



AGENDA

CABINET

**Monday, 21st September, 2020, at 10.00
am
Online**

Ask
for:
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Ann Hunter

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UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Apologies and Substitutes
2. Declaration of Interests by Member in Items on the Agenda for this meeting
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 July 2020 (Pages 1 - 18)
4. Cabinet Member Updates (verbal item)
5. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring & Forecast Outturn 2020-21 -Exception Report - July 2020-21 (Pages 19 - 24)
6. Quarterly Performance Report, Quarter 1, 2020/21 (Pages 25 - 86)
7. Whole School opening from September 2020 (Pages 87 - 98)
8. Devolution - presentation
9. Winter Risks (Pages 99 - 104)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
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Friday, 11 September 2020

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held Virtually on Monday, 20 July 2020.

PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Chairman), Mrs C Bell, Miss S J Carey, Mrs S Chandler, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr P J Oakford, Mr M D Payne, Mrs S Prendergast and Mr M Whiting

ALSO PRESENT: Mr E E C Hotson

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Z Cooke (Corporate Director of Finance), Miss E Feakins (Chief Accountant), Mrs C Head (Head of Finance Operations), Mr D Shipton (Head of Finance - Planning, Policy & Strategy), Mrs S Thompson (Head of Planning Applications Group), Mr B Watts (General Counsel) and Mr D Whittle (Director of Strategy, Policy, Relationships and Corporate Assurance)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**154. Apologies and Substitutes**

(Item 2)

There were no apologies for absence.

155. Declaration of Interests by Member in Items on the Agenda for this meeting

(Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

156. Minutes of the Meetings held on 22 and 29 June 2020

(Item 4)

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 22 and 29 June 2020 are a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

157. Cabinet Member Updates

(Item 5)

- (1) Mrs Bell said the authority, as part of its public health responsibilities, regularly reviewed its care settings to identify any issues that might contribute to the spread of the coronavirus. She also said that on Friday 17 July East Kent Hospitals Trust announced its intention to test its workforce over the following five days to get a snapshot of the number of staff across all sites who might be carrying the Covid-19 virus asymptotically and to help Public Health England understand more about the spread and prevention of the virus. The Trust intended to publish the results of the staff testing.
- (2) Mrs Bell said the government had announced new powers for local authorities to impose restrictions on movement to deal quickly with local outbreaks of

Covid-19. Upper tier councils now had the power to close premises, public outdoor spaces and prevent specific events taking place without having to make representations to a magistrate.

- (3) Mrs Bell said the latest figures from the Office of National Statistics indicated that the number of smokers in Kent continued to fall and was at a record low. The number of smokers in Kent had dropped from 15% in 2018 to 13.7% in 2019 which was below the national average. She was pleased that more people than ever were quitting, and young people were not taking up smoking in the first place. Although the number of smokers in Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone, Swale, Tonbridge and Malling, and Tunbridge Wells had fallen, work was underway to understand why some parts of the county, including Dartford, Dover, Gravesham, Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Thanet, had shown an increase. She said KCC commissioned the One You Smoke Free Service through the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation and was taking part in the national #QuitforCovid campaign.
- (4) Mrs Chandler said that since the 1 June, 70 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children had been transferred to other parts of the country under the National Transfer Scheme, however, in the same period there had been 116 new arrivals including 12 over the weekend. Mrs Chandler said she had attended the opening of a new facility, The Nest, which provided short breaks for 13-17-year-olds who were in Tier 4 accommodation. The original idea for the facility had come from parents, the building was operated using NHS funding and the aim was to prevent young people from going into secure accommodation.
- (5) Mr Long said all children would return to school in September and work was underway to create a socially distanced environment. He said there were practical difficulties to overcome and that announcements would be made when solutions were identified, and decisions made. He said he planned to make a decision on a proposal to postpone the Kent Test to mid-October. (Post meeting note: this decision was made on 22 July). Mr Long also said that, from the beginning of September and to an extent over the summer holiday, schools would be working to help children catch up on education lost as a result of lockdown and especially for those children who had suffered a disproportionate disadvantage. He said the government had promised £1 billion but details of how this might be split between schools and other organisations were awaited. KCC did not expect to receive assistance from the fund and its role, would be to advise and assist schools.
- (6) Mr Payne said that KCC had been successful in 100% of the bids it submitted to the government's Active Travel Fund, however in order to be eligible to apply for the second tranche of funding, these schemes had to be fully implemented within eight weeks. He said the authority intended to make ambitious bids for funding from Tranche 2 that would have significant benefits for cycling and walking while at the same time being mindful not to place public transport at a disadvantage and considering the needs of other road users.
- (7) Mr Payne said that, along with all 15 members of Transport for the South East, KCC had sent a letter consenting to the establishment of Transport for the South East as a sub national transport authority. He was also pleased to

announce that KCC in conjunction with Amey PLC had made a successful bid to the ADEPT Smart Places Live Labs project for £2 million which would be used for projects including researching the use of graphene for road surfaces which had the potential to increase durability and longevity.

- (8) Mr Whiting said that he continued to develop KCC's Renewal and Resilience Plan which involved meetings with numerous local organisations, and councils in Essex and London, as well as discussion with Kent businesses and the Institute of Directors. He said the plan would be formally launched at a special meeting of the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership in early August. He also said that the establishment of an Employment Task force would be finalised this week and that the Growth Hub Helpline was continuing to prove its worth. It had, to the end of the last week, taken 7,964 calls, conducted 1,809 webchats and its specialist advisers had provided 2,951 intensive advice sessions. Mr Whiting said that he had opened a Kent stakeholder meeting on innovation and co-operation attended by representatives from KCC, Kent universities and business as well as Locate in Kent and the Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the meeting was to agree Kent's ambitions for cross-border co-operation on innovation, which would feed into the Straits Committee strategy, and Kent's response to the specific West Flanders proposal.
- (9) Mr Whiting said he had written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing his disappointment at the government's decision not to involve the UK in future European Territorial Co-operation (Interreg) programmes. He had also responded to the government's consultation on a proposed Freeports policy and he promoted the establishment of such a facility in Kent. He said he had followed up his meeting with the Minister for London and had offered Kent's support for cross border joint working for key infrastructure schemes such as the Lower Thames Crossing, Crossrail to Ebbsfleet extension, Thanet Parkway station and additional rolling stock for HS1. Mr Whiting concluded his update by announcing Produced in Kent and Visit Kent had established a new HelpKentBuyLocal website to help residents find and book tables at local restaurants, cafes and pubs with a view to keeping the Kent pound within Kent.
- (10) Miss Carey said that all household waste and recycling sites in Kent were now open seven days a week and bookings could be made up to four weeks in advance with the limit of one visit per household per month increased to two. Feedback from residents was positive and capacity would be increased as fast as it was safe to do so. She also said that KCC's Planning Applications Committee had unanimously approved the plans for a new household waste and recycling centre at Allington which would relieve pressure on the Tovil site and bring the network of such sites to 19.
- (11) Miss Carey referred to the update, on how KCC would deliver an accelerated target for net zero carbon emissions for its own services and business by 2030, given at the meeting of the County Council on 16 July. Innovative work by Laser Energy had helped the authority model various strategies and she was pleased there was a plan to deliver the ambitious target. The day after the County Council meeting, the final draft of the Energy and Low Emissions

Strategy for Kent and Medway, which set out the plan for achieving net zero for Kent and Medway, was considered by the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee. She anticipated being able to adopt it on behalf of KCC shortly.

- (12) Miss Carey concluded her update by encouraging everyone in Kent to read the Management Plan for Kent's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and respond to the consultation before the deadline of 7 September.
- (13) Mr Hill said that 12 of the authority's larger libraries, one in each district, had re-opened last week and it was anticipated that 30 would be re-opened by the end of September. The initial services offered included public computer access and a select and collect book offer. It was planned to re-introduce book browsing, re-start the mobile library service and re-open the archive research room over the coming months. He also said: progress had been made dealing with the backlog of 4,000 birth registrations with 3,380 completed over the last four weeks; weddings and civil partnership ceremonies would start on 4 July in accordance with government guidance on social distancing and limits on the numbers attending; and citizenship ceremonies would re-commence as soon as possible.
- (14) Mrs Prendergast said that 52% of staff had responded to the recent staff survey and thanked all staff for their hard work during the pandemic. She said a new campaign, Moving Forward for Kent, had been launched to help get the Kent economy moving following the pandemic as well as to support businesses and residents. She said many businesses were using the hashtag *# for Kent* in their social media posts and using the campaign images in their promotional material. She also said that the annual budget consultation had been launched and, to date, 886 responses had been received, which was higher than in previous years at the same stage in the process.
- (15) Mr Oakford said that KCC's share of the government's Covid-19 Financial Support grant of £500 million was £10 million which would contribute to reducing the authority's budget gap. He also said KCC's buildings were being re-opened with Aylesford Depot and five area offices scheduled to re-open this week. Mr Oakford paid tribute to the staff in Democratic Services, who were supporting more meetings than normal, and he acknowledged the additional work involved in organising virtual meetings.

158. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report - May 2020-21

(Item 6)

- (1) Mr Gough thanked officers for the new format of the report which improved its transparency and clarity. Mr Oakford introduced the report which set out the revenue and capital budget monitoring position as of 31 May 2020. He welcomed the new format and drew attention to the fact that it took account of the financial impact of the authority's response to Covid-19. He said that, excluding the impact of Covid-19, there was an overspend of £14.6 million on the revenue budget and a re-phasing of £48 million on the capital budget. Since the report had been published an additional £10 million Covid-19 Financial Support grant had been received which would reduce the overspend by £10 million and increase the grants received to date from £66.9 million to

£76.9 million. He drew attention to the overspend of £30.5 million in the Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG), as well as to the overspends in the revenue budget of £7.7 million in Children's Young People and Education Directorate (CYPE) and £3.8 million in Adult Social Care Directorate. In response to his invitation to comment on the report, Emma Feakins (Chief Accountant) described in greater detail the structure of the report.

- (2) Mrs Bell said that before the outbreak of Covid-19 there had been a trend towards older people receiving care in their own homes and a decline in demand for residential and nursing care. When the cost of care for these users and new users was projected forward for the full twelve months, there was an increase to the original budget forecast. In addition, there was some evidence that older people had received increased levels of support in their own homes, rather than moving into a social care setting, during the Covid-19 pandemic. The forecast position assumed that demographic pressures would result in an increase in client numbers during the rest of the year. Mrs Bell also said that demand for supported living services had increased and was likely to increase further as young adults with disabilities were more likely to maintain their independence at home with support rather than entering residential settings. She also referred to pressures on Adult Mental Health and Physical Disability Community Budgets and directed Members to appendix 1 of the report which set out detailed information.
- (3) Mrs Chandler said the most significant element of the overspend in CYPE was the £5.2 million that related to an increase in the number of externally purchased placements for looked after children (LAC). She said other authorities were in a similar position, and efforts were being made to recruit additional foster carers. She said the number of LACs in Kent was low relative to the population, which could be attributed, in part, to investment in early help services, and this should be a matter of celebration. Mrs Chandler also referred to the expenditure on Special Educational Needs and the work being done as a result of the Written Statement of Action following last year's Ofsted/CQC Local Area SEND Inspection. She anticipated that the number of referrals for EHCP Assessments would rise from September when pupils returned to school.
- (4) Mr Long said the overspend forecasted in the DSG was predominantly a result of the additional cost of supporting SEN services and because the Basic Need grant from government did not cover all the costs of building and expanding schools. Work was, however, underway to ensure capital projects were contained within the allocated budget. He also said an increase to the Basic Need grant was required and his discussions with the DfE led him to believe this might happen.
- (5) Ms Cooke said this was an important report as it informed the report setting out the amendment to the current year's budget which was to be considered by the County Council in September and for building the budget for 2021/22.
- (6) Resolved to:
 - (a) Note the new budget monitoring report format that increases the accessibility of the information contained in the report

- (b) Note the forecast Revenue and Capital monitoring position
- (c) Note the way the financial impact of Covid-19 is being monitored
- (d) Note and agree Revenue budget adjustments
- (e) Note and agree Capital budget adjustments
- (f) Note and agree the addition of two new fully funded schemes to the capital programme
- (g) Note the Prudential Indicators report.

159. Adoption of the Kent Mineral Sites Plan and modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013 - 2030 resulting from the Early Partial Review

(Item 7)

- (1) Mr Gough welcomed the report and said its length and comprehensiveness were a strong argument in favour of electronic papers. Mr Oakford introduced the report which set out the Inspector's Report on the examination of the Early Partial Review (EPR) of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Kent Minerals Sites Plan (MSP). He said it was important to recognise the considerable efforts of Sharon Thompson and her team in progressing this work. Mr Oakford also said that, following publication of the pre-submission drafts, for the statutory period between January and March 2019, 405 representations had been received. Ms Thompson said the final phase of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan work would be the adoption of the Plans by the County Council. She also said the Inspector had found both Plans satisfactory subject to the modifications set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report and in the appendices to the Inspector's report (Appendix A of the papers). Ms Thompson updated the Cabinet on the outcome of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee's consideration of a similar report at its meeting on 17 July and said all but one member, of that Committee had endorsed the recommendations.
- (2) Mr Gough and Mr Oakford thanked Ms Thompson and her team for the comprehensive report.
- (3) Resolved to:
 - (i) note the Inspector's Report on the examination of the EPR and MSP and note his recommended modifications
 - (ii) note the recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisals of the EPR and MSP and
 - (iii) endorse the adoption of:
 - (a) the Kent Mineral Sites Plan (as modified by the Inspector's recommendations) at Appendix B of the report; and

- (b) the modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan as set out by the Early Partial Review (as modified by the Inspector's recommendations) at Appendix C of the report.
- (iv) note that the decision to adopt the Kent Mineral Sites Plan and modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan is a matter for County Council and request the County Council to:
 - (a) accept the modifications recommended by the Inspector to the Kent Mineral Sites Plan and modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (as set out by the Early Partial Review); and
 - (b) adopt the Kent Mineral Sites Plan and modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (as set out by the Early Partial Review) (as modified); and
 - (c) delegate powers to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport to approve any non-material changes to the text of the MSP and modifications to the KMWLP (as set out by the Early Partial Review) in consultation with the Deputy Leader prior to their publication.
- (v) note and agree the future work activities on mineral and waste planning activities as set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report as the basis for a revised Local Development Scheme.

160. COVID-19 Multi-Agency Recovery

(Item 8)

- (1) Mr Gough said that the work carried out by the Kent Resilience Forum was governed by the Civil Contingencies Act and that upper tier authorities, such as Kent County Council were designated as the lead agency for the recovery phase of any emergency. Mr Hill said the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) was a partnership that brought category 1 and category 2 responders together, however its actions were subject to the individual governance arrangements of each partner organisation. Oversight of the KRF by KCC Members included weekly meetings between the relevant Cabinet Member and corporate director, regular briefings to the Growth Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee and the Scrutiny Committee and monthly reports to the Kent Leader's Group. nationally prescribed organisation chaired by KCC which had a statutory responsibility to lead the recovery phase of an emergency. David Whittle (Chair of Kent Resilience Forum's Recovery Co-ordinating Group) introduced the report which provided an update on multi-agency recovery arrangements. He also gave a presentation which is attached as an appendix to these minutes. He drew attention to the short timescale in which the recovery plan had been drafted, the consultation underway with partners, Kent Leaders, Kent Chief Executives and others prior to its final consideration by Kent Leaders on 6 August and the KRF Strategic Go-ordination Group on 12 August.

- (2) Members were supportive of the report and commented on the high level of partnership working. In addition, Mrs Bell said that some elements of Covid-19 response, such as enabling decision making close to the point of the issue, should continue. She also said technology had enabled agile decision making, and its use to support older residents should continue in the recovery phase. She said disabled people were more likely to depend on voluntary hubs which would be wound down and it would be shame if the goodwill, kindness, and enthusiasm displayed by volunteers during the response phase was lost. She expressed concern at the increase in the number of male suicides and highlighted the importance of the Suicide Prevention Strategy. Mrs Chandler said she had paid close attention to the recovery cell dealing with issues relating to children and young people and drew the Cabinet's attention to the increase in inequalities among children and young people during the lockdown. She also said that she hoped that actions relating to opportunities and mitigating actions would be inter-linked and not be considered in silos. Further support for the report was expressed by Mr Whiting and Mr Hill. Mr Hill also said the co-located Kent Resilience team and the Kent Community Safety Partnership had created opportunities to build relationships between partner organisations which meant that Kent was well-placed to respond to the crisis caused by the pandemic. In response to comments, Mr Whittle said that efforts were being made to capture the positive aspects of lockdown and the agile ways of working developed during the response phase. This included working with the NHS to continue the involvement of the voluntary sector in providing services in the community; and ensuring that the integrated recovery plan avoided siloed thinking. He paid tribute to his team and staff across all partner organisations who had undertaken work in the various recovery cells and contributed to the proposals for recovery. Mr Gough thanked Cabinet Members for their comments on the report and said. Much of the work relating to the recovery phase, particularly the Renewal and Recovery Strategy was already familiar to Cabinet Members. He said it was important to draw on lessons learned during the response phase of the crisis and to retain improvements in ways of working. He also said that the cross-agency partnerships, developed in advance of the current crisis, particularly planning for a 'no deal Brexit', had been deepened during the crisis.
- (3) Resolved that the update on multi-agency recovery arrangements be noted.

Action Plan Update

Cabinet Meeting - 20th July 2020

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Minute Item 160

Introduction

- Upper-tier local authority has statutory responsibility to lead the recovery phase of an emergency. The KRF recovery process has included 160 individuals from over 50 organisations. All activity has been undertaken virtually.
- Three stages/products to recovery – impact assessments, action plans and recovery strategy.
- ^{Page 9} Draft action plans are currently out for commentary and feedback with KRF partners (including separately to Kent Leaders, Kent Chief Executives and KCC Cabinet)
- Each action has been prioritised as essential, important or desirable.
- Actions have also been split into short-term (action to start within 6 months), medium-term (between 6 and 12 months) and longer-term (later than 12 months).
- 152 actions have been identified; 80 are opportunities, 58 are mitigations and 14 are a mix of both
- 43 actions relate to equality considerations

Actions by theme



Restoring services – actions for restoring and adapting critical services across Kent and Medway, which are essential for economic and civic life.



Resilience – actions for developing financial, sector, market, community or environmental resilience, so Kent and Medway is well-placed to respond to future events and changes



Planning and Preparation – actions to ensure that partners are well prepared and have the right plans and resources in place to respond quickly to further changes, such as a second wave or localised lockdown.



Vulnerabilities and inequalities – actions to better co-ordinate and improve support for vulnerable people, including existing and emerging vulnerabilities and managing new and hidden demand. It includes actions to reduce existing and emerging inequalities, including protected groups.



Lobbying – actions to lobby national Government and other regional or local partners on funding, policy and systemic issues related to COVID-19.



Commissioning – actions to change and improve our commissioning culture, practice and join up commissioning opportunities between partners.



Funding – actions to secure sufficient funding, additional funding or improve access to funding, at a local and national level.



Redesign – actions to redesign and transform services, systems and sectors to benefit Kent and Medway residents.



Workforce – actions for training, practical, emotional and professional support and peer support across the workforce, including cultural and behavioural change.

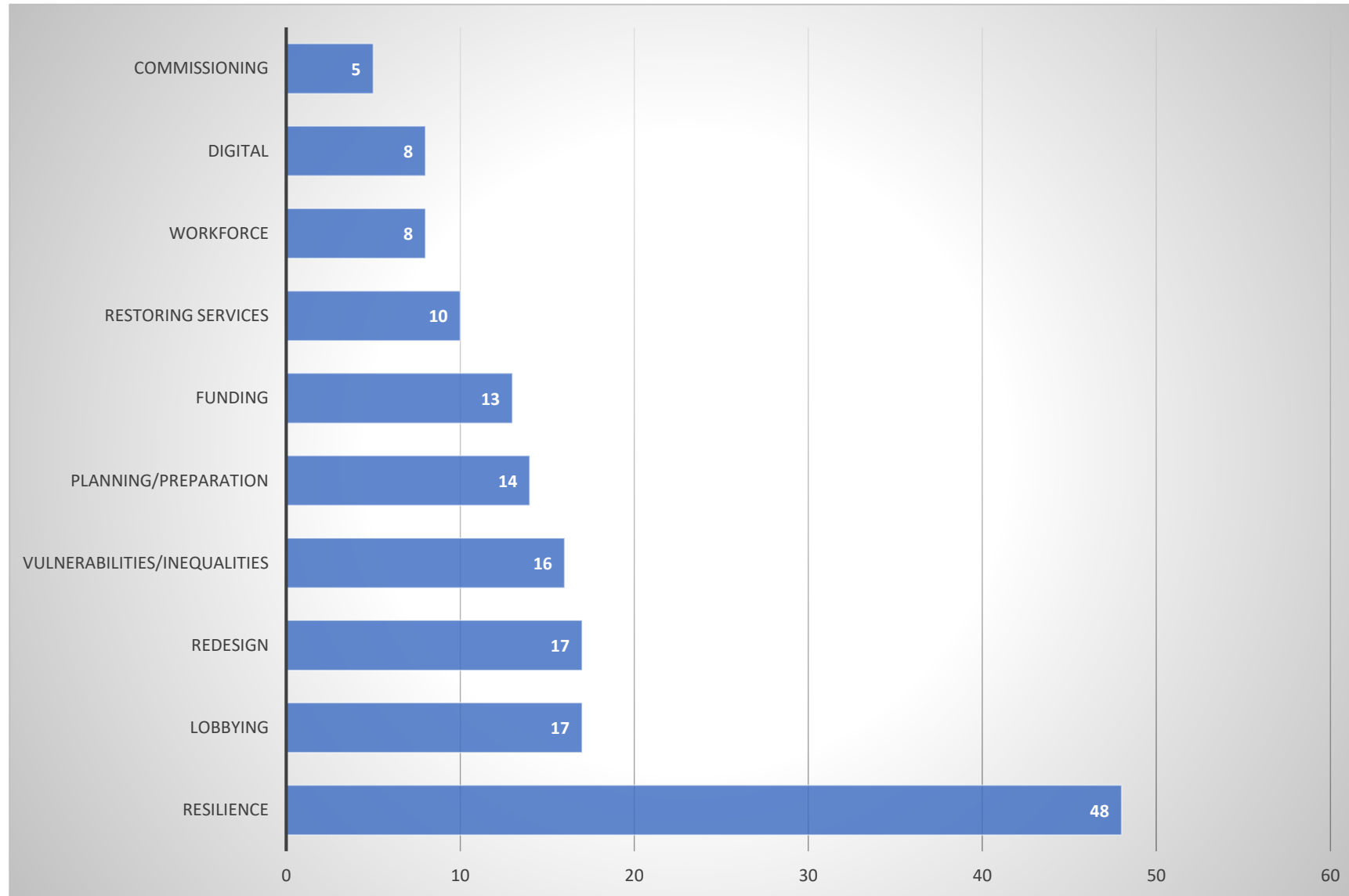


Digital – actions to improve digital access, address digital poverty and enhance digital infrastructure across Kent and Medway.

Count by theme



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Mitigating actions

Mitigating actions are critical to achieve a successful recovery as they focus on mitigating risks and managing significant issues and impacts. Overall, 72 (47%) of actions identified in the action plans are mitigating actions (including mitigations and mitigation/opportunities).

Partners are asked to consider prioritising the mitigating actions, particularly essential and short term mitigations which need to be delivered in the next 6 months. 64% of mitigating actions have at least initial resources in place to deliver.

- Of the mitigating actions, 50 actions (69%) are considered **essential** mitigations. The timeframe for essential mitigations included 64% short term, 24% medium term and 6% long term. 70% of essential mitigations have at least initial resources in place to deliver.
- Of the mitigating actions, 17 actions (24%) are considered **important** mitigations and of these 53% have at least initial resources in place to deliver.
- Of the mitigating actions, 5 actions (7%) are considered **desirable** mitigations and of these 40% have at least initial resources in place to deliver.

Opportunity actions

Opportunity actions are important to take forward positive options and opportunities either as individual organisations or partners. Overall, 80 actions (53%) identified in the action plans are opportunity actions. These include actions such as improving the quality of our support offer for vulnerable people or enhancing digital access.

However, by their very nature, opportunities are there to be taken, dependent on partner discretion and whether there is sufficient resource, capacity and appetite to deliver. 65% of opportunities have at least initial resources in place to deliver.

- Of the opportunity actions, 18 actions (23%) are considered **essential** opportunities and of these 61% have at least initial resources in place to deliver.
- Of the opportunity actions, 49 actions (61%) are considered **important** opportunities and of these 67% have at least initial resources in place to deliver.
- Of the opportunity actions, 13 actions (16%) are considered **desirable** opportunities and of these 62% have at least initial resources in place to deliver.

Essential short-term actions

42 essential, short term were identified across the 7 recovery action plans. These are the most urgent actions that need to be progressed across Kent and Medway within the next 6 months.

Typical types of essential short-term actions include:

- ^{Page 75} Putting together a package of economic support measures, including the business helpline, employment task force and initial employment offer.
- Priority lobbying activities, including sufficient council funding, homelessness, housing, public transport, employment support and green recovery.
- Urgent planning activities, including second wave planning, Section 114 financial analysis, return to school plan, economic renewal and resilience plan, winter flu, local outbreak control plan, care home recovery plan, track and trace and demand in health and social care referrals.
- Restoring essential services, including schools and childcare, mental health, recovering delays in Education Health and Care Plans and opening town centres.
- Priority redesign activities, including redesign children's services based on feedback, citizen engagement, digital poverty, all age strategy, flexibilities in contract extensions for VCS providers and core funding and grant funding arrangements for VCS partners.

All actions by lead partner organisation or partnership

The actions will be taken forward for delivery by individual organisations or partnerships, which are identified within the action plans.

There is usually more than one organisation or partnership involved in the delivery of each action, even if there is a lead organisation/partnership who co-ordinates the work to take it forward:

- 61% of actions involve public sector organisations
- The greatest involvement in actions includes Kent County Council (25%), Medway Council (19%), District, Borough and City Councils (11%) and NHS (3% - it should be noted that the NHS have their own Reset Recovery Programme, which the Health and Social Care Recovery Cell is engaged with)
- 19% of actions involve public sector partnerships, which includes groups such as the Kent Finance Officers Group, Kent and Medway Housing Group, Kent Developers Group and Kent Planning Group
- 5% of actions involve COVID-19 Response and Recovery Groups
- Health and social care partnerships (including the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System) are involved in 4% of actions, economic partnerships/providers are involved in 3% of actions, and voluntary and community sector partners/providers are involved in 3% of actions.

Action handover

- Subsequent to any further feedback on Action Plans – the draft Recovery Strategy will be circulated for consultation to KRF partners, Kent Leaders, Kent Chief Executives and KCC Cabinet this week
 - The Recovery Strategy will be then be considered by Kent Leaders on 6 August
 - It will then be considered by KRF Strategic Co-ordination Group (Gold) on 12 August
- RCG will then write to each organisation/partnership handing over actions and ask for them to be taken forward through normal BAU arrangements – with a focus on short term essential actions that have been identified
- RCG role will then change:
 - light-touch monitoring role of the Recovery Strategy, with any review and update as necessary
 - engagement with ongoing national and regional recovery structures
 - preparation for any further stand-up through COVID-19 and/or EU transition

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Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring & Forecast Outturn 2020-21

Exception Report

July 2020-21

By Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, Peter Oakford
Corporate Director of Finance, Zena Cooke
Corporate Directors

To Cabinet – 21 September 2020

Unrestricted

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1 Introduction

This report provides the budget monitoring position up to 31 July 2020-21 for both Revenue and Capital budgets, including the Covid-19 forecast.

1.2 This report is based on July actuals and is therefore prior to the budget amendment. This is a budget monitoring position before the impact of the budget amendment which was taken to County Council on 10th September 2020, and therefore some over and underspends will be affected by changes to the budget that will be implemented in October.

1.3 The Revenue forecast is an overspend of £7.9m excluding Covid-19. This is a decrease of £6.7m from the previous reported forecast. The largest variance is +£6.7m in CYPE, with overspends also forecast in ASCH of +£2.8m, and S&CS of +1.7m. GET and FI&U are forecasting underspends of -£1.4m and -£1.9m respectively.

The Revenue forecast is an overspend of £24.5m if Covid-19 future risks are included. The Covid-19 related variance including future risks is +£16.6m.

1.4 The Capital forecast is an underspend of £121.6m excluding Covid-19. The forecast underspend has increased by £73.6m from the previous reported forecast. The underspend is made up of -£0.6m real and -£121.0m rephasing variance. This represents 27.1% of the capital budget. The largest real variance is -£1.6m in CYPE, with overspends forecast in ASCH (+£0.2m) and GET (+£0.9m).

The major rephasing variances are -£57.7m in S&CS, -£41.3m in GET and -£21.0m in CYPE.

1.5 Schools' Delegated Budgets are reporting a £30.6m overspend. The overspend position of +£30.6m reflects the impact of high demand and high cost per child of High Needs Placements.

