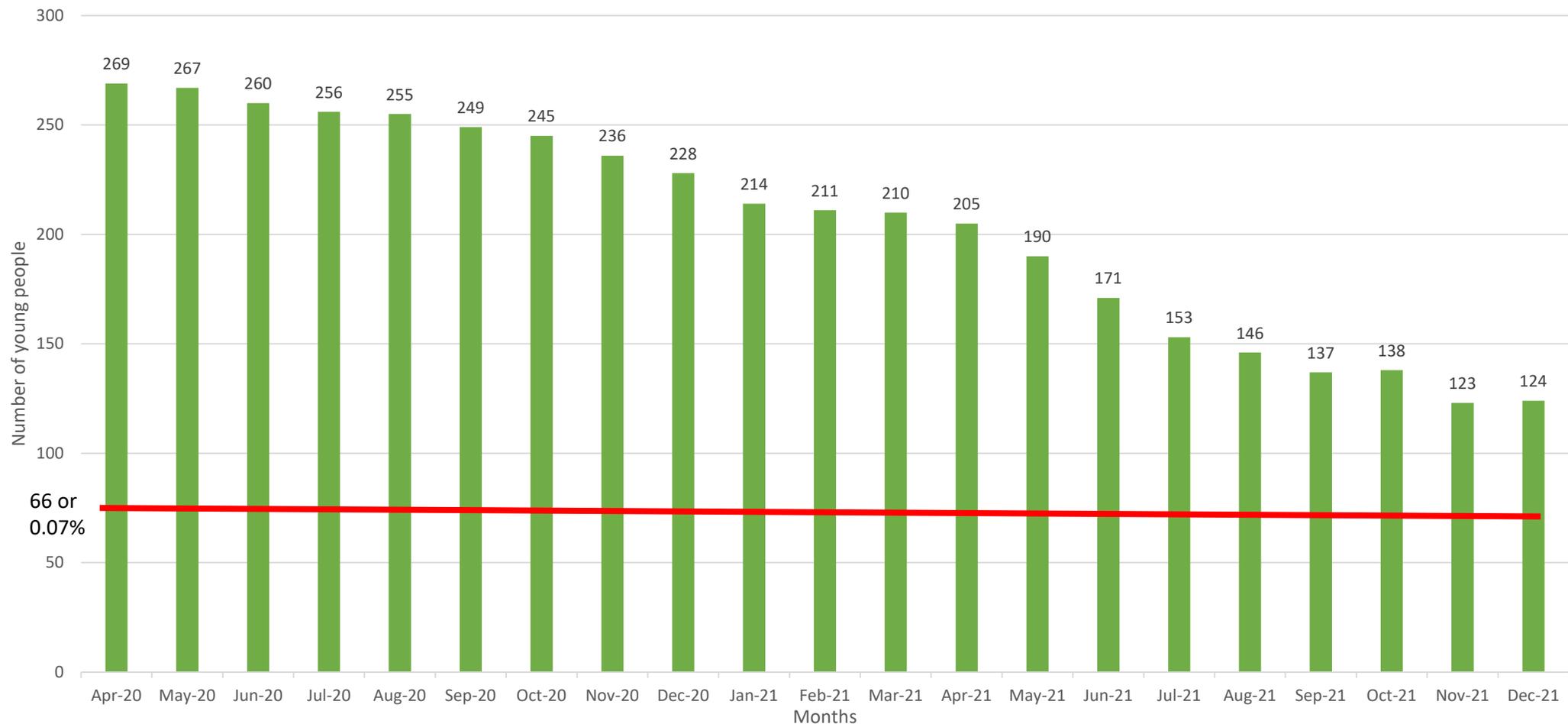
18th January 2022

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

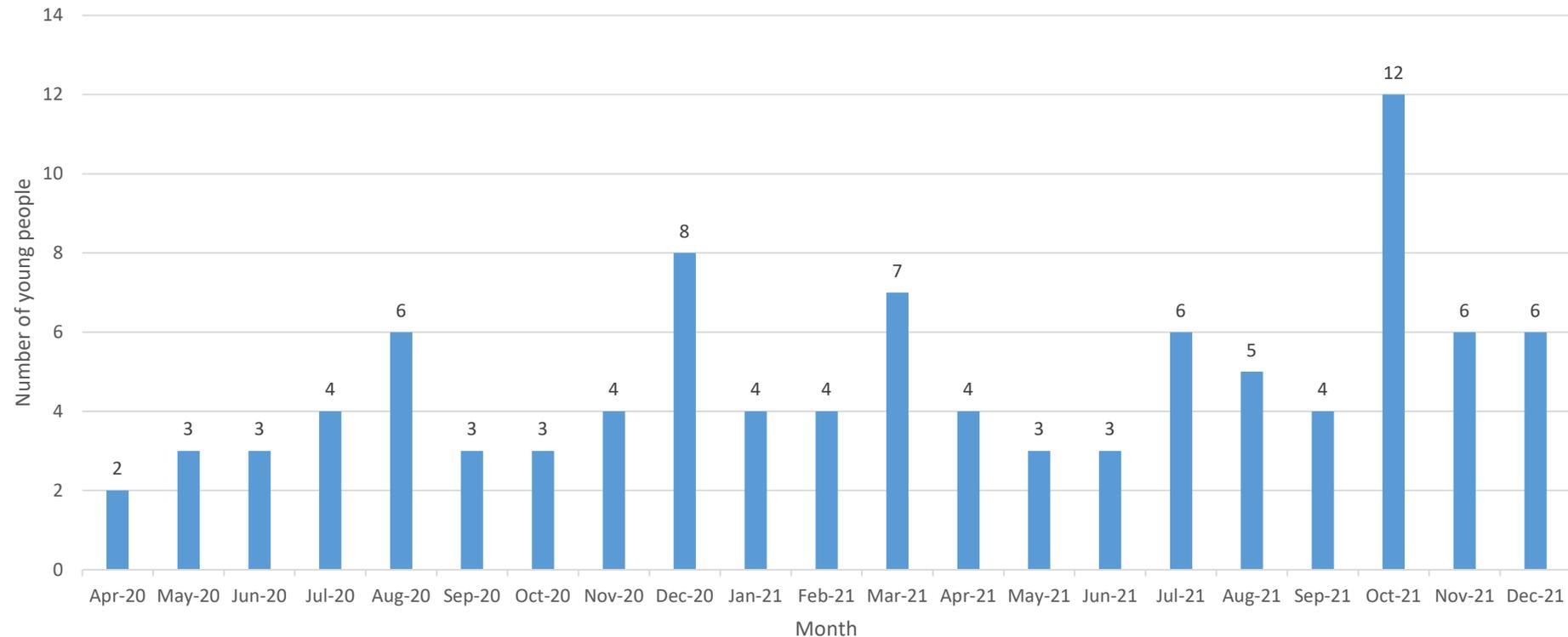
Unaccompanied children – numbers in care over time

