



## **AGENDA**

## **CABINET**

**Thursday, 29th September, 2022, at 10.00 am** Ask for: **Georgina Little**  
**Council Chamber, Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ** Telephone: **Tel: 03000 414043**  
Email: **georgina.little@kent.gov.uk**

### **UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

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

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2022 (Pages 1 - 10)
4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2022 (Pages 11 - 14)
5. Cabinet Member Updates
6. Quarterly Performance Report, Quarter 1, 2022/23 (Pages 15 - 72)
7. Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report (June 2022-23) (Pages 73 - 128)
8. KCC's Response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis (Pages 129 - 160)

### **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  
03000 416814

**Wednesday, 21 September 2022**

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**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**CABINET**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 21 July 2022.

PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Chairman), Mrs C Bell, Mr D L Brazier, Miss S J Carey, Mrs S Chandler, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford and Mrs S Prendergast

ALSO PRESENT: Mr D Jeffrey

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS****1. Apologies and Substitutes**

*(Item 1)*

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 June 2022**

*(Item 3)*

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 were a correct record and that they be signed by the Chair.

**3. Cabinet Member Updates**

*(Item 4)*

1) Mrs Bell said the heatwave had brought the expected challenges with additional demand on the NHS, traffic queues and concurrent issues across the water network which saw some areas without water and some wildfires caused by or exacerbated by the heat. KCC led the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) response including communications to ensure timely and consistent messages. Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health conducted several media interviews to promote advice about staying safe. It was forecast for the temperature to rise again towards the weekend. It was approaching the end of the school term and the start of the 'summer getaway' so KCC was working with KRF to manage the expected pressures on the road network as well as making sure people remained safe and well as they travelled through and to Kent.

Bird Flu was circulating in Kent and there was the largest outbreak on record among sea birds. This was of concern as sea birds had more regular interaction with humans and domestic animals. There was evidence that Bird Flu was spreading in other wildlife such as foxes and there were concerns there could be spread to domestic animals such as dogs. The spread was thought to be slowing as migratory birds had died or moved on with their young but the virus could spread to non-migratory flocks so it was important to take precautionary action. Posters and social media content had been circulated to affected areas and while it was important to inform residents and tourists, KCC wanted to reassure and encourage visitors to the

Kent coast this summer. People were advised not to handle sick or dead birds or allow dogs near to any dead birds.

KCC was supporting the alcohol awareness campaign, Know Your Score which was running to end of July and the Better Health summer campaign, Shake Up Your Summer aiming to get families with young children more active with 10-minute 'Shake Up' games.

2) Mrs Prendergast said that the first Key Stage 2 attainment statistics since 2019 had recently been published, covering the attainment of year 6 pupils. Sadly but not unexpectedly, 59% of pupils were assessed to be meeting the expected standard in all of reading, writing and maths, down from 65% in 2019.

The Schools' Bill had proved controversial, with a significant number of amendments made as it progressed through the House of Lords. KCC was submitting an expression of interest in participating in the "test and learn" phase of the government plans to promote Local Authority established Multi Academy Trusts. Whether KCC were successful or not, officers were to work with the Kent Association of Headteachers to engage the range of providers in the education sector to consider options related to the Schools Bill.

There had been an update on the locally commissioned review of 16-19 provision - Pathways for All. Members were urged to read the summary, if not the document in full. Mrs Prendergast had recently met with Simon Cook, Chief Executive of Mid Kent college and visited their campus in Maidstone. Information was shared on the breadth of their offer, future plans and there was an opportunity to talk with some students.

Kent's three Further Education (FE) colleges educated 25,470 students and like other education settings, had to support them both during and post pandemic. Mrs Prendergast was really pleased to find out more about this work through a letter from Lucy McLeod, Chief Education Officer at the EKC Group, about the very positive impact of the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding which was distributed across Kent last year. They had expanded 1:1 and group counselling, established a wide range of additional clubs, alongside trips and visits for students to engage in and trained Mental Health First Aiders. Thanks were given to Lucy McLeod for taking the time to feedback the impact of the funding on supporting students.

KCC's Reconnect programme was still working with schools, and the second in a series of hackathons last month had seen nine school teams focusing on ways to improve health, wellbeing and the ability to engage with learning within their school communities. Three overall winners were The School of Science and Technology (Maidstone), St Peter's CEP School (Folkestone), and Lady Joanna Thornhill PS (Ashford). Congratulations were given to them and to all those who took part.

Behind the scenes, officers were continuing to drive improvement in a variety of ways. The Transport Eligibility team in Fair Access had streamlined the way parents secured free school transport for their children. Secondary transfer mainstream families were contacted to advise them of their child's eligibility status, reducing the administrative burden of processing two and a half thousand applications. This allowed the team to focus on the assessment of SEN pupils' applications which could not be fully automated to allow consideration of each child's individual circumstances.

This placed KCC in the best possible position to meet the challenges of finalising school transport against a backdrop of a pressured transport sector and record high fuel prices.

Some bus services which served schools were being withdrawn from September. This was due to a combination of bus operator service withdrawals and the reduction in bus subsidies that KCC provided to keep certain services operating. The challenges that had led to these service withdrawals included lower passenger numbers combined with expensive fuel costs, driver shortages and rising inflation affecting the cost of maintaining vehicles. Colleagues in Public Transport were in direct communication with schools who were affected by service withdrawals, and a raft of communications were being distributed to Kent families and on KCC's website.

KCC was to continue to provide travel options to pupils who were eligible for free school transport, fulfilling the statutory duty. A child's entitlement to free school transport was not dependent on the mode of travel they had used, which unfortunately means that pupils would not become entitled to free school transport as a result of these changes. A dedicated resource was available on Kent.gov.uk to advise parents on what they could do if they found themselves affected by these changes. KCC was to provide refunds to any parents who had bought a Kent Travel Saver bus pass which they could not use because services had been withdrawn or were to be later in the year. Close work was being undertaken with other bus operators to see if they were able to offer any services to those being withdrawn but it was recognised that all operators were facing the same set of challenges.

It was understood how difficult the changes were for families across Kent and every effort was being undertaken to reduce their impact, however, KCC alone was not able to balance the impact currently being felt nationally across the transport sector.

Last week two burst water mains on the Isle of Sheppey resulted in residents and schools being left without water for two days. Schools and settings had to close as they could not operate safely.

A Red Alert weather warning was issued for the first time for the week beginning 18 July. Officers disseminated Department for Education (DfE) advice and guidance to schools which was to stay open if possible and to take sensible precautions and a very small number of schools closed, if, for example, their air conditioning broke down. Thanks were given to school colleagues in continuing to work through this and to ensure schools remained open for children and young people.

At the beginning of May, Internal Audit reviewed Children's, Young People and Education (CYPE) directorate's Business Continuity Plans. CYPE's engagement was managed through the directorate's Resilience Forum and the directorate received the highest possible Audit rating of "high assurance", with prospects for further improvements being deemed "very good".

On 4 July, a webinar covering Emergency Planning, Business Continuity Planning and Prevent was held for all schools to highlight the Council's roles and responsibilities in planning for and responding to incidents and emergencies and to highlight the services on offer to support schools. More than 200 school colleagues participated and gave very positive feedback and there had been increased contact

from schools seeking advice and support. The webinar recording was still available on KELSI for those who did not attend the live event.

Thanks were given to all the education leaders and staff across the county that had worked with children, young people and adults through a very challenging year.

3) Mr Brazier said that work was ongoing on a Kent Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to map and coordinate facilities across Kent. LCWIPs were being put into place on a district basis with some meeting their potential and others not meeting their full potential. There was work ongoing to encourage small schemes and to plan more strategic routes.

Correspondence had been received from residents regarding the use of chemicals on the hard surfaces of Kent's highways and concerns had been raised that these chemicals were detrimental to biodiversity and it was suggested weeds should be removed manually. The principal chemical used was glyphosate which was effective, legal and economical. However, KCC was experimenting with other solutions such as hot foam which was giving good results.

There was to be a meeting with Eurostar in next few days. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Eurostar trains had not been stopping at Ebbsfleet and Ashford International and the only terminal from the UK was St Pancras International. There was reason to believe this would start in 2022 but there was still no firm date for resumption of the services. This was very disappointing.

A time limited motion at the last meeting of County Council called for a policy to promote urban road clearance for short periods of time to enable children to play safely in the street. Mr Brazier was arranging to take the matter forward with officers on the basis that it would not require expenditure and responsibility and administration would be with the proposers of any event.

4) Miss Carey said that Household Waste Recycling Centres had been affected by the heatwave but had remained open. Staff had been able to take extra breaks and there had been monitoring of issues such as handrails which had been too hot to touch, melting tarmac and combustion and waste materials. Thanks were given to staff during this challenging period.

The publication of the Climate Change Committee's report had received a lot of attention in the media and one of the documents that was published at the same time, was the Climate Conversation, which recorded their experience of visiting local government areas and quoted the Leader twice. It also made reference to Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it was great to see the work of KCC profiled in this way.

5) Mr Murphy said that he had attended a meeting of the Straits Committee which was focussed on environment, transport and planning issues with a particular focus on the ports.

The introduction of Entry/Exit System (EES) which was an automated IT system for entrance and exit for ports, had been put back further by the EU and it was expected to be implemented in May 2023. However, it was envisaged that this would be pushed back later to December 2023.

On 8 July, Mr Murphy presented to interested parties at the Future of Farming at the Kent County Show. Topics covered included: broadband roll out, training and skills, spread of disease and the social pressures that were on farmers and rural communities.

A KCC Rural Partnership Board was being established with an independent chairman, recognising the importance of the rural sector on Kent's: economy, skills, food production and related issues.

Good progress was being made with issues relating to power and energy with UK Power Networks. The distribution of power within Kent was extremely important, especially to attract modern industries.

KCC had supported Dover District Council's Levelling Up bid, the 'Dover Beacon' project regenerating the centre of Dover with new education facilities and more facilities for shoppers and residents.

The KCC Levelling Up bid for customs exit facilities to be built at Dover docks to speed up the clearance of vehicles had the support of Dover Harbour Board.

Panattoni were to create 250 jobs redeveloping the Marley Tiles site near Wrotham for delivery company, DPD. Barclays Eagle Labs were opening a facility at Discovery Park in Sandwich.

6) Mr Hill said the Emergency Planning function had been in action in the previous few weeks. The Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) had stood up its full command structures in response to an incident on the Isle of Sheppey and the Level 4 Heatwave.

The KRF partners had supported residents on the Isle of Sheppey as a major incident was declared due to an issue with the water supply on 13 July. All KCC schools and buildings in the affected area were closed. The water supply was restored on 15 July.

In recent weeks, there had been a Level 4 Heatwave, power disruption, disruption to water supplies, challenges to public services and wildfires in the county. Communities had pulled together to support the vulnerable and thanks were given to all partners of the KRF and residents in Kent.

Demand for Community Wardens had steadily increased and their role has been crucial in supporting families, with mental health issues, anti-social behaviour, safeguarding and welfare concerns. The service was under pressure and recruitment was underway.

The Kent Libraries Summer Reading Challenge was running from 9 July to 10 September and aimed to keep children reading over the summer. This year's challenge had a special science and technology theme, inspiring imagination and creativity.

On 8 July, Mr Hill attended a presentation in Gravesend for the Queen's Baton Relay, which celebrated communities across the Commonwealth in the build up to the Commonwealth Games.

7) Mr Sweetland said that it had been a busy time for teams in his portfolio, working with partners from the KRF, sending out advice via social media. There was a heatwave campaign section on the website. At the same time, information also went out regarding the Southern Water issues with water supply for residents of the Isle of Sheppey.

The guidance on Covid-19 which remained an issue for the county and the country, was being regularly updated.

The Budget Consultation 2023/24 was launched on 19 July and Mr Oakford spoke about this on BBC Radio Kent on 21 July 2022.

8) Mr Oakford said the Budget Consultation 2023-24 had started earlier in 2022 compared to previous years. Like other years, there were huge challenges. However, the challenges were different due to the savings already planned in the Budget and due to the inflationary pressure. The government were not going to increase the grant to local government so there would be increased reliance on the tax base increase from residents of Kent. Residents were being asked where savings should be made in order to safeguard services which residents felt were important. Staff were encouraged to participate in the Budget Consultation which was available on the KCC website.

9) Mr Gough said he and Mr Brazier had been devoting time to the huge amount of concern across the county in relation to bus services and the impact on journeys to school. Mr Gough gave an interview to BBC Radio Kent and said it was important that KCC sought to keep parents and schools informed. An extra page had been set up on KCC's website: [www.kent.gov.uk/buses](http://www.kent.gov.uk/buses)

#### **4. Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education**

*(Item 5)*

*Christine McInnes, Director for Education and Mark Walker, Director for SEND were in attendance for this item.*

1) Ms McInnes outlined the presentation (slides attached).

2) Further to comments and questions from Members, it was noted:

- It was felt that KCC's ambitions for children with SEND could be fulfilled within mainstream schools in many cases and work was ongoing to support schools.
- The approach to inclusive education was in line with KCC's response to the SEND Green Paper Consultation and the Written Statement of Action.



## **5. KCC's response to the SEND Green Paper Consultation**

*(Item 6)*

*Sarah Hammond, Interim Corporate Director for CYPE and Mark Walker, Director for SEND was in attendance for this item.*

1) Mrs Chandler introduced the report.

2) Ms Hammond outlined the report.

3) Further to comments, it was noted:

- Partnership arrangements were crucial and if the arrangements worked well, opportunities would be a lot greater for children across the county. This was emphasised within KCC's response to the SEND Green Paper Consultation.
- The ways of working and building partnerships were important and it had been suggested in KCC's response that schools be supported with any inspection regimes going forward, helping schools to focus more on SEND within the school environment.

4) RESOLVED to agree the recommendations as outlined in the report.

## **6. Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services**

*(Item 7)*

*Sarah Hammond, Interim Corporate Director for CYPE was in attendance for this item.*

1) The Leader and Mrs Chandler introduced the report.

2) Ms Hammond outlined the report and presentation regarding the Independent Review of Children's Social Care undertaken by Josh MacAlister (slides attached).

3) Further to questions and comments from Members, it was noted:

- A 'step-up, step-down' system had been used. 'Stepped-up' were cases that needed to legally be held by a Social Worker and 'stepped-down' were cases assigned to an Early Help Worker. It had been proposed in Josh MacAlister's review that this be disposed of and that there be blended teams with both Social Workers and Early Help.
- A more integrated, partnership approach with Regional Care Cooperatives was welcomed and it was felt that it would be beneficial for KCC to have the freedom to pair up with London boroughs, particularly in south London and not just other authorities in the south east. Much of the challenge in terms of the market was coming from the London boroughs.
- It was reported there had been insufficient data sharing between agencies when legislation allowed for more data to be shared. Information sharing was working well in Kent but nationally, it had been working less well. It was queried whether it was proposed to resurrect the 'Contact Point' database in order to improve data sharing. The information on the database would help to inform professionals safeguarding children. It was suggested that a solution would require a child to be added to a database at birth, with 'thin' information

held on the majority of children but those with disabilities, health concerns or vulnerabilities would have most information collected.

4) RESOLVED to note the report.

## **7. 16-19 Review**

*(Item 8)*

*Christine McInnes, Director for Education was in attendance for this item.*

1) Mrs Prendergast introduced the report.

2) Ms McInnes outlined the presentation (slides attached).

