

What to Expect From Living in Croydon

Croydon is a very diverse community which we believe has a lot to offer young people and can be a really interesting and happy place to live. There are many choices for community and support services, and different opportunities for employment, education, contact with diasporas and cultural provisions, including access to many different religious and cultural centres.

It is important that young people and the Local Authorities who look after them are aware that Croydon is part of Greater London, with both the good sides and the difficulties that living in any city or large town has to offer.

If a young person wants or needs support to feel safe and make the most of the opportunities in Croydon, PTIUK can provide support and advice to help them with any difficulties that they might face in Brighton around accommodation, anti-social and offending behaviour, pollution and being able to access services. There are also many projects and services in Croydon who are able to provide support, and who work with young people to help them keep safe and work towards positive outcomes.

For any young person thinking about a placement with PTIUK in Croydon, we will always discuss the placement area with them and carry out a full risk assessment based on their individual needs to make sure that this placement will be right for them.

Key Information about the Croydon Area

	What you can expect in Croydon	What we do to support you
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many different move on choices in the private rented market for young people • Private rental costs in the city can be high or low depending on locations and the quality of homes. • Croydon Council has very little social housing in the area, and this is not a real option for young people looked after by them • However, young people looked after by other Local Authorities will have different opportunities in their LA area 	<p>We support young people to understand the housing options that are available to them, and to have realistic expectations of what kind of housing they can get.</p> <p>We support young people to look for work if they can work so that they can have a higher income to fund accommodation.</p> <p>We support young people to find suitable and safe accommodation.</p>

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The Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croydon is an area close to the edge of South London. It is an urban area but the countryside in the North Downs is not far and the woodlands and open spaces come up to the edge of Croydon. There are also many parks and nature spots within the Croydon area including the Beddington Natural Reserve. • The weather in Croydon is generally mild, and it is rarely very cold or wet. There may be short heatwaves in summer, but snow in winter is very rare. 	<p>As part of their induction, we help all new arrivals to learn about the new area and how to stay safe.</p> <p>We also provide maps and will visit key areas with young people to help them find their way around.</p> <p>We can provide advice about how to stay safe when enjoying nature spots, especially near water</p> <p>PTIUK will provide help to deal with extreme hot or cold weather if this happens e.g. fans, extra heating.</p>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croydon has a full range of health services including many doctors, dentists and hospitals, as well as good mental health and sexual health services for young people. • It can be difficult to find a dentist that is registering new patients, and there can be waiting times for some medical services. Both of these problems are across the UK and not just in Croydon. • Croydon has a good record of providing interpreters to access health services if needed. There are also some services especially for young people from diverse cultural backgrounds. • Air pollution may be an issue for young people with specific risks 	<p>We will help all young people to register with a doctor and dentist and to visit an optician when they arrive. We have links with local services who are still able to take on new patients</p> <p>We will support young people to access any other health service that they need, and to make sure that they can access translators if needed.</p>

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Getting Around	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croydon is well connected to the Transport for Lond system, with many different ways to travel around all parts of London easily. • There are also good train connections to the South Coast. • The cost of transport for young people is relatively cheap with an Oyster Card. • There are many cycle lanes and areas with speed limits for young people on bicycles 	<p>We will help young people to understand the local transport system and to access finance to buy Oyster cards.</p> <p>We will remain aware of any transport problems or strikes so that we can inform and support young people when there are problems.</p>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croydon has many schools and colleges that offer ESOL and mainstream academic and vocational qualifications. • There are also colleges offering vocational training in many areas, and many adult education courses that are accessible during the day or in the evening. • Croydon has easy access to many London universities 	<p>PTIUK will support young people to plan for and access the education or training that they need.</p> <p>PTIUK keyworkers have good links with all the local colleges and the ESOL coordinators.</p>
Work and Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people who are over 18 may receive Universal Credit support from the government. There are sometimes delays or problems with setting up this support. This is a problem across the country. • Croydon has many Advice, Information and Guidance provisions for debt management • Croydon has high employment levels and easy access to jobs for young people. The average wage is also higher than the rest of the UK. However, many of these jobs are often in the service sectors and do not offer different career opportunities. 	<p>We have a good understanding of the Universal Credit system, and all keyworkers are trained and support so that they can work with young people to make sure that they get the financial support that they are entitled to.</p> <p>We will work with young people who are finding it hard to manage by providing advice about different support options.</p> <p>We will help people to understand their rights and to explore work options and to access work in areas that they are interested in, including putting them in touch with local youth employment services.</p>