2 Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 2.1 | Note the forecast Revenue and Capital monitoring position as at July 2020 | The forecast overspend on the Revenue budget as at July 2020 does not include the changes in the amended budget approved by County Council on 10 th September. The next detailed budget monitoring report as at the end of September will reflect the amended budget. Progress on the delivery off the savings and management action will be set out in the September report. |
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3 Revenue & Capital Positions

Revenue Variance +£7.9m overspend
Capital Variance -£121.6m underspend

Revenue Variance

Directorate	Revenue Budget £m	Variance excl. Covid-19 £m	Covid-19 Forecast £m	Variance incl. Covid-19 £m
Adult Social Care & Health	399.2	+2.8	29.7	+32.5
Children, Young People & Education	273.5	+6.7	9.5	+16.2
Growth, Environment & Transport	180.3	-1.4	10.9	+9.5
Strategic & Corporate Services	87.3	+1.7	8.0	+9.7
Financing Items & Unallocated	157.5	-1.9	9.3	+7.4
	1,097.8	+7.9	67.4	+75.3
Removal of underspends not included in MHCLG return			20.4	+20.4
Additional Covid-19 risks identified in MHCLG return			4.3	+4.3
Covid-19 Financial Support Grant			-75.5	-75.5
			16.6	+24.5
Schools' Delegated Budgets	0.0	+30.6	0.0	+30.6
	1,097.8	+38.5	+16.6	+55.1

Capital Variance

Directorate	Capital Budget £m	Variance excl. Covid-19 £m	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Covid-19 Forecast £m	Variance incl. Covid-19 £m
Adult Social Care & Health	4.2	-0.7	0.2	-0.9	0.0	-0.7
Children, Young People & Education	154.3	-22.6	-1.6	-21.0	4.4	-18.2
Growth, Environment & Transport	218.5	-40.5	0.9	-41.3	0.1	-40.4
Strategic & Corporate Services	71.5	-57.8	0.0	-57.7	0.0	-57.8
	448.6	-121.6	-0.6	-121.0	4.5	-117.1

Covid-19 Forecasts (19-20 and 20-21)

	ASCH £m	CYPE £m	GET £m	S&CS £m	FI&U £m	Total £m
Actual spend in 2019-20	0.1	0.4	1.0	0.2		1.7
Revenue Forecasts						
Actual spend	8.2	11.1	3.5	9.4		32.2
Underspends	-1.5	-8.7	-7.6	-2.4	-0.2	-20.4
Loss of income	0.3	1.8	10.2	0.8	7.5	20.6
Unrealised savings	3.4	1.3	0.3		2.0	7.0
One off payments to the market	19.2	0.3	0.2			19.7
Payments for undelivered variable fee services	0.1	3.7	4.3	0.2		8.3
Revenue Forecast spend in 2020-21	29.7	9.5	10.9	8.0	9.3	67.4
Capital Forecasts						
Actual spend		4.4	0.1			4.5
Total Covid-19 Position (19-20 and 20-21)	29.8	14.3	12.0	8.2	9.3	73.6
Removal of underspends not included in MHCLG return	1.5	8.7	7.6	2.4	0.2	20.4
Removal of capital forecast not included in MHCLG return		-4.4	-0.1			-4.5
Additional Covid-19 risks identified in MHCLG return						4.3
Total Covid-19 related spend						93.8
Less Covid-19 Financial Support Grant						-77.2
Revenue shortfall						16.6
Capital shortfall						4.5

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From: Roger Gough – Leader of the Council
David Cockburn – Corporate Director, Strategic and Corporate Services

To: Cabinet – 21 September 2020

Decision No: n/a

Subject: **Quarterly Performance Report, Quarter 1, 2020/21**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The purpose of the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is to inform Cabinet about key areas of performance for the authority. This report presents performance to the end of June 2020 (Quarter 1, 2020/21)

Of the 35 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) contained within the QPR, 22 achieved target (Green), 10 achieved and exceeded the floor standard but did not meet target (Amber). 3 KPIs did not meet the floor standard (Red).

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the Quarter 1 Performance Report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is a key mechanism within the Performance Management Framework for the Council. The draft executive summary of the KCC Quarterly Performance Report for Quarter 1, 2020/21 is attached at Appendix 1, and includes data up to the end of June 2020.
- 1.2. The QPR includes 35 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) where results are assessed against Targets set at the start of the financial year. Changes to the indicators included in the QPR in 2020/21 are listed in Appendix 2.

2. Quarter 1 Performance Report

- 2.1. Results for KPIs compared to Target are assessed using a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) status.
- 2.2. Of the 35 KPIs included in the report, the latest RAG status are as follows:
 - 22 are rated Green – the target was achieved or exceeded. A decrease of 2 on the previous quarter.
 - 10 are rated Amber – performance achieved or exceeded the expected floor standard but did not meet target.

- 3 are rated Red – Performance did not meet the expected floor standard. 1 more than the previous quarter.
- 2.3. With regards to Direction of Travel¹, 8 indicators show a positive trend, 20 are stable or with no clear trend, and 7 are showing a negative trend.
- 2.4. The 3 indicators where the RAG rating is Red, are in:
- Children, Young People and Education
 - Percentage of Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks.
 - Public Health
 - Number. of eligible people receiving an NHS Health Check.
 - Percentage of new first-time attendances at sexual health clinics who take up the offer and are screened for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, and HIV.

3. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the Quarter 1 Performance Report.

4. Contact details

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¹ Calculated based on the new regression-based approach agreed by Cabinet in July.

Kent County Council

Quarterly Performance Report

Quarter 1

2020/21

Produced by: KCC Strategic Commissioning – Performance and Analytics
E-mail: performance@kent.gov.uk
Phone: 03000 416091



Key to KPI Ratings used

This report includes 35 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), where progress is assessed against Targets which are set at the start of the financial year. Progress against Target is assessed by RAG (Red/Amber/Green) ratings. Progress is also assessed in terms of Direction of Travel (DoT) through the use of arrows. Direction of Travel is now based on regression analysis across the whole timeframe shown in the graphs, and not, as previously the case, on the movement from the last quarter.

GREEN	Target has been achieved
AMBER	Floor Standard* achieved but Target has not been met
RED	Floor Standard* has not been achieved
↑	Performance is improving (positive trend)
↓	Performance is worsening (negative trend)
↔	Performance has remained stable or shows no clear trend

*Floor Standards are the minimum performance expected and if not achieved must result in management action

Key to Activity Indicator Graphs

Alongside the Key Performance Indicators this report includes a number of Activity Indicators which present demand levels for services or other contextual information.

Graphs for activity indicators are shown either with national benchmarks or in many cases with Upper and Lower Thresholds which represent the range activity is expected to fall within. Thresholds are based on past trends and other benchmark information.

If activity falls outside of the Thresholds, this is an indication that demand has risen above or below expectations and this may have consequences for the council in terms of additional or reduced costs.

Activity is closely monitored as part of the overall management information to ensure the council reacts appropriately to changing levels of demand.

Executive Summary

22 of the 35 indicators are rated as Green, on or ahead of target and is a decrease of 1 on the previous quarter. 10 indicators reached and exceeded the floor standard (Amber) with 3 indicators not achieving the floor standard (Red). 8 indicators were showing an improving trend, with 7 showing a worsening trend.

	G	A	R	↑	↔	↓
Customer Services	2	1			2	1
Economic Development & Communities	2			1	1	
Environment and Transport	5	1		1	5	
Children, Young People and Education	7	6	1	4	5	5
Adult Social Care	3	2		1	3	1
Public Health	3		2	1	4	
TOTAL	22	10	3	8	20	7

Customer Services - Satisfaction with Contact Point advisors achieved target, and the percentage of phone calls answered exceeded target. The percentage of complaints responded to within timescale improved but remained below target. Visits to the KCC website increased significantly with particular interest regarding reopening of household waste sites.

Customer Services KPIs	RAG rating	DoT
% of callers to Contact Point who rated the advisor who dealt with their call as good	GREEN	↓
% of phone calls to Contact Point which were answered	GREEN	↔
% of complaints responded to within timescale	AMBER	↔

Economic Development & Communities – The No Use Empty programme, which returns long term empty domestic properties into active use, exceeded its rolling 12 months target. The amount of Developer Contributions secured achieved 100% of the total sought. Libraries were shut during the quarter due to Coronavirus, but e-issues more than doubled compared to the previous quarter

Economic Development & Communities KPIs	RAG rating	DoT
No. of homes brought back to market through No Use Empty (NUE)	GREEN	↑
Developer contributions received as a percentage of amount sought	GREEN	↔

Environment and Transport – Performance on all Highways indicators remained above target and all saw an improvement on the last quarter. The target for Waste diverted from landfill has increased to 99% this year and was achieved. Greenhouse Gas emissions continue a downwards trend, though not enough to meet target.

<u>Environment & Transport KPIs</u>	RAG rating	DoT
% of routine pothole repairs completed within 28 days	GREEN	↔
% of routine highway repairs reported by residents completed within 28 days	GREEN	↔
Emergency highway incidents attended within 2 hours of notification	GREEN	↔
% of satisfied callers for Kent Highways & Transportation, 100 call back survey	GREEN	↔
% of municipal waste recycled or converted to energy and not taken to landfill – rolling 12 months	GREEN	↔
Greenhouse Gas emissions from KCC estate (excluding schools) in tonnes – rolling 12 months	AMBER	↑

Education and Wider Early Help – Due to Ofsted suspending school inspections until 2021 there is no update for State funded schools or Early Years settings which are rated Good or Outstanding, both were meeting target at the end of March 2020. Completion of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in timescale remains below the floor standard and has been affected by the Coronavirus lockdown. Permanent pupil exclusions and first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System both remain ahead of target.

<u>Education & Wider Early Help KPIs</u>	RAG rating	DoT
% of all schools with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements (data to March 20)	GREEN	↑
% of Early Years settings with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements (childcare on non-domestic premises) (data to March 20)	GREEN	↔
% of Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks – rolling 12 months	RED	↔
% of pupils permanently excluded from school – rolling 12 months	GREEN	↑
No. of first-time entrants to youth justice system – rolling 12 months	GREEN	↔

Children's Integrated Services – Three of the nine indicators met target, with the other six achieving the floor standard. Five of those missing target are also showing a negative direction of travel. The increase in the number of children in care, was almost entirely due to an increase in unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC).

<u>Children's Integrated Services KPIs</u>	RAG rating	DoT
Percentage of front door contacts where the final decision is made within 3 working days	GREEN	↑
Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months	AMBER	↓
% of case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers	GREEN	↔
% of children social care referrals that were repeat referrals within 12 months	AMBER	↓
Percentage of child protection plans that were repeat plans	AMBER	↓
Average no. of days between becoming a child in care and moving in with an adoptive family – rolling 12 months	GREEN	↑

<u>Children's Integrated Services KPIs</u>	RAG rating	DoT
% of children in care with 3 or more placements in the last 12 months	AMBER	↔
% of foster care placements which are in-house or with relatives and friends (excluding UASC)	AMBER	↓
% of care leavers in education, employment or training (of those KCC is in touch with)	AMBER	↓

Adult Social Care – Short-term services which lead to lower or no ongoing support did not meet target, and is on a negative trend. The proportion of clients receiving direct payments met target. The target was exceeded for older people still at home after discharge from hospital and had improved on the previous figure. The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with family achieved floor standard, but missed target, and KCC clients in CQC rated Good or Outstanding residential or nursing homes exceeded its target.

<u>Adult Social Care KPIs</u>	RAG rating	DoT
Proportion of people who have received short term services for which the outcome was either support at a lower level or no ongoing support	AMBER	↓
Proportion of clients receiving Direct Payments	GREEN	↔
The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family	AMBER	↔
Proportion of KCC clients in residential or nursing care where the CQC rating is Good or Outstanding	GREEN	↔
Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services	GREEN	↑

Public Health – There were no NHS Health Checks completed in the last quarter due to the Coronavirus lockdown and as a result the total for the last 12 months fell below floor standard. The new sexual health indicator has also been affected, with embargoed data and performance below floor standard. The other three indicators all exceeded target. The percentage of Live Well Kent clients who would recommend the service, and successful completions of drug and alcohol treatment both maintained above target performance. The number of universal checks delivered by the Health Visiting service, improved on its performance in the previous quarter

<u>Public Health KPIs</u>	RAG rating	DoT
Number. of eligible people receiving an NHS Health Check – rolling 12 months	RED	↔
Number. of mandated universal checks delivered by the health visiting service – rolling 12 months	GREEN	↔
% of new first-time attendances at sexual health clinics who take up the offer and are screened for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, and HIV	RED	↔
Successful completion of drug and alcohol treatment	GREEN	↑
% of Live Well clients who would recommend the service to family, friends or someone in a similar situation	GREEN	↔

Customer Services	
Cabinet Member	Shellina Prendergast
Corporate Director	Amanda Beer

KPI	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	↔	↓
Summary	2	1			2	1

Customer contact through Contact Point (KCC's call centre) is provided via a strategic partnership, whilst Digital services are provided by KCC. Satisfaction with Contact Point advisors, and the percentage of calls answered by Contact Point both met target.

Contact Point received 28% fewer calls than the previous quarter, and 23% fewer calls than for the same period last year. The 12 months to June 2020 saw 6% fewer calls than in the 12 months to June 2019. Much of the reduction is due to the impact of Coronavirus and lockdown, with most services receiving less calls.

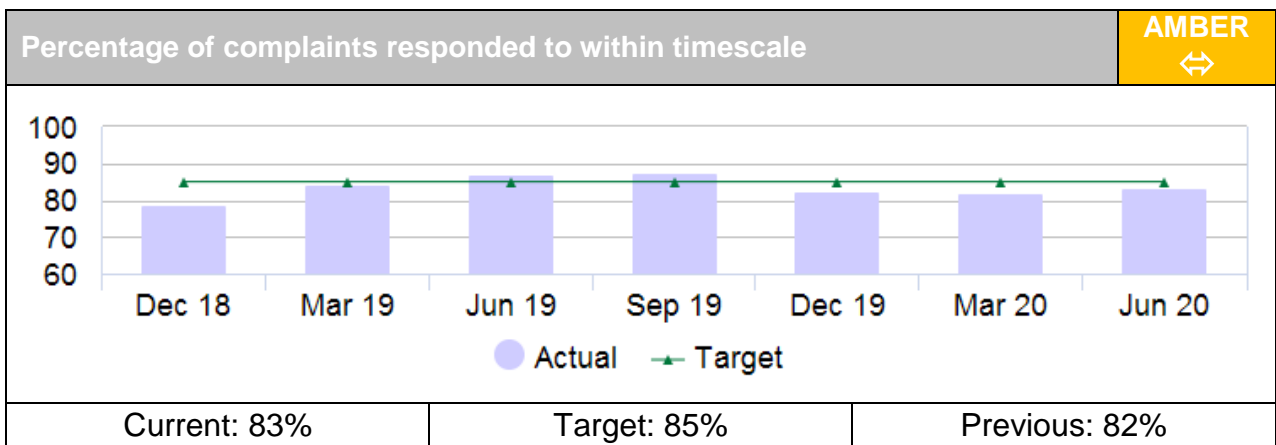
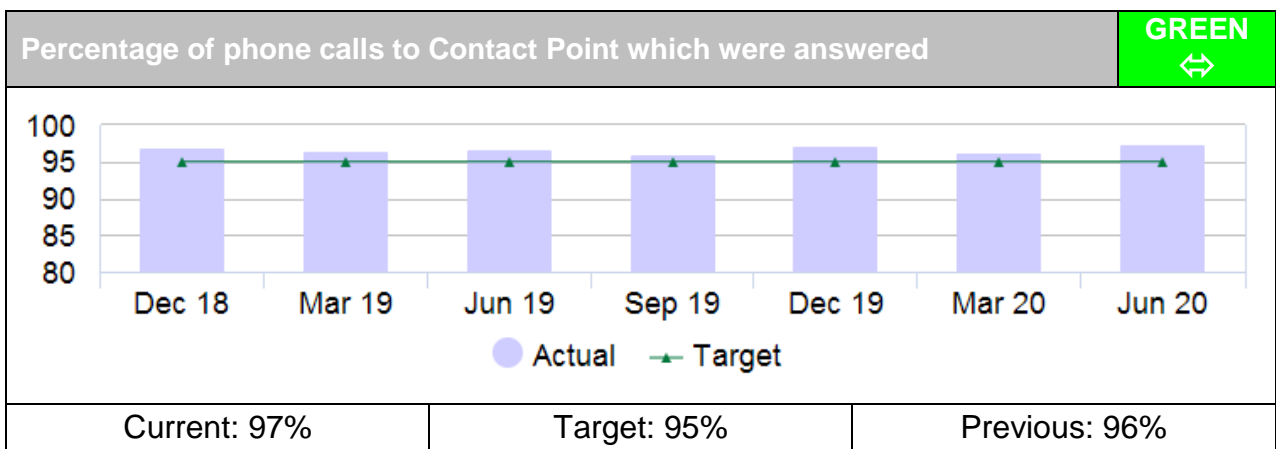
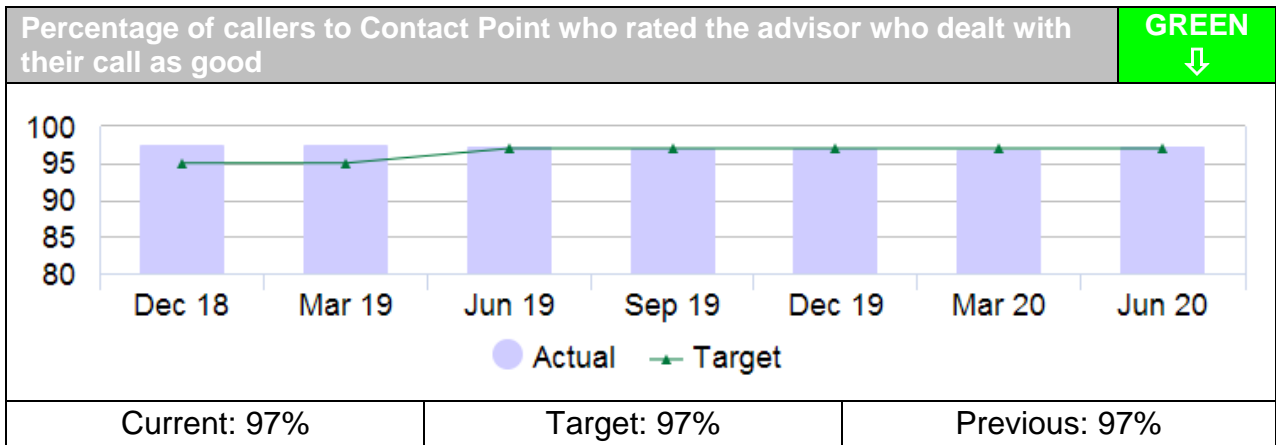
Average call time increased slightly to 5 minutes 40 seconds; this remains within the target of 5 minutes 45 seconds.

Visits to the KCC website increased significantly with people accessing the website to find out how services were affected by Coronavirus. In particular, a peak was seen on May 13th, the day the reopening of Household Waste Recycling Centres was promoted.

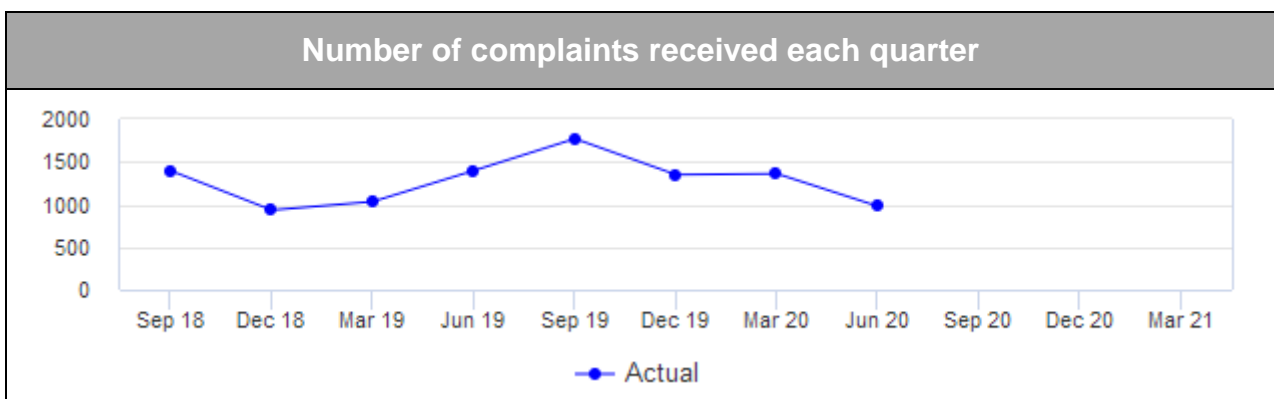
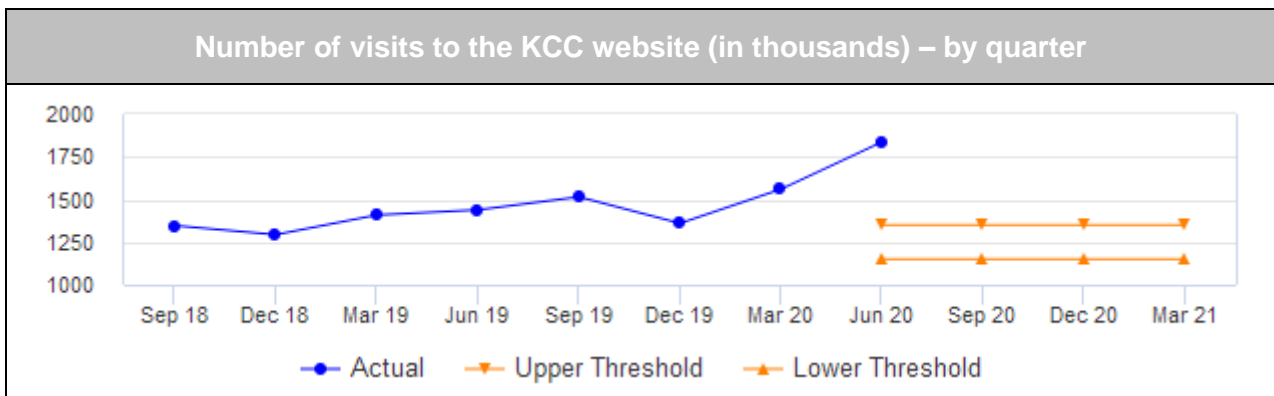
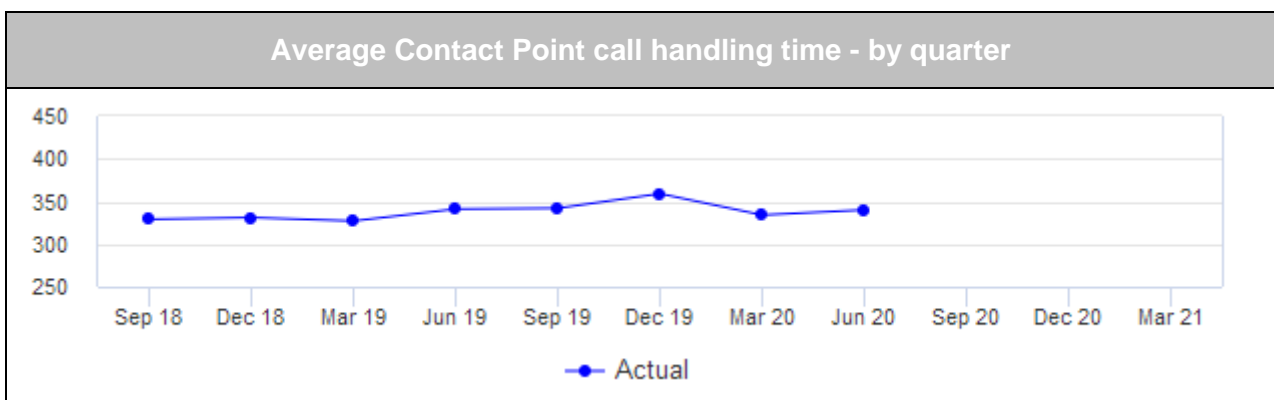
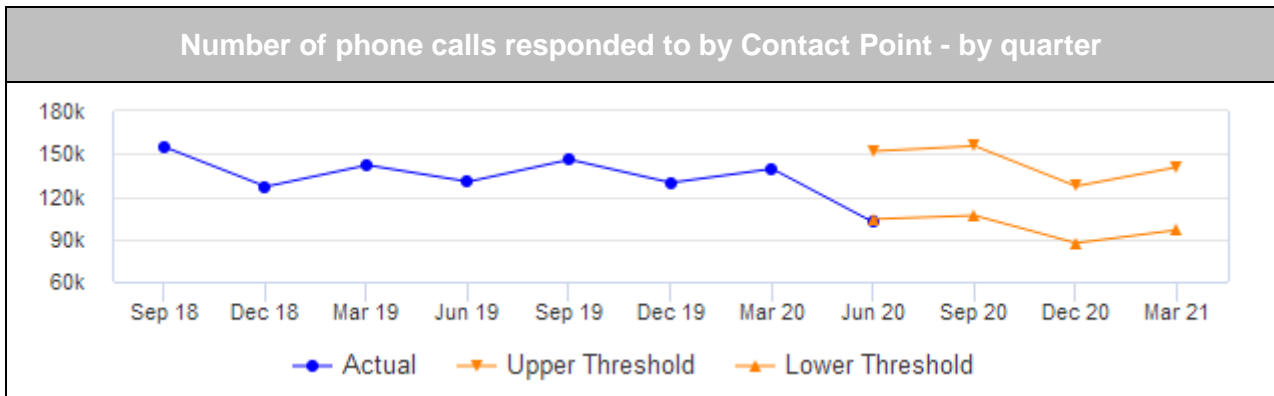
There were 977 complaints received between April and June, a decrease of 28% on the previous quarter. 83% of complaints were responded to within 20 working days which is the same as the previous quarter, but below the 85% target. The impact of the beginning of the pandemic and lockdown meant the availability of staff to respond to complaints was reduced, as they were diverted to assist with front line services.

A temporary complaints policy was approved and put in place to advise customers that there could be delays to responding to their complaints or they may be temporarily put on hold, particularly if it required a face to face meeting or if it involved key workers who were unavailable as they were dealing with urgent provision of services, for example Children's or Adult Social Workers.

Key Performance Indicators



Activity indicators



Customer Services – Call Activity

Number of phone calls to Contact Point (thousands)

Contact Point received 28% fewer calls than the previous quarter, and 23% fewer calls for the same period last year. The 12 months to June 2020 saw 6% fewer calls than in the 12 months to June 2019. Much of the reduction is due to the impact of Coronavirus and lockdown, with most services receiving less calls. There were some exceptions however, with a large increase in calls regarding Waste and Recycling, and close to 5,000 calls to the new Kent Together service.

Service area	Jul – Sep 19/20	Oct – Dec 19/20	Jan- Mar 19/20	Apr – Jun 20/21	Yr to Jun 20	Yr to Jun 19
Adult Social Care	32	29	32	28	121	129
Specialist Children's Services	21	20	20	17	78	82
Waste and Recycling	3	3	4	16	28	15
Blue Badges	13	13	14	8	49	55
Highways	19	18	20	8	66	77
Registrations	6	8	8	5	28	33
Kent Together	-	-	-	5	5	-
Schools and Early Years	5	6	8	4	24	32
Transport Services	20	10	10	3	43	45
General	5	4	4	3	13	14
KSAS*	2	2	3	2	10	8
Speed Awareness	7	6	7	2	21	23
Other Services	2	1	2	1	6	7
Libraries and Archives	10	9	9	1	29	35
Adult Education	7	4	5	1	17	22
Total Calls (thousands)	153	134	146	105	538	574

* Kent Support and Assistance Service

Numbers are shown in the 1,000's and may not add exactly due to rounding. Calculations in commentary are based on unrounded numbers.

Customer Services – Complaints Monitoring

There has been a significant decrease in the volume of complaints received during lockdown. The number of complaints received in this quarter is 28% lower than the previous quarter and 30% lower than the corresponding quarter last year. However, over the last 12 months there has been a 15% increase compared to the previous year.

A temporary policy is in place to manage expectations whilst staff continue to deal with the impact of the pandemic. During this quarter the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman ceased taking new complaints from customers and paused work with Councils on existing casework.

The uplift in Environment, Planning and Enforcement & Economic Development complaints relate largely to Country Parks and Public Rights of Way. The increase in these services is mainly due to complaints regarding the accessibility of public pathways and parking in Country Parks during lockdown and whilst restrictions were being lifted.

Service	12 mths to Jun 19	12 mths to Jun 20	Quarter to Mar 20	Quarter to Jun 20
Highways, Transportation and Waste Management	2,268	2,899	604	524
Adult Social Services	820	1,047	385	174
Specialist Children's Services	471	585	138	147
Education & Young People's Services	336	280	76	16
Libraries, Registrations and Archives	518	265	71	19
Strategic and Corporate Services	147	106	23	23
Environment, Planning and Enforcement & Economic Development	74	183	40	70
Adult Education	71	64	22	4
Total Complaints	4,705	5,429	1,359	977

Customer Services – Digital Take-up

The table below shows the digital/online or automated transaction completions for Key Service Areas.

Transaction type	Online Jul 19 - Sep 19	Online Oct 19 - Dec 19	Online Jan 20 – Mar 20	Online Apr 20 – Jun 20	Total Transactions Last 12 Months
Renew a library book*	77%	79%	78%	**	819,370
Apply for a KCC Travel Saver (Rolling 12 months)	78%	76%	73%	70%	122,497
Report a Highways Fault	48%	57%	56%	55%	102,080
Book a Speed Awareness Course	76%	74%	76%	85%	32,402
Apply for or renew a Blue Badge	68%	64%	70%	81%	23,027
Book a Birth Registration appointment	76%	77%	80%	89%	15,494
Apply for a Concessionary Bus Pass	38%	39%	43%	71%	9,647
Report a Public Right of Way Fault	70%	76%	65%	88%	6,912
Highways Licence applications	84%	83%	83%	84%	5,908
Apply for a HWRC recycling voucher	96%	97%	97%	100%	4,299

* Library issue renewals transaction data is based on individual loan items and not count of borrowers.

** No data available due to lockdown

Economic Development & Communities	
Cabinet Members	Mike Whiting, Mike Hill
Corporate Director	Barbara Cooper

KPI	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	↔	↓
Summary	2			1	1	

Support for business

All schemes have shown a fall in the number of jobs monitored but not the anticipated levels of jobs losses and business failures of the RGF/KMBF/i3 loan recipients. The impact of the Coronavirus outbreak has not yet emerged in the way predicted in the Quarter 4 report; there appears to be 2 main reasons for this: a) the positive impact of the direct government grant and loan support to many local businesses particularly the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme; b) the recent moratorium in new company receiverships by Companies House. It is therefore now anticipated that the economic impact on loan recipients will start to emerge more clearly in the Q2/Q3 2020-21 monitoring period when the beneficial impact of the current government funding schemes diminishes and these schemes wind down.

Kent's Regional Growth Fund (RGF) investments continue to sustain businesses and employment. In the period March 2020 to June 2020, there were no new jobs created (the last investment was 2016). The total job creation for the period 2012-2020 is now 3,101 new jobs and 1,355 safeguarded jobs.

The Kent and Medway Business Fund (KMBF) has committed £10.4m to 76 businesses in Kent and Medway. The total job creation for the period 2017-2020 is 135 new jobs and 35 safeguarded jobs. These investments are targeted to support 511 new and safeguarded jobs over the next 3 years. The most recent funding round closed in March 2020, new funding rounds were opened to new pre-applications on 1 August 2020.

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) funded Innovation Investment Loan scheme, managed by KCC, has so far committed £6.2 million to 19 businesses in Kent and Medway. The total job creation for the period 2015-2020 is 67 new jobs and 68 safeguarded jobs.

Business Investment has been working with loan recipients to amend existing loan/security arrangements in ways which allow flexibility for loan recipients to raise new investment, but which offer the same levels of protection for KCC investments.