3) Further to questions from Members, it was noted:

- Some changes were to be in place by September 2023. There were 2 pilot schemes (in the Gravesham and Dover areas) of joint planning between post-16 education providers to try to get more of a spread within local areas.

4) RESOLVED to note the report.

## **8. Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme - Delivery Beyond August 2022**

*(Item 9)*

*David Adams, Reconnect Programme Manager, was in attendance for this item.*

1) Mrs Chandler introduced the report.

2) Mr Adams outlined the report.

3) Further to comments and questions, it was noted:

- It was felt there were pressures over the summer on communities and in particular, young people due to the 'cost of living' crisis. The continuation of this work was important in making a difference over the coming weeks as well as going into the autumn. It was important that messages were shared widely about the programme so that people were aware of what was available.
- The countywide Youth Forum mentioned in the report at point 5.4 referred to a forum for providers of services to young people, rather than a forum for young people themselves.

4) RESOLVED to agree the recommendations as outlined in the report.

## **9. Homelessness Connect**

*(Item 10)*

The Leader advised Members that this agenda item had been superseded by notice of two Forthcoming Executive Decisions and therefore, the item would not be discussed at the meeting.



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**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**CABINET**

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ on Tuesday, 6 September 2022.

PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Chairman), Mrs C Bell, Mr D L Brazier, Mr A R Hills, Mrs S Chandler, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford, Ms S Hamilton and Mr B J Sweetland

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS****1. Apologies**

*(Item 1)*

Apologies were received from Miss Carey, for whom Mr Hills attended for virtually, and Mrs Prendergast, for whom Ms Hamilton attended for.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

*(Item 2)*

Resolved that there were no declarations of interest.

**3. Scrutiny Committee Request for Review of Decision 22/00052 (KCC Supported Bus Funding Review)**

*(Item 3)*

*Simon Jones, Corporate Director Growth, Environment and Transport, and Phil Lightowler, Interim Director of Highways and Transportation were in attendance for this item.*

- 1) Mr Watts (General Counsel) set out the Council's procedural position, summarising the background detailed within the report. Mr Watt's confirmed that the Call-in did not indicate that the decision was at variance to the budget nor at variance to policy; however, it was deemed valid under reasons related to further consideration of evidence. It was therefore confirmed that Cabinet could rescind, amend or confirm the decision and that if not rescinded, the decision would be subject to review by Full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> September. As clarified within the covering report, should the matter be referred to Full Council, it would have the authority to either agree implementation with no comments; express comments but not require reconsideration of the decision; or to require implementation to be postponed pending review of the matter by Cabinet. Full Council would not be able to resolve to overturn the decision. This was because the Council operates an Executive model of governance which places authority, responsibility and accountability for Executive decision-making with the Leader and Cabinet.

- 2) No comments were received from Members regarding procedural matters and therefore general comments were invited by the Chair.
- 3) In response to queries regarding the BSIP funding and how this could be spent, Mr Gough noted the fluctuation in tone from the communications received from the DfT; however, the substance of those discussions had remained consistent in that the BSIP was not to be used to preserve the status-quo. It was also clear that revenue was not to be used to sustain existing structures or existing routes. It was also highlighted that acceptance and deployment of any BSIP funding made available to Kent would be subject to separate Executive decision-making and that prior to that decision-making, any reliance on BSIP funding to influence other decisions was problematic.
- 4) Mr Lightowler advised that whilst the DfT had recognised that recent communication had given the impression of change to the BSIP funding, the DfT had confirmed that it was not to be used for existing services or for those services being withdrawn. The BSIP could only be used for new initiatives and new services.
- 5) Comments were noted regarding the importance of drawing a clear distinction between the Executive decision taken in relation to KCC subsidised bus services and the unrelated commercial service withdrawals being determined by the commercial bus operators.
- 6) Mr Brazier (*Cabinet Member for Highways and transport*) advised that the County Council agreed at its meeting in February 2022 that the supported bus portfolio of 137 services costing £6m should yield a saving of £2.2m in order to achieve a balanced budget for the year 2022-2023. There were 48 services identified for withdrawal from October 2022, with a Net cost of £3m. Following a public consultation carried out from 4th February to 20 April 2022, a modified proposal was then developed and presented to the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 6th July 2022 where Members endorsed the decision to reduce the portfolio of supported buses by 37 services and so deliver a budget saving of £2.2m. It was recognised that the withdrawal of support of 37 buses would have serious consequences for many Kent residents, however, there was a need to make associated savings of £2.2m. Mr Brazier commented that the executive would rather not have to make such decisions, recognising the impact the changes would have on some service users, but emphasised that the decision was necessary from a financial and service sustainability perspective. Mr Brazier therefore recommended that the decision not be rescinded by Cabinet and be subject to further debate by the wider Council membership at Full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> September.
- 7) Mr Oakford (*Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services*) raised concerns around the ongoing budgetary pressures amid a huge growth in demand of services and yet further reductions from central government. The Council made the decision to not

increase council tax above the referendum limit and instead agreed to find savings within its own budget. It was highlighted that the impact of not making the proposed savings would have a detrimental impact on the Council's ability to balance the budget.

- 8) Following the Cabinet debate and having taken into consideration the comments made at Scrutiny Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022, it was **RESOLVED** to confirm the decision without amendment and refer the matter to Full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> September for review.

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From: Roger Gough – Leader of the Council  
David Cockburn – Chief Executive Officer

To: Cabinet - 29 September 2022

Decision No: n/a

Subject: **Quarterly Performance Report, Quarter 1, 2022/23**

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 2022 (Quarter 1, 2022/23).

Of the 37 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) contained within the QPR, 21 achieved target (Green), 8 achieved and exceeded the floor standard but did not meet target (Amber). 8 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 report summary for Quarter 1, 2022/23 is attached at Appendix 1, and includes data up to the end of June 2022.
- 1.2. The QPR includes 37 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) where results are assessed against Targets set at the start of the financial year.

## 2. Quarter 1 Performance Report

- 2.1. There are 6 new KPIs in the report this year, and ten targets for existing KPIs have increased.
- 2.2. Results for KPIs compared to Target are assessed using a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) status.
- 2.3. Of the 37 KPIs included in the report, the latest RAG status are as follows:
  - 21 are rated Green – the target was achieved or exceeded.
  - 8 are rated Amber – performance achieved or exceeded the expected floor standard but did not meet target.
  - 8 are rated Red – Performance did not meet the expected floor standard.

2.4. The 8 indicators where the RAG rating is Red, are in:

- Customer Services
  - Percentage of phone calls to Contact Point which were answered.
  - Percentage of complaints responded to within timescale.
- Governance and Law
  - Percentage of Freedom of Information Act (Fol) requests completed within 20 working days
  - Percentage of Data Protection Act (DPA) Subject Access requests completed within statutory timescales.
- Environment and Transport
  - Percentage of pothole repairs completed within 28 days.
- Children, Young People and Education
  - Percentage of Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks.
  - Percentage of pupils (with EHCP's) being placed in independent or out of county special schools.
- Adult Social Care
  - Percentage of new Care Needs Assessments delivered within 28 days.

2.5 With regards to Direction of Travel, 5 indicators show a positive trend, 27 are stable or with no clear trend, and 5 are showing a negative trend.

### **3. Recommendation(s)**

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the Quarter 1 Performance Report
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### **4. Contact details**

Rachel Kennard  
Chief Analyst  
Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance  
Telephone: 03000 414527  
[Rachel.Kennard@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Kennard@kent.gov.uk)

David Whittle  
Director of Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance  
Telephone: 03000 416833  
[David.Whittle@kent.gov.uk](mailto:David.Whittle@kent.gov.uk)

# **Kent County Council**

## **Quarterly Performance Report**

### **Quarter 1**

### **2022/23**

Produced by: Kent Analytics  
E-mail: [performance@kent.gov.uk](mailto:performance@kent.gov.uk)  
Phone: 03000 416205



## Key to KPI Ratings used

This report includes 37 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) using arrows. Direction of Travel is based on regression analysis across the whole timeframe shown in the graphs.

<b>GREEN</b>	Target has been achieved
<b>AMBER</b>	Floor Standard* achieved but Target has not been met
<b>RED</b>	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

21 of the 37 indicators are rated as Green, on or ahead of target. 8 indicators reached or exceeded the floor standard (Amber) with 8 indicators not achieving the floor standard (Red). 5 indicators were showing an improving trend, with 5 showing a worsening trend.

	G	A	R	↑	⇒	↓
Customer Services	1		2		3	
Governance and Law			2		2	
Growth, Economic Development & Communities	1	1			2	
Environment and Transport	4	1	1		6	
Children, Young People and Education	7	4	2	2	7	4
Adult Social Care	4	1	1		5	1
Public Health	4	1		3	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>

**Customer Services** - Satisfaction with Contact Point advisors continued to meet target, but the percentage of calls answered moved below the floor standard for Quarter 1. The percentage of complaints responded to within timescale decreased to move further below floor standard. The number of phone calls responded to by Contact Point was similar to the same Quarter last year.

<b>Customer Services KPIs</b>	<b>RAG rating</b>	<b>DoT</b>
% 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	RED	⇒
% of complaints responded to within timescale	RED	⇒

**Governance and Law** - Achievement of target for both Freedom of Information (FOI) / Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) requests, and Data Protection Act Subject Access requests completed within timescales has been challenging for a long period of time, and both are below floor standard.

<b>Governance and Law KPIs</b>	<b>RAG rating</b>	<b>DoT</b>
% of Freedom of Information Act (FOI) requests completed within 20 working days	RED	⇒
% of Data Protection Act (DPA) Subject Access requests completed within statutory timescales	RED	⇒

**Growth, Economic Development & Communities** – The No Use Empty programme, which returns long term empty domestic properties into active use, dropped below target but achieved floor standard. The amount of Developer Contributions secured moved back above target at 99% secured of the total sought. The number of books issued (physical and e-issues) remains above the pre-pandemic level.

<b><u>Growth, Economic Development &amp; Communities KPIs</u></b>	<b>RAG rating</b>	<b>DoT</b>
Number of homes brought back to market through No Use Empty (NUE)	AMBER	⇒
Developer contributions secured as a percentage of amount sought	GREEN	⇒

**Environment & Transport** – Two Highways KPIs were RAG rated Green. Potholes repaired within 28 days dropped to 70% against a target of 90%, meaning performance for Quarter 1 fell below the floor standard and so this KPI is RAG rated Red. Routine highway repairs completed within 28 days also dropped below target but remained above the floor standard and so is RAG rated Amber. Municipal Waste recycled or converted to energy continues to be above target. The reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions is also ahead of target.

<b><u>Environment &amp; Transport KPIs</u></b>	<b>RAG rating</b>	<b>DoT</b>
% of routine pothole repairs completed within 28 days	RED	⇒
% of routine highway repairs reported by residents completed within 28 days	AMBER	⇒
% of 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	GREEN	⇒

**Education & Wider Early Help** – Schools continue to exceed the inspection target, but Early Years settings remain below, although 96% are still rated good or outstanding. Completion of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in timescale continues on an upward trend but remains below the floor standard, as does the new KPI on Pupils with EHCPs placed in independent or out of county special schools. Permanent pupil exclusions is achieving the new more challenging target, but the trend is negative. The number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system increased but still met target.

<b><u>Education &amp; Wider Early Help KPIs</u></b>	<b>RAG rating</b>	<b>DoT</b>
% of all schools with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements	GREEN	⇒
% of Early Years settings with Good or Outstanding Ofsted inspection judgements (childcare on non-domestic premises)	AMBER	⇩
% of Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks – rolling 12 months	RED	⇩
Percentage of pupils (with EHCP's) being placed in independent or out of county special schools	RED	⇒
% of pupils permanently excluded from school – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇩
Number of first-time entrants to youth justice system – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇒

**Children's Social Care & Early Help** – Four of the seven indicators met target, the same as in Quarter 4, with the other three achieving the floor. Percentage of case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers is one of those below target and is on a negative trend. The children in need caseload rate per 10,000 children increased to its highest level for over 2 years.

<b><u>Children's Social Care &amp; Early Help KPIs</u></b>	<b>RAG rating</b>	<b>DoT</b>
Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months	GREEN	⇒
% of case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers	AMBER	⇩
% of children social care referrals that were repeat referrals within 12 months	GREEN	⇩
% of child protection plans that were repeat plans	GREEN	⇒
Average no. of days between becoming a child in care and moving in with an adoptive family – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇩
% 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** – Four out of the seven KPIs met or exceeded target, and were RAG rated Green. The proportion of clients receiving Direct Payments remains below target. One of the new KPIs, The proportion of new Care Needs Assessments delivered within 28 days, is below floor standard and on a negative trend. The number of people with an active care and support plan is at its highest for over a year and a half. The cost of new support packages continues to increase.

<b>Adult Social Care KPIs</b>	<b>RAG rating</b>	<b>DoT</b>
% of people who have their contact resolved by ASCH but then make contact again within 3 months	GREEN	⇒
% of new Care Needs Assessments delivered within 28 days	RED	⇩
% of people receiving a long-term community service who receive Direct Payments	AMBER	⇒
Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services	GREEN	⇒
Long Term support needs of older people (65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000	GREEN	⇒
% of KCC supported people in residential or nursing care where the CQC rating is Good or Outstanding	GREEN	⇒

**Public Health** – Four out of five KPIs are meeting or exceeding target. The Number of eligible people receiving an NHS Health Check – rolling 12 months is below target, but is on a positive trend.

<b>Public Health KPIs</b>	<b>RAG rating</b>	<b>DoT</b>
Number of eligible people receiving an NHS Health Check – rolling 12 months	AMBER	↑
Number of mandated universal checks delivered by the health visiting service – rolling 12 months	GREEN	⇒
% of first-time patients (at any sexual health clinics or telephone triage) who are offered a full sexual health screen	GREEN	↑
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	⇒



<b>Customer Services</b>	
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Bryan Sweetland
<b>Corporate Director</b>	Amanda Beer

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	⇒	↓
	1		2		3	

Customer contact through Contact Point (KCC's call centre) is provided via a strategic partnership, whilst Digital services are provided by KCC.

