

**From:** "Chris Philp MP" [REDACTED]  
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**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Local News from Chris Philp MP

## Local news from Chris Philp MP



### Croydon Children's Social Services Scandal

Ofsted has found Labour-run Croydon Council guilty of "widespread and serious failures" that are putting children in the Borough at risk of "significant harm". Ofsted found "weak managerial oversight" at all levels and that senior leaders knew services were unacceptable but have taken too long to act. The report highlights the role played by senior Labour Councillors, stating "senior leaders know that services need to be better, but they have taken too long to take action to improve them."

The full report is here:

[https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local\\_authority\\_reports/croydon/052\\_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf](https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/croydon/052_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf)

I have therefore called for the resignation of Croydon Council's Leader, Cllr Tony Newman, and the Cabinet Member for Children and Families Cllr Alisa Fleming. Please sign our petition calling for their resignation here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/newmanflemmingresign>

and forward the link to any friends or neighbours who may also be concerned.

This failure to properly look after the Borough's most vulnerable children is totally unacceptable. This comes despite increases in spending on children's services. In a rare step, the Government has had to intervene and appoint a Children's Commissioner to help fix the problems. I will be working with Government and the Council to urgently see improvements to Children's services in the Borough, and have already met with the Children's Minister and the Chief Executive of the Council for this purpose.

### Croydon School Funding

Historically, outer London Boroughs have received less school funding than inner London Boroughs. I have been lobbying the Government to rectify this, and they recently published an updated National

Funding Formula in response.

I am delighted to say that Croydon does very well from this. Starting in 2018/19 (i.e. the financial year starting April 2018) all Croydon Secondary schools should get a 3% funding increase over and above the normal inflation-linked increases. There will be another 3% above inflation the year after and when fully “caught up” Woodcote will get an extra 13.5% above the normal inflation-based increases, Riddlesdown 12.7% extra, Oasis Coulsdon 14.1% extra and Harris Purley 7.2%. Croydon Primary Schools will also get above-inflation increases averaging about 2%, although it varies school-to-school. This is great news for education in the Borough.

The full link is here, and you can look up individual schools in the second spreadsheet:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-tables-for-schools-and-high-needs>

### **Happy Valley, Coulsdon – Consultation**

The council has recently published a consultation on the future of Happy Valley in Coulsdon. This is one of Croydon’s most beautiful places – it feels like, and is, open countryside. I go running there pretty much every week.



The consultation suggests installing a caravan park, holding concerts and starting to charge for parking. In my view, all this would spoil what should stay as a natural place. The council want to try to make some money from Happy Valley. If they can’t afford to maintain it, then perhaps it would be better if the council transfers responsibility for looking after Happy Valley to a body like the Corporation of London – which does a good job maintaining Farthing Downs and Coulsdon Common next door, funded by its very large endowment.

If you would like to respond to the consultation we have until 10<sup>th</sup> October and the link is here:

<https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/kms/elab.aspx?noip=1&CampaignId=525>

### **Tram Safety Update**

The Rail Accident Investigation Board (RAIB) has just published an interim update on its report into the Croydon tram tragedy last year. The tragedy cost seven people their lives and injured 51 others. In its update, the RAIB states that it will make a number of potentially life-saving safety recommendations. You

can read their update here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fatal-tram-accident-in-croydon>

One of these recommendations is to implement an active means of detecting when drivers are not paying attention, are distracted or fall asleep using a video camera. Given that last year's tragedy was likely the result of a driver who had "lost awareness" when speeding around a sharp bend, this measure could go a long way to preventing a similar tragedy from happening again.

The tram operator has already decided to install such a monitoring system on Croydon's trams. But driver's union Aslef has decided to strike in opposition to drivers' cabs being monitored. I totally condemn this strike, which flies in the face of a report from an independent safety body. The union should be putting their passengers' safety first rather than striking over something that could save lives.

### **Croydon Council Elections – May 2018**

Next May we have council elections. The current Labour-run council has so far failed to deliver Westfield, given planning permissions to concrete over parts of the south of the Borough while failing to develop large parts of Croydon town centre where new buildings should go and it now turns out to have been putting the Borough's vulnerable children in danger. Political ideology aside, they are just not competent and need to go. If you would like to help us remove them from office by delivering leaflets, knocking on doors or helping the campaign some other way, please reply to this email.

### **Local Charity – South East Cancer Help centre – Paint Purley Purple**

The South East Cancer Help Centre in Purley gives support to people recently diagnosed with cancer, providing individual therapies such as massage, aromatherapy, reiki and reflexology, counselling and group activities to help cancer sufferers through their treatment. It is a charity that I have recently supported and believes deserves all our support as it receives no funding from local government or the NHS.

Last week they ran "Paint Purley Purple" to raise funds. I'd like to thank all the local shops and offices that participated by putting up purple balloons and decorations for the week. The week ended with a lively gala dinner which I was pleased to be part of. Having talked to many members and volunteers, I know how important their work is for cancer sufferers.



Please support the SEHC by following this link and making a donation if you are able to:  
[http://m.virginmoneygiving.com/mt/uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmqCharityUrl=secancerhelp&un\\_jtt\\_redirect](http://m.virginmoneygiving.com/mt/uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmqCharityUrl=secancerhelp&un_jtt_redirect)

Further details about the charity can be found at [www.sehc.org.uk](http://www.sehc.org.uk). They are also always looking for volunteers.

### Local Charity – Ballers

I recently met Raymond from South Croydon. He runs Ballers, which aims to get 14-18 year olds from Croydon into training for professional or semi-professional football who otherwise would not have the opportunity. It gives youngsters a sense of purpose and discipline, whether or not they make it to the next stage in football. They need to raise just £3,300 to help them run the programme for this season. Please support them if you are able to here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ballersclub>

### Speeches and Media

Here are some recent interviews and speeches I've given nationally:

- Daily Politics on Sadiq Khan's ban on Uber: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ocki7qFSsQ>
- Daily Politics on the Brexit Bill: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCt0ijeso7M>
- Speech in Parliament on the Brexit Bill: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMlRRbONiY>
- Asking the PM a Question about the Brexit Trade Deal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADUv0Xowraw>

If you have any local events or charities you would like to publicise, please email me at [chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk) and I could include a paragraph in future emails such as this one, which reach thousands of local residents.

Please visit [www.chrisphilp.com](http://www.chrisphilp.com) for more information about local issues.

With best wishes,



**Chris Philp**  
**Member of Parliament for Croydon South**

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