Beginning in March 2020 KCC Economic Development with the support of Kent districts, helped establish the Covid-19 Business Support Helpline operated by Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce. To the end of June 2020, the Kent & Medway Growth Hub Covid-19 Business Support Helpline has delivered:

- Handling of 7,118 enquiries
- 1,635 Live Chats.
- 2,568 hours of advice provided by Business Advisers.

An on-line Coronavirus questionnaire has also been established to encourage feedback and build intelligence on local companies; by the end of June 2020, 2,098 companies had completed the questionnaire.

Converting derelict buildings for new housing

In Quarter 1, 104 long term empty properties were made fit for occupation through the No Use Empty (NUE) Programme, bringing the total to 6,566 since the programme began in 2005. NUE had processed 16 new loan applications by June increasing the total NUE investment to £66.8 million (£34.8 million from KCC recycled loans and £32 million from public/private sector leverage).

NUE was awarded an additional £1 million from the Government's Growing Place Fund (GPF2 2018) to bring empty commercial space back into use as mixed commercial and residential accommodation. A total of 12 projects are co-funded which will yield 15 commercial units and create 28 new residential units within coastal towns. A new Mediterranean-style restaurant/deli in Deal is the latest project to complete and will open in July 2020.

NUE submitted individual business cases to GPF round 3: NUE Commercial Phase II (request £2m) and further investment into the main NUE scheme (£2.5m). These are due to be considered by SELEP in February 2021.

Following the approval of £12m from Treasury, NUE have processed 9 loans (value £4m) to bring forward empty/derelict sites which have planning permission to create new housing. A total of 30 new units are currently supported. Radio Kent conducted an interview with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and following countywide press coverage NUE now have 6 more potential projects to research.

Infrastructure

Local Growth Funding (LGF): Between 2015/16 and 2020/21, £141m of capital grant funding is being allocated to Kent infrastructure projects by SELEP.

Growing Places Funding (GPF): £9.1 million of capital loan funding is currently allocated by SELEP to Kent for projects that will deliver new jobs and homes.

Furthermore, SELEP has £12 million of loan funding available for reinvestment. Consequently, in Quarter 1 of 2020/21, the SELEP Strategic Board met to agree a new pipeline of projects, so this GPF funding can be reinvested, and more jobs, residential units and learner numbers delivered. At its meeting on 12th June 2020, the SELEP Strategic Board agreed this new GPF pipeline, shown below:

Project	Federated Area	GPF ask per project
Green Hydrogen Generation Facility	KMEP	£3.47m
Observer Building (Phase 1)	TES	£1.75m
Barnhorn Green (Phase 1)	TES	£1.75m
Wine Innovation Centre	KMEP	£600k
Cockle Wharf	OSE	£3.5m
Herne Relief Road	KMEP	£3.5m
No Use Empty South Essex	OSE	£1m
No Use Empty Commercial	KMEP	£2m
Observer Building (Phase 2)	TES	£1.62m
Barnhorn Green (Phase 2)	TES	£1.75m
No Use Empty Residential	KMEP	£2.5m

Now these projects have been prioritised by the SELEP Strategic Board, the business cases for the Green Hydrogen Generation Facility in Herne Bay, and the Wine Innovation Centre in East Malling can be taken to the SELEP Accountability Board on 18th September 2020 for final GPF funding award.

Capital Skills Funding: £13m of capital has been allocated by SELEP to Kent between 2015-21 to support the further education sector. This has been invested into capital projects on college campuses (including the building and refurbishment of college facilities and the purchasing new equipment).

Broadband

Kent County Council has been working with the Government's broadband agency, Building Digital Delivery UK, (BDUK) to improve broadband connectivity since 2012. As a result of this work, 96% of homes and businesses in Kent now have access to a faster broadband service of at least 24mbps and over 138,000 homes and businesses have benefited from this work. The project has been extended with Openreach contracted to deliver full fibre (fibre-to-the-premise) connections to over 5,000 rural homes and businesses in Kent that currently have a sub-superfast broadband service (less than 24mbps). The infrastructure build for these new connections continues despite Coronavirus.

The Kent Voucher Top-Up Scheme offers funding of up to £2,500 for residential properties and £3,500 for business properties applying to the Government's Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme. There are now 42 community projects that have been awarded Kent top-up vouchers, with over £360,000 of KCC funding having been allocated to enable these projects. Over 50 further projects are currently under development.

Funding Infrastructure

KCC has a statutory right to seek financial contributions for capital investment from developers of new housing sites. In Quarter 1, 12 Section 106 agreements were completed and a total of £1.96 million was secured.

s.106 contributions secured £000s	Jul to Sep 2019	Oct to Dec 2019	Jan to Mar 2020	Apr to Jun 2020
Primary Education	840	4,518	7,892	1,006
Secondary Education	424	3,494	2,641	895
Adult Social Care	10	31	146	27
Libraries	31	105	330	21
Community Learning	34	22	130	8
Youth & Community	1	11	70	10
Total	1,341	8,181	11,209	1,966
Secured as % of Amount Sought	100%	82%	99%	100%

Kent Film Office

Due to COVID-19, the Kent film Office lost 19 confirmed productions with an estimated loss of £2.5 million to the Kent economy for spring/summer 2020. In the 1st quarter of 2020/21, the film office handled 66 filming requests and 64 related enquiries, logging 11 filming days bringing an estimated £18K direct spend into Kent.

Libraries, Registration and Archives (LRA)

All Kent's libraries, register offices and the archive at Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone were closed for the duration of Quarter 1 following the government's implementation of lockdown in order to minimise the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

All Registration services were suspended with the exception of death registrations, which moved to a new telephone approach from 1st April. Libraries and Archive staff continued to work behind the scenes, carrying out Home Library customer befriending calls, promoting and developing digital offers, answering customer enquiries and working to improve access to archive collections.

The library online joining facility was amended so that customers could join via the website and immediately access eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers. This facility along with e-offers were actively promoted on the website and social media, and from 20th April through a countywide radio advertising campaign.

The Ask a Kent Librarian Service continued to respond to enquiries via the telephone and email, helping many customers to access e-Material. A programme of virtual events and activities was developed, with regular story and rhyme time sessions taking place, delivered by staff from their homes, as well as book reviews and quizzes. A virtual reading group was also established in June, and pre-recorded archive talks were uploaded to social media platforms, including a specially created talk for the VE day anniversary. The Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge was launched as a virtual activity on 5th June, and children encouraged to join up via the Challenge's website to set their reading goals for the summer, collecting rewards, a certificate and enjoying numerous activities along the way.

Library staff were in regular contact with over 250 vulnerable customers, offering companionship and support with signposting to organisations such as Kent Together. This service was extended to Postal Loan and Mobile Library customers.

As key workers, the Registration teams across the county continued to work from 14 LRA buildings, following the government's social distancing guidelines. The demand for death registration appointments was much higher than usual due to the pandemic, and this demand was met, with 5,350 deaths registered, an increase of 42% on the same period in 2019-20.

The Archive team maintained an enquiry service. Staff continued with work on the collections from home, maintaining the website, writing new guides to collections, working on transferring material to the online catalogue and preparing material for online ordering, along with preparation work for the ongoing digitisation project. The team also created a film for the VE Day Commemorations, with staff reading historic articles and diary entries from the archive collections. This was uploaded to the Archive website and social media pages.

Following the government's easing of lockdown restrictions in May, plans for Recovery were set in motion with the re-establishment of face to face birth appointments in 12 libraries from 17th June, plus notice of marriage appointments. By the end of June 2020, the backlog of 4,000 birth registrations had already been reduced by 1,608 and there is confidence that this will be completely cleared by the end of August.

Archive staff were able to enter the Kent History and Library Centre to complete the required checks on collections and answer outstanding enquiries. Library staff also began to enter buildings on a phased basis, keeping to social distancing guidelines, and preparing for the Select and Collect physical book service launching at 12 libraries on 13th July. The Postal Loan and Home Library Services were re-launched and now runs parallel to the befriending service.

All projects were suspended during the lockdown period; however, work was completed at Gravesend Library to improve storage and access to the Local Studies collection there, and work to redecorate and reconfigure Sandwich Library proceeded and is nearing completion. Construction work has progressed well despite lockdown to create both the new Southborough Hub and the Amelia Cultural Hub at Tunbridge Wells

There were no physical book issues during Quarter 1, but due to rigorous promotion and an upsurge in usage as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, e-Issues increased by 108% to 389,712. The Libraries Customer Satisfaction Survey, which included a section on customer satisfaction with services during the lockdown, indicated that 94% of library customers were satisfied with the service. Surveys of other parts of the service will take place later this year.

Resilience and Emergency Planning Service (REPS)

Quarter 1 saw higher demand for the Resilience and Emergency Planning Team with 253 incidents alerted to the Duty Emergency Planning Officer compared to 224 during the previous quarter. During the ongoing response to Coronavirus, Kent experienced several incidents which still required the attention and actions of the Duty Emergency Planning Officers (DEPO). Although there were no events on a scale as large as storms Ciara and Dennis, there were still a number of incidents which had to be dealt with, such as house fires and the discovery of an unexploded bomb – all of which required input from the DEPO and other KCC Services.

The REPS team has continued to both manage KCC Business Continuity risks as well as support the wider Coronavirus community response, including co-ordinating information and collating data across KCC to provide a now weekly Situation Report, with a more Recovery based focus.

Community Safety

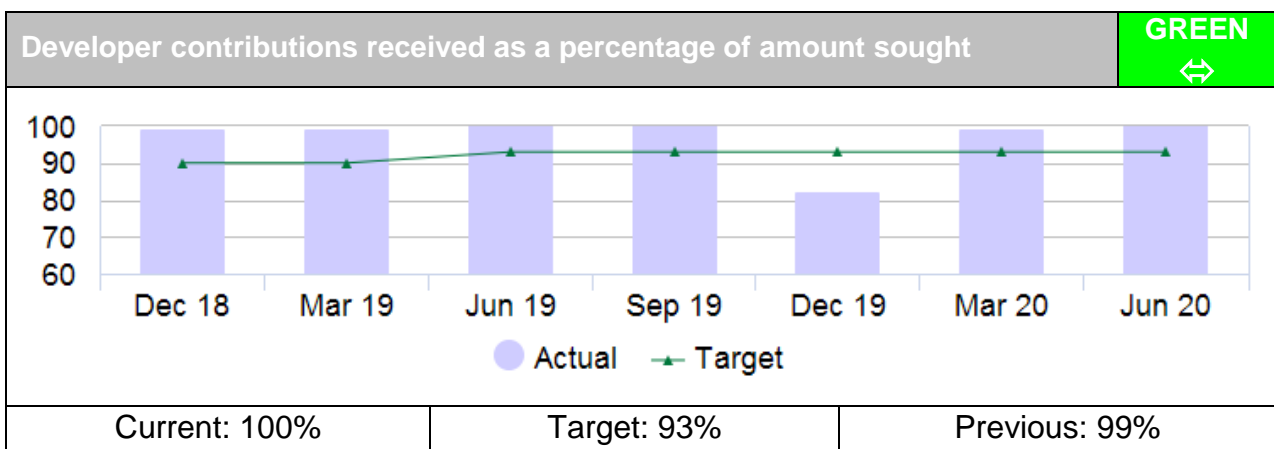
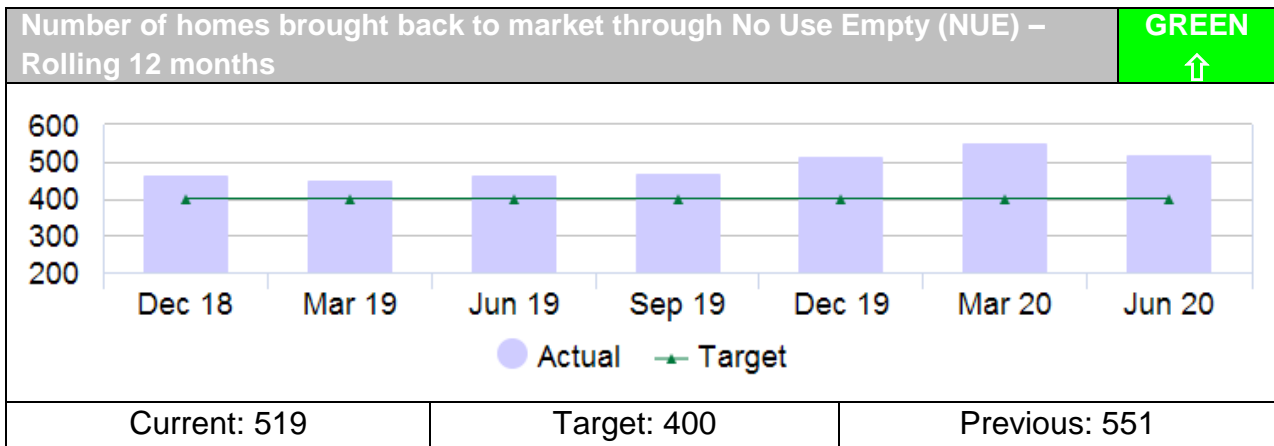
The Kent Community Warden Service (KCWS) has been fully operational throughout the Coronavirus pandemic with work focussed in the community on identifying, supporting and reassuring those vulnerable people most in need. With shielded individuals receiving targeted support, the KCWS worked with partners, charities and volunteers to identify and support over 3,600 additional non-shielded vulnerable residents, ensuring that food and prescriptions were delivered to those who needed them. Wardens have been adapting their service and supporting communities to adapt to the changing guidelines as restrictions evolve.

The Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) is currently managing 17 domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) on behalf of the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCS). During the Coronavirus pandemic mitigation plans were put in place, taking into consideration the statutory requirements, Home Office oversight and the impact of delays upon families involved. Where reviews required significant agency input, the KCST looked at options on a case by case basis for extensions/postponements to help alleviate the pressures on partner agencies. At the same time the KCST continued to work on DHRs which were near completion (i.e. requiring minimal agency input around action plans) and were able to submit three cases to the Home Office during this period.

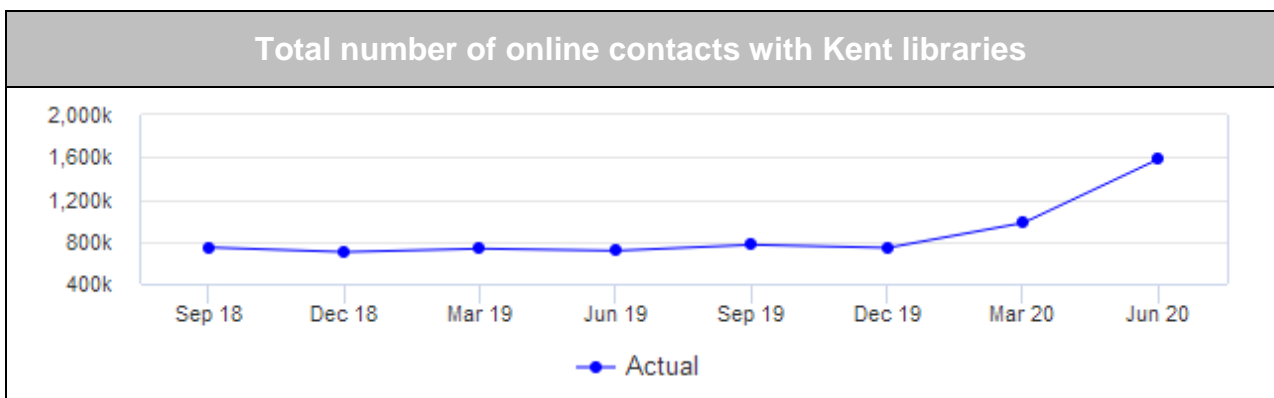
Sport and Physical Activity

During Quarter 1, the service has focussed on supporting the local sports sector during the Coronavirus crisis and encouraging residents to be active for their physical and mental wellbeing. Examples of support include providing funding and signposting and providing support on how to access further funding to help local organisations during lockdown and as restrictions have eased, as well as providing resources and equipment for vulnerable older people, families and young people most in need.

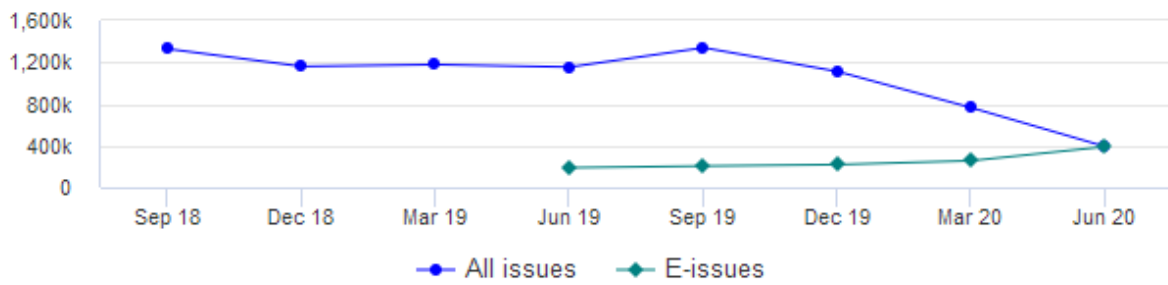
Key Performance Indicators



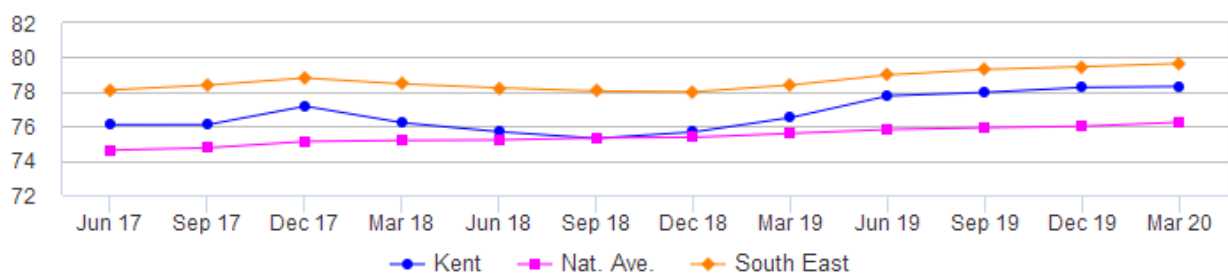
Activity indicators



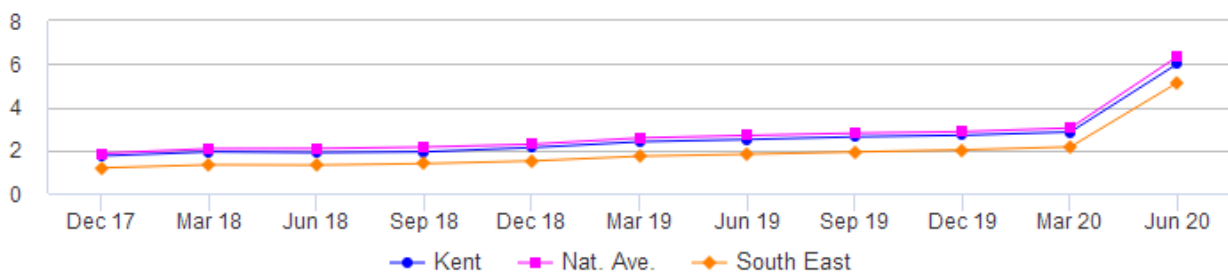
Total number of book issues from Kent libraries



Percentage of population aged 16 to 64 in employment (from the Annual Population Survey)



Percentage of population aged 16 to 64 claiming unemployment benefits



Environment and Transport	
Cabinet Members	Michael Payne, Susan Carey
Corporate Director	Barbara Cooper

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	↔	↓
	5	1		1	5	

Highways

Highways staff along with contractors continue to ensure roads and footways are as safe as possible whilst adapting to the coronavirus event. Performance has been maintained above target for all highway KPIs.

New enquiries and faults raised for action by customers in this quarter were low at 12,957 compared to 20,270 for the same time last year and this is well below seasonal demand. This has enabled staff to focus on open customer enquiries with current work in progress decreasing to 5,249 which is also now below seasonal expectations.

In the first quarter of 2020/21 the demand from utility companies to access and open Kent roads lead to 27,503 permits requested and this was only down a little from the 29,407 at the same time last year.

Commissioning of the Highways Term Services Contract (HTSC) continued but has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic which caused instability within the market. Consequently, the existing HTMC has been extended up to the 31st August 2021. It was also considered prudent due to the pandemic uncertainties to take the contract beyond this term and extend to 30th April 2023. A Contract Modification Notice has been published in the European Journal stating this intention.

The Drainage Capital framework contracts were successfully procured, and the framework has now gone live with three local contractors delivering improvement works across the County. A paper was also taken to Cabinet outlining the impacts of numerous severe weather events alongside prolonged and persistent rainfall in 2019/20.

Most notably highways services have continued to be fully operational and it is expected that a full delivery of programmes will be achieved during 2020/21 including resurfacing and Pothole Blitz works, weather permitting.

Casualty Reduction

The coronavirus lockdown has had a positive impact on road casualties between April to June with KSI's down by 21% and overall casualties down 36% based on records received from Kent Police.

With a fear that the ending of lockdown would reverse these trends, YouGov was commissioned to survey 2,000 Kent residents on their proposed travel habits and attitudes towards road safety. This data has helped inform the Emergency Active Travel Fund programme. The data shows strong public support for cycle lanes, slower speed limits and school streets.

The school travel situation has been a challenge for School Crossing Patrols. Years R, 1 and 6 children went back to school from the beginning of June. Challenges included

social distancing, changes of gates, times and a number of patrollers considered vulnerable to the virus. The School Crossing Patrol Team have however managed to provide 75% coverage by end of June, only vulnerable people have so far not returned, and it is hoped to achieve 100% coverage by September.

Officers from Safer Mobility and Road Safety Teams have been working in collaboration with the Active Travel Team to launch Kent's first School Street in Drapers Mill, Margate, which involves traffic restrictions outside the school during school drop-off and pick-up times. A newsletter has also been circulated and a social media campaign to parents to support safer travel to school during this difficult period.

The Kent and Medway Safer Camera Partnership have now completed the digital upgrade. Fixed cameras in Kent recorded 4,404 speeding offences between April to June in 2020, which compares to 1,423 offences in the same period in 2019, which is an increase of over 300%

The National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS) suite of driver re-education training courses have been adapted and moved online, with the monitoring team supporting the Kent Driver Education Team (KDE) in this transition by observing, supporting and instructing trainers.

As speeding was observed to be increasing with lower traffic levels during lockdown, a speed campaign was launched in June, with a drink drive campaign under development now pubs are re-opening.

The Road Safety team have now completed and launched a portfolio of online lessons for children and adults, so that road safety advice will remain available to all.

Public Transport

A process was implemented to make sure that parents were fairly compensated for the period that their child has not been able to use their Travel Saver and 16+ pass because of the partial closure of schools

The 2020/21 Travel Saver bus pass opened with a cut-off date of 9 August for processing in time for the start of term. Parents have been provided with information to help them decide if getting a Travel Saver will save them money in the coming year as a result of the coronavirus event.

Crash Remedial Measures & Local Transport Plan (LTP)

A selection of the 2020/21 schemes have been brought forward due to the quieter traffic periods during the coronavirus lockdown. Working closely with Highways' contractors, schemes normally affected by busy traffic routes were brought forward to make best use of the available road space.

The team have continued to develop engineering solutions to sites with multiple crashes, in addition to working closely with the casualty reduction team to focus on education and awareness campaigns around the County where fatalities have taken place.

The Emergency Active Travel Fund announcements dominated the second half of the period, with DfT setting out two tranches of funding that the team prepared bids

for. KCC were successful in securing 100% of Tranche 1 funding (£1.6million) being one of only a few Highway Authorities to secure full allocation.

Journey time reliability/Congestion Strategy

A programme of schemes within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) to improve the reliability of localised journey times continues. Areas of less reliability are identified and assessed to determine if improvements can be engineered. Despite coronavirus, officers are progressing interventions, and works are currently underway to refurbish two key signalised junctions in Dover, which will enable the immediate implementation of new traffic signal technology, MOVA, to improve junction efficiency. The team has also been actively engaged in the 'alpha-phase' of a Department for Transport data sharing project, which will present future opportunities for new or improved collaborative traffic management with Highways England across both networks.

Local Growth Fund Transport Capital Projects

Through SELEP, KCC are managing £116.6 million of Government funding from rounds 1, 2 and 3 of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) allocated for projects within Kent. There are currently 2 'Red' schemes causing concern, Thanet Parkway and Sturry Link Road.

For the Sturry Link Road project, SELEP Accountability Board agreed in July 2020 that the £4.791m remains ringfenced until the next Accountability Board scheduled for 18th September 2020 to allow planning consent to be secured. In terms of Thanet Parkway, charges were placed against this project to enable other LGF3B pipeline projects such as NIAB East Malling Research Centre (EMR) and Kent & Medway Medical School (KMMS) to be approved. This was in lieu of £11.99m applied for as part of the Getting Building Fund (GBF) submission to Government and the remaining third of LGF being released as anticipated. Therefore, the money has been ringfenced until 2nd September 2020, the scheduled date to decide on the planning for the project.

SELEP received notification from government that only two thirds of the LGF allocation would be received in May. This is because a Summer review of the LGF Scheme will take place, Government will then assess whether the remaining third is required and transfer as they see necessary. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) have recommended that the remaining £25.9m is released, but it is the Treasury that makes the final decision. The current Growth Deal expires on 31st March 2021.

Waste Management

The target for the percentage of municipal waste recycled or converted to energy and not taken to landfill has increased by 1% this year, and this has been met in the first quarter. A good and steady recovery of all services has been made since lockdown and is being sustained. Overall tonnage is below the seasonal norm and remains within budgeted levels.

As a result of Coronavirus, during April and up to the 15th May Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) were closed. Since the re-opening, through the booking system, tonnages have been reduced to around 60% of normal volumes. Skip hire and other such commercial waste operators have seen an increase.

Residents have made fewer visits but have brought larger loads. The booking system was replaced in July allowing for 33,000 visits per week. In the most general terms,

weekends are proving to remain fully booked with availability throughout the week at most sites. Medway continues to retain its closure at Cuxton, consequently Tovil & Pepperhill have little capacity.

District Collection Authorities recycling rates are around 44% which is above the seasonal norm. Collection Authorities have reported much higher quantities of kerbside waste being presented and collected. As a result, KCC waste disposal diverted staff resources and funded additional collection crews in order that all Districts could continue to deliver the scheduled collection services.

All HWRCs are now fully open across all sites, accepting all material types. Data comparisons will be made with previous years, but it is thought that even with the social distancing arrangements, comparable levels of waste will be collected through the summer if residents elect to make fewer journeys but with larger loads.

Sustainable Business and Communities

In June, 608 solar panels on the roof at Worrall House were officially switched on. This is the largest array of panels on the KCC estate. In total, over 1,300 solar panels have been installed on five Kent County Council buildings saving 86 tonnes of carbon emissions a year, equivalent to taking 20 cars off the road. During the summer months, Worrall House will be supplied with over 40% of its power by the solar panels.

For Greenhouse Gas emissions from the KCC estate, the 2019-20 emissions reduction has been relatively flat compared to previous years, when reductions were assisted by the upgrade of streetlighting to LED which was completed in Spring 2019. The overall trend continues downwards, and since 2015 emissions have reduced by almost 15,500 tonnes, equivalent to the current emissions from energy and fuel used by KCC corporate buildings and all business travel. The impact of recently completed energy efficiency and solar projects, will start to be reflected in this year's figures and there is a strong pipeline of new projects.

Explore Kent

Explore Kent has set about positive promotion of access to green space / active travel in this quarter. Online content was revised to include information on staying connected to nature / accessing green space to benefit physical and mental health, working closely with Sport & Physical Activity Service and with national #StayInWorkOut, #Stay Active campaigns.

The Explore Kent website and social media has experienced record engagement with an increase of 415,112 web page views from the 16 March to 30 June 2020, a 44% increase on the previous year.

A COVID Communications Group facilitating a collaborative approach across Public Rights of Way, Countryside Partnerships, Country Parks, and Kent Downs AONB was set up to enable clear and consistent messaging to the public about safely accessing local greenspaces.

Natural Environment and Coasts

The Old Chalk New Downs Heritage Lottery Fund project has secured an extension so that public engagement and volunteer activities cancelled in spring/summer 2020 can still be delivered as part of the project at a later date. In the meantime, the project team have been using social media platforms to engage people in other ways with the work

of the project and the wildlife of the project area. Habitat survey works of the project, postponed due to lockdown, have now recommenced.

Officers from the Natural Environment and Coast, Sustainable Business and Communities and Kent Downs AONB have collaborated to develop Principles for a Green Recovery in Kent and Medway. These have been designed to inform the Coronavirus recovery planning and action in the county to also further progress towards climate change and biodiversity commitments, maximising environmental gain.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service

With the Government encouraging the taking of daily exercise during the Coronavirus lockdown, and the absence of other opportunities for recreation, there was a very significant increase in the use of Kent's public rights of way network. Counters in situ on a number of routes recorded increases in use between 300 and 1000%.

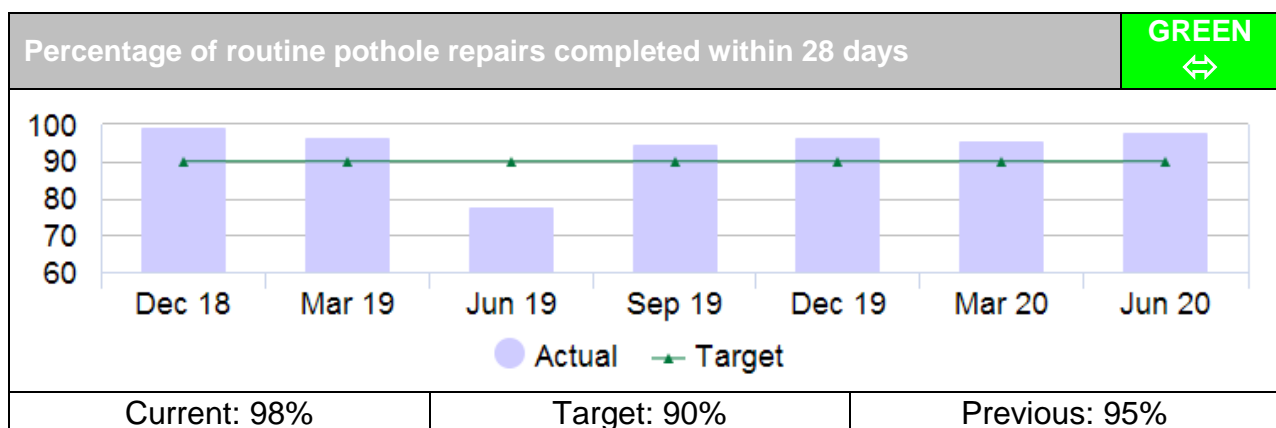
The delivery of all maintenance programmes on the network has resumed and are on target for completion by the year end.