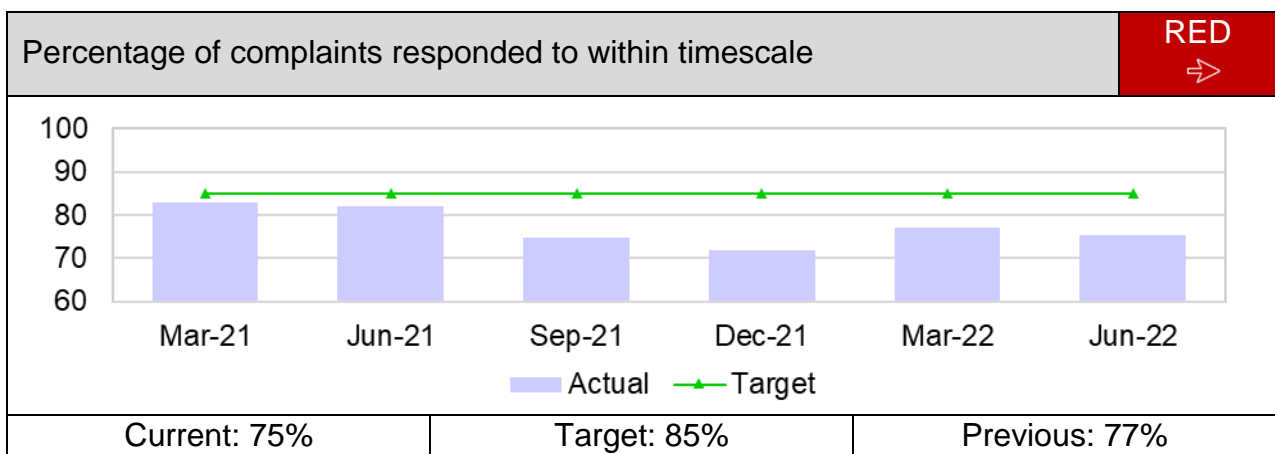
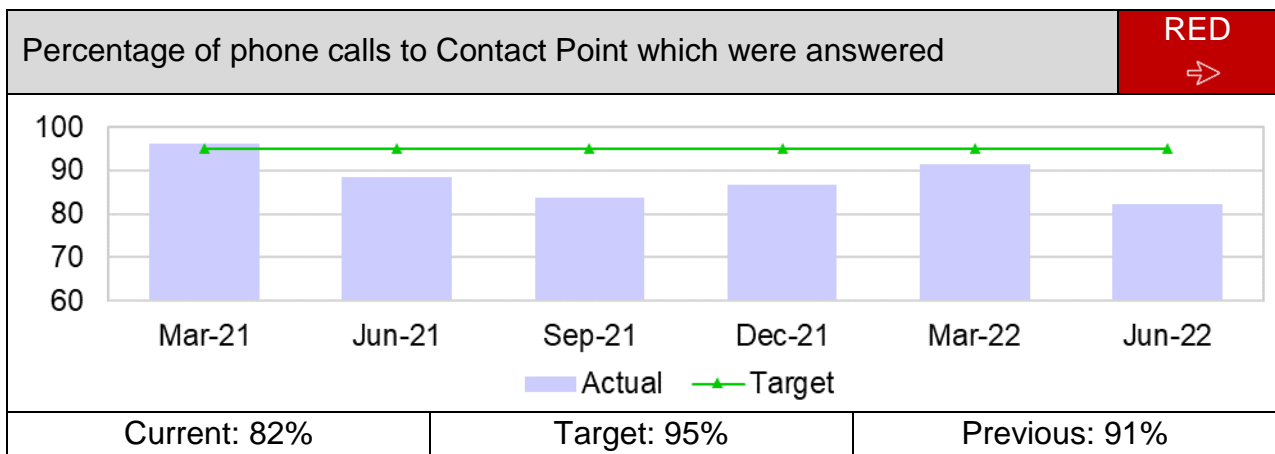
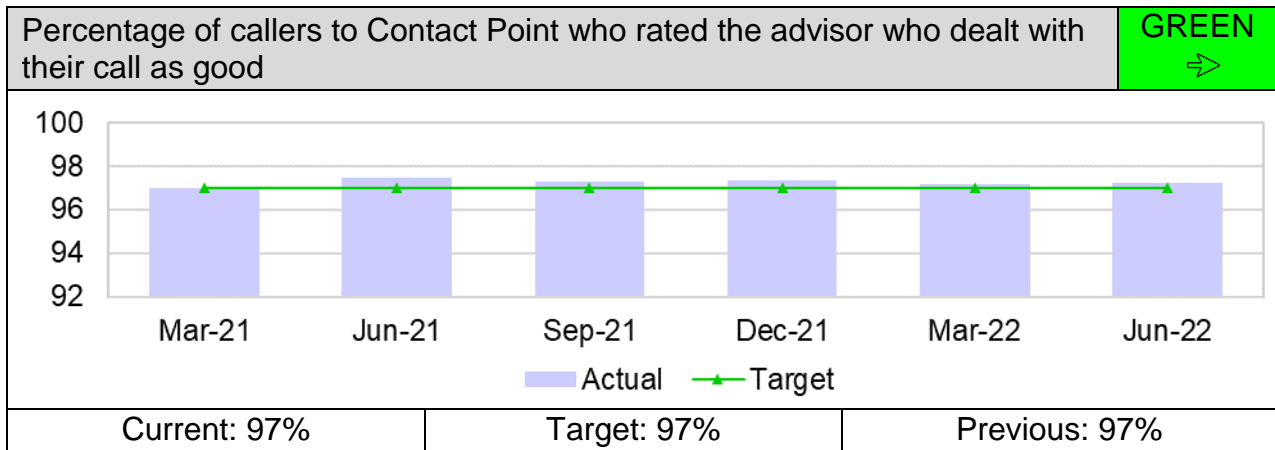
The percentage of callers who rated their advisor as good, continues to meet the target of 97%. The percentage of calls answered by Contact Point reduced to 82% for the Quarter, dropping below the floor standard. Sickness levels continue to be higher than expected and recruitment has become an issue again, despite improvements in pay and career pathways being implemented last year. Discussions are underway between Agilisys and KCC to create a robust plan to improve performance and ensure the centre has time to train the new staff to ensure they are fully utilised across multiple service types. A new induction of staff occurred in June.

Contact Point received a similar number of calls compared to the previous Quarter and 7% more calls than the same period last year. The 12 months to June 2022 also saw a 7% increase in calls compared to the 12 months to June 2021.

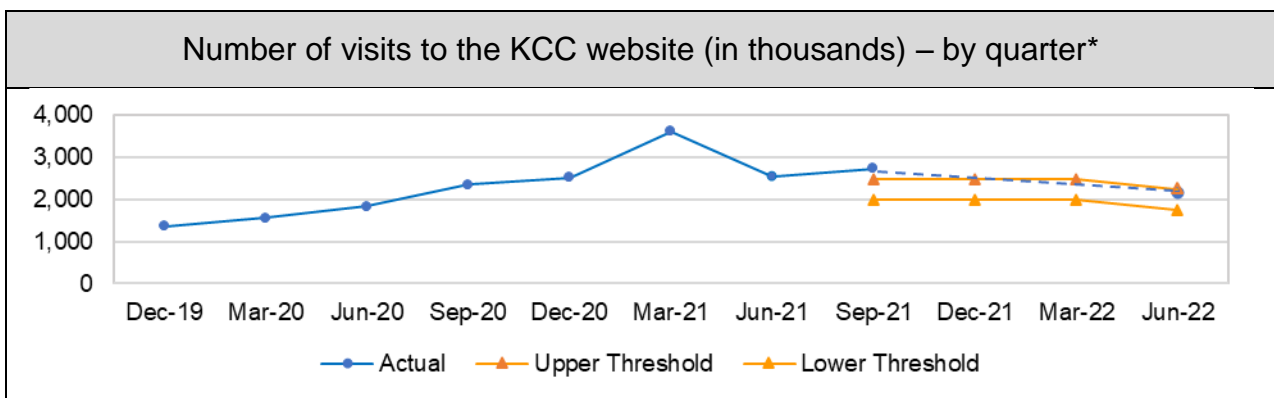
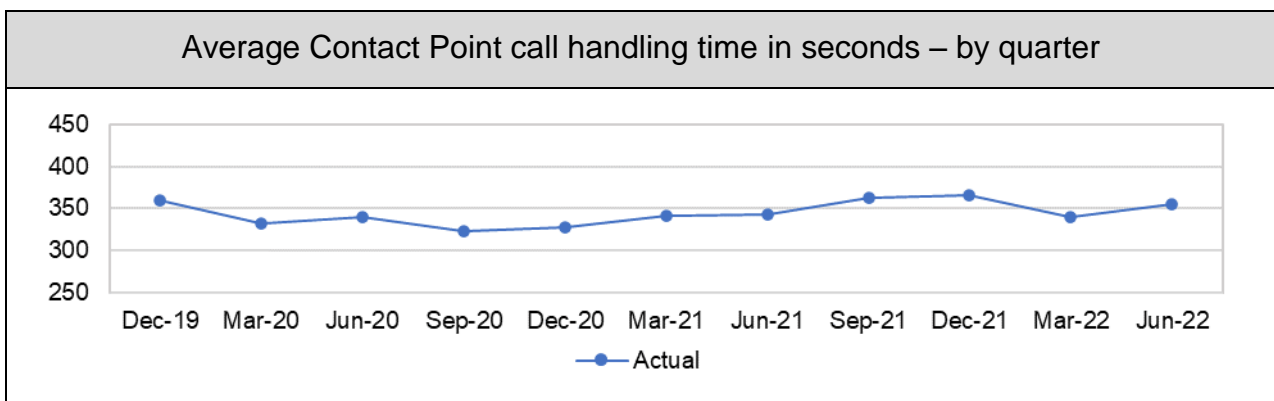
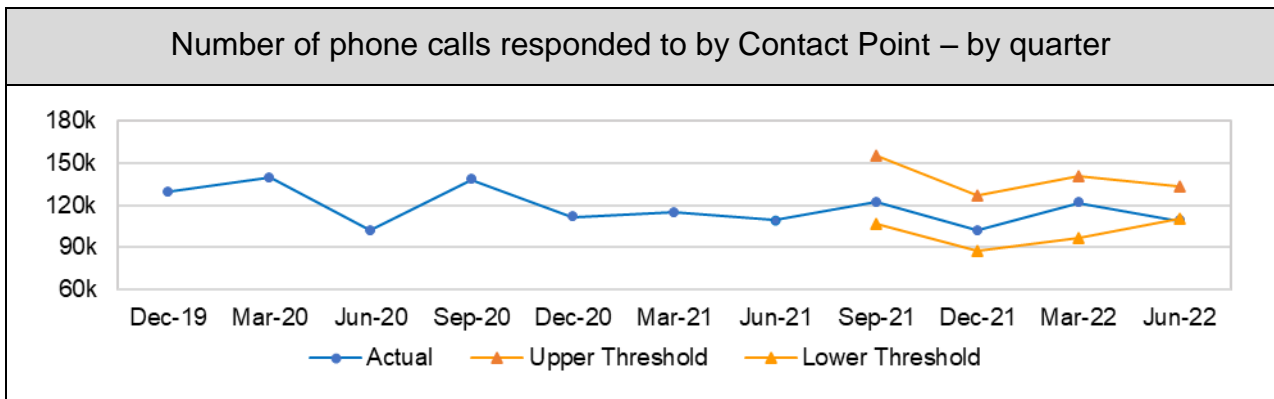
We are now able to report on web visitor numbers following the review of KCC's use of cookies on kent.gov.uk. Quarter 1 saw close to 2.2 million visits to the website, which is towards the upper end of expectations. Pages relating to Household Waste Recycling Centres continue to be the most popular.

Quarter 1 saw a reduction in the number of complaints received compared with the previous Quarter and also lower than for the same quarter last year. Between April and June, 75% of complaints were responded to in time, and so this indicator remains below the floor standard of 80%. We are seeing an increase in performance in all directorates except Children, Young People and Education. Reaching the target continues to be challenging, particularly within Special Educational Needs, where staff are working towards responding to a significant backlog of complaints.

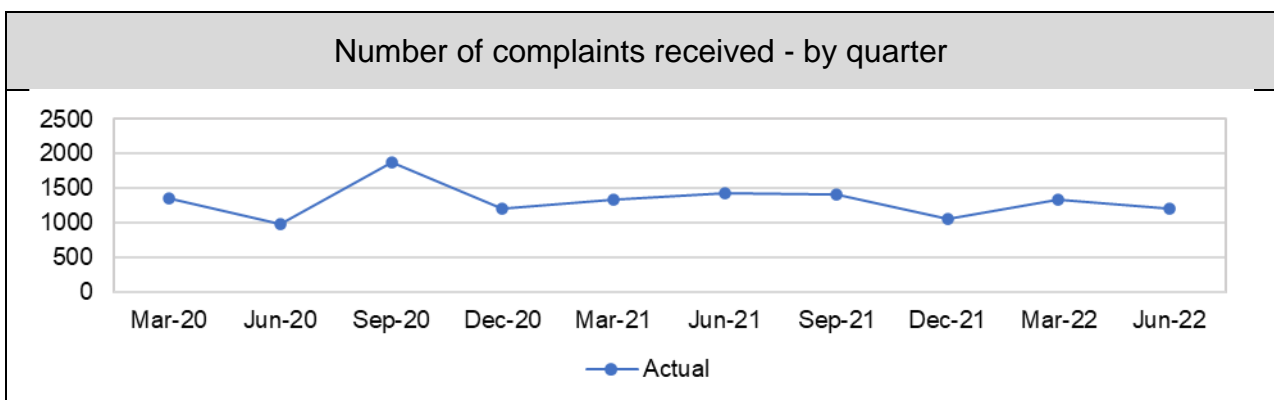
## Key Performance Indicators



## Activity indicators



\* Due to a review of KCC's use of cookies on kent.gov.uk no visitor data was available from October until February. This information is now being reported again from June 2022.



## Customer Services – Call Activity

### Number of phone calls to Contact Point (thousands)

Contact Point received a similar number of calls compared to the previous Quarter and 7% more calls than the same period last year. The 12 months to June 2022 also saw a 7% increase in calls compared to the 12 months to June 2021.

Service area	Jul – Sep 21	Oct – Dec 21	Jan – Mar 22	Apr – Jun 22	Yr to Jun 22	Yr to Jun 21
Adult Social Care	27	25	27	28	109	117
Integrated Children's Services	19	18	19	19	73	68
Blue Badges	10	10	14	15	42	33
Highways	17	12	14	13	60	57
Waste and Recycling	16	9	9	11	47	51
Transport Services	16	8	10	9	42	32
Registrations	6	4	6	8	21	21
Libraries and Archives	10	7	7	7	33	25
Schools and Early Years	5	4	5	6	20	22
Adult Education	5	4	5	5	16	6
KSAS*	4	7	8	3	23	13
Driver improvement	4	4	4	3	15	12
Main line	4	3	3	3	12	12
Other Services	2	1	2	3	8	8
Kent together	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	2	8
<b>Total Calls (thousands)</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>486</b>

\* 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

Quarter 1 saw the number of complaints received decrease from the previous Quarter by 10%. This is also down 15% on the same Quarter last year (Quarter 1, 2021/22).

Over the last 12 months there has been a 14% decrease in complaints received compared to the same time previous year.

In Quarter 1, frequently raised issues included SEN provision and complaints relating to school transport following the change of transport providers.

<b>Service</b>	<b>12 mths to Jun 21</b>	<b>12 mths to Jun 22</b>	<b>Quarter to Mar 22</b>	<b>Quarter to Jun 22</b>
Highways, Transportation and Waste Management	3,352	2,578	764	553
Adult Social Services	748	810	194	227
Integrated Children's Services	799	808	220	228
Libraries, Registrations and Archives	150	182	30	24
Education & Young People's Services	314	239	50	69
Chief Executive's Department and Deputy Chief Executive's Department	202	158	37	39
Environment, Planning and Enforcement & Economic Development	235	178	34	53
Adult Education	25	50	14	12
<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>5,825</b>	<b>5,003</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>1,205</b>

## Customer Services – Digital Take-up

The table below shows the digital/online or automated transaction completions for key service areas.