April 2020 – December 2021



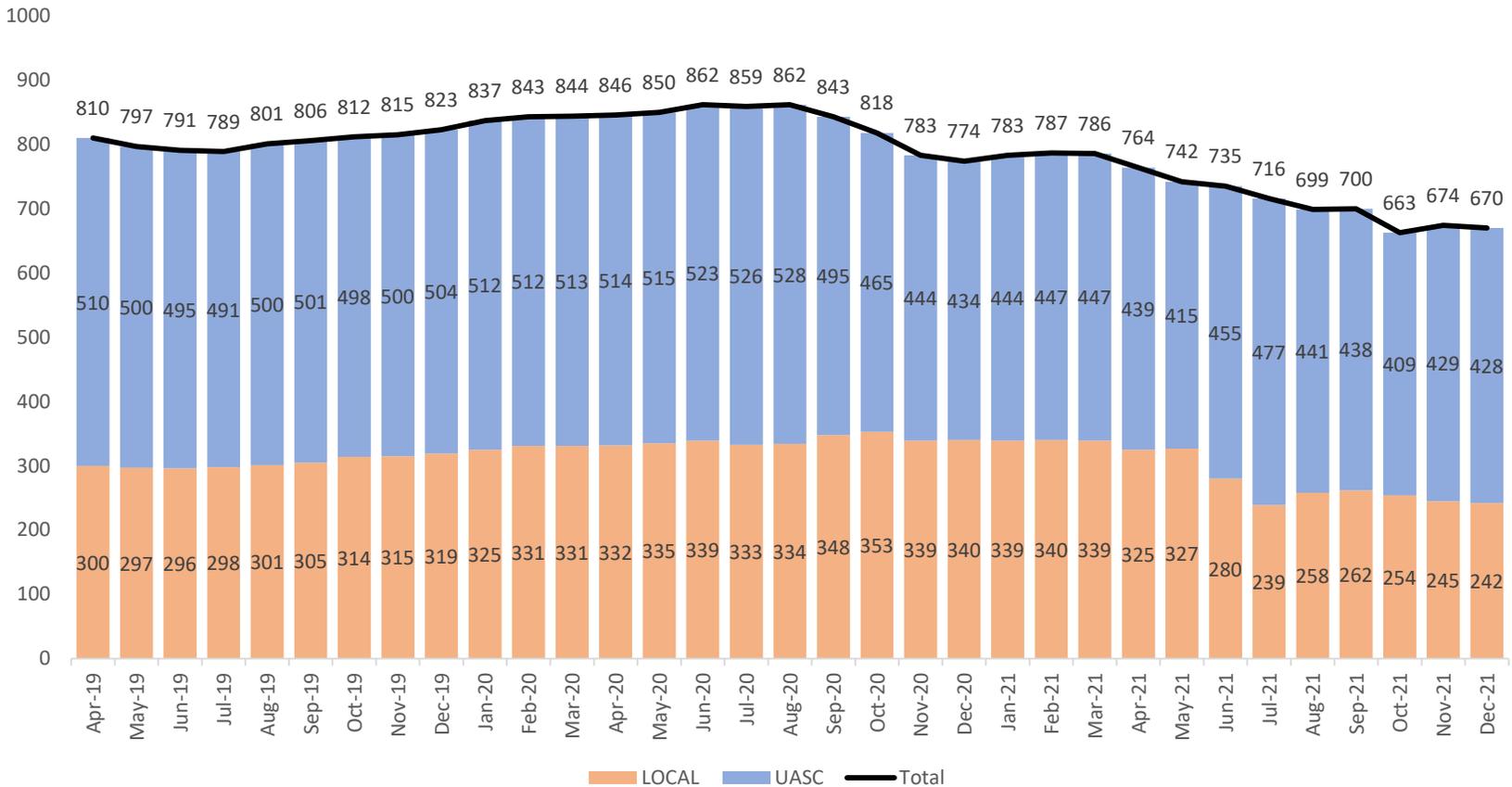
Unaccompanied children – monthly new arrivals

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