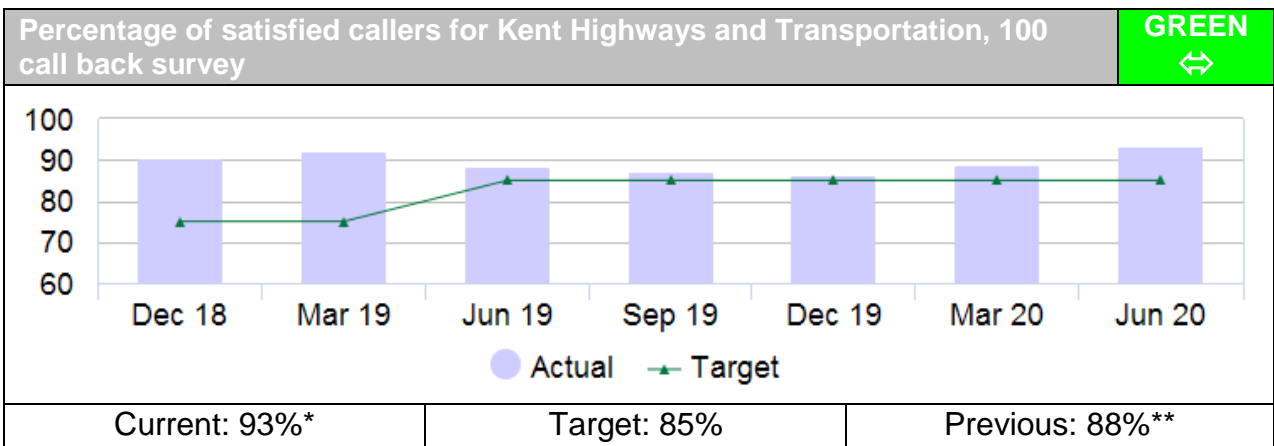
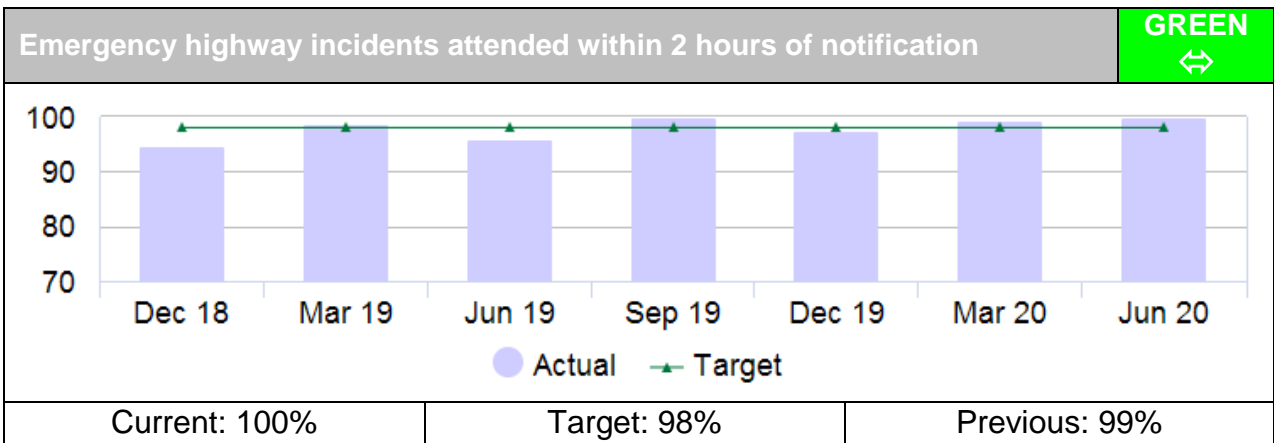
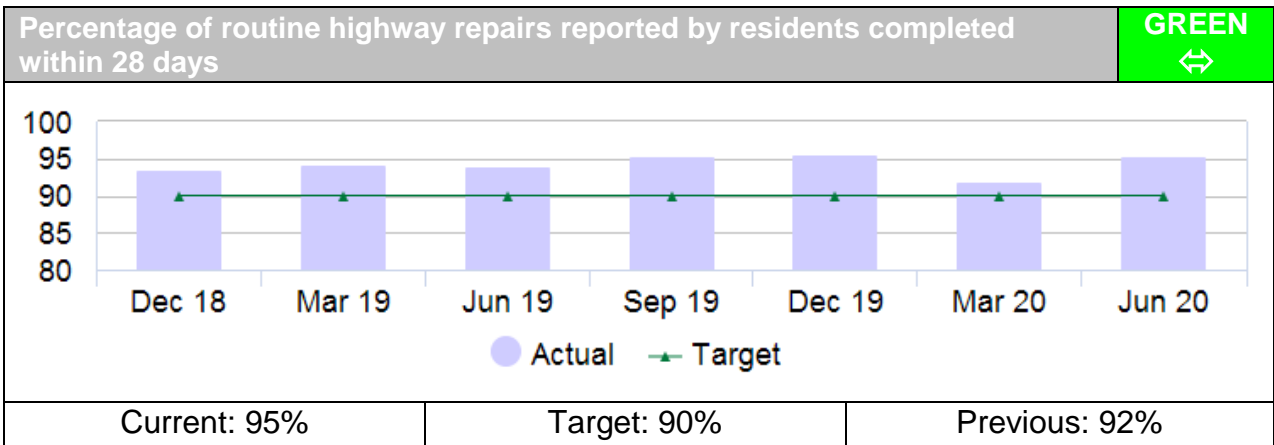
Only the function of making Public Path Orders (changes to the Public Rights of Way network) continues to be affected by Coronavirus. The legislative requirements in respect of the advertising and making available of Public Path Orders cannot be met until revised guidance from Defra is provided, which is being pressed for.

Transport Strategy

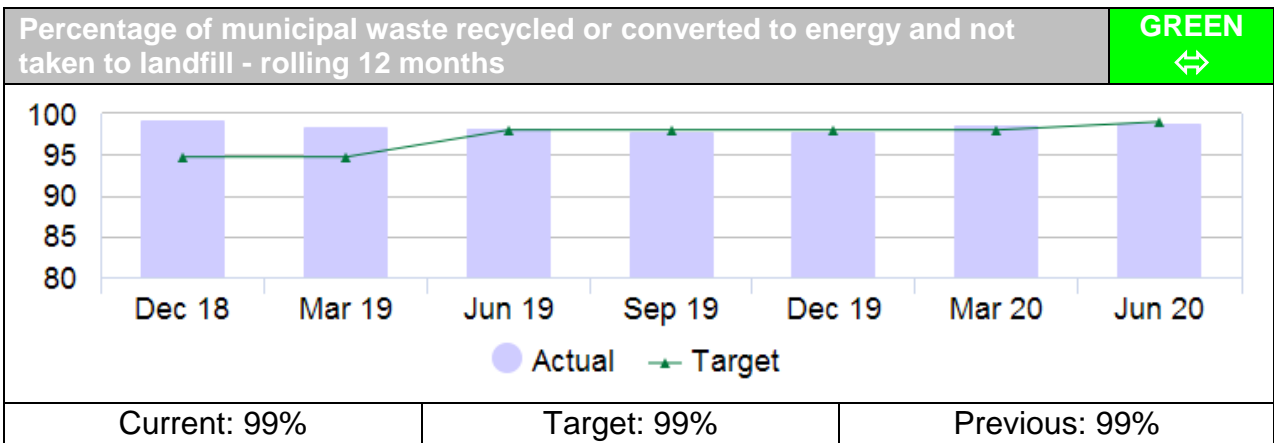
Key projects such as Thanet Parkway railway station have continued despite the restrictions due to Coronavirus, with the resubmission of the planning application following design changes – determination of the application is due on 2nd September. Sandwich railway station capacity upgrade was also completed on time in May ready for the Open Golf Championship which has been postponed to 2021 due to Coronavirus. The Transport for the South East (TfSE) transport strategy and proposal to government for statutory powers was approved by KCC through a decision by the Leader and this has been submitted to government.

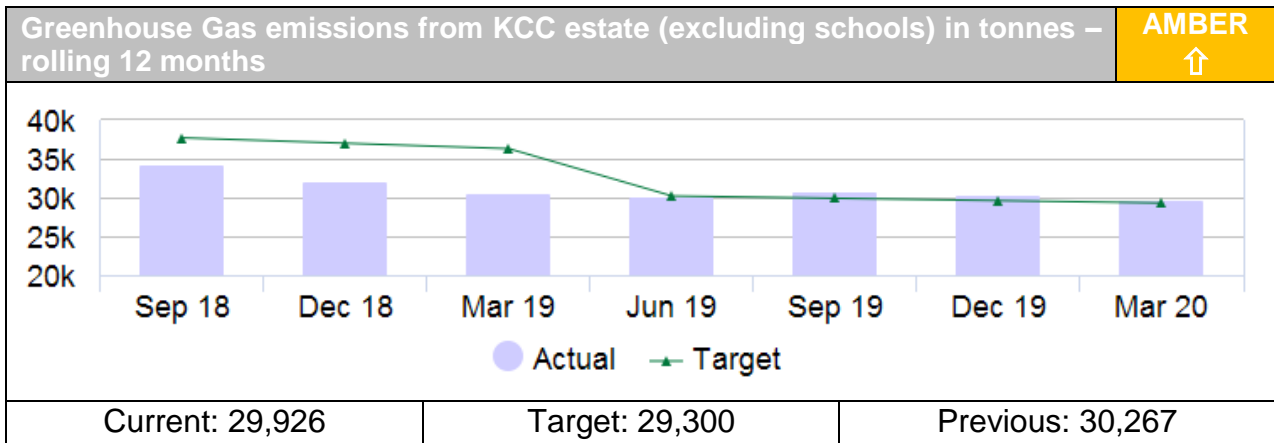
Key Performance Indicators



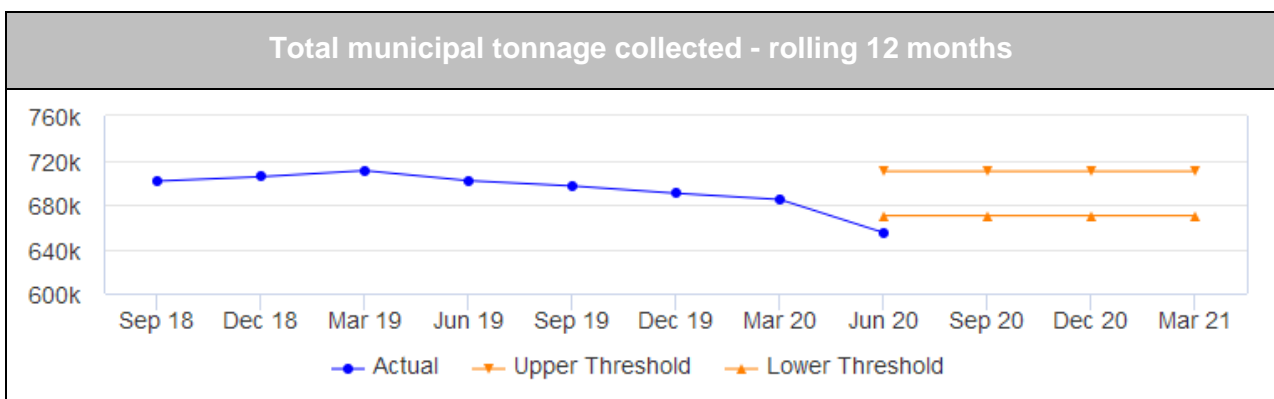
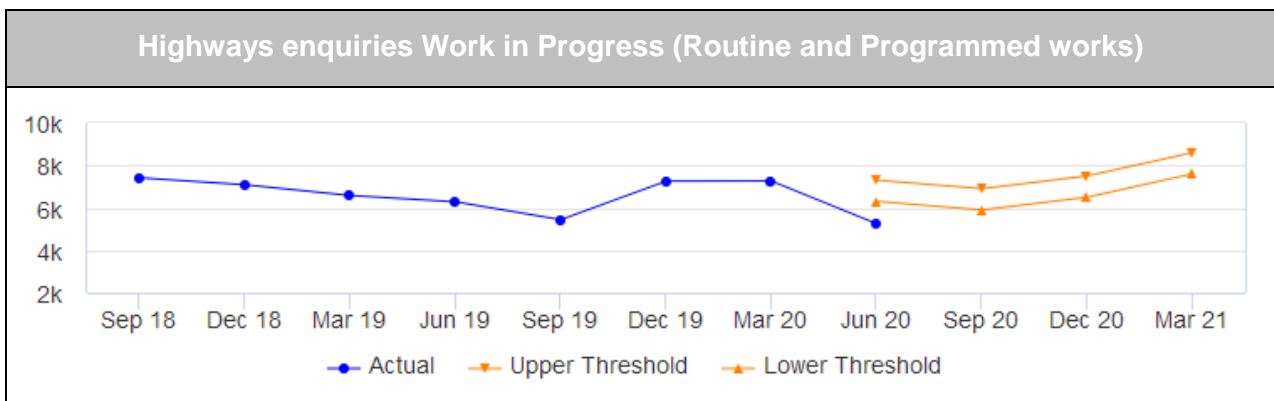
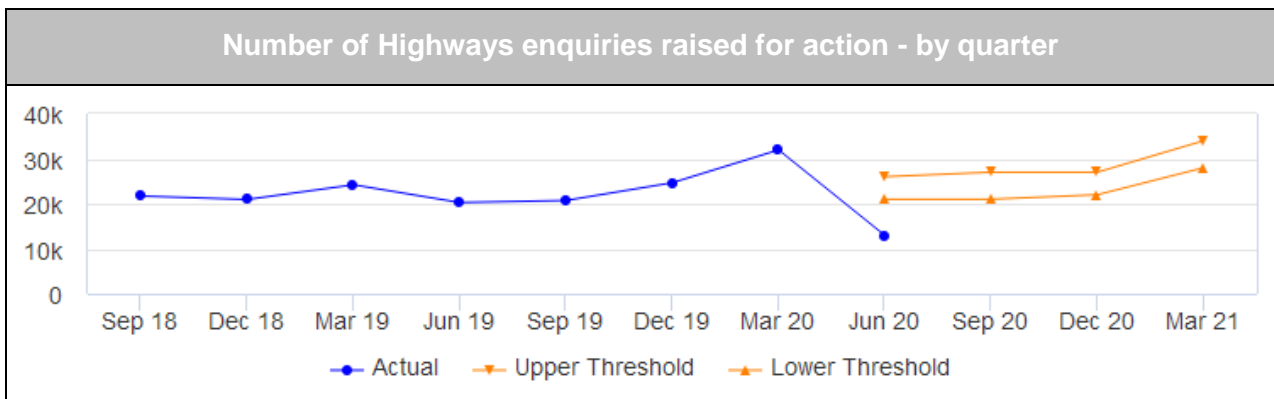


*June figures only; **Jan and Feb figures only





Activity indicators



Children, Young People and Education	
Cabinet Member	Richard Long, Sue Chandler
Corporate Director	Matt Dunkley

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	↔	↓
	7	6	1	4	5	5

Schools

From Friday 20 March, all educational settings were closed to everyone except the children of critical workers and vulnerable children due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The Department for Education cancelled all exams and assessments that would have taken place in the Summer term. There are no results for Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1, Phonics and Key Stage 2. Students who were due to sit GCSE or A level, AS level or exams this summer were awarded their centre assessment grade or a calculated grade whichever was the higher.

The DfE will not hold schools/colleges to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2020, and they have stated that the data should not be used by others, such as Ofsted, local authorities, academy trusts, etc to hold schools/colleges or teachers to account. The DfE will not be publishing, or sharing, institution-level school/college accountability measures. Therefore, the Local Authority has no attainment data to report on this Summer.

Ofsted inspections were halted during the partial closure of schools with plans for them not to resume until at least January 2021. Therefore, the latest Ofsted data available for schools based on their last inspection, is from March 2020 where 91% of schools in Kent (530 of the 580) were Good or Outstanding, compared to the national figure of 86%. The percentage of Primary schools judged as Good or Outstanding at 92% compares favourably to the national figure of 88%. 87% of Secondary schools were judged to be Good or Outstanding compared to 76% nationally. The percentage for Special schools at 96% was six percentage points higher than the national position.

Whilst the impact of COVID 19 and subsequent lockdown of schools has removed the ability of the TEP advisers to deliver on site support, the Primary School Improvement (PSI) team has been swift to adapt support and to maintain contact with schools. All remaining allocated visits were converted into virtual support visits. Headteacher briefings became weekly (then fortnightly) Q&A sessions. Increasing amounts of time has been committed to meetings with Kent Association of Headteachers. TEP has maintained a headteacher (interim or substantive) in all schools working alongside existing heads to negotiated extended contracts, changing retirement dates and converting headteacher recruitment into a blended process of virtual and face to face interviews. A significant amount of time has also been spent working on KCC COVID and return toolkits for schools.

KCC guidance for the full opening of schools on 1st September has been published on KELSI. This includes sections on curriculum, operations, examinations, behaviour and attendance, safeguarding and support on blended learning so that secondary schools and academies can respond immediately should there be a positive test report.

School Places and Admissions

For admissions in September 2020, 88% of parents secured their first preference primary school, and 78% of families secured their first preference for secondary school places, both are one percentage point lower than last year

The net change to the total number of places being offered for September 2020 entry was an increase of 139 Year 7 places and an increase of 83 Year R places.

Early Years

The percentage of Early Years settings which were rated Good or Outstanding was equal to the target of 98%.

2,705 two-year olds have been funded under the Free for Two scheme equating to a 51% take up. This is a decrease of 7.5 percentage points compared to the same period last year. However, there has been an increase in the number of families (+887) now getting universal credit so this could lead an increase in applications.

The Early Years and Childcare Service has been supporting the early years and childcare Sector through the Coronavirus pandemic, acting on Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) guidance. Supply and demand are being regularly monitored (showing that supply in general has steadily met demand) and brokerage services offered to any parents who are Critical Workers and/or those whose children are vulnerable. A Financial Distress Payment was introduced, as a potential means of financial support for providers who were able to open from lockdown to the end of May and who found their viability compromised. There have been regular communications with the Early Years and Childcare Sector as a whole, including a weekly 'Early Years and Childcare COVID-19 Blog'. The Weekly 'Family Support Flyer', provided suggestions for activities for families with young children as well as the provision of free topical webinars (Risk Assessment; Key Person Globes; Supporting Bereaved Young Children).

Skills and Employability

The percentage of young people who are NEET has risen in the last quarter as the impact of the Coronavirus lockdown has started to be felt by young people. In June 2019 it was 3.1% and June 2020 it was 3.7%. While the percentage in education and training has remained reasonably static, the number who have lost employment has risen and the number who found work dropped. Over the three months, 136 young people lost work, compared to 53 in the same time last year and 116 found work compared to 219 last year.

There is concern that young people may not return to full-time education or training in September. There are a variety of reasons for this; they haven't made plans due to being out of the support network available in schools and colleges, the uncertainty about results, and a detachment from education (there are concerns regarding the number who may become Elected Home Educated next year and the impact that could have on the following academic year).

There have, however, been some very encouraging signs from young people during this time. The use of KentChoices (The Education People's post 16 online prospectus and application system) increased significantly during this period as young people focused their minds on their next step and looked for a way to circumnavigate sixth

form and college switchboards. There were 40,000 visits to the site and over 1,400 more applications than the same time last year.

The response of The Education People has been to increase direct contact with young people to understand the scale of the problem, offer reassurance and refer where appropriate to the NEET support service. During this time, TEP has had over 1,700 telephone conversations with young people or their parents/carers and 1,600 separate responses to mailshots, texts and social media activity. In addition to this direct contact, local partnerships and county wide strategies have been strengthened and supported, and ways of working have been changed to take advantage of technology. Over the summer the focus is to contact all young people without a September Guarantee and those who have been identified as at risk of being NEET.

SEND (Special Educational Need and Disability)

On 1 May 2020 some aspects of the law on education, health and care (EHC) needs assessments and plans, changed temporarily to give local authorities, health commissioning bodies, education settings and other bodies who contribute to these processes, more flexibility in responding to the demands placed on them by coronavirus (COVID-19). This included the temporary amendment of the regulations that specify timescales that apply to local authorities, health commissioning bodies and others relating to EHC needs assessments and plans. Currently it is no longer a statutory requirement to issue new Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) within 20 weeks. Instead, the local authority, or other body to whom that time limit applies, will have to complete the process as soon as reasonably practicable. However, Kent is still working to meet the 20 week timescale wherever possible.

Based on the rolling 12-month average 29% of EHCPs were completed within 20 weeks (840 out of 2,318). This is a decrease of seven percentage points since last quarter. This shows the impact Coronavirus is having. Data for the single month of June at 35% showed performance has improved from May where it fell to 12%.

Work is taking place as part of the SEND improvement programme to develop quality assurance of EHCPs, including an increased understanding of what good looks like, and to improve Educational Psychology timescales in statutory advice by reviewing their triage and assessment processes.

Wider Early Help

There were 26 permanent school exclusions in the last 12 months. This was 19 fewer than the same period last year. Of these, 13 were from primary schools and 13 from secondary schools. At 0.01% of the school population, the 0.03% target was achieved, and is better than the latest published national average of 0.10%. There were no permanent exclusions in the month of June 2020 following the re-opening of schools to select year groups from 1 June (primary) and 15 June (secondary).

The number of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice system has increased for the third consecutive quarter from 188 in September to 232 in June but remains below the target of 290.

Front Door

An additional measure has been added into the 2020/21 KCC Quarterly Report to cover performance of the Front Door for Intensive Children's Services. The performance measure included is "Percentage of front door contacts where the final

decision is made within 3 working days” which has been set to ensure timeliness in this initial stage of decision making. Performance as of 30th June 2020 was 90.6%, just above the Target of 90.0% and an improved position from 31st March 2020 when it was 88.3%.

Early Help

At the end of June 2020 there were 1,798 families open to Early Help units, providing support for 3,726 children and young people under the age of 18 (including unborn). This was a 31% decrease in the number of families being supported at the end of the previous quarter (5,398). This was the result of a review and closure of cases at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic to free up Early Help resources in order to provide additional support to children’s social care.

The performance measure on outcomes achieved has been replaced by a new performance measure, “Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months”. At the end of the first quarter performance was 15.7% which was just above the 15.0% Target.

Children’s Social Work (CSW) - Staffing and Caseloads

The overall caseload for children’s social work decreased slightly in the quarter. At the end of June 2020 the total caseload was 10,661 children and young people, compared with 10,909 at the end of March 2020. This equates to a rate of 313 per 10,000 children (0-17) in Kent and remains below the rate for England which was 334 as at 31st March 2019.

There were 4,443 referrals to children’s social care in the quarter, a decrease of 23% compared to the previous quarter. This reduction can be largely attributed to a reduction in referrals from schools and Kent Police during the Coronavirus pandemic. The reduction in referrals from Kent Police was a result of them implementing a triage system which resulted in only tier 3 and 4 domestic abuse cases being referred. It is anticipated that this process will remain in place. The number of referrals from schools is expected to increase in September when all children and young people return to classes. The rate of re-referrals within 12 months increased to 29.5% at the end of June 2020, compared to 28.3% at the end of March 2020, and remains above the target of 25.0%.

The percentage of case-holding social worker posts held by permanent qualified social workers increased in the quarter, from 87.5% in March 2020 to 89.9% in June 2020 and has continued to remain above the target of 85.0%. There was a slight increase in the percentage of social work posts filled by agency staff, from 14.0% to 14.7% between March and June 2020.

At 20 cases, the average caseload for Social Workers in children’s social work teams remains above the target level of 18. This has decreased slightly from an average of 21 cases at the end of the previous quarter.

Child Protection

As at 30th June 2020 there were 1,237 children subject to a child protection plan, a decrease of 101 from the end of the previous quarter (1,338). The rate per 10,000 children (aged 0-17) was 36.4, which remains below the last published rate for England, which was 43.7 as at 31st March 2019. The percentage of children who were

subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time was 23.8% as at 30th June 2020. This is an increase from the position at the end of the previous quarter (22.5%) and is outside the target range of between 17.5% and 22.5%.

Children in Care

The number of citizen children in care increased by 1 in the last quarter, to 1,389. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) in care increased by 74 in the quarter to 497. The number of children in care placed in Kent by other local authorities (OLA) also increased in the quarter, from 1,268 to 1,297.

Status	Sep 19	Dec 19	Mar 20	Jun 20
Citizen	1,400	1,414	1,388	1,389
UASC	367	440	423	497
Total	1,767	1,854	1,811	1,886
Gender				
Male	1,114	1,191	1,168	1250
Female	653	663	643	636
Age Group				
0 to 4	189	196	188	193
5 to 9	187	192	193	199
10 to 15	730	740	716	714
16 to 17	661	726	714	780
Ethnicity				
White	1,271	1,284	1,241	1,245
Mixed	93	91	94	94
Asian	77	71	85	101
Black	101	107	112	120
Other	225	301	279	326

The percentage of Kent children placed in KCC in-house foster care or with family/friends has increased in the last quarter, from 78.5% to 80.3% but remains below the 85.0% target. Performance against placement stability of 3 or more placements in a 12-month period has improved slightly in the last quarter, from 10.7% to 10.6%. This compares to the latest published England average of 10.0% (2018/19).

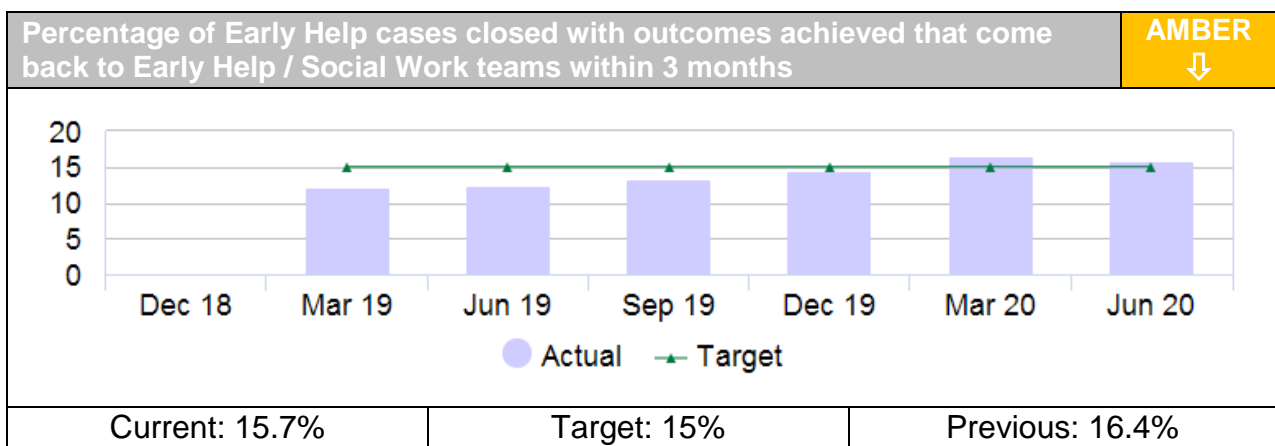
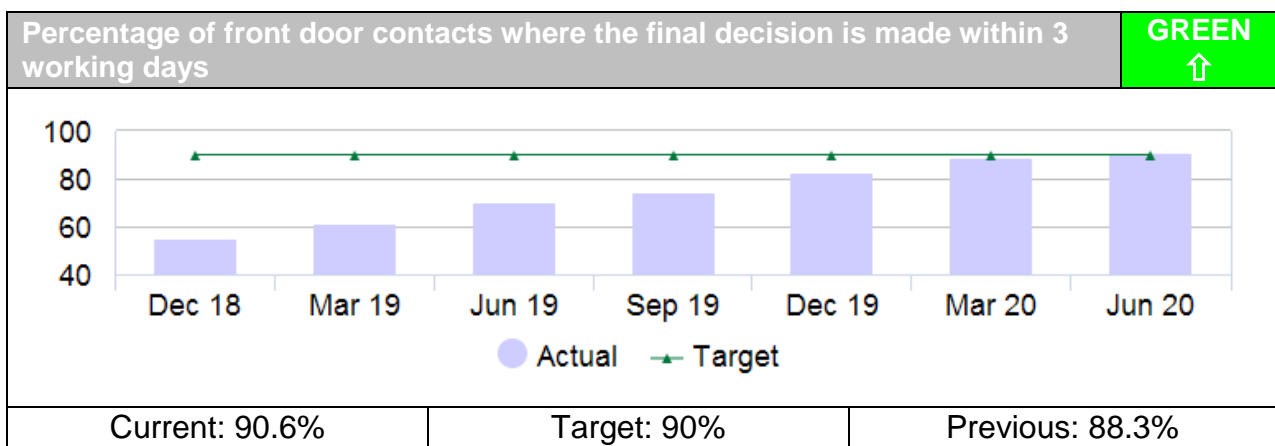
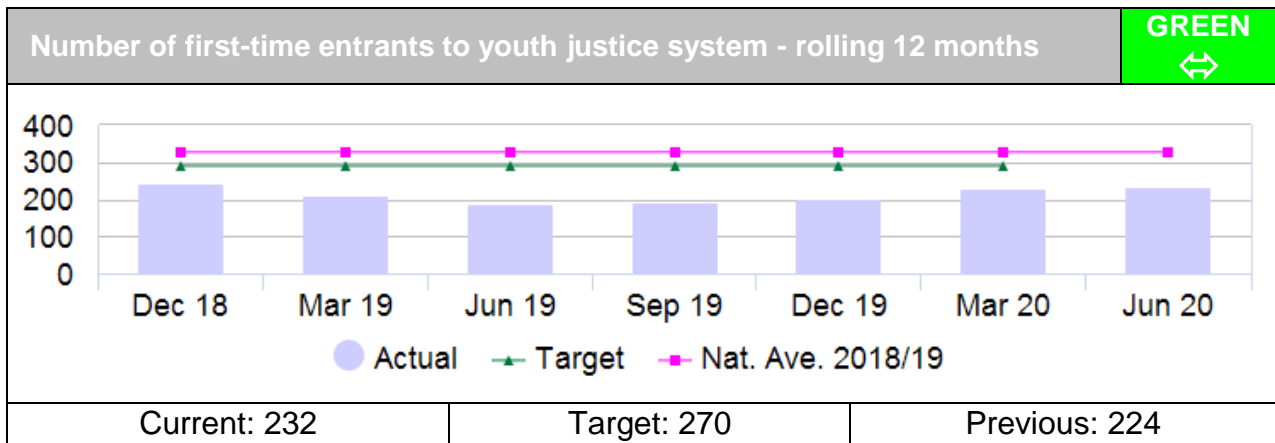
For children who were adopted in the last 12 months the average number of days between coming into care and moving in with their adoptive family continues to outperform the nationally set target of 426 days. The average number of days for Kent children at the end of June was 336 days, compared to 337 at the end March 2020.