Transaction type	Online Apr 21 - Jun 21	Online Jul 21 - Sep 21	Online Oct 21 - Dec 21	Online Jan 22 - Mar 22	Total Transactions Last 12 Months
Renew a library book*	82%	80%	80%	82%	953,753
Report a Highways Fault	61%	58%	58%	57%	90,335
Book a Driver Improvement Course	86%	85%	88%	87%	31,533
Book a Birth Registration appointment	87%	89%	86%	87%	21,983
Report a Public Right of Way Fault	85%	89%	91%	93%	20,652
Apply for or renew a Blue Badge	66%	68%	73%	74%	17,370
Apply for a Concessionary Bus Pass	65%	67%	70%	72%	14,217
Highways Licence applications	99%	100%	100%	100%	7,189
Apply for a HWRC recycling voucher	99%	99%	99%	99%	5,530

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

Governance, Law & Democracy	
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Bryan Sweetland
<b>Corporate Director</b>	David Cockburn

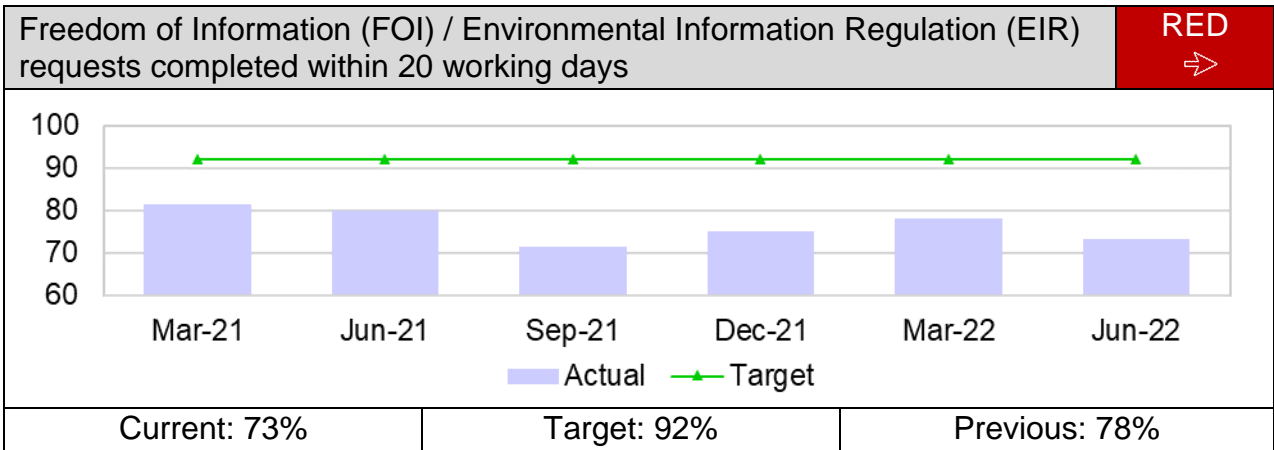
KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	⇒	↓
			2		2	

Achievement of target for both Freedom of Information (FOI) / Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) requests, and Data Protection Act Subject Access requests completed within timescales has been challenging for a long period of time.

All four Directorates are performing below the floor standard for FOI and EIR requests, showing the challenge is across KCC. In the three months to June, most requests were received by Growth, Environment and Transportation and Waste (75% completed in timescale), followed by Children, Young People and Education (70% completed in timescale), then Chief Executive's Department (77% completed in timescale), then Deputy Chief Executive's Department (77% completed in timescale), and finally Adult Social Care and Health, who had the fewest requests (65% completed in timescale). It continues to be challenging for services to prioritise responses ahead of their day-to-day work.

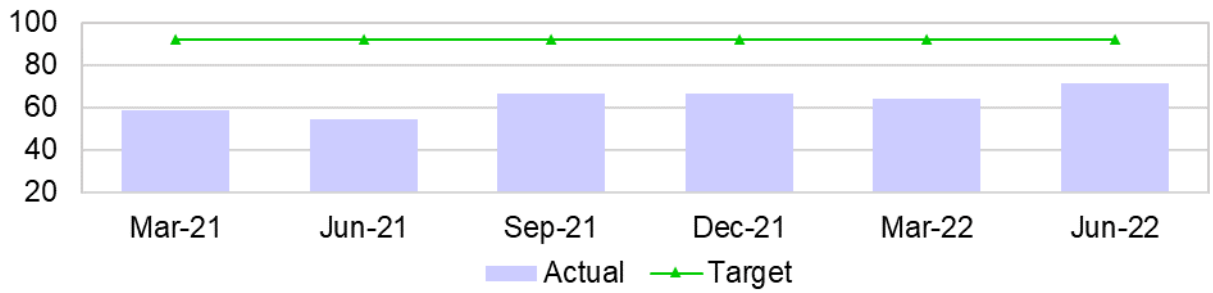
For Subject Access Requests (SARs), the vast majority of these come under the Children, Young People and Education Directorate, and can include the need to access multiple historic records and the use of redacting tools for records held electronically which can add significant time when responding to requests.

### Key Performance Indicators



Data Protection Act Subject Access requests completed within timescales

RED



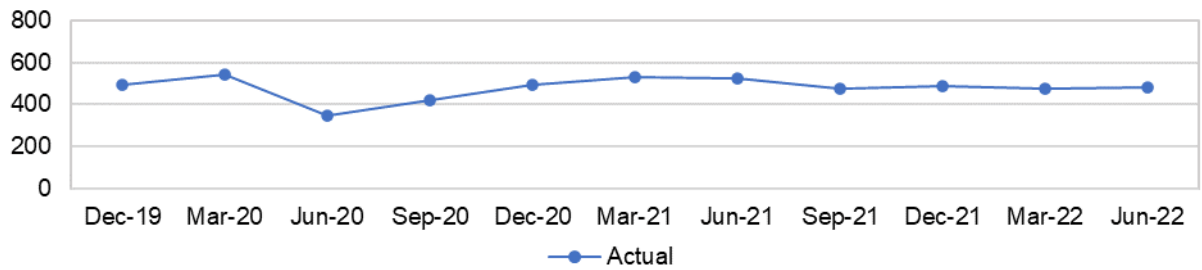
Current: 72%

Target: 90%

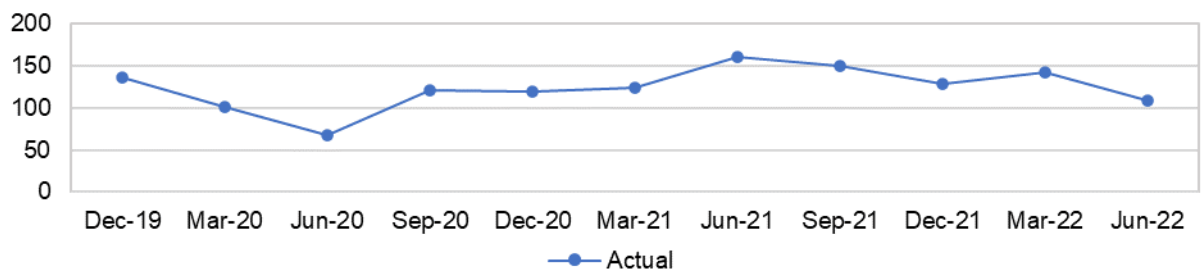
Previous: 64%

Activity indicators

FOI/EIR requests – by Quarter



Data Protection Act Subject Access requests – by Quarter





## Growth, Economic Development & Communities

<b>Cabinet Members</b>	Derek Murphy, Mike Hill
<b>Corporate Director</b>	Simon Jones

KPI Summary	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>RED</b>	↑	⇒	↓
	1	1			2	

### **Support for business**

Kent’s Regional Growth Fund (RGF) investments have continued to create and sustain employment opportunities during Quarter 1. The impact in terms of business failures and loss of jobs caused by the economic disruption from the Coronavirus pandemic on the Kent and Medway Business Fund (KMBF) loan recipients remains much lower than anticipated. A number of recipients have requested to vary their repayments to support them with the rising cost of supplies, others moving towards pre-pandemic trading levels; and the majority commencing their repayments as scheduled.

Since 2017 to the end of Quarter 4 of 2021/22, the KMBF has provided funding of £15.6m to 110 Kent and Medway businesses, creating 411 new jobs and safeguarding 148 further jobs.

In Quarter 3, (on 29 October 2021) the KMBF relaunched with a new secured loan scheme for Kent & Medway Businesses seeking loans over £100,000, and less than £500,000 with 50% match funding from private sources. To date 61 pre-applications to the value of £12.3m have been received, of these 20 businesses have submitted full applications to the value of £4.26m, of which six have been approved to the value of £1.26m, and the KMBF remains open to applications for funding from businesses in the Kent and Medway area.

A new scheme called “KMBF Small Business Boost” will be launched in Quarter 2. The scheme will offer 0% unsecured loans of between £26,000-£99,000 with at least 20-30% match funding from private sources.

The KMBF management team continues to work with its equity partners, NCL Technology Ventures Ltd, and Newable Ventures Limited, to ensure that the innovative companies in which the KMBF has an equity stake receive specialist support and assistance.

The South-East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) has provided funding for the Innovation Investment Loan scheme which the KMBF team manages for Kent and Medway. Through this scheme, £6 million of loans have been made to 18 businesses. By the end of Quarter 4 of 2021/22, 135 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) jobs had been created and 63.43 FTE jobs safeguarded.

## **Converting derelict buildings for new housing and commercial space**

In Quarter 1, 75 long term empty properties were made fit for occupation through the No Use Empty (NUE) Programme bringing the total to 7,427 since the programme began in 2005. There is a healthy pipeline of new projects and on average there are 60 live projects at any given time. NUE processed 18 new loan applications in Quarter 1 which will fund another 65 homes, increasing the total NUE investment in converting derelict properties to £92.3m (£51.9m from KCC recycled loans and £40.3m from private sector leverage).

NUE were awarded £2.5m under the SELEP Growing Places Fund (GPF) to convert additional derelict properties from 2022/23. As of Quarter 1 loans to the value of £280,000 have been approved which will fund 10 new homes.

GPF awarded a separate £2m for NUE Commercial Phase II. The target is to return 18 empty commercial units back into use and create 36 new homes by March 2023. Four new projects were approved in Quarter 1 increasing the number of projects supported to twelve (covering Canterbury (2), Dover (2), Folkestone (2), Herne Bay, Hythe, Margate, Ramsgate, Sittingbourne, and Sheerness) and these will return 13 empty commercial units back into use and create 42 homes.

Following the approval of £16m from KCC Treasury to bring forward empty/derelict sites with planning permission for new builds, NUE has processed a total of 39 applications to the end of Quarter 1. The value of loans awarded is £21.7m. This has been achieved by recycling £5.9m of loan repayments following the completion of 11 projects which have resulted in 42 new homes. The total number of new homes funded is 146 across 8 Kent districts.

NUE has identified potential projects with an indicative value of £20m. Based on the value of loans due to be repaid during 2022/23 and current expenditure profiles, NUE would be able to service 20% of the potential projects subject to final assessment.

## **Infrastructure projects**

In Quarter 1 of 2022/23, the following capital funding decision was made by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership's (SELEP) Accountability Board:

- The award of £1,400,000 Growing Places Loan Funding to the Herne Relief Road Project. This is the second tranche of loan funding awarded to the project, with £2,100,000 having previously been awarded. The project will provide improvements to Bullockstone Road in order to improve highways safety by Herne Common and facilitate several housing and employment sites proposed in Canterbury City Council's local plan.

## **Broadband**

The broadband team are continuing to support BDUK on the pre-procurement work for the Kent delivery phase of the Government's Project Gigabit Programme. The aim of this programme is to deliver gigabit-capable connections to areas that are not expected to benefit from connectivity upgrades by telecoms operators.

The Government's intention is that a single contract will be established to deliver these new connections across Kent and Medway. The procurement will be led by Building Digital UK (BDUK). Kent County Council's broadband team has been asked by BDUK to help support the local delivery across Kent

In their latest published update, BDUK are forecasting that the Kent and Medway project will cover circa 109,000 properties and have advised that the invitation to tender will be launched between September to November 2022, with the contracted work commencing between July to September 2023.

In the meantime, the infrastructure build for the final phase of the Kent BDUK Project has now been completed – with this work having delivered over 145,000 faster broadband connections.

### **Funding Kent’s Infrastructure**

KCC has a statutory right to seek financial contributions for capital investment from developers of new housing sites. In Quarter 1, twelve Section 106 agreements were completed and a total of £6.3 million was secured. This represents 99% of the amount sought.

<b>s.106 contributions secured £000s</b>	<b>Jul to Sep 2021</b>	<b>Oct to Dec 2021</b>	<b>Jan to Mar 2022</b>	<b>Apr to Jun 2022</b>
Primary Education	4,292	6,675	4,047	575
Secondary Education	4,554	5,333	4,716	3,385
Adult Social Care	128	153	92	116
Libraries	173	80	170	70
Community Learning	23	25	41	13
Youth & Community	63	79	60	55
Waste	89	15	26	61
Highways	420	3,537	242	2,067
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,742</b>	<b>15,897</b>	<b>9,395</b>	<b>6,342</b>
Secured as % of Amount Sought	99%	98%	65%	99%

### **Kent Film Office**

In the first Quarter of 2022/23, the film office handled 158 filming requests and 88 related enquiries. We logged 285 filming days bringing an estimated £2.8m direct spend into Kent & Medway. Highlights for the Quarter included Empire of Light, Whitstable Pearl Season 2, and Netflix series Treason.

### **Libraries, Registration and Archives**

Quarter 1 was a time of celebration for LRA, with the launch of the refurbished Cheriton Library in May, along with the planting of a Queen’s Jubilee tree by Cabinet Member Mike Hill and the unveiling of a piece of artwork in the children’s library created by local arts company Strange Cargo. The Business and Intellectual Property Centre also launched in May at an evening event; the team have already provided advice and support to 11 small businesses and start-ups, as well as delivering a number of webinars.

Paddock Wood Library also had an official launch in June following a refurbishment, and Kent History and Library Centre (KHLC) celebrated 10 years of opening, with a day of events and activities delivered by Library and Archive staff. The Platinum Jubilee was a big focus for the service with over 60 events held in libraries across the county and an exhibition on “The Queen in Kent” compiled by Kent Archives.

In addition, the new Amelia Scott in Tunbridge Wells opened on 28 April 2022. This was a prestigious partnership project with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and has generated much interest - during May and June over 1,000 new members joined the library and issues were up by 33% against the same period pre-pandemic. The out of hours Library Extra service was reinstated at the original three libraries, Deal, Higham and Paddock Wood in April 2022.

Visits to all libraries have been rising steadily and are now at 56% of visits pre-pandemic, which is broadly in line with the national average of 60%. Physical issues are at 79% of the pre-pandemic level, which is also in line with the national average, whereas e-issues have increased by 20% on pre-pandemic levels. Total library issues have surpassed pre-Covid issues for the same period in 2019/20 by 2.5%. In June, two new e-audiobook platforms were launched, BorrowBox and uLibrary, and take-up is progressing well.

A particular highlight of Quarter 1 has been the ongoing recovery of events and activities. During Quarter 1, 2,930 events were held with over 26,000 attendees, including jubilee events in every district where staff, volunteers and partners all contributed to the celebrations.

The Archives team reinstated their lunchtime talks and have had three sessions this Quarter on subjects relating to the collection, with a total of 60 attendees. They also took part in the KHLC tenth anniversary celebrations with an activity for children and their families to make a medieval charter. The Archive Search Room is now fully open and has averaged 144 visitors a month in Quarter 1. Remote enquiries have fallen by 11% from the previous Quarter, which is to be expected as more people visit KHLC in person to complete their research.

Whilst birth registrations are now at similar levels to pre-pandemic, death registrations in Quarter 1 increased by 16% on the same period last year, to just over 4,000. Ceremonies were also extremely busy, surpassing pre-Covid levels by 19% with over 2,300 ceremonies delivered including the welcoming of 699 new citizens to the UK. Customer satisfaction with Registration is currently at 94% which is just 1% below the target for this service.