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Your Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croydon is a generally accessible place to live, with more multilingual services than in many areas, although lack of translation and miscommunication can still create problems. • There are many different community services for young people of different religions, including mosques, Hindu and Buddhist temples, and synagogues. • Croydon is also a very diverse city and has groups and provisions to meet the cultural needs of many different cultures including specialist shops and services for different communities and religious needs. • Croydon has many different youth groups including bespoke youth groups such as Young Roots to meet the need of young people in the community. Most groups are good access community hubs and are part of a larger youth participation strategy within Croydon - https://youngcroydon.org.uk/ • Croydon also has lots of different sports, entertainment and shopping options for young people. 	<p>We will support young people to get to know the town and help them to access local groups and services.</p> <p>We are well connected to many services and projects in the local community. Our staff have good knowledge of what is available in the local community, and can help young people to find the facilities and groups that they need.</p> <p>We can support young people to plan trips and activities so that they stay safe and enjoy their experiences.</p>
Immigration Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croydon has a wide range of legal and immigration services in the city which can help young people. These include Refugee Council, Refugee Day Centre and Young Roots. The services offer a range of one-to-one legal support, drop-ins, group support and talking therapy. 	<p>If a young person needs immigration advice or support, we will help them to make links with local services and support groups.</p>

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Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The crime rate in Croydon is average compared to other areas of the UK. The main crimes in Croydon are anti-social behaviour, violent crime and theft Knife crime and knife carrying have been rising slightly in Croydon as they have across London. There are certain areas of Croydon where crime rates are higher. Some hotspots are located near PTIUK properties, as these are in highly populated areas. 	<p>We will provide information and support to young people about risks so that they can keep themselves safe, including around risks such as hate crime, knife crime and gang activity / county lines.</p> <p>We work closely with local services and organisations to remain up-to-date on risks and support services available to our young people.</p> <p>PTIUK has a duty system to report concerns or events to staff 24/7, and staff can provide Advice, Information and Guidance as needed</p>

Croydon Risk Assessment

PTIUK looks carefully at all aspects of living in the Croydon Area, and we do regular risk assessments where we score the level of risk overall in this area. This leads to us giving the whole area a score **from 1 (no risk) to 25 (very high risk)**.

We assess that the average risk score for the Croydon area is 4.25	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="5">Severity</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Negligible 1</th> <th>Minor 2</th> <th>Moderate 3</th> <th>Significant 4</th> <th>Severe 5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th rowspan="5">Likelihood</th> <th>Rare 1</th> <td>Low 1</td> <td>Low 2</td> <td>Low Med 3</td> <td>Med 4</td> <td>Med 5</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Unlikely 2</th> <td>Low 2</td> <td>Med 4</td> <td>Med 6</td> <td>Med 8</td> <td>Med High 10</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Possible 3</th> <td>Low Med 3</td> <td>Med 6</td> <td>Med 9</td> <td>Med High 12</td> <td>Med High 15</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Likely 4</th> <td>Med 4</td> <td>Med 8</td> <td>Med High 12</td> <td>Med High 16</td> <td>High 20</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Certain 5</th> <td>Med 5</td> <td>Med High 10</td> <td>Med High 15</td> <td>High 20</td> <td>Very High 25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>								Severity					Negligible 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Significant 4	Severe 5	Likelihood	Rare 1	Low 1	Low 2	Low Med 3	Med 4	Med 5	Unlikely 2	Low 2	Med 4	Med 6	Med 8	Med High 10	Possible 3	Low Med 3	Med 6	Med 9	Med High 12	Med High 15	Likely 4	Med 4	Med 8	Med High 12	Med High 16	High 20	Certain 5	Med 5	Med High 10	Med High 15	High 20	Very High 25
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This indicates that overall Croydon is a Low Medium Risk Area for placements of young people in our PTIUK homes, with support from our keyworkers.																																																	

For more details, or if you would like to know more about how we have assessed the different risks in this area, please ask us for our full Local Area Risk Assessment for our homes in the Croydon area.