Care Leavers

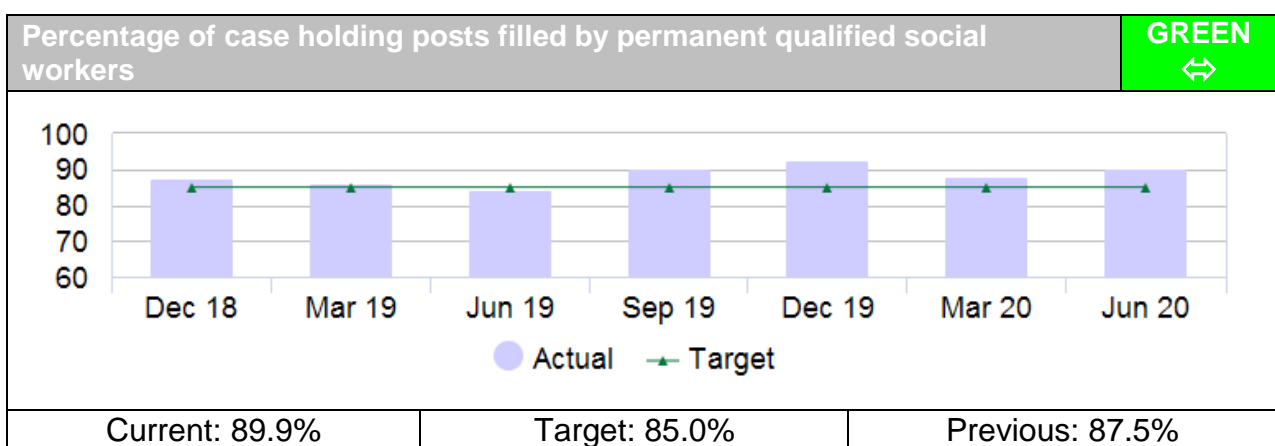
The number of care leavers at the end of June 2020 was 1,814 which is an increase of 12 from the previous quarter. Of these, 879 were citizen care leavers and 935 were unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training is 61.5%, which is a 0.8% reduction from March 2020 and remains below the 65.0% target.

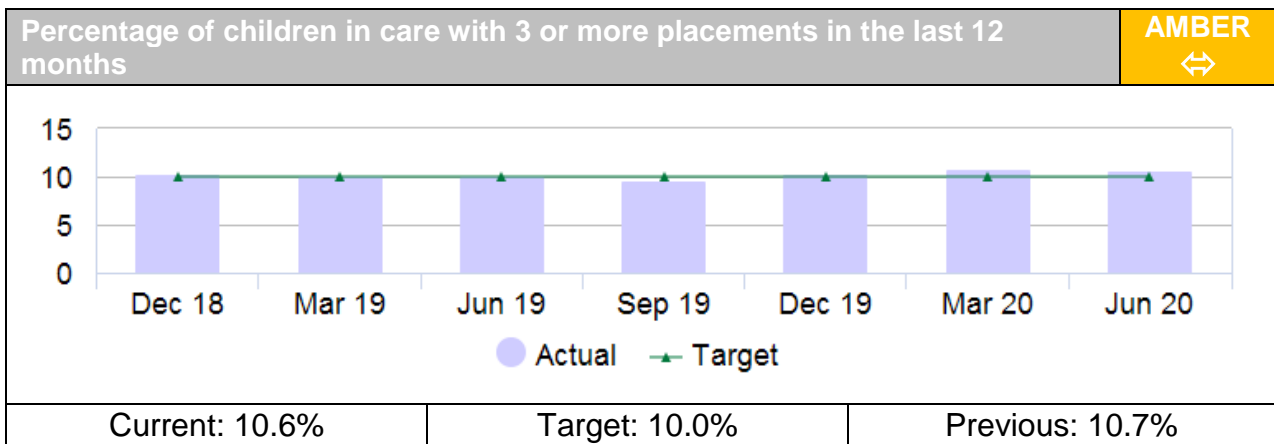
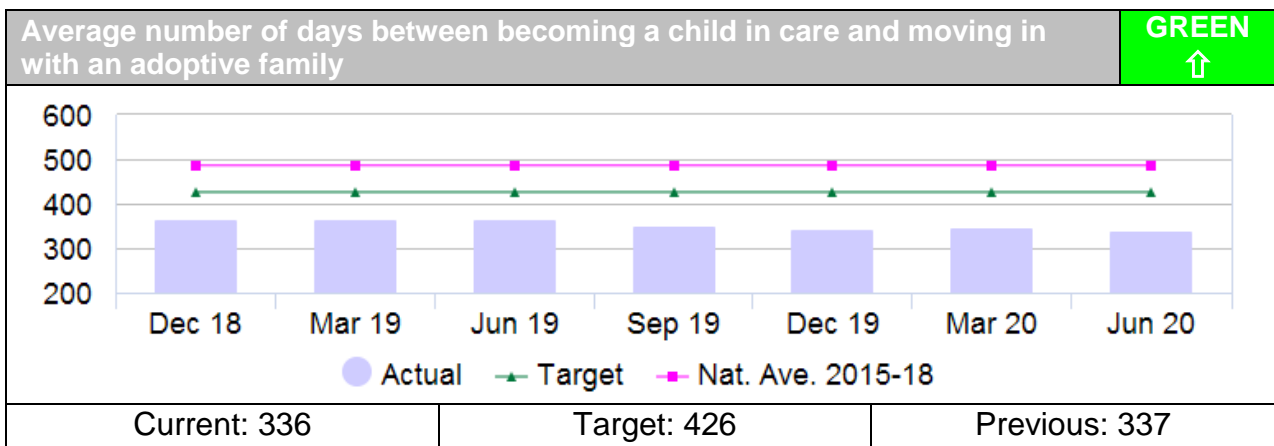
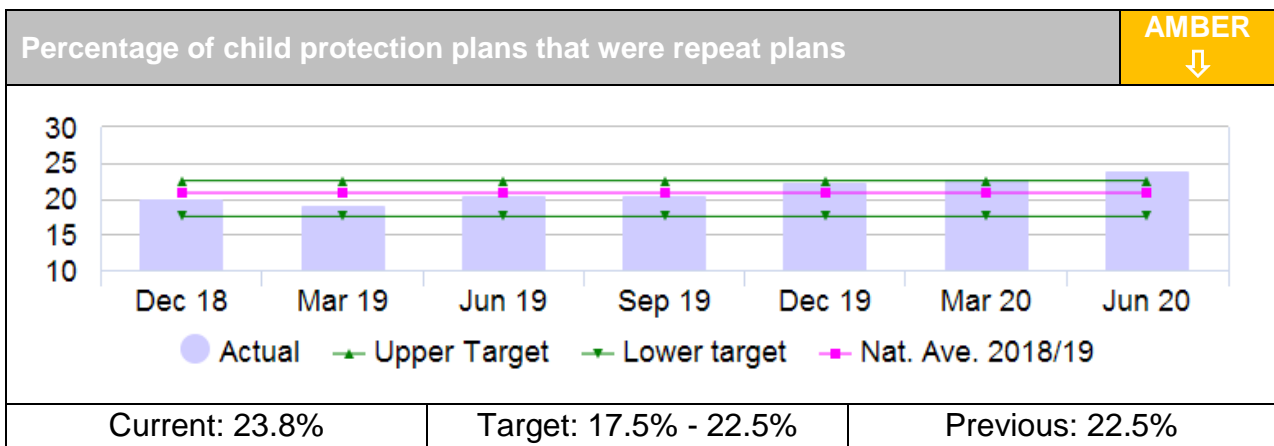
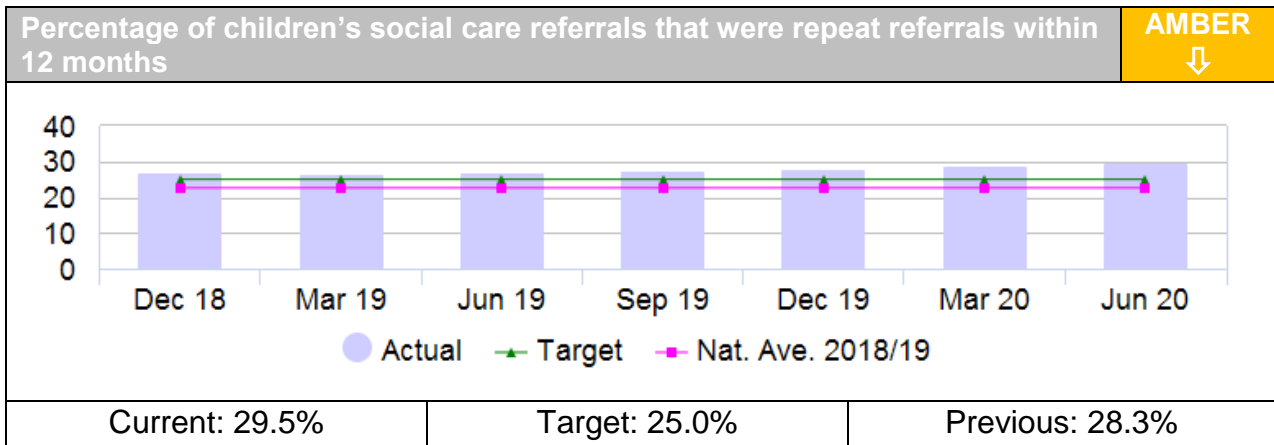
Key Performance Indicators

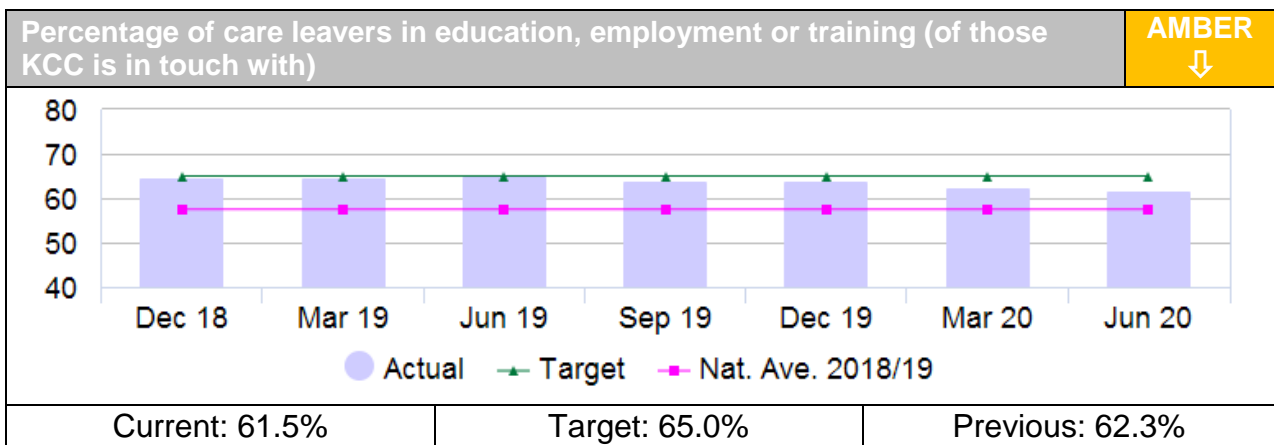
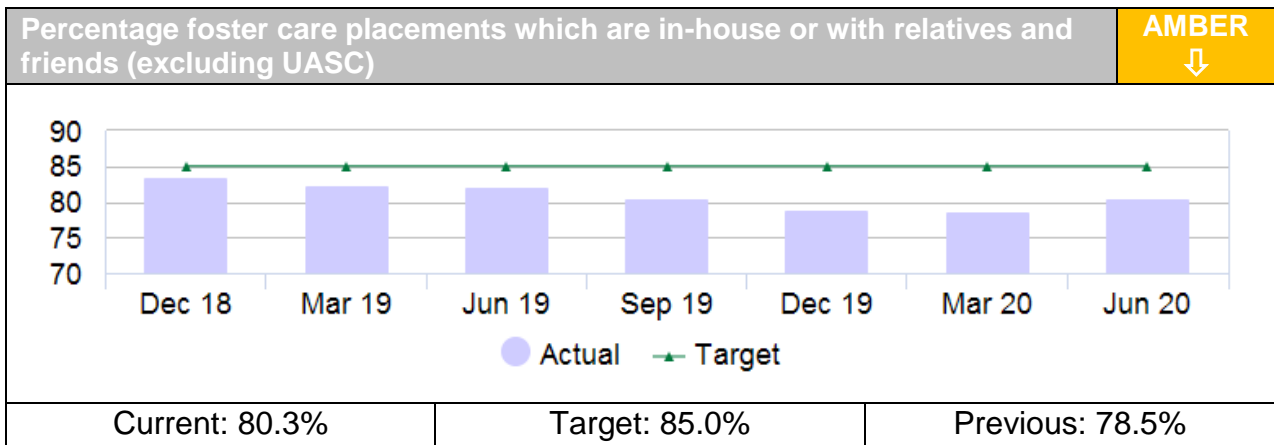
Percentage of all schools with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements (latest Ofsted methodology)		GREEN ↑																																
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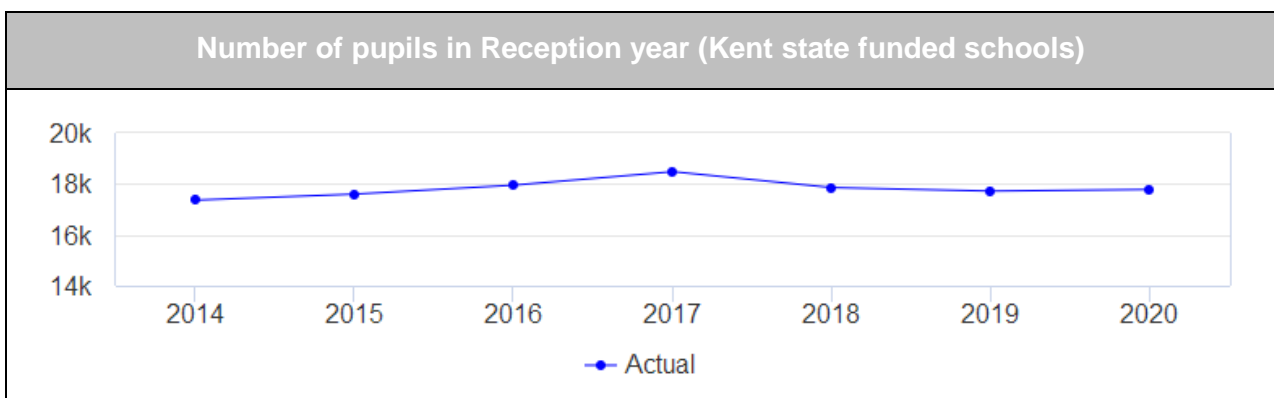
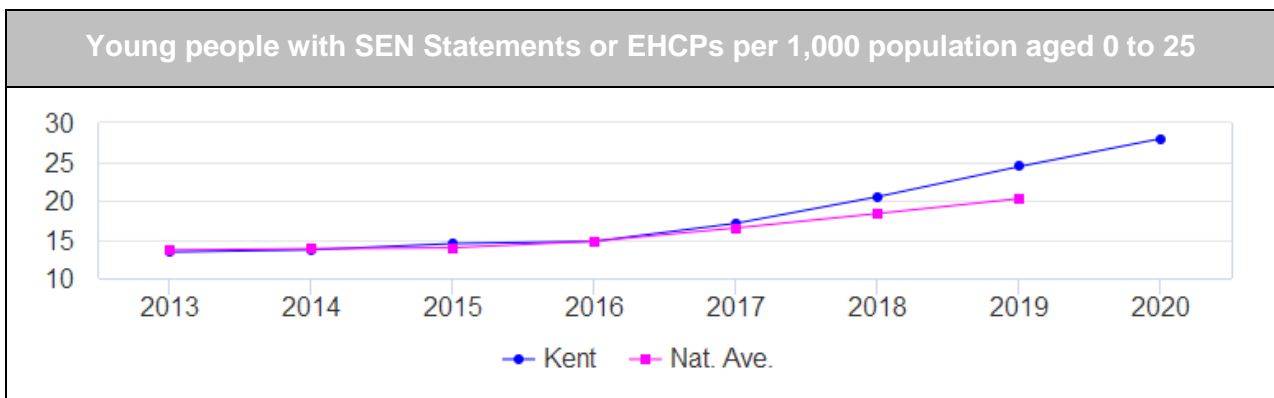
* No data for December 2018

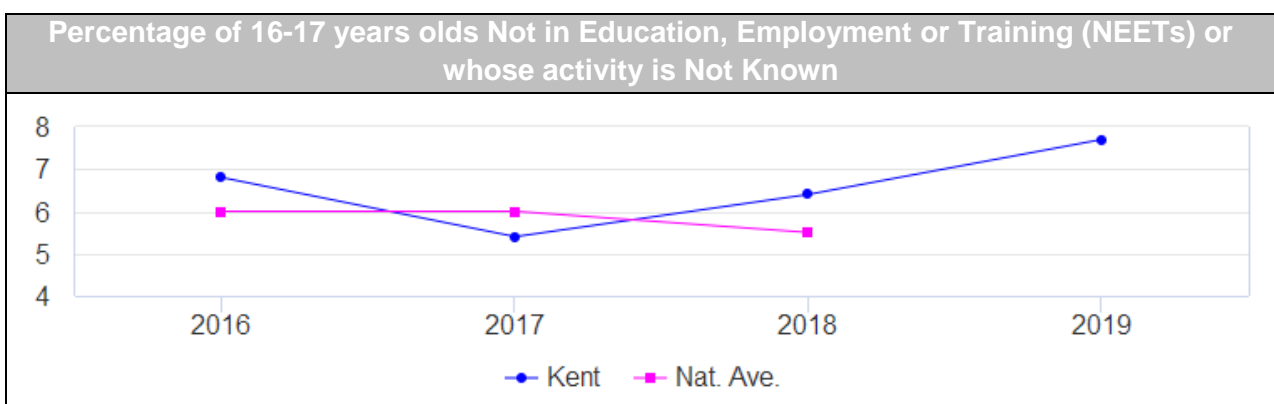
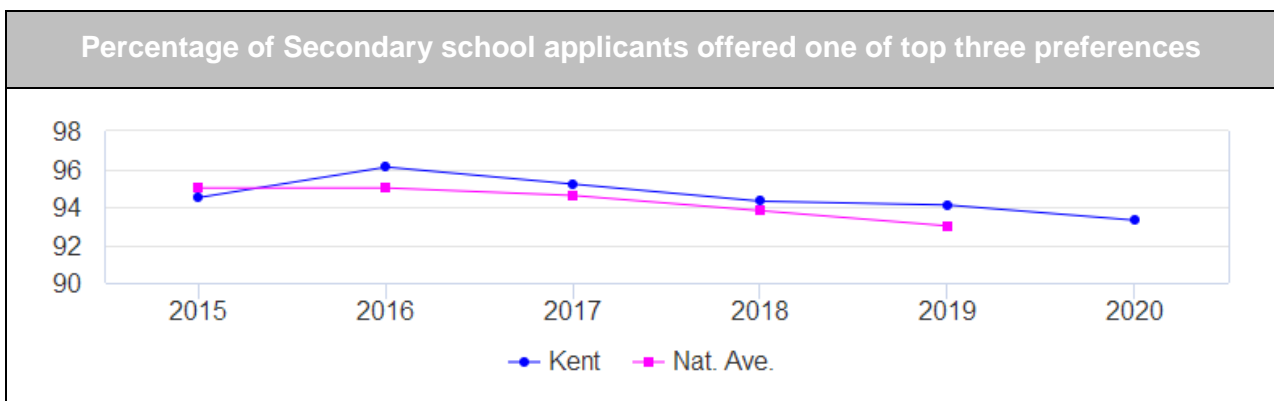
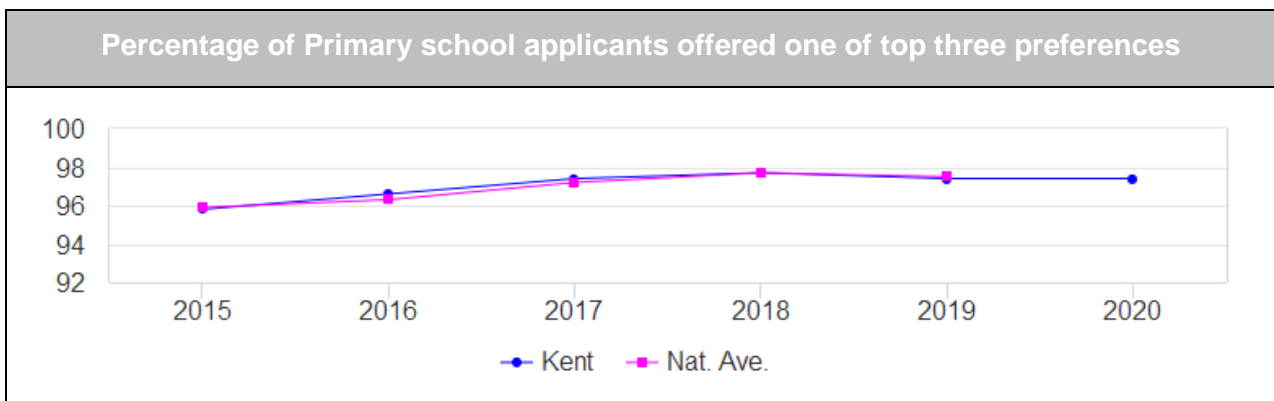
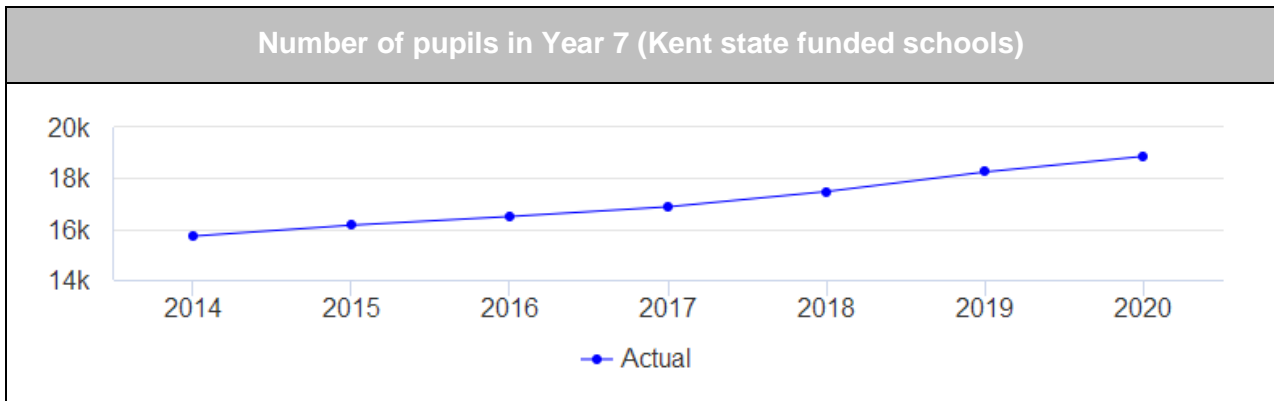




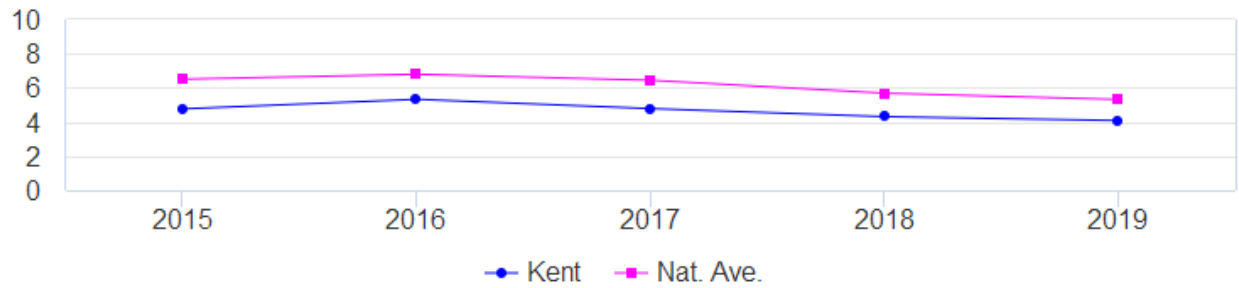


Activity indicators

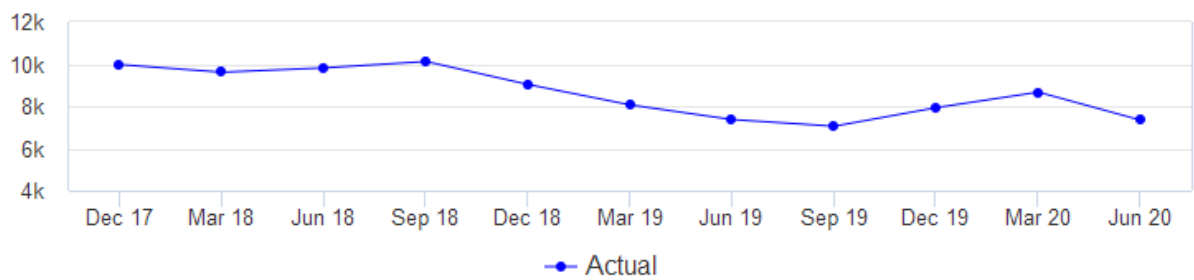




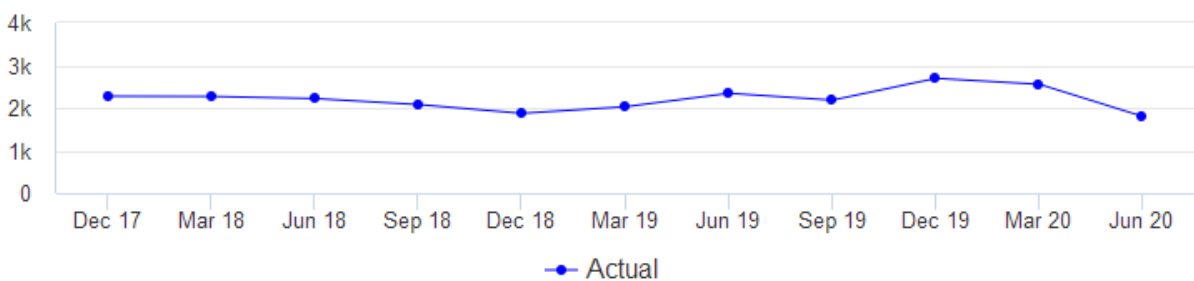
Percentage of 16-18 year olds who start an apprenticeship



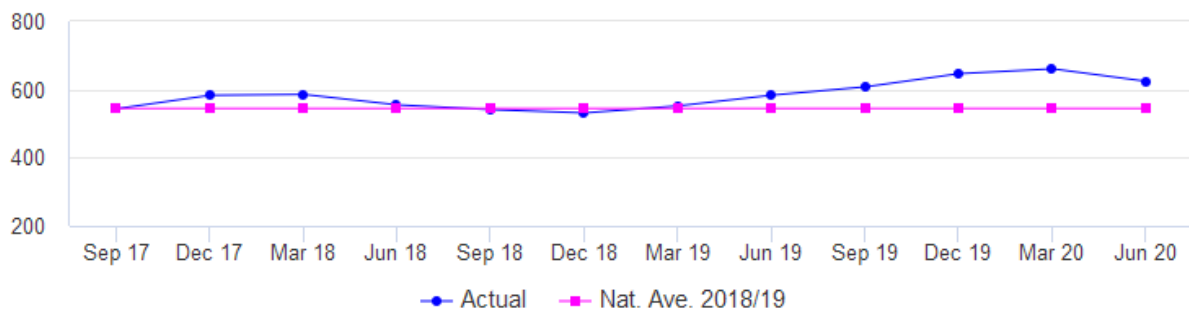
Number of contacts processed in the Front Door which proceeded to Early Help – rolling 12 months



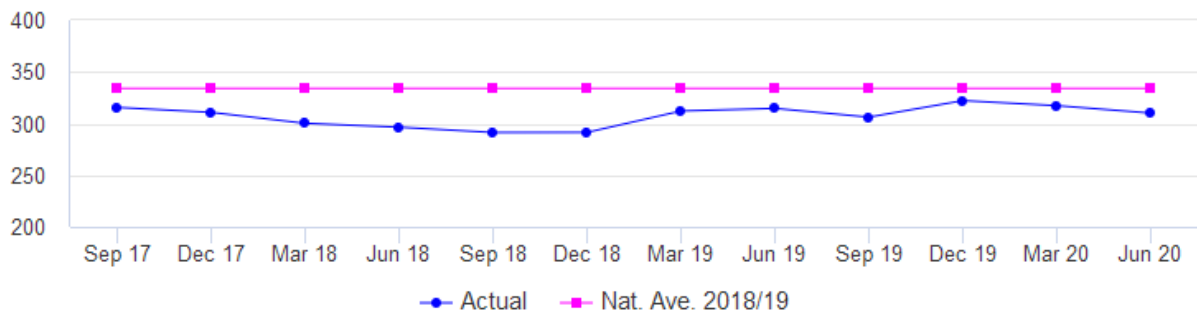
Number of open Early Help cases managed by Units



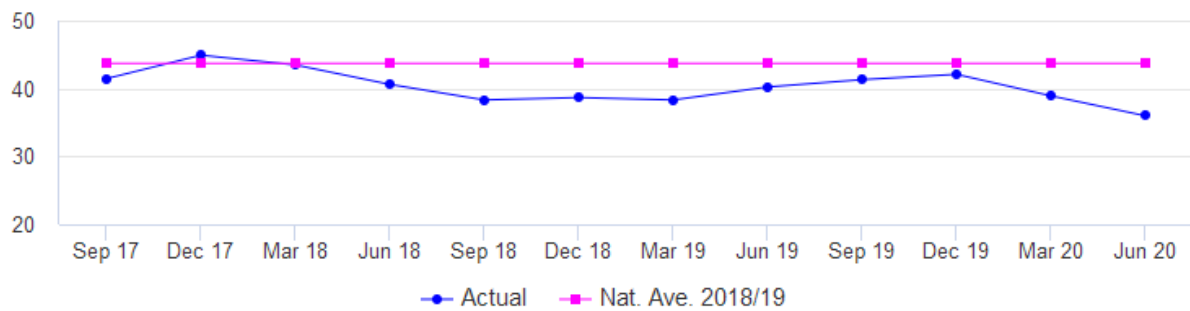
Rate of CSW referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18 – rolling 12 months