### **Active Kent and Medway**

Kent Sport has rebranded as Active Kent and Medway to better reflect our vision of encouraging more people to be more active, more often and our desire to work with a wider range of partners ([Kent Sport relaunches as Active Kent and Medway](#)). The new brand was launched in June at our Primary PE and Everyday Active Conferences, which across the two dates saw over 250 individuals attend a wide range of sessions at the Kent Event Centre.

We have also launched a summer campaign, #OutdoorsIsFree, across our digital platforms, promoting opportunities across the county for people to get out and active at no cost. The School Games had over 20 events taking place between April and June, some of which have been specifically linked to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Legacy.

Six organisations successfully secured investment in the May round of KCC Capital Sport Grant Awards.

## **Community Safety**

The Kent Community Warden Service (KCWS) undertook just over 3,200 tasks this Quarter. Focus areas during this period included the rising cost of living and Ukraine conflict related support. Over 50 initial welfare visits to Ukrainian guests in the West Kent area have been undertaken by wardens, with wider community work taking place in East Kent.

The Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) held a themed 'Domestic Homicide Review lessons identified' online event in April, centred around a key theme of 'Children, Young People and Domestic Abuse'. Over 85 people attended the event, with 94% rating it as excellent, very good or good (with a further 79 people attending a duplicate event at the end of last year (March 2022)).

The statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee was held as a hybrid meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022, to review the work of the multi-agency Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) in relation to the Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA). KCC Community Safety along with a number of partners and the Chair of the KCSP (Cllr Mike Hill), attended the Council Chamber in-person to answer questions, whilst some attended virtually. The Committee meeting was webcast live for public view. The KCSP and its work was well received by the Scrutiny Committee and the members thanked partners for engaging with the process.

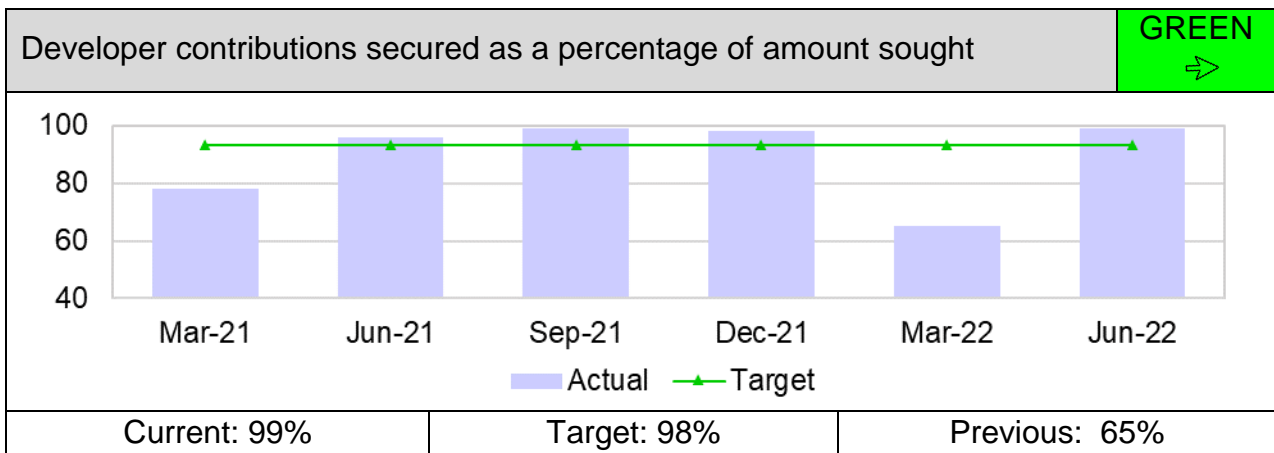
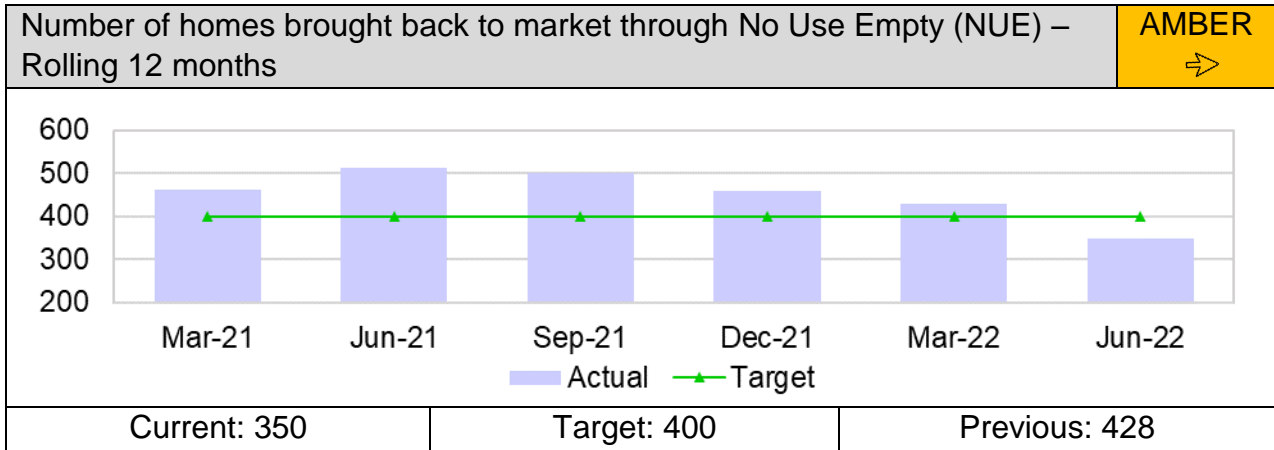
## **Explore Kent**

Through funding from the Interreg Experience project, the new [Explore Kent website](#) continues to offer new itineraries featuring walks and cycles with café stops. The popularity of public rights of way, green and blue space continues, with 103,000 visitors to the Explore Kent website and over 21,000 route downloads during this Quarter. Our social media engagement continues to grow, reaching over 53,000 people via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

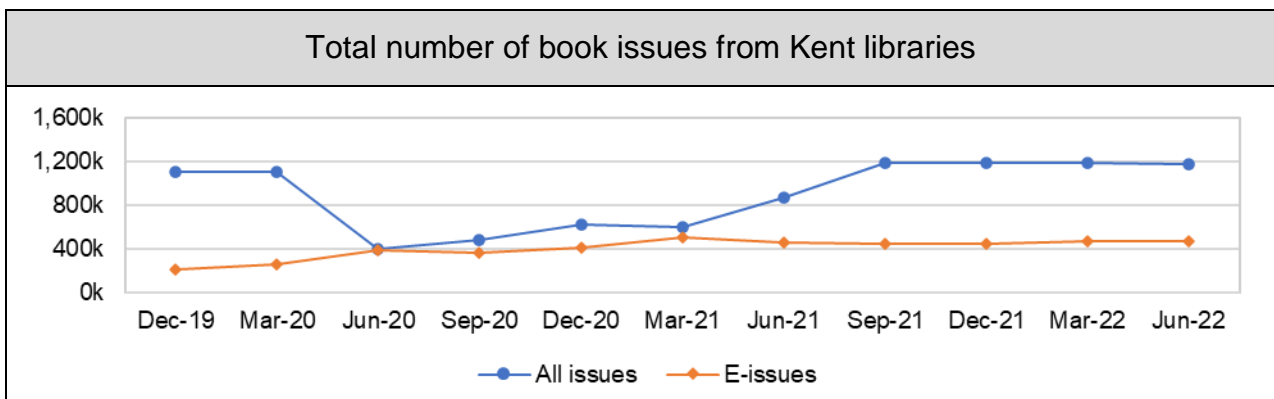
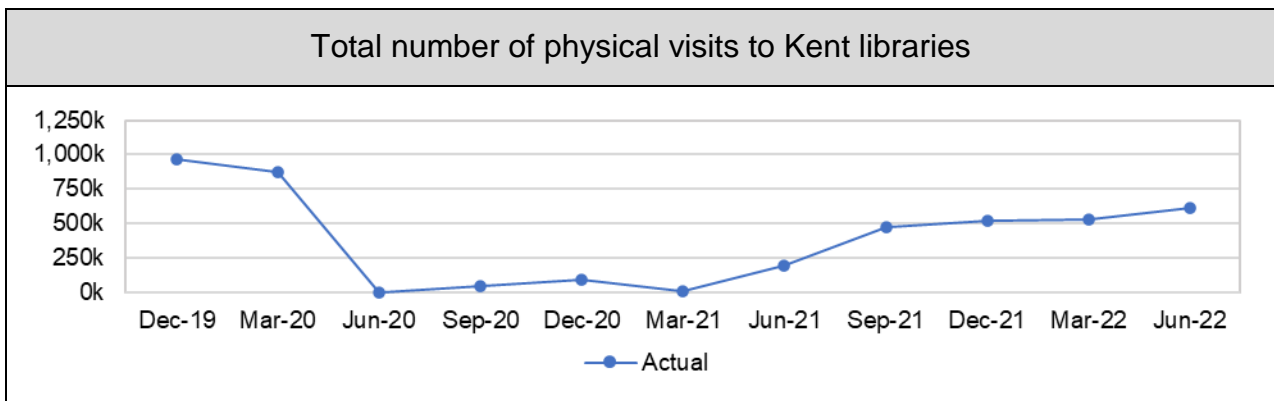
## **Kent Country Parks**

Kent County Council has completed its programme of investing £1.1million of Public Health Covid-19 recovery funding in its play provision. The money has delivered seven new or refurbished play areas, inclusive play equipment, outdoor benches, sculpture benches and sculptures across eight parks. An additional two Changing Places (CP) toilet facilities will be completed in Quarter 2 at Lullingstone and Brockhill Country Parks. The CP toilet at Shorne was opened last year. In the past 18 months Kent Country Parks has invested in the region of £1.8m in its infrastructure from grant funding.

## Key Performance Indicators



## Activity indicators



Environment and Transport	
<b>Cabinet Members</b>	David Brazier, Susan Carey
<b>Corporate Director</b>	Simon Jones

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	→	↓
	4	1	1		6	

## Highways

For Quarter 1, two of the four Highways KPIs are RAG rated Green, one Amber and one Red.

Attendance at Emergency Incidents within 2 hours of notification has remained on target at 98% (RAG rated Green). The Service received 471 reports of emergency incidents this quarter, with the contractor Amey unable to attend to 12 within the 2-hour response time window. Several of those incidents which missed target, did so by just a few minutes.

Routine faults responded to in 28 days has dropped this Quarter to 87% meaning an Amber RAG rating (target 90%). There were 11,354 faults reported, which is within expectations. Pothole repairs completed in 28 days has also fallen to 70%, meaning a Red RAG rating. The service received 3,568 requests with the contractor Amey missing the deadline on 1,060 occasions. Amey, our term maintenance contractor, are experiencing staff shortages coupled with rising costs in their supply chain. Measures have been put in place to clear the backlog and improve results, and we are also using some of our local Pothole Blitz contractors to ensure timely completion of works with most repairs now completed.

The remainder of the contract with Amey is operating well. The surface dressing and surface treatment programmes are on track and meeting all quality and delivery expectations. All safety, environmental and social value targets are being met with on-target scores being achieved in the monthly senior user satisfaction survey with KCC senior managers.

Permit requests to undertake works on Kent roads remain high and co-ordination of all works on the highway is pressured, particularly with a number of staff leaving this service area.

Recruiting experienced staff is proving extremely difficult particularly for structural engineers and arboricultural experts and this has been an issue for at least a year. The structures team are under immense pressure due to staff shortages and further measures are being put in place to support this area of the business. Notably this is not just KCC but is an issue across the industry in the UK with many councils and consultants reporting similar experiences.

The monthly call back survey, where we call 100 highways customers whose enquiries have been closed in the last month, continues to show high levels of satisfaction (96% for the latest Quarter).

The total number of customer contacts regarding highway issues in Quarter 1 decreased to 39,889 (46k for the same period last year) with 17,429 of these identified as faults requiring action by front line teams, which is below expectations. This is a reflection of the settled and warm weather Kent has seen so far over the Spring/Summer. The remaining contacts are handled at first point by Agilisys using information provided by the Highways Service and on the KCC website. At the end of June there were 5,511 open enquiries (work in progress), which compares to 6,563 at the same time last year, reflecting the quieter period in some parts of the business.

### **Asset Management**

In July 2021, KCC published its new Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) covering 2021/22 to 2025/26. It explains how effective and efficient highways asset management, as a key enabling service, facilitates the delivery of Kent's strategic objectives. It also includes asset condition forecasts based on current investment levels, what maintenance services Highways provides and what it does not, an assessment of associated risk and a five-year forward works programme. Importantly, it was used as a key tool to inform Kent's capital budget for 2022/23 during these difficult financial times. It also enabled Kent to maximise available funding from the Department for Transport.

The HAMP also describes a range of future actions to further improve our approach to highways maintenance and transportation matters, focussing on increasing asset lifespans, reducing lifecycle costs and improving future maintainability against the increasingly challenging backdrop of deteriorating assets, increasing traffic volumes, uncertainty around future funding and, more recently, Covid. Officers have developed a project plan to implement the various actions in the HAMP and have started implementing key ones including improving our knowledge of assets and their condition and introducing new maintenance hierarchies.

### **Road Safety**

The team are continuing to work towards achieving Vision Zero with the establishment of some additional resources focussed on safer speed and enforcement activities using new technology and working in partnership with Kent Police. The team have recently secured a new Vision Zero Strategy Manager and a Safer Driving & Fleet officer that will work to roll out initiatives such as Driving for Better Business in Kent and work towards a review of our vision zero work one year since its launch.

The Casualty figures for the Quarter below show a decrease compared to the same Quarter in 2021 but an increase in the same Quarter of 2020, however 2020 was when Covid restrictions were in place and thus a period of lower traffic volumes. Overall total figures are down by 167 and people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) are down by 64 when compared with the same quarter in 2019 (pre-pandemic).

#### **April to June 2022 Casualty Data – Kent Roads and National Highways in Kent**

Month	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
April	2	37	291	330
May	3	52	297	352
June	4	51	263	318
Total	9	140	851	1,000



### **Crash Remedial Measures & Local Transport Plan (LTP)**

Development of the 2022/23 Crash Remedial Measures (CRM) and Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme is still underway with designs progressing and early engagement with asset managers and key stakeholders being completed. There are now 36 CRM schemes programmed around the County identified for delivery by the end of March 2023 with a combined value of over £1.4m. The team also have an additional 110 schemes to design and implement, having worked with the parishes and elected members to help them identify improvements they feel are needed in their local areas.

The team have recently completed their internal redesign to incorporate all the County's Road Safety and Active Travel services into one Group. Recruitment is well underway and we are working hard to coordinate all engagement activity and work together to deliver on the Council's priorities. Active Travel England, the government established body to lead on all active travel funding and infrastructure in England, have now been in touch and emphasised the importance of Kent utilising the funding opportunities in line with the Government's Gear Change document. We are in the process of working with our counterparts in the Districts and Boroughs to identify deliverable yet ambitious active travel schemes in readiness for a future round of Active Travel funding that may be announced in the Autumn.

