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## Tensions Rise in Altrincham Over Use of Cresta Court Hotel to House Asylum Seekers

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Public concern over the housing of asylum seekers has escalated in Altrincham, where demonstrators and counter-protesters have clashed near the Cresta Court Hotel. The hotel, located along the A56, has been repurposed to accommodate individuals seeking asylum, sparking widespread debate and a petition signed by more than 6,500 residents.

Footage shared online shows groups gathering on opposite sides of the street—some demanding an end to migrant accommodations in local hotels, others defending the current policy as necessary. The protest underscores growing public anxiety surrounding

the strain placed on local resources, security concerns, and a lack of consultation with affected communities.

The Cresta Court Hotel is one of several facilities across the UK being used as temporary housing for asylum seekers. These arrangements are managed by private contractors, including Serco and GTD Healthcare, which have been tasked with overseeing health and logistics in such accommodations. While framed as a short-term solution, the use of hotels has become a flashpoint in many towns and cities, particularly where residents feel they were left out of the decision-making process.

A leading voice among the demonstrators, local campaigner Mark Dalton, said, “We are not against helping people in need, but this should not come at the cost of our community’s safety and stability.” His comments echo the sentiment of many who have signed the petition, demanding greater transparency and local accountability.

The demonstration in Altrincham reflects a broader national debate on the use of public and private facilities to house migrants. Questions about the financial burden, local policing challenges, and integration efforts remain unresolved. Critics argue that the current approach lacks foresight and risks deepening public distrust.

Authorities have stated that the hotel arrangement is legal and that all residents are subject to background checks and provided with essential services. However, tensions remain high, and some local leaders are calling for clearer policies and firm deadlines to phase out hotel-based housing.

As the situation continues to evolve, it is clear that the public expects a more coherent strategy that balances compassion with community interests. Without meaningful engagement and long-term planning, similar flashpoints may emerge elsewhere in the country.