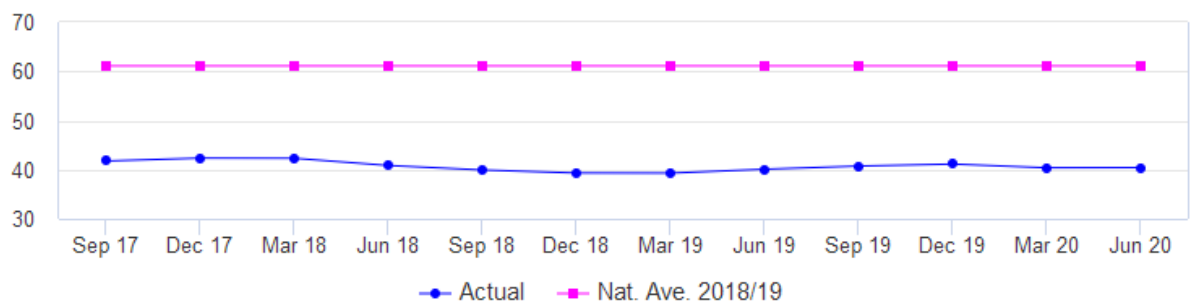
CSW caseload per 10,000 child population – snapshot at quarter end



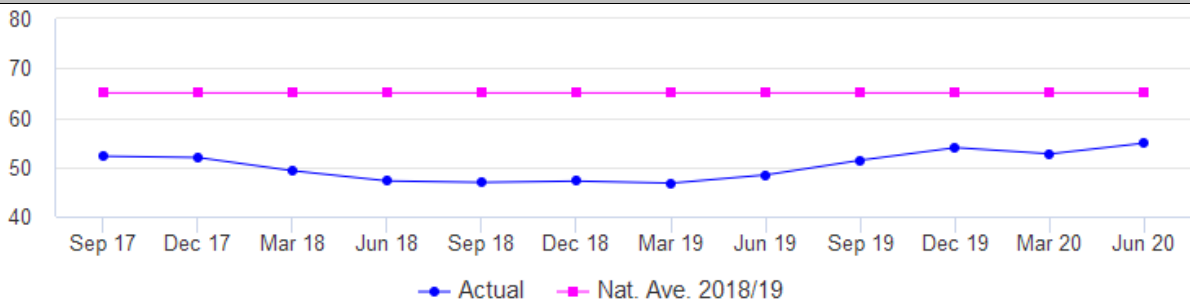
Rate of children with Child Protection Plans per 10,000 child population – snapshot at quarter end



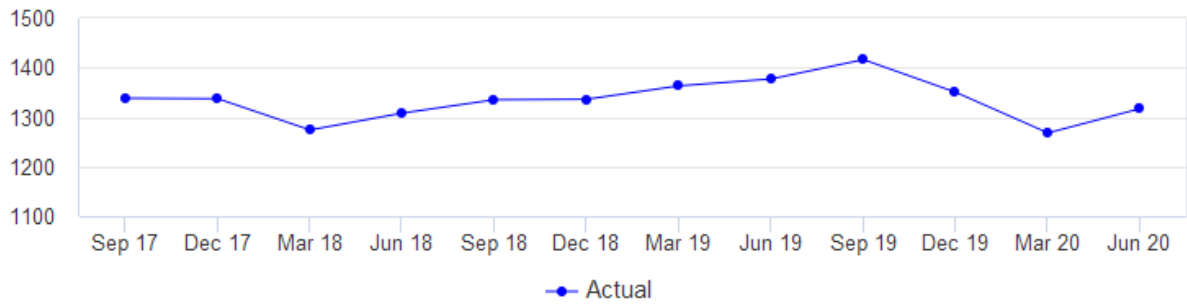
Rate of Children in Care (excluding UASC) per 10,000 child population – snapshot at quarter end



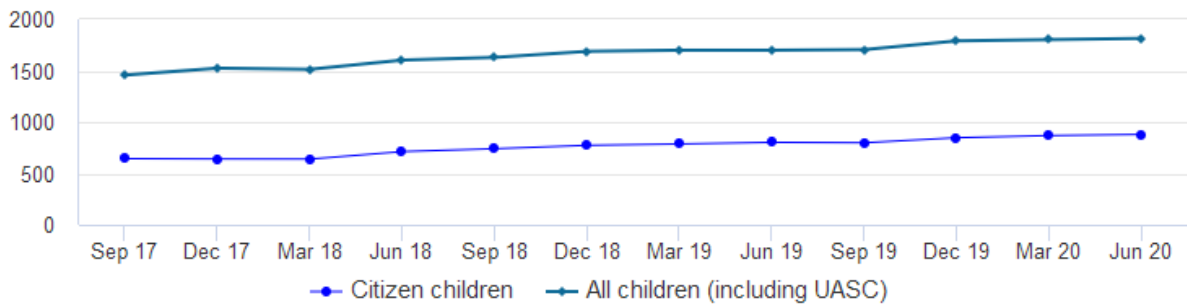
Rate of Children in Care (including UASC) per 10,000 child population – snapshot at quarter end



Number of other local authority children in care placed into Kent – snapshot at quarter end



Number of care leavers as at quarter end



Adult Social Care	
Cabinet Member	Clair Bell
Corporate Director	Richard Smith

KPI	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	↔	↓
Summary	3	2		1	3	1

Key Performance Indicators

In the final months of 2019/20 and during the first quarter of 2020/21, Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) were finding new ways of working within the Coronavirus Pandemic; the Pandemic affected all areas of business and ASCH carefully monitored changes in client journeys across the community, residential and nursing services during this time. Overall, Kent saw a decrease in the number of clients receiving services and a decrease in demand (reduction in contacts and starts).

ASCH will continue to assess over the course of 2020/21 the immediate and long-term impact of the Pandemic on delivery of their services and their clients, and the KPIs, activity measures and targets used to monitor them.

In the first quarter of 2020/21 there over 1,200 clients received enablement services, of which 61% no longer required ongoing support following receipt of this service or did so at a lower level. This was an increase in the number of clients receiving these services when compared to Quarter 3 2019/20 where there were nearly 800 clients; the increase in clients alongside the decrease in the proportion of those no longer requiring support suggests that more clients potentially with far more complex needs, are now receiving enablement.

This short term support (time limited) aims to keep clients independent for as long as possible, and at the completion of these services they receive a review to formally assess whether their needs have changed and if any further ongoing support is needed. This measure also allows ASCH to assess the effectiveness of these services in preventing a need for long term care and as a National measure allows for comparisons to be made across the Country.

Within ASCH, Direct Payments (DP) are managed by the Direct Payment Team who work with approximately 3,000 clients. These clients choose to have their needs met by the DP mechanism whereby an estimated personal budget is provided directly to them following work with Practitioners on a Care and Support Plan. This Plan assesses unmet needs and how they can be best met. Clients have control on how the money is spent as long as it relates to their Plan; they can employ their own staff (Personal Assistant), use a self-employed Personal Assistant, or buy in what care they need, which could be via an agency.

DP supports the agenda of KCC residents having control over their own care and promoting independence, and for the last 2 quarters, 28% of ASCH clients have received DPs. In 2018/19 (the most recently available figures) National figures for this measure was 28% and will be used as the target for this measure in 2020/21. The Direct Payment Team offer support to ensure the DP process works efficiently for their clients and KCC; they provide a telephone and email helpline for clients, staff and the public, arrange payments and monitor spend to ensure the unmet needs in the Plans

are being met, work with authorised persons where appropriate, support practitioners, reclaim surplus monies, and work with KCC Fraud Office to identify and tackle any cases of fraud.

The proportion of adults with a learning disability who are living in their own home or with their family remains consistently over 70%, however it is just below the 77% National 2018/19 benchmark. A key outcome measure, having those with learning disabilities in settled accommodation is important not only in keeping them safe, but also reducing social exclusion, promoting choice, and preventing admissions to residential, nursing care or hospital.

The proportion of KCC clients in residential or nursing homes with a CQC rating of Good or Outstanding, where the rating is known to KCC and the home has been inspected, has increased to 76% in Quarter 1. There are many factors that contribute to where clients are placed in Kent, many of which are market focused. KCC commissions approximately one third of all the care homes beds in the Older Person's care home market in Kent. The proportion of care homes in Kent that are CQC rated as Good is broadly similar to the National position however the proportion of Requires Improvement homes is slightly higher in Kent. Providers in Kent not only provide beds to Local Authority clients, they also have private and other market clients too.

In Kent's Learning Disability residential services market, KCC commission approximately 48% of the beds; in Physical Disability it is 35%; whilst in Mental Health residential care services KCC commission 62%. (all can vary slightly from quarter to quarter).

CQC did suspend inspections for four months during the Coronavirus Pandemic and are now prioritising homes for inspection where they have serious concerns, it is expected that from this there is likely to be a disproportionate number of Requires Improvement and Inadequate homes whilst the backlog of inspections are worked through. KCC focus their attention on working with the homes that are not rated as Good or Outstanding both as a matter of business as usual and during the Pandemic, ensuring that their clients and the homes receive appropriate levels of support and interventions where considered necessary.

It should be noted that KCC can place clients in residential services outside of Kent, and clients themselves can make choices about what residential service they access (factors influencing this can include going to a home that is close to family members regardless of the CQC rating of the home). The table below outlines the current CQC rating split across care homes in Kent (KCC geography only) and gives an indication of the current market status of those with a Good or Outstanding status in Kent.

CQC Rating:	% split for Care homes in Kent (LA Area)
Outstanding	3%
Good	80%
Requires Improvement	16%
Inadequate	1%

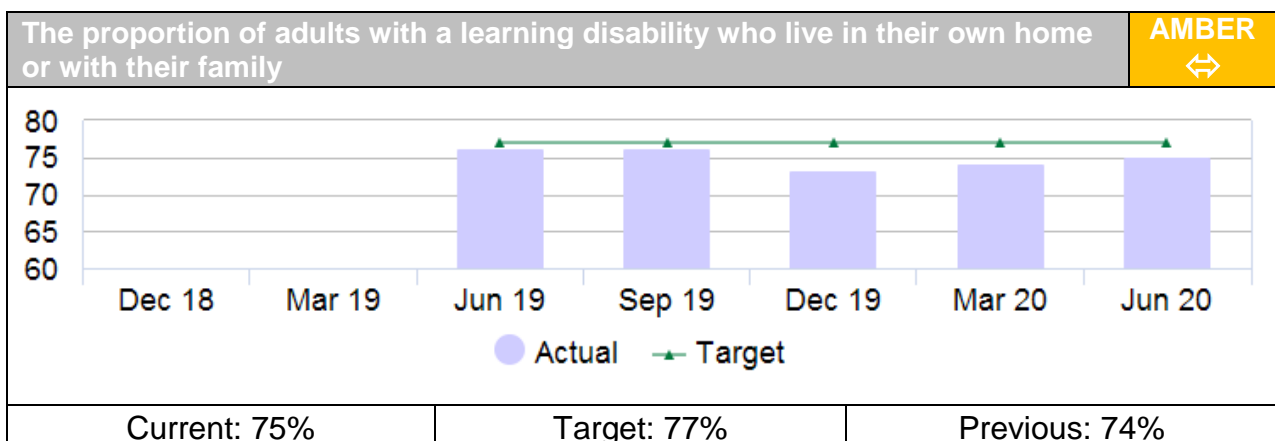
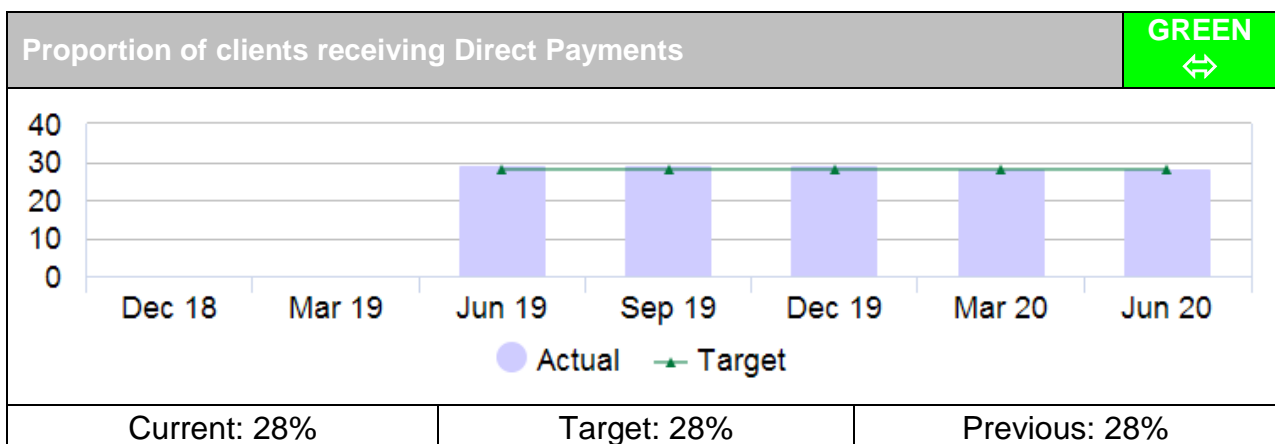
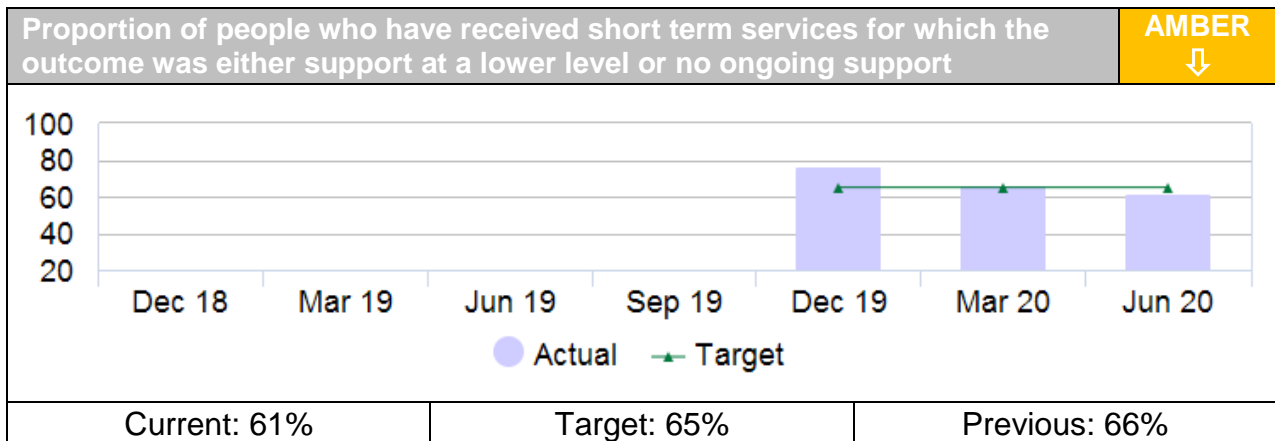
(Most recent overall rating as at 04/08/2020)

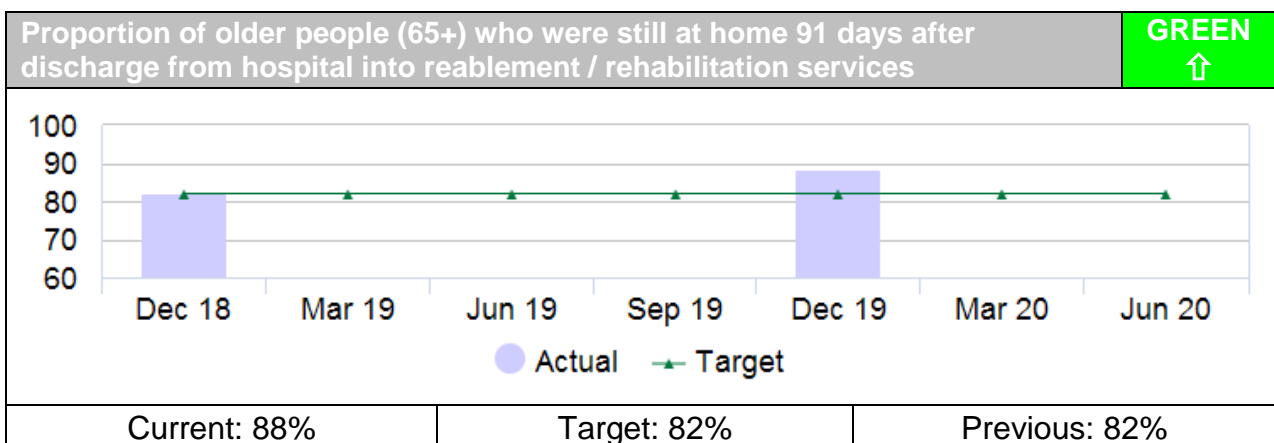
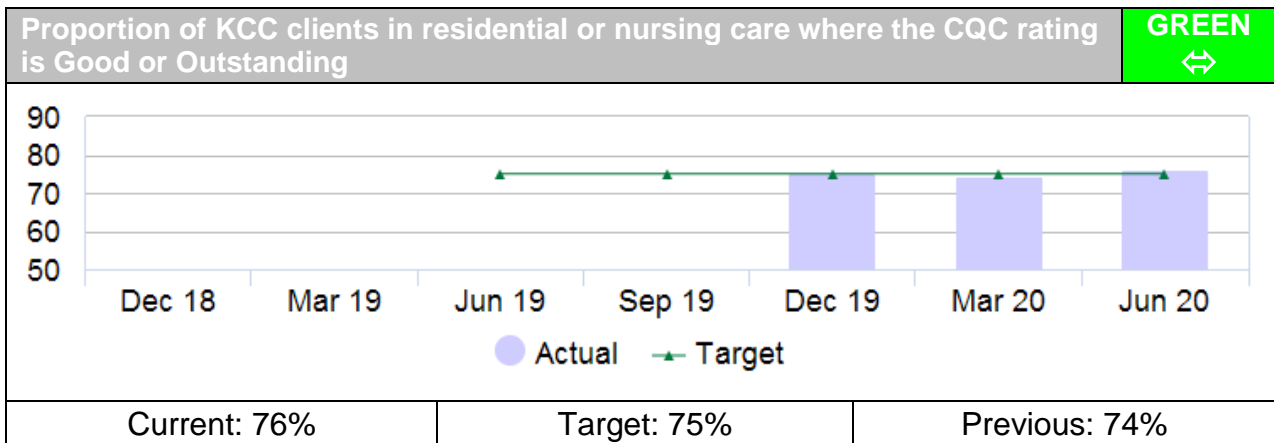
The measure looking at the proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital having received enablement services is a key

national measure and is an important mechanism of assessing how well enablement services are performing at keeping clients out of hospital, and the joint working between social services and health teams. Previously reported on an annual basis, this data will not be reported quarterly.

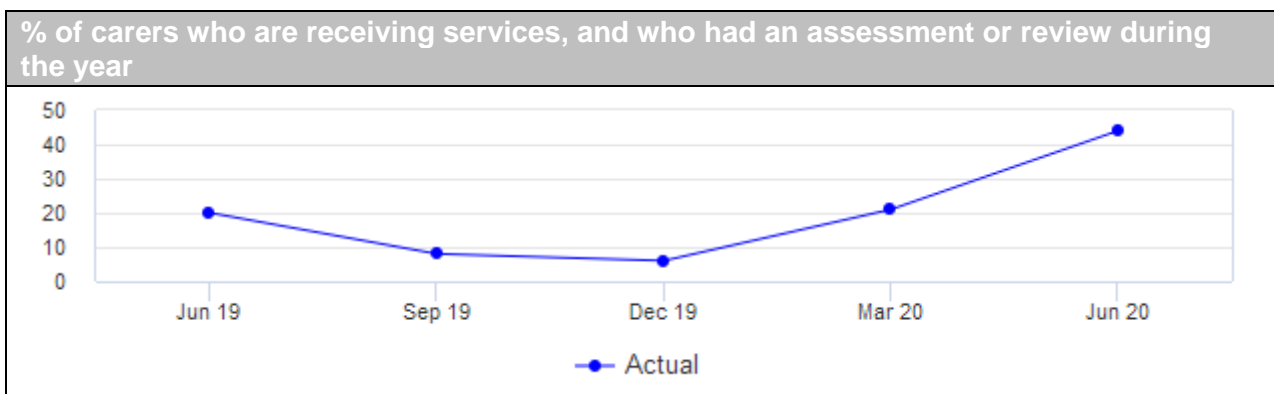
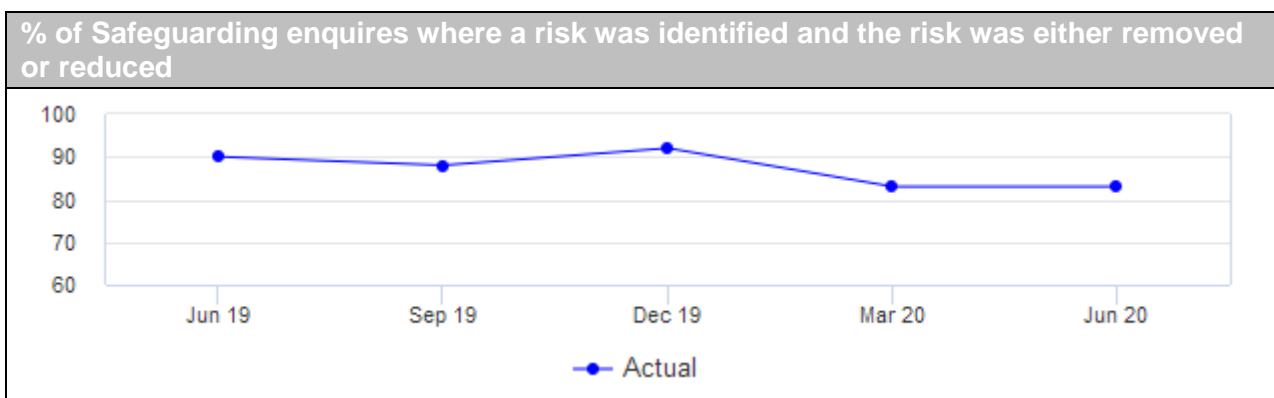
Quarter 3 2019/20 (most recently available figures) shows that 88% of those receiving the enablement services had not returned to hospital in the proceeding 91 days. This was an increase of 6% both on the same time period in 2018/19 for Kent and on National levels, which were both at 82%.

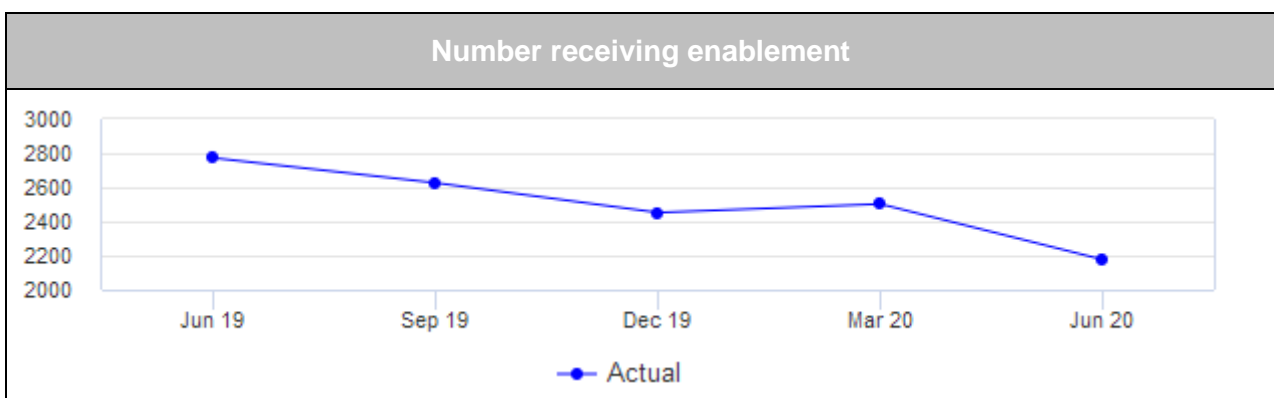
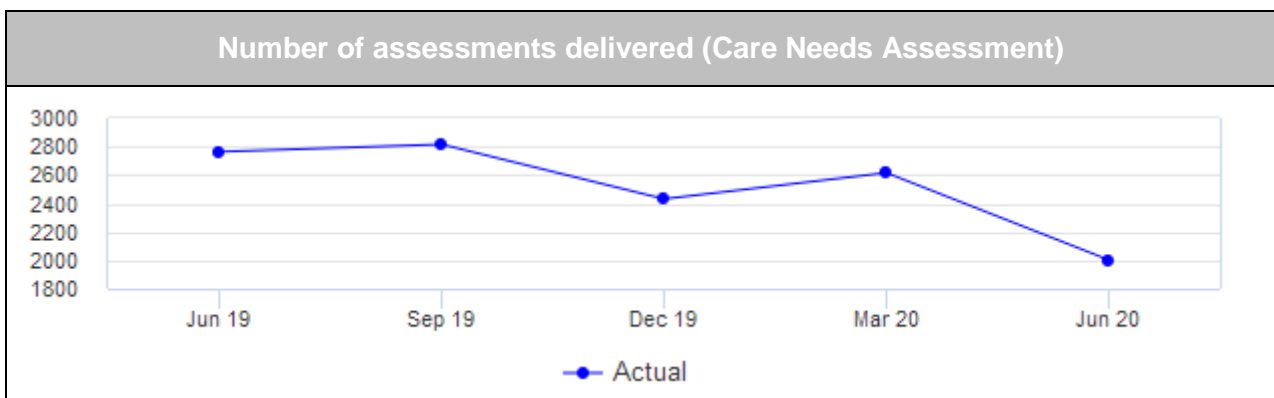
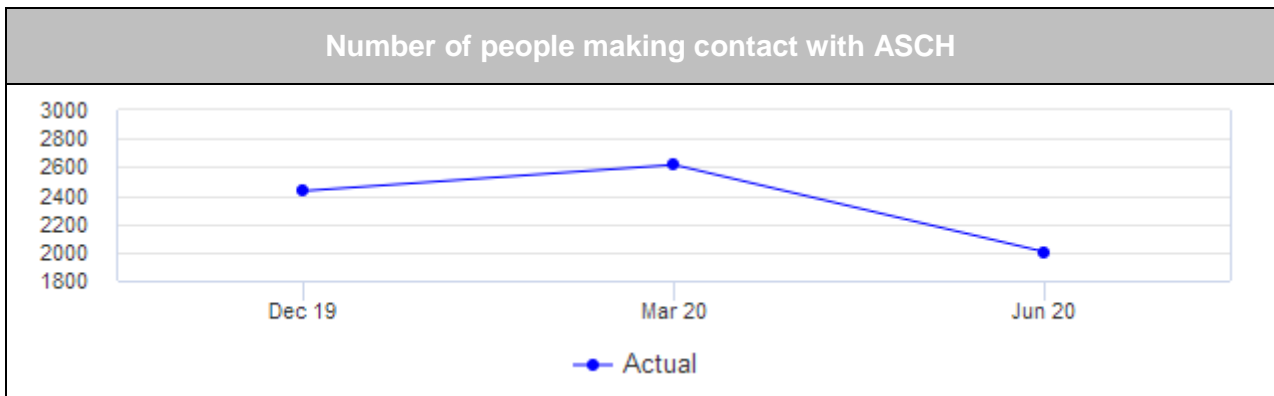
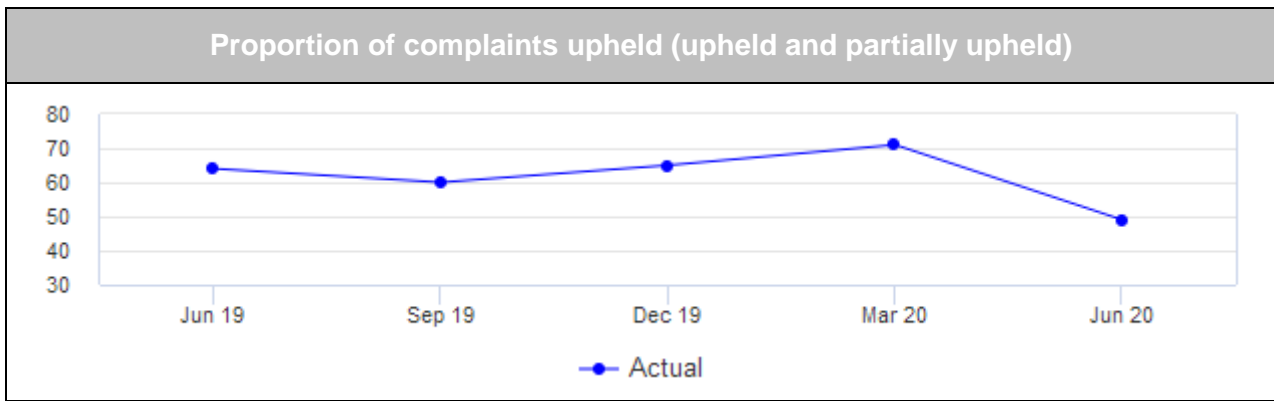
Key Performance Indicators