### **Journey Time Reliability/Congestion Strategy**

A programme of schemes within the Local Growth Fund (LGF) to improve the reliability of localised journey times are complete and post-scheme monitoring continues. The County Council applied to the Department for Transport in May for new moving traffic enforcement powers. Feedback has been positive and expect a formal decision shortly. It is expected that Kent will be designated powers in the coming months and work is well underway on how a new enforcement service will work in Kent. The target to commence enforcement on the highway at our first 6 locations in early 2023. We are also working on processes for managing future moving traffic enforcement site requests.

The service remains engaged with National Highways to identify opportunities for new or improved collaborative traffic management, for example, where National Highways can utilise KCC's electronic Variable Message Signs out of hours. We have also setup recent links between Kent's and National Highways South East Region Urban Traffic Control Systems to support responsive network management.

### **Local Growth Fund (LGF) Transport Capital Projects**

Through SELEP, KCC is managing £128m of Government funding from rounds 1 to 3 of the LGF. There are currently 2 schemes causing concern, Sturry Link Road and Maidstone Integrated Transport Project.

For the Sturry Link Road project, following the granting of permission for the scheme by KCC Planning Committee in September, the remaining £4.656m LGF allocated to the project was transferred to KCC in March 2022. This is still subject to the condition that the land acquisition is completed by 31st August 2023. The procurement of the design and build contract is live and closes in August 2022. This was delayed from June 2022 due to the number of tender queries which have arisen. An update on progress with the project was provided at the July 2022 Accountability Board meeting, and due to the length of time it will take to complete the procurement and land acquisition, the next update to Accountability Board will be made to the November 2022 meeting.

In regard to the Maidstone Integrated Transport Package Scheme, the SELEP Accountability Board were updated on the project's progress at the July meeting and following the positive news in May that the consent to relocate the ragstone wall on the boundary of Mote Park was granted by MBC's Planning Committee, the scheme has been downgraded to medium/high risk. The scheme no longer has to be reported on separately to each Accountability Board meeting, however progress on the programme delivery will continue to be closely monitored by SELEP.

### **Transport Strategy**

Work with National Highways on the Lower Thames Crossing continued with the start of the procurement of the work funded by National Highways through a modification to the existing Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) for the desktop study to develop local road mitigations. There was also a further consultation by National Highways on local refinements to the main Lower Thames Crossing scheme which KCC responded to (a briefing for all Members took place on 31 May). Work with National Highways also continued with the options development for Road Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3) pipeline schemes for Brenley Corner and A2 Lydden to Dover (public consultations on which are expected later in 2022 or early 2023).

Partnership working with Transport for the South East (TfSE) continued on finalising the draft Strategic Investment Plan which went out to public consultation in June (KCC's draft response is on the agenda for the September Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee). This is alongside the work of the Transport Strategy team in developing a new Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5) for Kent, progress on which was reported to County Council on 14 July. Further work on the new LTP5 will now continue alongside the government publishing its new guidance for local transport plans (expected this autumn) to ensure that KCC's draft plan is compliant. KCC has also received grant funding from the Department for Transport to develop its new LTP, therefore alignment with the new guidance is critical for unlocking this additional funding.

A response to Transport for London's consultation on a proposed extension to its Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) up to the boundary of the Greater London Authority with Kent (and other neighbouring counties) was submitted (discussed by Members at the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee meeting in July).

Delivery of the Thanet Parkway railway station has continued to progress with substantial completion of the station and car park expected by the end of August with site hand back expected by the end of October. The station is on track to be open by May 2023 following the planned upgrading of level crossing and signalling infrastructure required for the operation of the new station.

### **Public Transport**

The Department for Transport (DfT) announced the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) allocations for the National Bus Strategy in April 2022. Half of the authorities who submitted a BSIP received funding and, in the case of Kent, we received a provisional allocation of £35.1m over three years, split into capital and revenue. During May, further clarifications in respect of the BSIP were undertaken and based on those clarifications, a revised list of priorities, totalling £35.1M, was submitted to the DfT at the end of June. This revised submission is currently being reviewed by the DfT and confirmation of allocation is expected in Quarter 2.

During June, local bus operators were required to work alongside KCC on a review of the local bus network by DfT, with the aim of identifying a sustainable network, commencing the end of October 2022, when Local Transport Funding comes to an end. KCC as the authority provided resource for the review, which involved operators identifying which elements of their network remained commercially viable, which were partially viable and which were non-viable. As part of the review they had to indicate any services they planned to withdraw before the end of October. This information was shared by us to the DfT as well as a range of stakeholders and the wider community.

The review triggered a number of commercial de-registrations for end of July and late October, a significant number of which involve school focused services, alongside changes already made between April and June, which does mean there has been a significant impact on services for schools. Working with operators, KCC have sought mitigations and has been successful in securing alternative solutions for many areas. However, it has not been possible for all services and thus there are still some users who will experience a reduction or loss of service.

As previously reported, use of local buses has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Overall, operators are reporting use at 80% of pre-pandemic levels, however off-peak travel, in particular those with an older persons/disabled bus pass (ENCTS), is only back to 55% and use of some evening/weekend services is particularly poor. This is of significant concern, as it impacts the future viability of the bus networks.

The transport market is seeing significant cost pressures and some of these are exacerbated by the challenge of recruitment. Fuel, labour and components are all rising in cost, with components having been further impacted by supply chain issues. This means the market is cautious in its approach to new work, either through higher pricing or not bidding for new contracts.

The Public Transport Team will continue to work with operators on mitigations to service withdrawals and to identify sources of additional revenue, which will maintain the viability of services.

### **Waste Management**

The KPI target on diversion from landfill continues to be met, with 99.2% of waste over the last 12 months being recycled, composted, or used for energy generation. The 0.8% going to landfill includes asbestos, with landfill being the only approved way to dispose of this material.

Kerbside volumes of collected waste continue to be higher than normal (8% higher in 12 months to June 2022 compared to pre-pandemic levels), but this has been reducing. Household Waste Recycling Centres are receiving over a third less waste than pre-pandemic. Total waste volume has been reducing since a high in the 12 months to September 2021.

### **Natural Environment and Coast**

As part of Plan Tree, a bid for £100k was submitted at the end of May to the Local Authority Treescape Fund, to support tree planting at a number of school sites across the county. A further bid for £300k has been developed for submission in early July to the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund. This will provide revenue funding that will be used to support capacity building within the authority and enable the delivery of further tree establishment.

Kent's district authorities, Medway Council and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation have supported a proposal from KCC to develop a shared Biodiversity Net Gain Officer for the county, using grant funding recently received from Defra. This post will be hosted by the County Council and over the next two years will support the planning authorities in preparing for the introduction of the mandatory requirement for development to deliver a biodiversity net gain.

The No Mow May Plan Bee Facebook pledge campaign, encouraging people to leave their lawns uncut for the month of May, saw 339 residents and organisations pledging to take part.

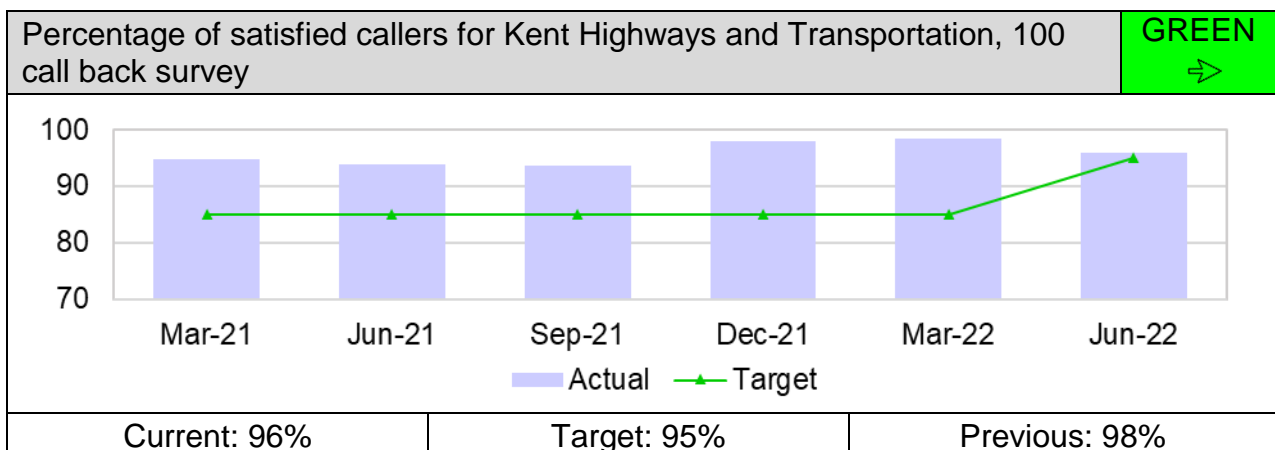
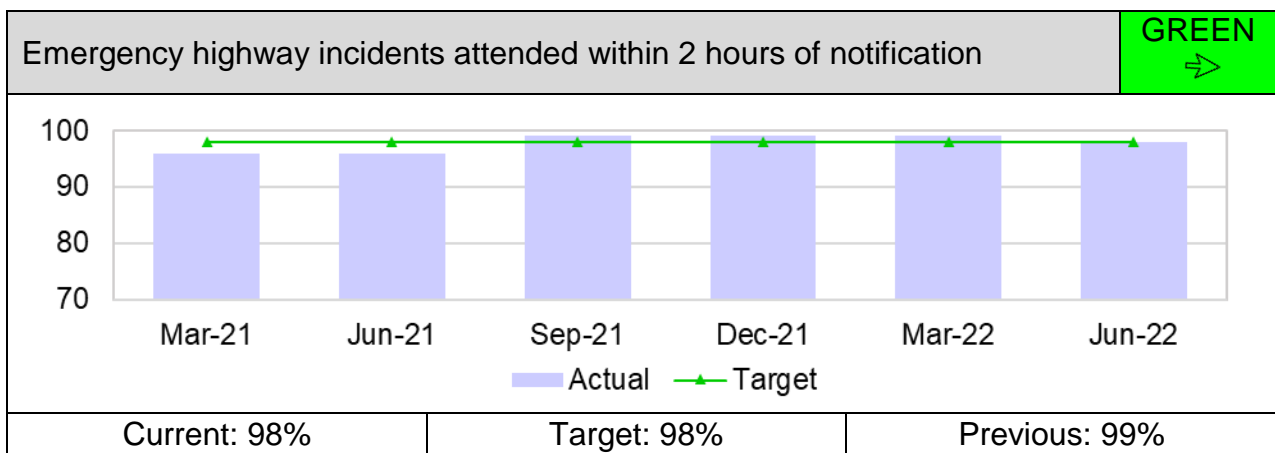
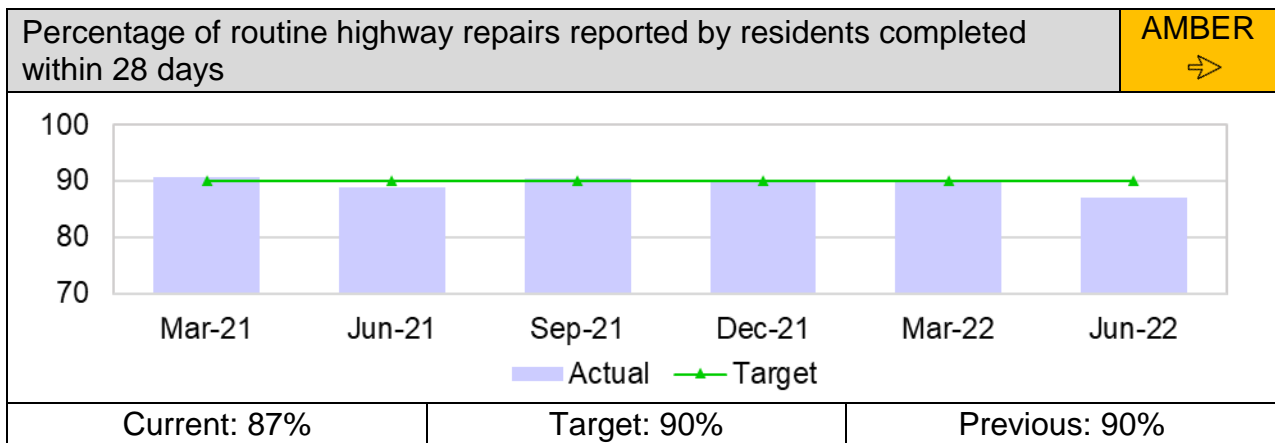
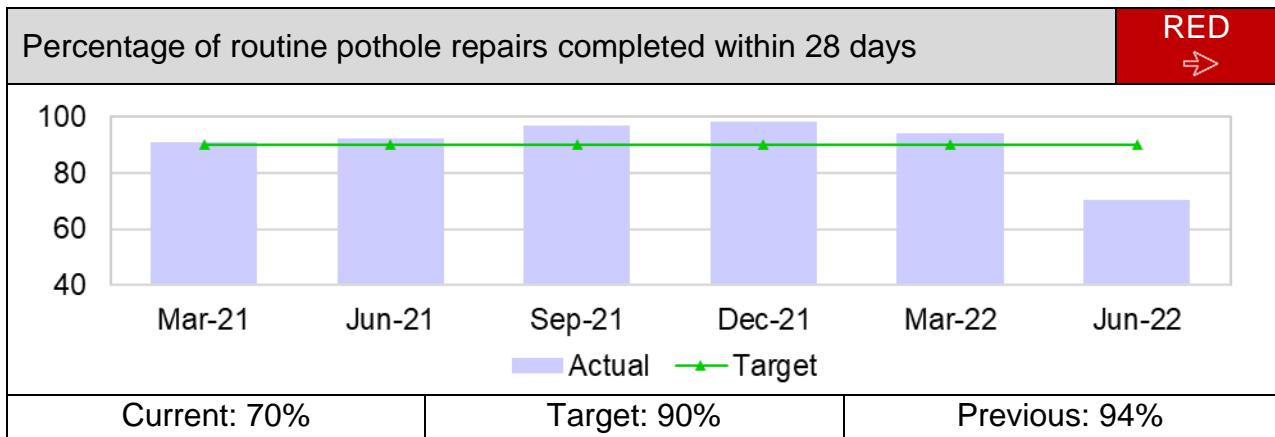
### **Sustainable Business and Communities**

Since March 2022, we have seen the final easing of Covid restrictions and return of staff to our buildings. Our greenhouse gas emission reductions are ahead of where we expected to be and confirms good progress towards the KCC Net Zero by 2030 target. Our next Quarter's data will start to show the impact of our 94-acre solar park in Somerset which will deliver approx. 30% of KCC's Net Zero carbon reduction target. In the coming year, the results of the £20.6 million investment of Government grant funding in energy projects, including two solar parks, will be seen with more significant reductions in emissions.

The second phase of the Solar Together scheme, to provide competitively priced solar panel and battery installations, is progressing well. 2,200 householders accepted their offer in May and by the end of June, 86 installations had been completed along with 404 surveys.