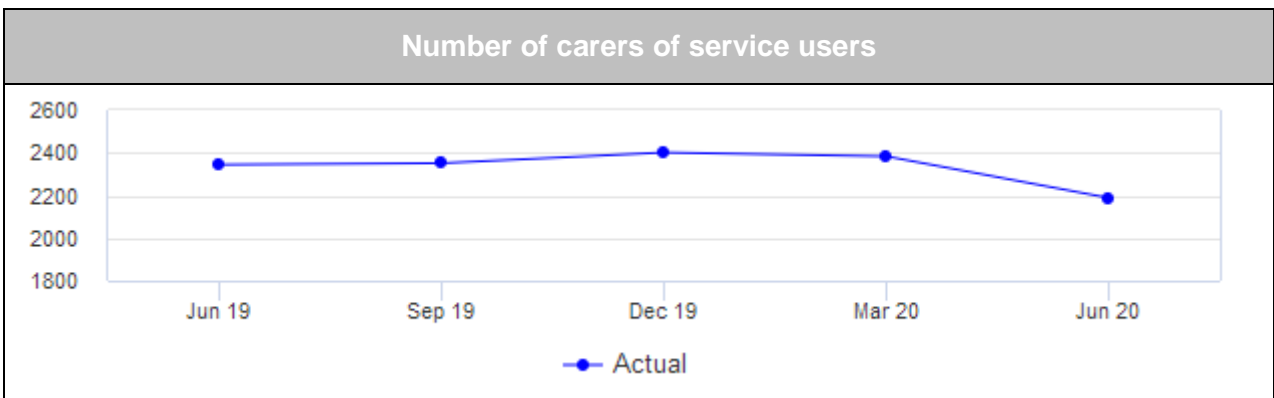
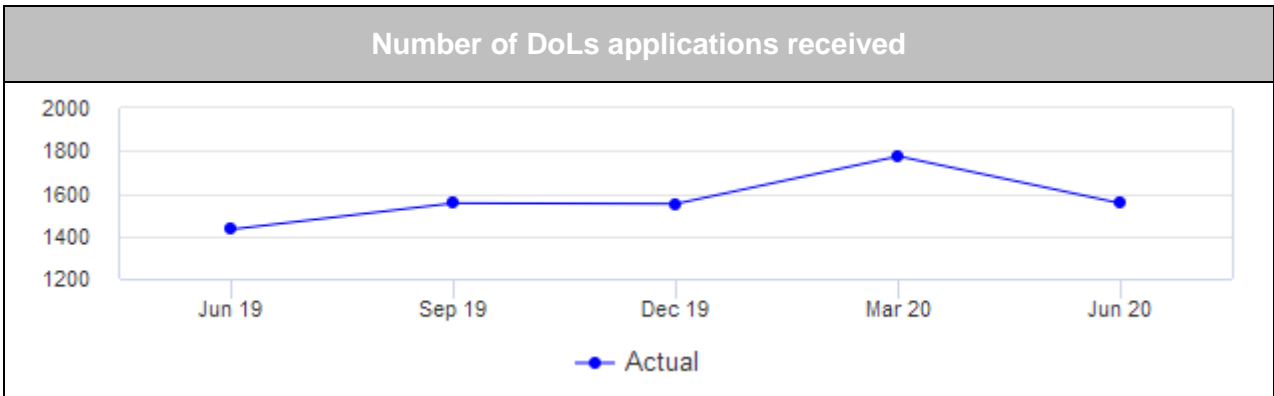
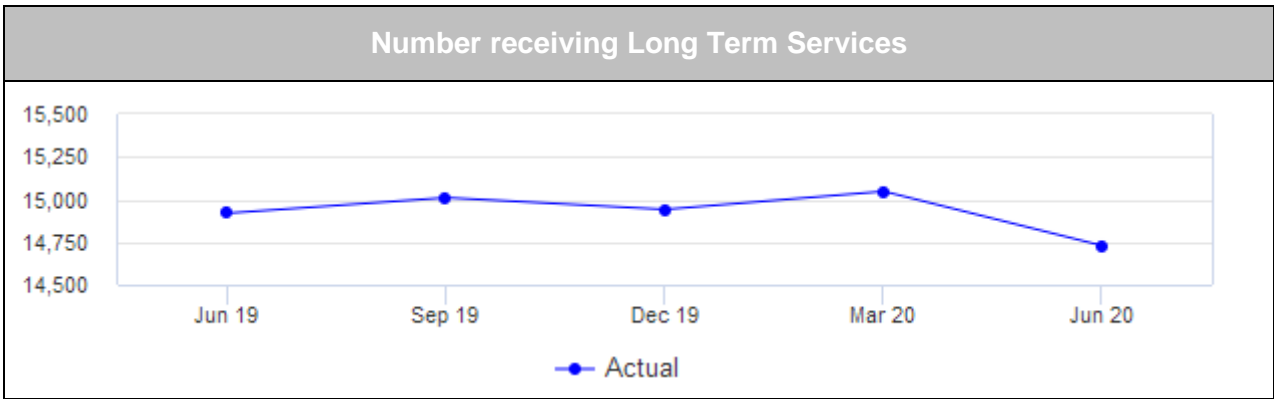




Activity indicators







Public Health	
Cabinet Member	Clair Bell
Director	Andrew Scott-Clark

KPI	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	↔	↓
Summary	3		2	1	4	

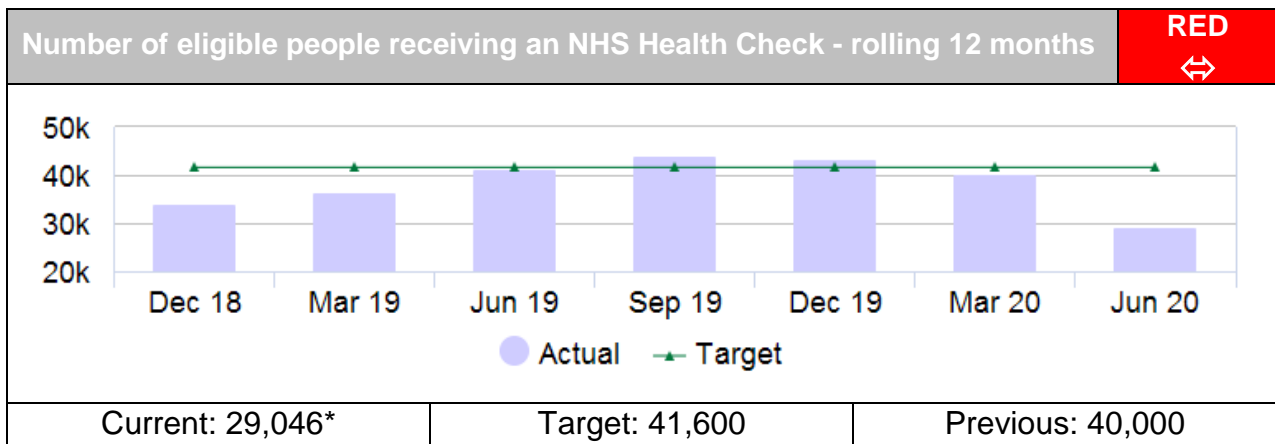
Kent's NHS Health Check Programme had a strong year in 19/20 delivering over the targeted level. The programme was halted in March due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Public Health are working with the provider on a future recovery plan, which will be informed by national guidance. There will be an impact to the number of checks that can be completed within 20/21, however the programme runs on a 5-year cohort and work is ongoing to ensure catch-up groups are invited within that time.

Despite some of the Health Visiting workforce having been re-deployed into frontline NHS Services, the Health Visiting Service has increased the number of mandated universal contacts delivered. This is due to an increased focus on delivering antenatal contacts in line with the national Coronavirus response guidance. 76% of pregnant women have received a virtual antenatal contact, exceeding the 43% target. 94% of parents have received a virtual or face to face new birth visit contact with a focus on vulnerable and first-time parents. Where capacity has allowed, the service have also continued to deliver the other 3 mandated contacts. Alongside the mandated contacts, a weekly health clinic has run in each district and appointments are available, following triage, on a bookable basis.

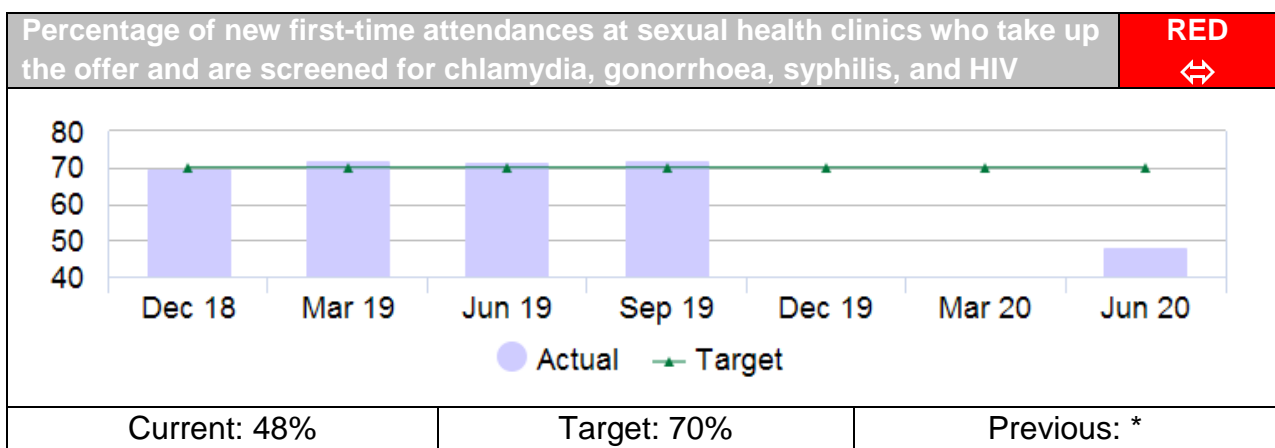
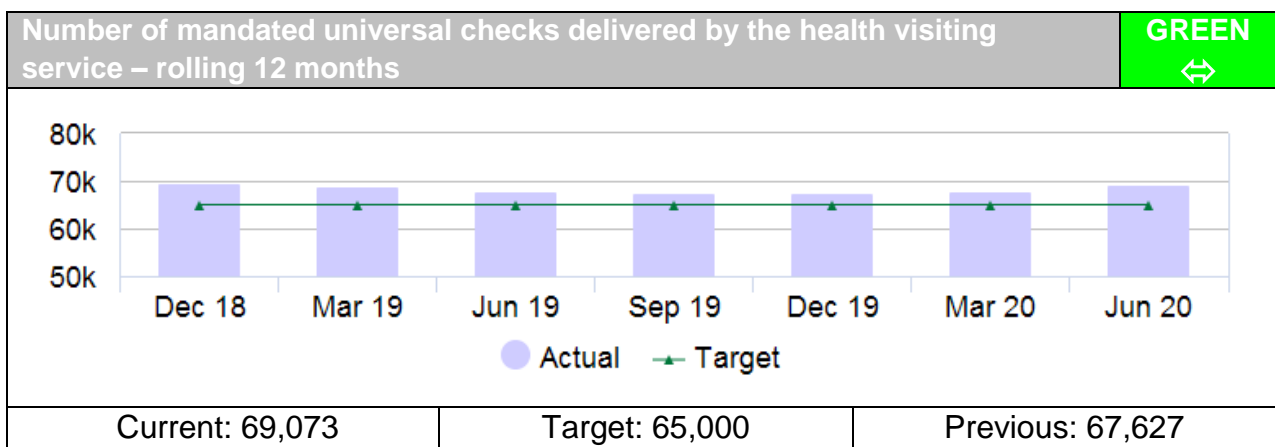
The new sexual health metric came into effect from April 2020, with the national dataset used for benchmarking purposes. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, further use of the dataset has been embargoed by Public Health England and data is currently unavailable for October 2019 to March 2020. Coronavirus has also affected performance for the first 3 months of 2020/21 due to restricted activity and a focus on reducing patient contact time during appointments. To minimise face to face contact, the service referred many patients to home testing services, and commissioners are working on a way to improve uptake via this medium.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services data for the three months to March 2020 shows that 27% of adults successfully completed treatment. Although service delivery has proved challenging due to Coronavirus, where there has been a more remote offer to service users, some have reported that this has been positive for their treatment journey and their engagement has increased. Public Health are currently working with the providers on step-up plans and are reviewing what elements of the remote offer will continue so that service users have more options on how they want to receive their support.

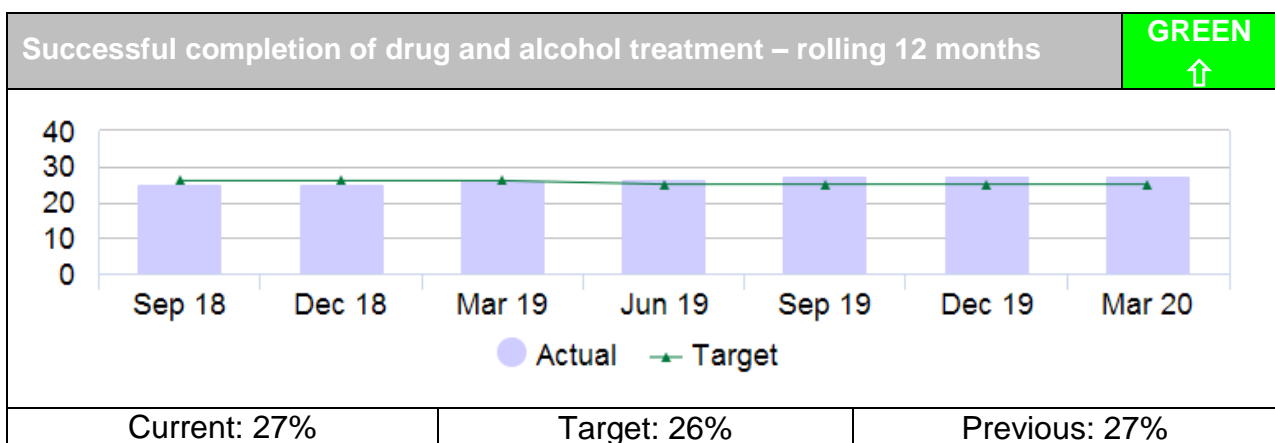
Performance Indicators

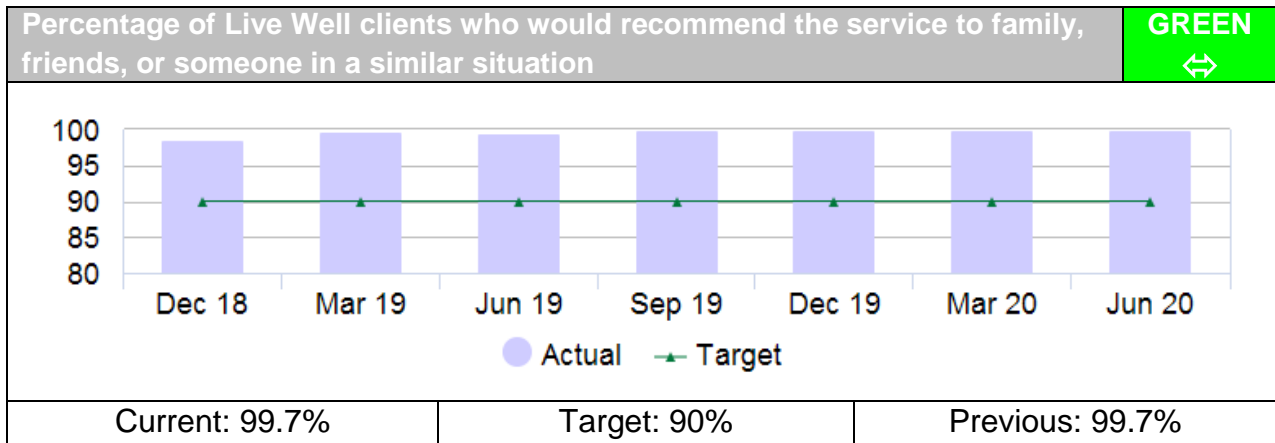


*No checks carried out in quarter to June

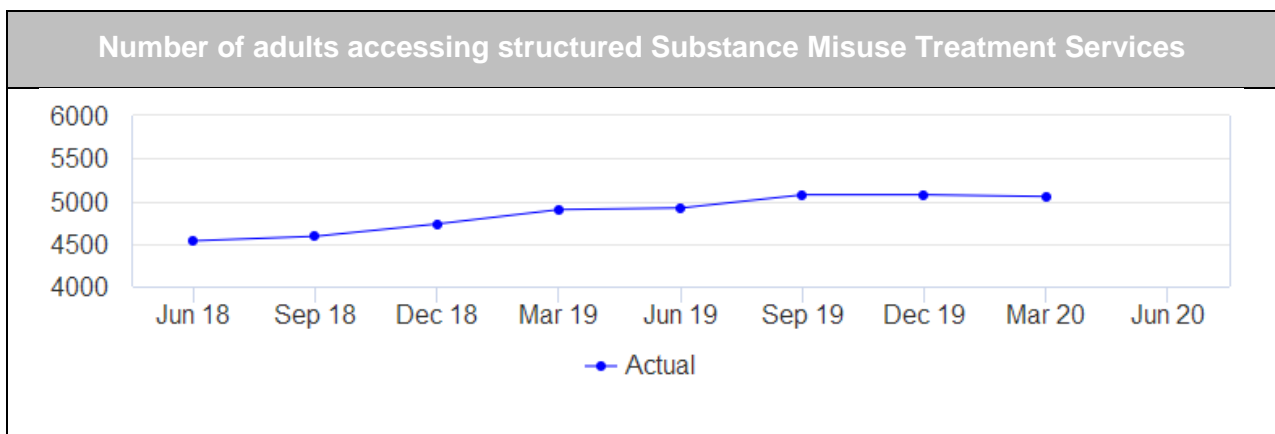
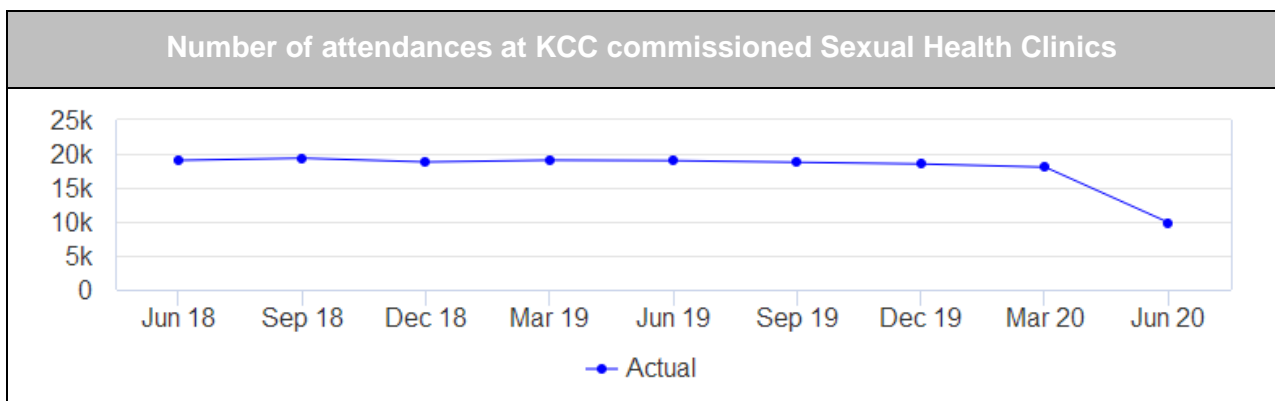
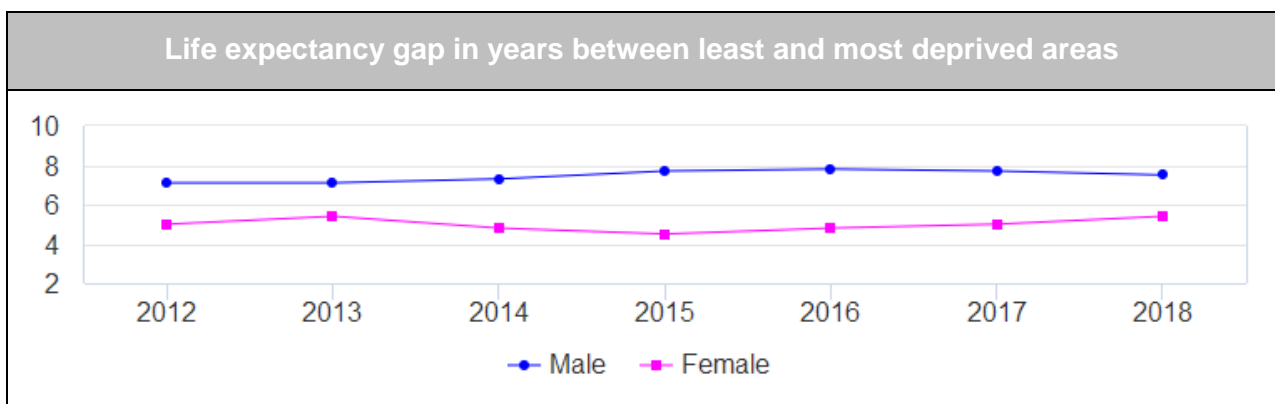


* Data for previous two quarters is embargoed





Activity indicators



Corporate Risk Register – Overview

The coronavirus public health emergency continues to have a profound impact on the risk environment that the council is operating in. The Council is an integral part of the county's response to the pandemic and is leading local recovery efforts via the multi-agency Local Resilience Forum. The pandemic, as well as introducing new risks, has compounded existing challenges.

The table below shows the number of corporate risks in each risk level (based on the risk score) in September 2020, compared with June 2020.

	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
Current risk level June 2020 *5 risks had scores TBC	0	2	15
Current risk level September 2020 *1 risk has score TBC	0	2	19

CHANGES DURING LAST QUARTER

As a result of coronavirus impacts, the Corporate Risk Register has undergone significant revision. Changes relate to the following areas:

NEW RISK:

- Maintaining workforce health, wellbeing and productivity throughout Coronavirus response and recovery. The Coronavirus pandemic has required the council's workforce to substantially adapt the way it operates and delivers services at short notice. This brings with it opportunities to accelerate programmes of change, improve productivity, wellbeing and promote our employer brand, but also, in the short term at least, risks that require close monitoring and management. This risk replaces the generic workforce risk previously on the Corporate Risk Register.

ESCALATED RISK:

- CBRNE and communicable diseases – Coronavirus response and recovery - this risk was escalated to the Corporate Risk Register by the Director of Public Health and relates to his and the organisation's statutory responsibilities relating to planning, response and recovery from communicable diseases – in this instance Covid-19. A significant concern for KCC and partners relates to any potential future wave(s) of the virus impacting on existing response and recovery efforts.

RE-OPENED RISK:

- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) accommodation and funding risks - The risk has been re-opened as a standalone corporate risk due to the strain on children's services from the increased number of UASC arriving in Kent, with urgent accommodation concerns, exacerbated by Government guidelines on social distancing, as well as the lack of a fully functioning National Transfer Scheme. In August 2020 the Council announced that, despite efforts

to work with the Home Office, and the county council's many appeals for support from other UK Local Authorities, it had reached the limit of safe capacity to care for new arrivals of UASC and is unable to accept new arrivals until a solution can be found by the Home Office to fairly distribute the children to other Local authorities. The Home Office has recently proposed mandating the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) as part of a consultation into the distribution of migrant children across England.

INCREASING RISKS

Eleven risks increased their risk scores, mostly due to impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic. Five of these risks now have the maximum risk rating:

- Managing and working with the social care market
- Cyber-attack threats and their implications
- Future financial and operating environment for Local Government
- Simultaneous Emergency Response, Recovery and Resilience
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive materials (CBRNE) and communicable diseases – Coronavirus response and recovery.

The increased risk in our environment is requiring the council to review its appetite for risk and consider the time horizons for the risks outlined on the register.

MITIGATING ACTIONS

As part of the refresh of the Corporate Risk Register during summer 2020, existing mitigations were reviewed for their continued relevance and urgency, and **new** mitigations introduced, including:

- Contributing to the production of a Kent and Medway Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan setting out priorities to support economic renewal and the development of an economy that will be more resilient in the longer term.
- The development of a KCC Interim Strategic Plan setting out priorities for the council to December 2021, along with the development of a Strategic Reset Framework, outlining how the council will operate in future, taking into account implications of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- There is also a fundamental review of both the revenue budget and capital programme, involving major recast, considering latest information available, being reported to and approved by County Council in September.
- The Analytics function has been modelling latent demand for children's services that is expected to be experienced in the autumn, to inform service resource planning.
- Given the increasing dependency on ICT, the Council is utilising an upgraded licensing agreement with Microsoft to enhance the security of KCC's infrastructure, as well as offering other benefits.
- The Kent Resilience Forum Local Outbreak Control Plan has been published, building on existing health protection plans already in place between Kent County Council, Medway Council, Public Health England - South East, the 12 Kent District and Borough Council Environmental Health Teams, the Strategic Coordinating Group of the Kent Resilience Forum, Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group and other key partners.

QPR Indicator changes in 2020/21

Customer Services

KPIs

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Percentage of callers to Contact Point who rated the advisor who dealt with the call as good		
Percentage of phone calls to Contact Point which were answered		
Percentage of complaints responded to within timescale		

Activity Indicators

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Number of phone calls responded to by Contact Point		
Average Contact Point call handling time		
Number of visits to the KCC website each quarter		
Number of complaints received each quarter		

Growth, Economic Development & Communities

KPIs

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Developer contributions received as a percentage of amount sought		
Number of homes brought back to market through No Use Empty		

Activity Indicators

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Total number of book issues from Kent libraries	Total number of visits to Kent libraries	Total number of e-book issues
		Total number of online contacts
		Percentage of population aged 16 to 64 in employment
		Percentage of population aged 16 to 64 claiming JSA

Environment and Transportation

KPIs

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Percentage of routine potholes repaired in 28 days		
Percentage of routine highway repairs reported by residents completed within 28 days		
Percentage of satisfied callers for Kent Highways 100 call back survey		
Percentage of Emergency incidents responded to within 2 hours of notification		
Percentage of municipal waste recycled or converted to energy and not taken to landfill		
Greenhouse Gas emissions (excluding schools)		

Activity Indicators

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Number of Highways enquiries raised for action		
Highways enquiries work in progress (Routine and Programmed works)		
Total municipal tonnage collected (rolling 12 month)		

Children, Young People and Education

KPIs

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Percentage of Early Years settings with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements	Percentage of 16-17 years olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs) (now an activity indicator below)	Percentage of front door contacts where the final decision is made within 3 working days
Percentage of Primary, secondary, Special and PRUs with good or outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements	Percentage of apprenticeship starts for 16-18 year olds (now an activity indicator below)	Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months
Percentage of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks	Percentage of Early Help plans closed with outcomes achieved	Percentage of child protection plans that were repeat plans
Number of pupils permanently excluded from school		
Number of first time entrants to youth justice system		
Percentage of Case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers		
Percentage of SCS Referrals with a previous SCS referral within 12 months		
Average number of days between becoming looked after and moving in with adoptive family		
Percentage of Children in care with 3+ placements in the last 12 months		
Percentage in foster care in KCC foster care or with relatives/friends		
Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training (of those KCC is in touch with)		

Activity Indicators

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Number of pupils in Reception year (Kent state funded schools)		Percentage of 16-17 years olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) or whose activity is Not Known
Number of pupils in Year 7 (Kent state funded schools)		Percentage of apprenticeship starts for 16-18 year olds
Percentage of Primary school applicants offered one of top three preferences		
Percentage of Secondary school applicants offered one of top three preferences		
Young people aged 0 to 25 with SEN Statements or EHCPs per 1,000 population		
Number of contacts processed in the Front Door which proceeded to Early Help		
Number of open Early Help cases		
Rate of CSW referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18		
CSW caseload per 10,000 child population		
Children with Child Protection Plans per 10,000 population		
Children in Care excluding UASC per 10,000		
Children in Care including UASC per 10,000 population		
Other local authority children in care placed into Kent		
Number of care leavers		

Adult Social Care

KPIs

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
	Percentage of contacts resolved at first point of contact	Proportion of people who have received short term services during the quarter for which the outcome was either support at a lower level or no ongoing support
	Number of new clients referred to an enablement service	Proportion of clients receiving Direct Payments
	Number of admissions to permanent residential or nursing care for older people (rolling 12 month totals)	The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family
	Clients still independent after enablement	Proportion of KCC clients in residential or nursing care where the CQC rating is Good or Outstanding
	Percentage of delayed transfers of care where KCC responsible	Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services

Activity Indicators

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications	Number of clients aged 65+ supported in permanent residential care	% of Safeguarding enquires where a risk was identified and the risk was either removed or reduced
	Number of clients aged 65+ supported in permanent nursing care	% of carers who are receiving services, and who had an assessment or review during the year
	Number of clients aged 65+ who receive domiciliary care	Proportion of complaints upheld (upheld and partially upheld)
	Number of social care clients receiving a direct payment	Number of people making contact with ASCH
	Number of learning disability adult clients in residential care	Number of assessments delivered (Care Needs Assessment)
	Number of people with a learning disability receiving a community service	Number receiving enablement (KEaH)
	Number of people with mental health needs in residential care	Number receiving Long term Services
	Number of people with mental health needs receiving a community service	Number of carers of service users
	Number of Safeguarding concerns (initial contacts)	
	Number of delayed transfers of care per 100,000	

Public Health

KPIs

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Number of eligible population aged 40-74 years old receiving an NHS Health Check	Proportion of clients accessing GUM offered an appointment to be seen within 48 hours	Percentage of new first-time attendances at sexual health clinics who take up the offer and are screened for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, and HIV
Number of mandated universal checks delivered by the health visiting service – rolling 12 months		
Successful completion of drug and alcohol treatment		
Percentage of Live Well clients who would recommend the service to family, friends or someone in a similar situation in the most deprived quintiles.		

Activity Indicators

Indicators unchanged	Indicators removed	New indicators
Life expectancy gap between least and most deprived 10% wards		
Number of people accessing KCC commissioned sexual health clinics		
Number of adults accessing structured substance misuse treatment services		

Changes to KPI targets in 2020-21**Environment and Transportation**

KPI	2019/20	2020/21
Percentage of municipal waste recycled or converted to energy and not taken to landfill	98%	99%

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From: Richard Long TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

To: Cabinet

Subject: Whole School opening from September 2020

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

To inform Cabinet of support provided to schools to enable them to open to all pupils from September 2020, following the Government enforced lockdown on 23rd March 2020 and to highlight any issues identified since the beginning of the Autumn Term 2020.

Recommendation:

Cabinet is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 When Government took the decision to ask schools to open only to a small number of children from 23rd March 2020, this was done with the aim of reducing transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), to protect the NHS and save lives. As the situation improved, the DfE and Local Authorities supported primary schools to welcome some additional children back on 1st June, focusing on specific year groups being educated in small 'bubbles', and from 15 June secondary schools welcomed back year 10 and 12 students to spend some time in school in small groups, with public health risk reduction measures in place. Since 15 June, primary schools also had the flexibility to bring back other pupils where they have space to do so.
- 1.2 Throughout the period between March and July, where for the majority of pupils, school attendance was not mandatory, there was a specific priority group of children and young people, who in accordance with DfE guidance, should have attended school full time. This group was children and young people who were deemed vulnerable, as they met one or more of the following criteria:
 - Children or young people assessed as being in need under section 17 children act 1989 including those subject to a Child in Need Plan, Child Protection Plan or who are looked after.
 - Children or young people with an Education and Health Care Plan, whose risk assessment showed need could be safely met in school.
 - Children or young people assessed as otherwise vulnerable by the school or Local Authority, who are in need of continued education. This category included, by was not limited to, those on the edge of need as determined by social care, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET and young carers.