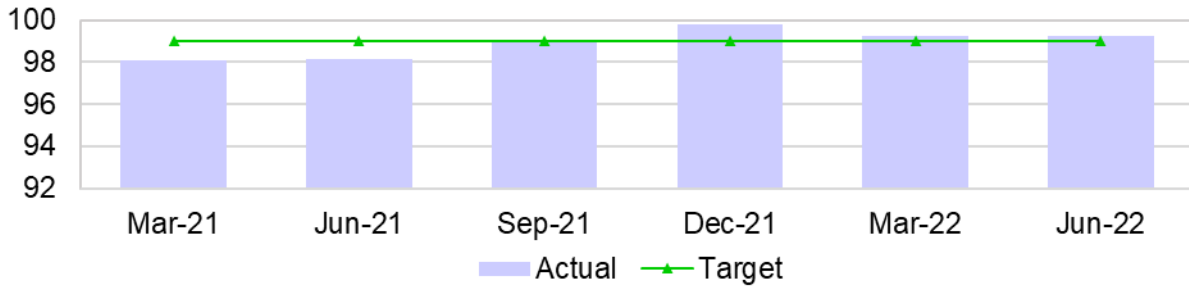
KCC has successfully led a bid to the Local Government Association for funding to support a behavioural insights trial. The consortium of 10 partners, including seven district councils, Medway and the NHS, is working with an expert supplier to design and implement a trial that will support households across Kent to take free and low-cost actions to reduce their energy use. The trial will run until the end of March 2023 and seeks to support residents who are struggling with energy costs but who do not qualify for the support specifically targeted at the most fuel poor.

## Key Performance Indicators



Percentage of municipal waste recycled or converted to energy and not taken to landfill – rolling 12 months

**GREEN**  
⇒



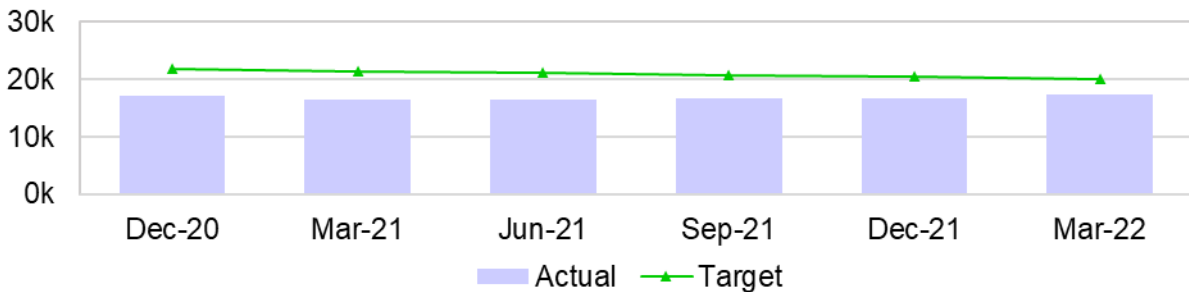
Current: 99.2%

Target: 99%

Previous: 99.2%

Greenhouse Gas emissions from KCC estate (excluding schools) in tonnes – rolling 12 months

**GREEN**  
⇒



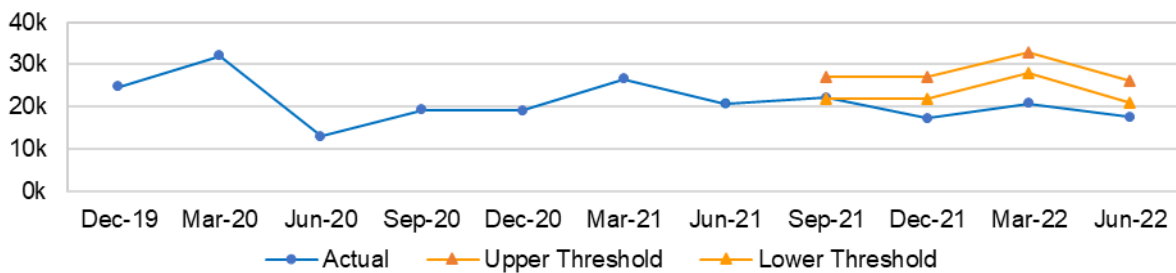
Current: 17,353

Target: 19,724

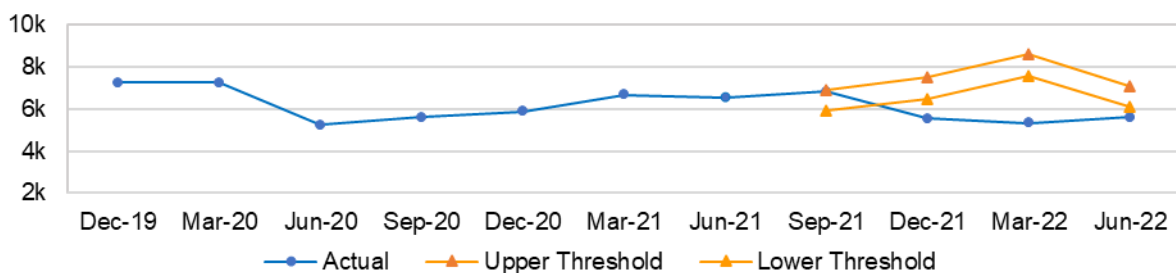
Previous: 16,774

### Activity indicators

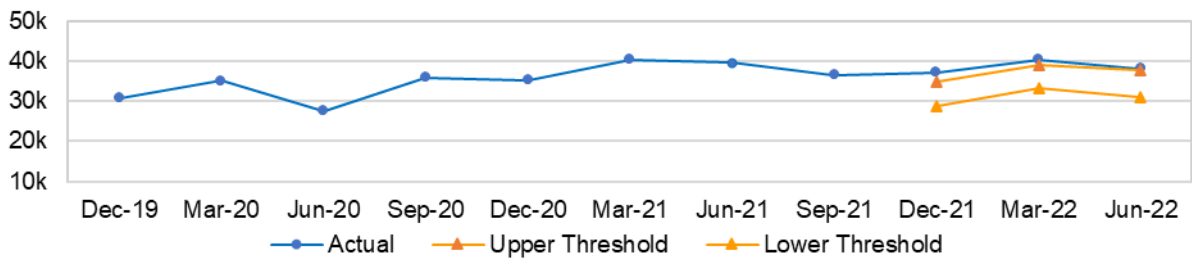
Number of Highways enquiries raised for action – by quarter



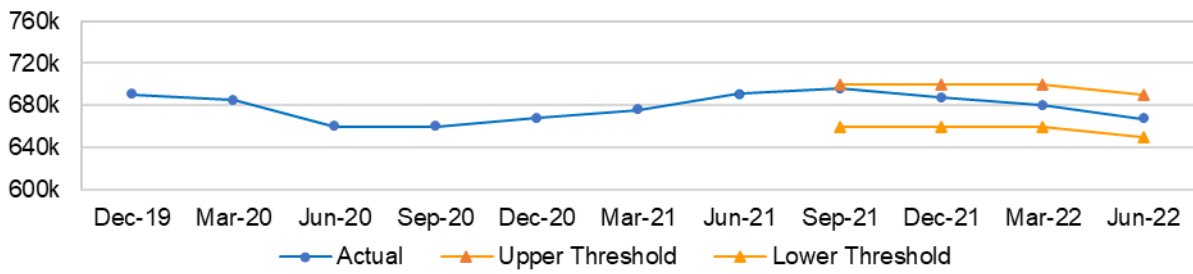
Highways Work in Progress (active enquires/jobs)



### Number of streetwork permits issued



### Total municipal waste tonnage collected – rolling 12 months



<b>Children, Young People and Education</b>	
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Shellina Prendergast, Sue Chandler
<b>Corporate Director</b>	Sarah Hammond

KPI Summary	GREEN	AMBER	RED	↑	⇒	↓
	7	4	2	2	7	4

### **Schools**

This summer term saw the return of statutory end of year tests and assessments for pupils in Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage), Year 2 (Key Stage 1) and Year 6 (Key Stage 2). This data will be reported in the next quarterly report. GCSE (Year 11) and Post 16 (Year 13) students sat externally marked examinations in a move away from the teacher assessments of the previous two years. Kent County Council are asking secondary schools to share their headline results on results days in August.

Based on the latest inspection data as at the end of June 2022, 92% of schools in Kent (534 of the 582) were Good or Outstanding, compared to the national figure of 88%. The percentage of Primary schools judged as Good or Outstanding at 93% compares favourably to the national figure of 89%. 88% of Secondary schools were judged to be Good or Outstanding compared to 79% nationally. The percentage for Special schools, at 92%, was three percentage points higher than the national position.

### **Early Years**

The latest inspection data for the percentage of Early Years settings rated Good or Outstanding is 96%, two percentage points below the target and one percentage point below latest published National figure. The Education People continue to target good and outstanding settings due an Ofsted inspection to support them to retain a good or better Ofsted judgement, making clear recommendations where appropriate.

3,015 two-year olds have been funded through the Free for Two (FF2) scheme equating to a 65.6% take up. This is an increase of 3.9 percentage points compared to the same period last year. There have been the usual established regular communications with the Early Years and Childcare Sector as a whole, including the weekly topical blog, termly (six times annually) generic Early Years and Childcare Bulletin and ongoing contact with individual providers as appropriate and necessary. The Early Years and Childcare Service's Threads of Success training offer continues to be delivered on virtual platforms alongside increasing levels of face-to-face support, including continuing support for providers in relation to their implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

### **SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)**

Based on the rolling 12-month average to June 2022, 44.6% of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) were issued within 20 weeks excluding exceptions (1,167 out of 2,616). In the single month of June, performance was 39.4% with 99 plans out of 251 being issued within timescale. There is a high volume of open cases as demand into the system remains high. Currently, 28% of all open cases are over 20 weeks. Timescales are being closely monitored and are currently being impacted by staffing pressures and the SEND service redesign. A lack of timely advice and guidance also impacts timescales for some cases, affecting the 20-week target.



There has been a pilot scheme between SEND and Health to improve the timeliness and the quality of the advice and information being received from health colleagues for the assessment process. This has used Health coordinators in a role similar to the SEND/Integrated Children's Services (ICS) coordinators. For ICS this has led to 95% of advice being provided within 6 weeks. The health pilot covering East and South Kent has been a success and will be rolled out across the County in August, which will further improve advice and information timescales.

At the end of June, 10.6% of pupils with EHCPs were placed in independent or out of county special schools. Kent is progressing a number of changes to reduce its use of independent and out of county placements. This includes increased use of mainstream placements (supported by the Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education), the development of further Specialist Resourced Provision (SRPs) within mainstream schools, exploration of locality budgets, and a more rigorous process for decision making and agreement for independent placements.

### **Wider Early Help**

Fifty pupils were permanently excluded during the rolling 12-month period to June 2022 (which equates to 0.02%); 16 were 'primary' phase and 34 'secondary' phase pupils. The previous pre-Covid full year figure in 2018/19 was 43. Tonbridge and Malling district accounted for 13 of the 50 pupils excluded across the County. Targeted work will take place in the district this academic year to address this disparity. Advisers from the PRU, Inclusion and Attendance Service (PIAS) have been working closely with schools to find alternatives to permanent exclusion within the constraints of the statutory processes and DfE guidance. Permanent exclusion remains the very last resort for the most serious incidents and where all school resources, multi-agency intervention and services to promote inclusion within the setting have been exhausted.

Although the number of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System in Kent has increased in the last quarter, with the rolling 12-month figure at 246, the figure remains below the target of 270.

### **Early Help**

At the end of June 2022, 2,776 families were open to Early Help units, providing support for 5,713 children and young people under the age of 18. This is a 7% reduction in the number of families supported compared to the end of the previous quarter (2,987 families in March 2022).

The performance measure for 'Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months' was 13.4% for the rolling 12 months to June 2022, remaining the same as for the previous quarter and continuing to achieve the target of below 15.0%.

### **Children's Social Care - Staffing and Caseloads**

The number of open cases (including those for care leavers above the age of 18) was 12,493 at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, an increase of 566 (4.7%) children and young people when compared to end of the previous quarter (11,927).

There were 5,880 referrals to children's social care services in the quarter, an increase of 11.7% when compared to the previous quarter (5,265) and an increase of 13.0% compared to April to June 2021 (5,202). The rate of re-referrals within 12 months for the 12 months to June 2022 was 21.4%, an improvement on performance in the previous quarter of 22.0% and continuing to achieve the target of below 25.0%. This compares to the England average of 22.7% for 2020/21.

The percentage of case-holding social worker posts held by permanent, qualified social workers employed by Kent County Council has continued to reduce and for June 2022 was 75.9% which is below the target of 85.0%. The proportion of case-holding social work posts filled by agency staff was 15.5%, which is an increase from the end of Quarter 4 when it was 12.2%. The average caseload for Social Workers in Children's Social Work Teams increased by an average of 2 cases in the quarter, from 26 cases in March 2022 to 28 cases in June 2022, remaining outside of the target of no more than 18 cases.

### Child Protection

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 there were 1,342 children subject to a child protection plan, an increase of 66 (5%) from the end of the previous quarter (1,276). The rate per 10,000 children (aged 0-17) was 38.7 which remains below the last published rate for England of 41.4, at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The percentage of children who were subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time increased from 19.8% in March 2022 to 21.4% in June 2022, continuing to remain within the target range of between 17.5% and 22.5%. This compares to an average for England of 22.1% (March 2021).

### Children in Care

The number of citizen children in care increased by 42 (3%) in the quarter, to 1,445. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) in care increased by 41 (11%) in the quarter to 403, some of which will be awaiting transfer under the National Transfer Scheme. The number of children in care placed in Kent by other local authorities (OLA) decreased by 15 in the quarter to 1,233.

Status	Sep 21	Dec 21	Mar 22	Jun 22
Citizen	1,379	1,380	1,403	1,445
UASC	350	361	362	403
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>1,848</b>
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	1,098	1,105	1,114	1,199
Female	629	633	648	647
Non-binary	2	3	3	2
<b>Age Group</b>				
0 to 4	221	226	232	243
5 to 9	189	185	194	215
10 to 15	691	669	714	723
16 to 17	628	661	625	667
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
White	1,213	1,215	1,228	1,264
Mixed	96	94	103	104
Asian	72	60	54	45
Black	58	44	43	56
Other	290	328	337	379

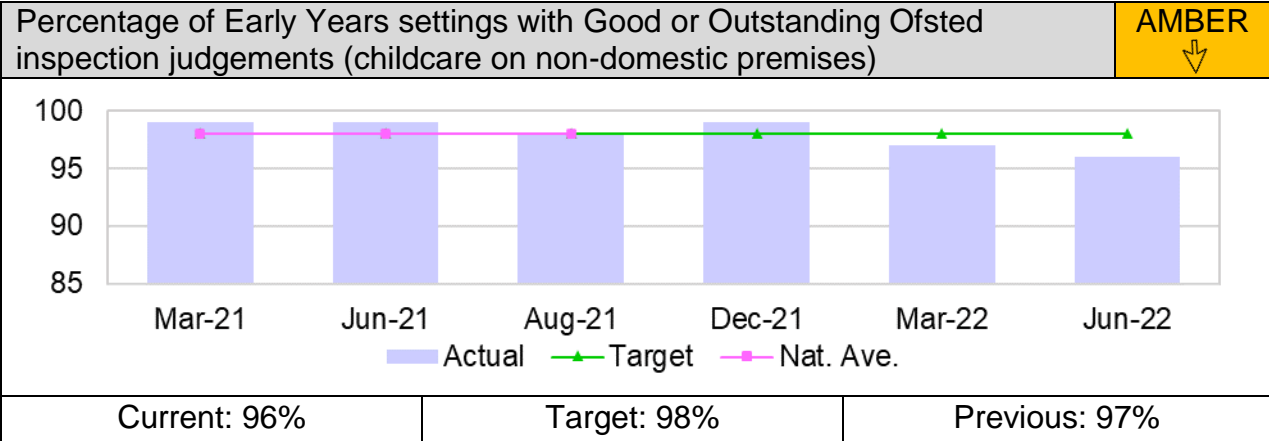
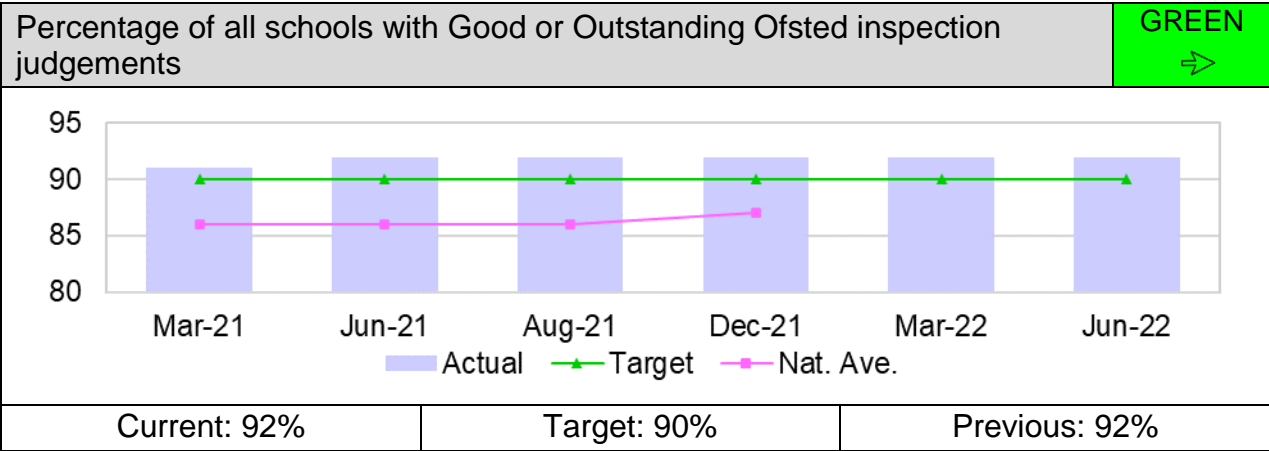
The percentage of Kent's children placed in KCC in-house foster care or with family/friends reduced by 2.9 percentage points in the quarter, from 78.3% at the end of March 2022 to 75.4% at the end of June 2022. This remains below the target of 85.0%.