- 1.3 It was clear from information held by the LA and the data collated from school through daily returns, that many of these vulnerable young people were not attending school as expected, meaning support services such as Integrated Children's Services and SEND needed to identify alternative approaches to ensuring these children and their families were supported and appropriately safeguarded.
- 1.4 Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn. Therefore, it was essential that all pupils returned to school as soon as possible.
- 1.5 Government and Health experts have reiterated that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. School is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families.
- 1.6 Given the improved position in relation to COVID-19 across the country at the time, the balance of risk was overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from COVID-19. Therefore, on 2nd July, the Government published guidance for schools to prepare to welcome all children back from the beginning of the Autumn Term 2020. While coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, this means making judgments at a school level about how to balance minimising any risks from coronavirus (COVID-19) by maximising control measures with providing a full educational experience for children and young people. To facilitate Kent Schools in doing this, officers within KCC CYPE Services and The Education People (TEP) have worked closely with school leaders, through the Kent Association of Head Teachers, providing support and guidance throughout this unprecedented period. As the guidance was produced to support Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, KAH representatives from all those sectors were involved in the discussions with KCC and TEP officers. TEP colleagues also worked with Early Years providers to ensure appropriate guidance was produced for that sector.

2. 23rd March 2020 to July 2020

- 2.1 During the initial stages, we found that schools primarily focussing on curriculum or more specifically maths linked worksheets and writing. However, as schools settled into the new norm there was a significant increase in the proportion of schools using video lessons that could be linked directly to schemes of work for each year. Many schools broadened their offer to include pre-recorded content such as lesson starters, modelling and demonstrations, this has been particularly valuable in maths. Additionally, many schools offered pre-recorded updates such as messages from teachers, learning for the week overviews and assemblies.

Though it should be noted that there was not one consistent approach across the County with a number of schools opting not to use live lessons due to safeguarding concerns.

- 2.2 Since partial return on 1 June, with the number of pupils in primary schools increasing, staff time was focussed on bubbles. This reduced time available to prepare video learning and as a result, schools became more dependent on video lessons from Oaks and BBC.
- 2.3 Whilst many schools appreciated any flexibility that is afforded them by the DfE, some schools were frustrated by the fact that much of the guidance issued by the DfE was very much open to interpretation. For this reason, KCC, TEP and Cantium BS used the DfE guidance to issue our own robust, detailed guidance ready for 1 June. Services including Area Education Officers, School Improvement, the Early Years & Childcare Service, Safeguarding, Governance, Headstart, Education Psychologists, Fair Access and Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMIs) have all been supporting schools.
- 2.4 This support included; regular correspondence to schools from the Corporate Director, providing key information and updates, webinars, comprehensive guidance on KELSI and The Education People website, welfare calls, regular 1:1 contact through Improvement Advisors and weekly blogs to early years and childcare providers.
- 2.5 Safeguarding was always at the heart of all advice to schools and early years and childcare providers. The Safeguarding Team evaluated each aspect of the COVID-19 return guidance and provided updated toolkits and resources at each stage. Schools and early years and childcare providers were also signposted to risk assessments and encouraged to draw up acceptable use policies (AUP) linked to the following guidance (AUP for remote learning and communication). The advice from Safeguarding was provided to schools through a range of media and forums to ensure complete coverage. This included the use of Headteacher briefings and webinars, newsletters, district based multi-agency Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) catch ups and posting information onto KCC and TEP websites within each toolkit. Reflective tools were also provided for early years and childcare providers online safety guidance.
- 2.6 KCC does not endorse one specific provider of home learning material or platforms. Therefore, TEP Improvement Advisors reviewed many of the materials on offer and primarily used Kent Children's University (KCU) as the route to signposting the most effective home learning resources and activities for children and families. Links to KCU were shared with all schools and signposted on social media/newsletters and KELSI. To supplement this further, Advisors produced a range of home and blended learning materials and resources, shared through the COVID-19 toolkit. These were also signposted to schools through subject leaders briefings.

- 2.7 A large focus for schools was also through the DFE online school “Oak National Academy” <https://www.thenational.academy/> which provided free video lessons every week from Year R to Year 10. Resources from the BBC and DFE website were also accessed.
- 2.8 To support families with pre-school aged children, TEP Early Years and Childcare Service provided a series of family flyers ‘Growing Together’ and links to other online resources available via the weekly blog and website. The closed Childminding Facebook Page was used to provide up to date information for childminders and the brokerage service supported many critical worker families and those with vulnerable children to find childcare.
- 2.9 Following schools being allowed to welcome more pupils back into school prior to the summer Holidays, daily pupil attendance rose to more than 40,000 pupils attending schools in Kent. In addition to allowing Key Worker and vulnerable learners, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils to attend, more than half of Primary Schools had also welcomed Year 5 pupils back into the classroom. Secondary Schools were only able to welcome back Years 10 and 12 with no more than 25% of those cohorts allowed at one time. Special Schools had c1000 pupils attending each day by the end of the summer Term. Whilst c19,000 children were attending Early years and childcare settings.

3. **Summer Holidays 2020**

- 3.1 **Summer provision:** Government “asked” schools to remain open to keyworker and vulnerable pupils over the Easter and May school holiday periods. It did not ask schools to open over the summer break. However, as lockdown was relaxed, the need for keyworkers to be prioritised reduced, and opportunities for familial childcare arrangements increased.
- 3.2 Only 17 standalone out of school providers, 193 childminders and 56 early years group providers indicated to KCC that they would have places available for school aged children over the summer. 22 schools indicated they would be offering summer activity or catchup classes. This increased as we entered the holiday period.
- 3.3 The Open Access offer from ICS targeted at risk children and young people and included a youth and children’s centre offer.
- 3.4 **GCSE/A Level Results:** For many young people, the Summer was an uncertain time as they waited for GCSE and A Level results that were to be calculated using a combination of OFQUAL’s algorithm and Centre Assessed Grades (CAG). Due to the volume of nature of complaints received following the publication of A Level results, the Government eventually decided to allow pupils to receive the higher of either the CAG or the algorithm grade.

3.5 It should be noted that prior to Government changing the basis of how grades were awarded, KCC was preparing to work with all Secondary Schools and make representations to government. The aim was to collate information from all schools on the numbers of pupils adversely affected and the subjects where downgrading was most prevalent, so that a factual, evidence based representation could be made.

3.6 This confusion delayed many young people in accessing their first-choice university, college or work placement and much has been done since that time to support those affected. Belatedly guidance on an appeals process was published and the local authority skills and employability service continue to provide support and advice where required. Pupils who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their ability will have the opportunity to sit an exam in the autumn term.

4. Preparation for September 2020 and further support being provided

4.1. Whilst general guidance for the return to schools was issued well before the beginning of the summer holiday, there was considerable clarification required on specific areas of concern such as transport and administration of tests and examinations. This information eventually reached Local authorities late in August after much planning had already been undertaken based on our best assumptions. It is fortunate that much of the Government Guidance aligned with our planning, so considerable credit should be given to the officers involved in ensuring as smooth a return to school for as many young people as possible.

4.2. The first key step was to provide comprehensive guidance to schools in Kent that could be easily accessed by school leaders to plan for all children returning in September. This was published on KELSI. Due to the volume of information being provided sections were released as and when they were completed, with the first elements uploaded on 10 July. Eventually the resources available covered all aspects of school life including personnel, health and safety, curriculum, safeguarding, toolkits for addressing learning loss, transition between education settings, cleaning, catering, risk assessments, governance, finance, transport, wellbeing and use of PPE.

4.3. Weekly discussions took place at area level with Kent Association of Headteachers to receive feedback and comments on the guidance and provide another conduit for advising schools.

4.4. With support from the Early Years and Childcare Service, the expectation was that from September 2020 early years and childcare providers who are private business will also be fully operational.

4.5. Some of the key considerations for School and EY&C settings leaders were:

- All pupils can and should return to school in September. Return to school is mandatory.
- Primary schools will operate mainly class-based or year group bubbles. Pupils can move out of these for things like SEN support.

- Secondary schools are encouraged to operate smaller bubbles where possible, for example in Key stage 3, but it is recognised whole year bubbles may be necessary because of the need to access specialist facilities and due to options blocks.
- Peripatetic staff, including supply staff can move between schools. Specialist staff, such as Educational Psychologists, can enter schools.
- Shielding ended at the beginning of August, therefore clinically vulnerable staff and pupils are able to return.
- Early years and childcare providers continue to offer Free Early Education for all 3 and 4 years and eligible 2-year olds. The requirement for bubbles in early years provision has been removed, however providers should minimise group sizes and contact with other groups where possible.
- Out of school provision can operate in consistent groups of no more than 15.
- Settings should gather information on pupils' experience of lockdown prior to them returning, with a focus on their welfare needs.
- Schools needed to consider entry arrangements, including staggered starts.

- 4.6. **Curriculum:** For most schools, their existing curriculum maps have been suspended, with now an emphasis on moving to a recovery curriculum, focussing on pupils being ready to learn (feeling safe, secure, positive wellbeing and attending). This required a particular focus on 'new' year groups such as Year R, Year 7 and Year 12 where appropriate.
- 4.7. This has resulted in some obvious narrowing of the curriculum, though many secondaries aim to offer as full a curriculum as possible.
- 4.8. **Catchup and closing the gaps for disadvantaged pupils:** Government announced a £1bn fund to help provide the means for children to catchup. £350m will be used to commission tuition from national organisations identified by the Education Endowment Foundation, and £650m will go directly to schools. The latter can be used as headteachers determine, but the Government emphasis has been on catch up tuition, either individually or in groups.
- 4.9. TEP developed a range of guidance, training and toolkits to support schools target their resources and interventions to address gaps in children's learning, including curriculum audit tools, pupil premium, disadvantaged and SEN audit tools and a recovery toolkit.
- 4.10. Advisers have been allocated additional time to support early years and childcare providers and schools to develop their recovery curriculum. SEND, disadvantaged and learning gaps have been priorities for all support agendas.
- 4.11. **Government support for Health and Safety and testing:** As a result of updated World Health Organisation advice, the Government revised the guidance on face coverings for staff and children in Year 7 or above in England. From 1 September schools and colleges have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that is right in their particular circumstances.

- 4.12. Schools and further education institutions will now receive a one-off delivery of personal protective equipment (PPE) containing clinical face masks, aprons, gloves and visors, as well as the hand sanitiser needed to put on and take off PPE. This is being provided free of charge by the Department of Health and Social Care to help build resilience across the education sector to respond to any suspected cases of COVID-19 arising in schools and colleges.
- 4.13. In addition, each school will be provided with 10 free home testing kits. The DfE has published guidance for schools providing information on when these test kits should be provided, how to store them and the usual routes for accessing free COVID-19 testing.
- 4.14. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is continuing their work with schools to ensure all possible steps are taken to help keep pupils and staff safe and reduce the transmission of coronavirus. As part of this, HSE will be phoning schools to check their risk assessments and the arrangements they have in place to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus.
- 4.15. In cases where the initial call raises concerns, HSE will work with schools to advise on next steps, which may include a visit if appropriate. This will be on a suitable date and time arranged in collaboration with the school.
- 4.16. A COVID-19 resource pack that PHE has developed for and circulated to educational settings in the PHE South East region. The contents of the resource pack include key national guidance and resources, key messages relating to COVID-19 in educational settings, definitions used by Health Protection Teams, instructions for settings to manage cases, frequently asked questions and additional resources for mental health and wellbeing.
- 4.17. **Local lockdown of infection within bubbles:** Much of the guidance already in place was still relevant providing detailed guidance to schools on managing localised or “bubble” lockdown. PHE have recently issued flowcharts and process cards for all schools to assist them in dealing with local infection cases.
- 4.18. The KCC guidance included delivery of blended learning, signposting resources and online learning should a class/year/school be locked down and Safeguarding advice has been extended to support increased virtual learning. There are clear expectations on schools to put in place e-learning strategies to ensure home or blended learning reflects in school learning e.g. Teams classroom, google class. This will be reviewed in the Term One support visits.
- 4.19. In August the DfE announced the expansion of its programme to provide devices to children who cannot attend school due to COVID-19. More laptops and tablets will be made available for disadvantaged children to access remote education if local COVID-19 restrictions are required. Devices are also available for disadvantaged and clinically extremely vulnerable children who are shielding or self-isolating following official public health advice.

- 4.20. **Transport:** For the full return to school the key advice has been that pupils should avoid using public transport where possible. LAs were encouraged to divert pupils to private hire vehicles on which social distancing measures will not apply.
- 4.21. KCC's Passenger Transport Unit have worked tirelessly with bus and private hire companies to determine how much transport can be commissioned as private hire and to ensure there is sufficient capacity in the network to enable those learners whose parents chose to use buses as their mode of transport to school are able to travel safely.
- 4.22. Bus companies have well tried and tested social distancing and cleaning regimes in place to ensure safety as far as possible. With the companies we have now converted a significant number of services in to dedicated school transport, meaning that social distancing requirements do not have to be implemented in the same way as they do on services designated for public use.
- 4.23. This increases the capacity of the buses from approximately 50% to closer 60-70% depending on the particular vehicle. Only forward-facing seats will be used, hence the reduction in provision from 100% capacity.
- 4.24. Further to this, over 100 additional buses have been commissioned to run on routes where we anticipate capacity issues.
- 4.25. Currently, applications for the 2020/21 Kent Travel pass and Post 16 Travel Pass are at approximately 60% of the normal number we receive, suggesting many parents are making alternative arrangements for their children to get to school. We therefore, anticipate that the current capacity will be sufficient to meet need, but as is the case every September, PTU will monitor all routes closely to ensure this is the case and take action to address any difficulties. We have identified further capacity with bus companies which can be allocated to particular routes if necessary.
- 4.26. In respect of rail travel, KCC has far less influence and ability to influence capacity. Very few season tickets are purchased to transport entitled learners. Pupils traveling on the trains are, primarily doing so at parents' choice and arrangement. If difficulties do arise, we will look to utilise the bus capacity we have identified to lay on an alternative service.
- 4.27. **Kent Test:** In July the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills took the decision to delay the Kent Test by one month and extend parental preferences from four to six.
- 4.28. Following a considerable delay in receiving feedback from the DfE on the proposal, KCC has now received confirmation that the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Schools Adjudicator have agreed the decision.
- 4.29. **Emotional Wellbeing:** Throughout the lockdown, significant concerns have always been raised in respect of the impact on children and adult's emotional wellbeing. Therefore, a large element of the guidance provided to schools

centred on providing access to resources and services for pupils, parents and staff in schools. The guidance produced in conjunction with the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service and Education Psychologists, is designed to support schools in providing different levels of response according to need.

- 4.30. The guidance includes practical Resources for Parents and Carers, Practical and Emotional Wellbeing Support Following Bereavement, Emotional Wellbeing for Vulnerable Pupils, supporting Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and highly anxious students
- 4.31. Staff development sessions have explored resilience and emotional based school avoidance, virtual workshops around whole school approach to emotional wellbeing and staff wellbeing, and the DfE have also been facilitating online workshops for school staff covering emotional wellbeing and returning to school.
- 4.32. CCG's/KCC Public Health have funded the extension HeadStart Kent contract to fund online support and counselling for all young people aged 10-16 years across the County (Kooth.com).
- 4.33. **Supporting vulnerable young people and their families:** Integrated Children's Services are developing a rapid response for attendance issues with our Early Help units and PIAS, to ensure we are putting in an intervention with schools to facilitate the return to school of any child where there is concern.
- 4.34. Social Workers have worked with all open families / Children in Care to ensure they had a return to school plan and any barriers were identified and ways identified to overcome them. This included ensuring all parents were aware that school attendance will be compulsory from September and normal enforcement actions could apply.
- 4.35. The DfE has recently updated its attendance guidance for schools, which provides greater clarification on how schools should look to support pupils and their families.
- 4.36. For pupils with SEND the Government disappplied the requirement for schools and local authorities to ensure ALL requirements of a child or young persons' Education and Health Care Plan were fulfilled throughout the period of school disruption. From 25th September this disapplication will be removed, and schools and local authorities will no longer be able to simply use 'best endeavours' to fulfil the requirements of the plan. All requirements must once again be met in full.
- 4.37. **OFSTED:** From September 2020 Ofsted will begin carrying out regulatory activity in providers that have been judged inadequate or requires improvement and have associated actions to fulfil. Inspectors will look at what action leaders and managers have taken since the last inspection. In these visits inspectors will confirm whether the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) are met. The DfE disappplied the learning and development requirements until 25 September 2020.

4.38. Visits will not result in an inspection grade, but inspectors can use regulatory or enforcement actions if appropriate. Ofsted will publish an outcome summary after a visit, confirming whether a provider has improved and is meeting the requirements of EYFS.

5. Issues identified following the full reopening of schools

5.1 At the time of drafting this report, schools have only been fully open for a matter of days, with the majority of pupils returning on Thursday 3rd September.

5.2 In the main, the return to schools opening for all pupils has been successful with limited problems arising in the first few days of term. However, as is to be expected, some issues have arisen which have been dealt with primarily by Area Education Officers and colleagues in TEP.

5.3 Many of the issues raised relate to either parental anxieties or frustration from some families that certain processes or protocols are impacting negatively on them. A number of parents are exercising their right to defer take up of a place for their child in year R. This is particularly from parents who do not already have school age children. Schools are encouraging children to attend by talking through the measures in place with parents. We are aware that the outcome has been positive in the majority of cases that officers have been made aware of.

5.4 There is an increase in the number of complaints from parents in respect of SEN transport. One key reason for complaint is that parental expectations do not match the guidelines transport providers are working within. For example, some parents have already voiced their concerns that children are sharing transport to and from school. These are being picked up on a case by case basis by colleagues in PTU and Fair Access.

5.5 There have been a number of cases where parents have reported other families for allegedly not self-quarantining after returning from a foreign holiday. We have advised that schools cannot be responsible for checking on every family's circumstance and to some extent these issues need to be built on trust. However, if there is clear evidence that a family has not quarantined when they should have, in those cases the Headteachers have spoken to the families concerned and requested that they keep their children out of school until the quarantine period has passed.

5.6 A small number of parents are insisting that they will not engage with test track and trace should they ever need to if they are affected by a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. Guidance received to date indicates if the family do not have the child tested, and do not want their personal data sent on, there is little the school can do. While the school has a welfare duty and H&S duty, if this was an isolated case and the child is then self-isolated by parents, it would be difficult for the school to go against the express wishes of the parents in regard to use of their personal data. This would no doubt be different if more than one child showed symptoms.

- 5.7 Officers have also been made aware of an online campaign encouraging families to go against the safety measures being implemented in response to COVID-19. However, this does not appear to have had an impact in Kent.
- 5.8 The lack of wrap around support, primarily through breakfast clubs and after school clubs due to limited opening or non-opening is causing issues for working parents and having a knock-on effect for some other schools. Schools and other settings are being encouraged to re-open these provisions (whilst still adhering to government guidance) as soon as possible.
- 5.9 At the time of drafting this report, the number of specific COVID-19 cases in schools was very low, but officers were aware of one case resulting in two-year groups in a 2FE Primary School needing to be sent home to self-isolate, and another case where the class bubble is now self-isolating. This indicates PHE are taking a cautious approach when schools are not able to clearly identify the significant contacts in school of the child affected. Officers are working with PHE and schools to agree how this can best be avoided in the future.
- 5.11 Some concerns are now being received from schools, where they have requested that a family is tested for COVID-19 and the families have been informed that there are no local tests available and some have been asked to attend testing centres in other counties with one extreme case being that a family was asked to be tested in Wales. Current advice is for families to persevere with the booking system and to try at other times of the day.
- 5.12 Staggered pickup and drop off times have caused other schools and parents problems. For example, one school in an area may have changed their school day by more than 15 minutes and this has made it difficult for siblings at other schools to attend on time. In most cases, once schools have realised the difficulty being caused, they have adjusted their timings.
- 5.13 It has also become apparent that a small number of maintained schools have chosen to shorten the school day on one day a week to allow teachers additional planning time or to undertake deep cleans. Where we become aware of such cases AEO's are liaising with the school leaders to ensure the school can fulfil the requirement to provide 380 half day sessions to all pupils and schools' timings do not negatively impact of families.
- 5.14 Education and ICS officers are working together to address concerns around attendance and possible exclusions. Updated exclusion guidance includes additional reasons for exclusion related to COVID-19. There is a concern that this poses the risk of encouraging exclusion for other reasons. In addition, officers will monitor the use of the attendance coding system to ensure all absences are appropriately recorded.
- 5.15 A number of schools are considering how best to influence behaviours of parents outside of the school gate, due to lack of social distancing.

5.16 Following the confusion in respect of GCSE and A Level results, it is clear that not all students have yet secured places, with colleges running with a backlog. The Skills and Employability Service continue to work with these young people to identify a suitable onwards destination for them.

5.17 Schools have now been asked by the DfE to provide data on attendance through a daily online submission. KCC officers have access to this information but currently there is a lag in receiving it, so we currently receive the previous day's information. The data for Monday 7 September showed 384 of our 600 schools completed the return. Between these 140,246 children were attending. 27 of these schools indicated they were not fully open to all year groups. This is being followed up with each school. Attendance at schools which claimed to be fully open was on average 91.5% (estimated).

6. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

Note and comment on the contents of the report

7. Contact Details

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From: Roger Gough, Leader
Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health
Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Community & Regulatory Services
Michael Payne, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport

To: Cabinet, 21 September 2020

Subject: Winter Risks

Non-Key/Key decision – N/A

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: N/A

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: Countywide

Summary: There are several significant key areas of risk associated with the forthcoming Winter and the end of the EU/UK Transition period. It is important that the authority's Corporate Risk profile continues to present a reflective position, and that consideration is given to the possible individual and collective impacts of these risks to inform the Organisation's planning and preparedness and determine the required mitigations.

The Authority working with national Government and local partners continues to simultaneously plan for and manage the emergency response and recovery.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet is asked to:

- i) Consider the relevant Corporate Risk profile and agree whether the current risk levels associated with the Public Health, EU/UK transition and Winter weather risks are appropriate and whether further mitigations are required. A presentation will be provided to set out the risk profile
- ii) Discuss the possible cumulative impacts of the Public Health, EU/UK Transition and Winter weather risks. Presentations will be delivered to summarise each risk area.

1. Introduction

1.1 Recently KCC's Corporate Risk profile has been significantly revised to reflect the impacts of Covid-19. The level of risk exposure for Kent County Council has increased because of Covid-19 and acceptable target risk levels (considering that not

all elements of the risks are within the Council's control) for each risk have been reviewed, revised accordingly and continue to be monitored.

1.2 It is timely that a review of the Winter risk profile is undertaken given the significance of the compounded risks associated with a potential second wave of the pandemic, an Influenza seasonal peak, the end of the EU/UK transition period on 31st December 2020 and the implications of possible adverse Winter weather.

1.3 Due to current uncertainties and the fast-evolving nature of the risks, it is essential that the organisation continues to regularly review and update its risk profile throughout the Autumn - early views from Cabinet Members about forthcoming Winter risks will help to inform this activity.

1.4 Whilst several challenges to KCC's objectives may be presented by the forthcoming Winter risks, it will be important to build upon the successful ways of working and lessons learned from the pandemic. Over recent months, the organisation's business continuity arrangements have held up well to the unprecedented situation presented by Covid-19. Although there will always be some areas for improvement, the preparations made by services have ensured that KCC continues to remain responsive to the needs of Kent's residents.

1.5 There has been a whole organisation-wide response to the Covid-19 emergency and this collective approach will continue to ensure the risks associated with the Winter period can be mitigated and managed within the resources available.

1.6 Evolving Government guidance and any future directives will impact Kent County Council's risk profile and therefore an agile approach to risk management must be taken.

2. Corporate Risk Profile

2.1 Whilst this item seeks to focus on several specific key risks relevant to the Winter there are other Corporate Risks that are pertinent to this period.

2.2 Many risks continue to have a 'high' rating, and these have previously been reviewed by Cabinet Members and the Corporate Management Team and received by the Governance and Audit Committee for assurance purposes. Given the impacts of Covid-19 and the current uncertain backdrop this is not surprising, but it is important to note the significantly higher risk profile across the authority.

2.3 The forthcoming risk review will commence in late Autumn and will seek to determine whether current risk ratings should be retained or revised. Views will also be sought on whether any new risks should be added to the Corporate Risk Register.

3. Public Health Winter Risks

3.1 A potential second wave of Covid-19 has been much publicised and it is important that the authority continues to plan and prepare on this basis. The rate of infection is increasing across the country, and this trend could continue throughout the Winter months.

3.2 The Kent and Medway Local Outbreak Control Plan is published and sets out the aim to protect the population by:

- preventing the spread of COVID-19
- identifying early and proactively managing local outbreaks
- coordinating capabilities across agencies and stakeholders
- communicating with and assuring the public and partners that the plan is being effectively delivered.

3.3 This plan is required under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and details how threats of communicable disease outbreaks which present a public health risk will be managed and responded to.

3.4 If an operational response is required the Kent Resilience Forum will co-ordinate the required action and this could include the implementation of local outbreak control measures such as a local lockdown, the facilitation of closures or quarantine. A Member Engagement Forum will also be convened on an ad-hoc basis or as required to ensure that clear communications and mitigating actions are put in place.

3.5 In addition to the risk of a possible second wave of Covid-19 there is also a Public Health threat attributed to Influenza and a national vaccine programme has been put in place to help mitigate this significant risk. Other viruses such as the Norovirus will also increase in prevalence over the colder months as in previous years.

3.6 There is a further Public Health risk associated with driver welfare during the transition period as drivers may be required to sit within vehicles for prolonged periods of time because of the freight traffic management plans that will be put in place.

3.7 Whilst Covid-19 currently remains the most significant Public Health emergency it is important to recognise that other viruses and the drop in temperature will compound the risk profile. There will be implications for our service users, Kent residents and workforce.

4. EU to UK Transition

4.1 KCC's preparations for a possible no deal scenario in the runup to anticipated Brexit dates in March and October 2019 have been reported previously to the County Council. Significant work has been undertaken with partner agencies and Government departments to minimise disruption in the county as far as possible and detailed planning for the end of transition on 31st December 2020 continues.

4.2 The previous business continuity activity undertaken for Brexit and now transition has also supported the emergency response to Covid-19. Considerable progress has been made to ensure that the Business Continuity Plans owned by KCC services are regularly reviewed.

4.3 Detailed preparations have been made to anticipate and mitigate the disruption which may be caused by post-transition border systems, new regulatory and permitting arrangements. Kent's geography in being home to the key international gateways of the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel add importance and complexity to these planning arrangements.

4.4. The proposed (and continually developing) traffic management scheme will impact Kent's road network. Early works to facilitate the traffic management scheme include the construction works at the MOJO site at M20 Junction 10a and Highways England putting works in place to install the moveable barrier on the M20 in preparation for the end of the transition period in December 2020. The traffic management scheme together with advice for local residents and businesses will be communicated widely over the Autumn and Member briefings will also be held.

4.5 Quite rightly we have had to plan for disruption and congestion so inevitably there could be disruption to travel plans and supply chains which could impact on all KCC services and the day to day lives of our staff, residents and businesses.

5. Winter weather

5.1 We will continue to plan for severe weather events this Winter.

5.2 Kent County Council has a Winter Service Policy in place which enables the safe movement of highway users across the county and this is revised on an annual basis. A report recommending a series of minor changes will be considered by the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 15th September.

5.3 Over the last year several exceptional weather events including storms and associated significant prolonged rainfall have impacted Kent's residents and communities. These events have placed extreme pressure on highways infrastructure and drainage systems leading to widespread flooding across the county. Cabinet were appraised of KCC's operational response to the 2019/20 storms earlier this year.

5.4 Homes within Kent have been flooded and sometimes evacuation by the emergency services has been required. Instances of power loss, loss of heating for protracted periods and disruptions to communications have also been experienced placing pressure on residents and the emergency response resources of KCC and partners. This type of situation significantly impacts communities and specifically the vulnerable. Preparedness, alerting and response messaging continues to be promoted by KCC, the Environment Agency and our other partner agencies.

5.5 This year the compounded impacts of possible bad Winter weather alongside possible traffic disruption resulting from the EU to UK transition must be considered. Resources will have to be carefully balanced and deployed to ensure that two potential parallel emergency situations can be managed. Clear public communications will be essential in this scenario.

6. The management of multiple incidents

6.1 The Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) has agreed that there will be a single command and control for all emergencies. KRF partners will also continue to work together to support communities and businesses in Kent and Medway in planning for dealing with multiple incidents.

6.2 KRF Partners have tried and tested plans in place to respond collectively to health pandemics and all agencies are working closely with Public Health England and the NHS to support and manage the Covid-19 situation.

6.3 Internally each service has a Business Continuity Plan and teams will be encouraged to continue to refresh these in response to the potential compounded Winter risks.

6.4 Situation Reports from KCC's directorates have proved invaluable during the pandemic and operational headlines and items for decision have been reported to the Corporate Management Team. This reporting approach has provided clear oversight of issues including workforce considerations and will be retained over the Winter period on a proportionate basis.

6.5 Effective communications will continue to be an important element of our responses. KCC's Communications Team have played a key role in co-ordinating communications between national and local levels as well as between local partners and this will continue to be essential as we progress through Winter.

6.6 Existing multiple communication channels including social media will continue to be used to communicate key messages and updates to the residents and businesses of Kent.

7. Financial implications

7.1 Whilst KCC has received a level of funding from Government there is uncertainty about the quantum of any additional future monies that may come forward to support local authority emergency responses especially in respect of Covid-19. KCC is already in a challenging financial situation because of the pandemic and adequate internal budgetary provision must continue to be made available to ensure that the organisation remains resilient.

8. Legal implications

8.1 Kent County Council must continue to deliver statutory responsibilities despite the multiple anticipated forthcoming Winter risks.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 Regard continues to be given to the equality implications of the highlighted Winter risks on the different communities which constitute Kent's population.

9.2 National research is being progressed to understand the factors that have driven a disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on the BAME community.

9.3 Through our Public Health campaigns we will continue to highlight how good health can be achieved during the Winter period especially in terms of how elderly and vulnerable residents can be protected and supported during the cold weather.

10. Conclusion

10.1 Kent County Council's risk profile continues to remain significantly higher than in previous years because of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is essential that this profile continues to be reviewed and monitored given the possible implications of the compounded Public Health, EU/UK transition and Winter weather risks.

11. Recommendation(s)

The Cabinet is asked to:

- i) Consider the relevant Corporate Risk profile and agree whether the current risk levels associated with the Public Health, EU/UK transition and Winter weather risks are appropriate and whether further mitigations are required. A presentation will be provided to set out the risk profile
- ii) Discuss the possible cumulative impacts of the Public Health, EU/UK Transition and Winter weather risks. Presentations will be delivered to summarise each risk area.

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