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’s children at the end of June 2022 was 418 days, which is higher than the average of 391 days at the end of the previous quarter. The performance for this timeliness measure is impacted upon by delays to court hearings.

**Care Leavers**

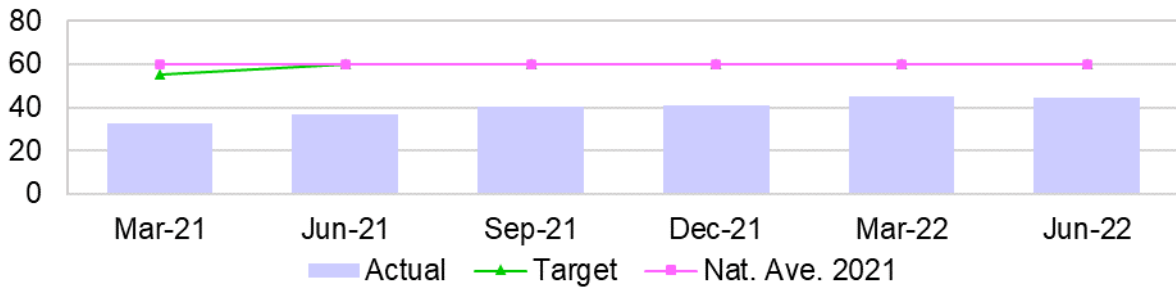
The number of care leavers at the end of June 2022 was 2,075 which is one fewer than the previous quarter (2,076). Of these 2,075 care leavers, 990 (48%) were citizen care leavers and 1,085 (52%) were unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people. The percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training has improved during the quarter, from 57.9% in March 2022 to 60.5% in June 2022, but remains below the 65.0% target.

**Key Performance Indicators**



Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks – rolling 12 months

**RED**  
↑



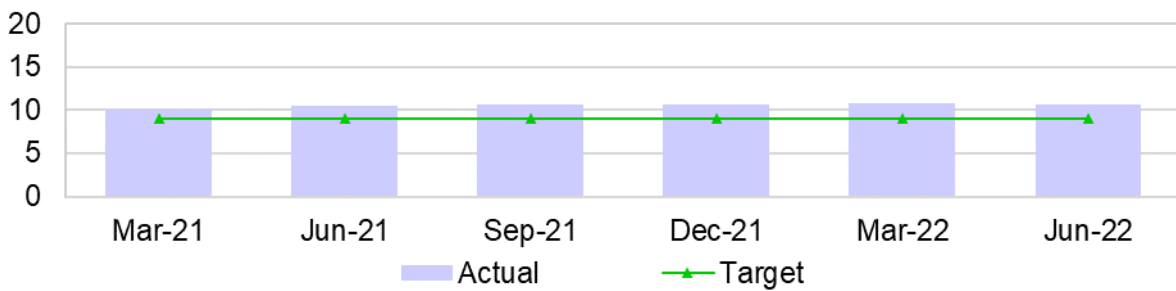
Current: 45%

Target: 60%

Previous: 45%

Percentage of pupils (with EHCP's) being placed in independent or out of county special schools

**RED**  
→



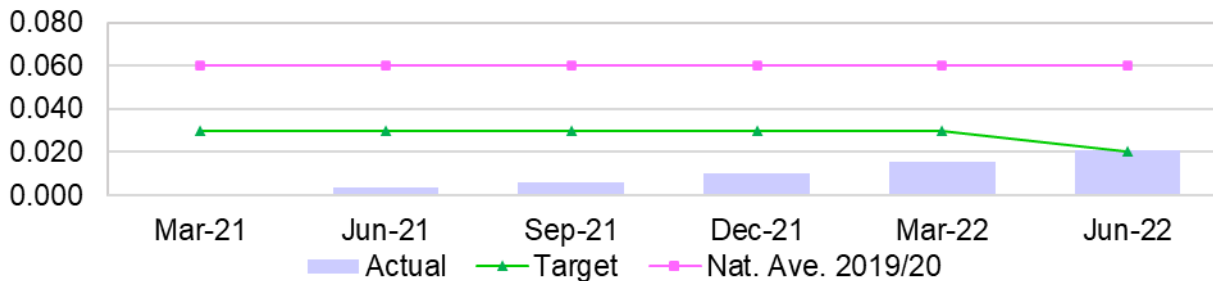
Current: 10.6%

Target: 9%

Previous: 10.8%

Percentage of pupils permanently excluded from school – rolling 12 months

**GREEN**  
↓



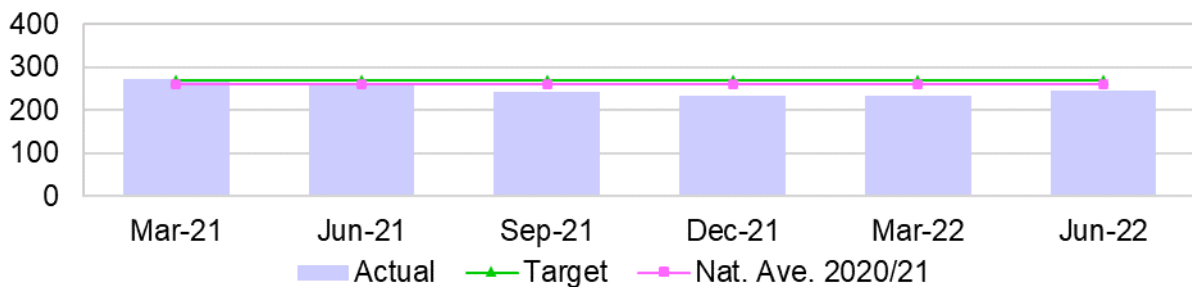
Current: 0.02%

Target: 0.02%

Previous: 0.02%

Number of first-time entrants to youth justice system – rolling 12 months

**GREEN**  
→



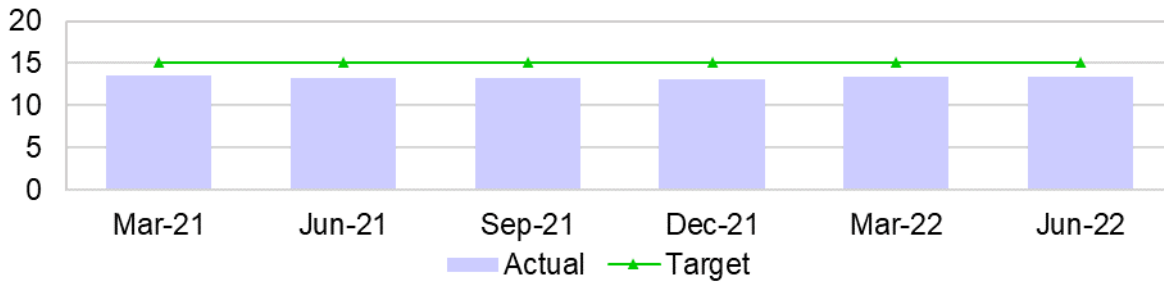
Current: 246

Target: 270

Previous: 233

Percentage of Early Help cases closed with outcomes achieved that come back to Early Help / Social Work teams within 3 months

**GREEN**  
➔



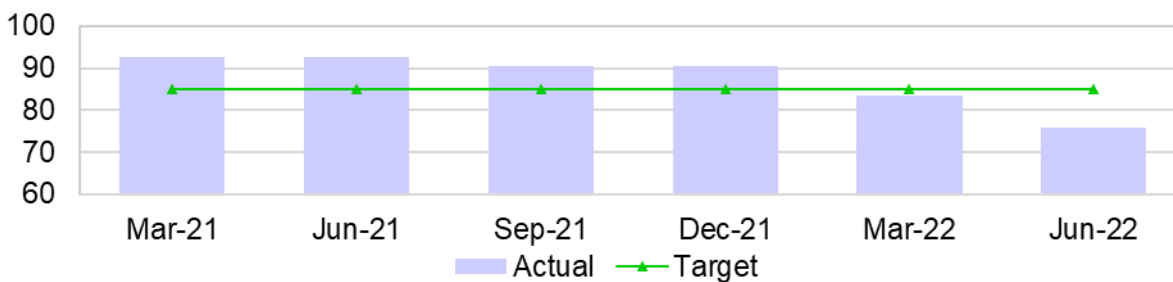
Current: 13.4%

Target: 15%

Previous: 13.4%

Percentage of case holding posts filled by permanent qualified social workers

**AMBER**  
⬇



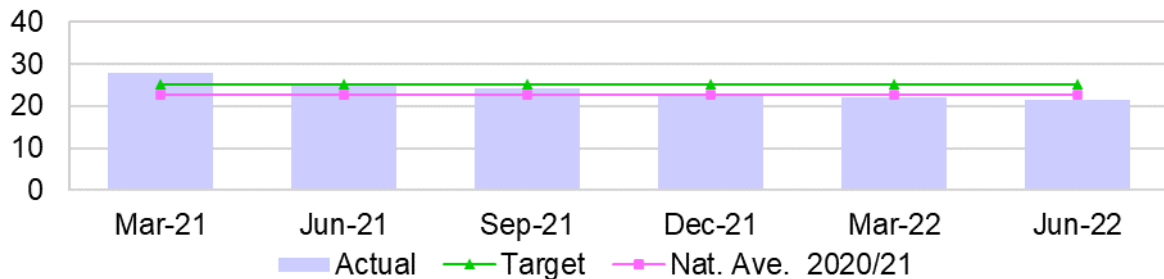
Current: 75.9%

Target: 85.0%

Previous: 83.3%

Percentage of children's social care referrals that were repeat referrals within 12 months

**GREEN**  
⬆



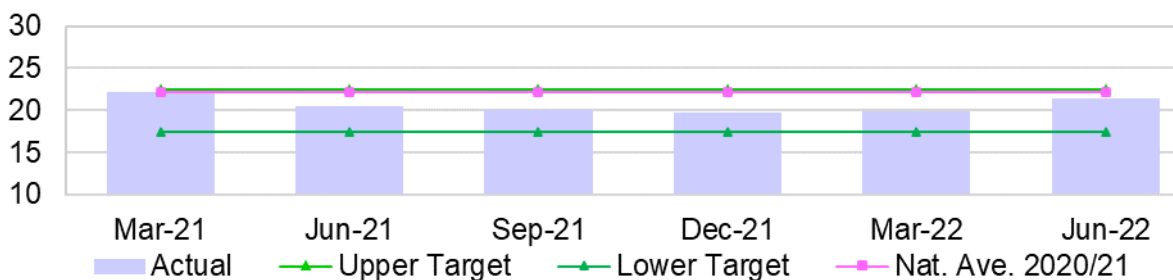
Current: 21.4%

Target: 25.0%

Previous: 22.0%

Percentage of child protection plans that were repeat plans

**GREEN**  
➔



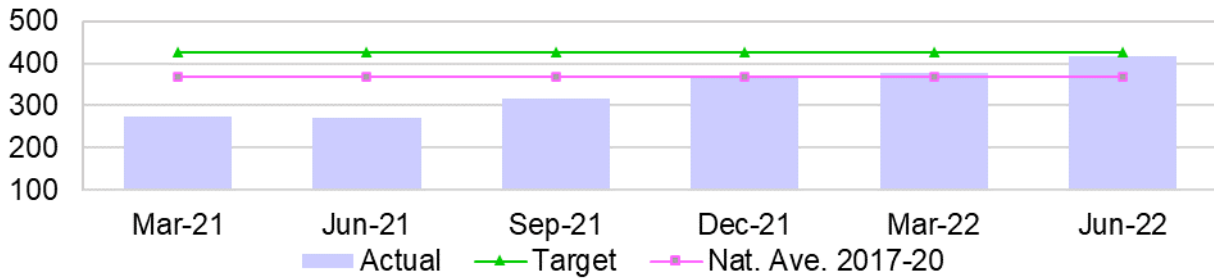
Current: 21.4%

Target: 17.5% - 22.5%

Previous: 19.8%

Average number of days between becoming a child in care and moving in with an adoptive family

**GREEN**  
↓



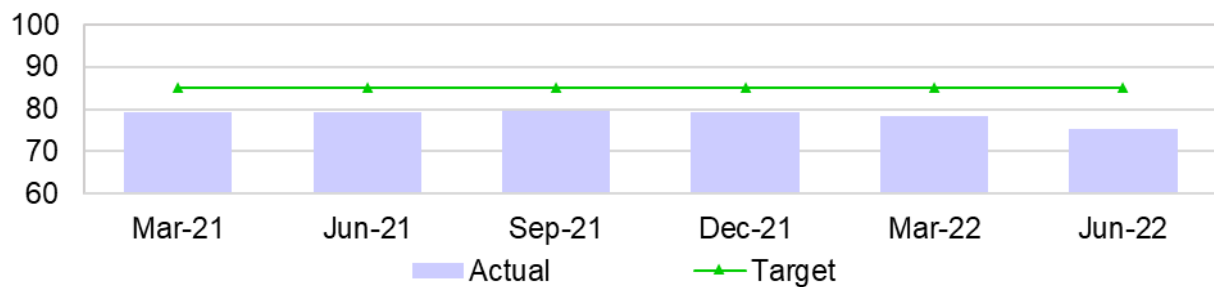
Current: 418.7

Target: 426

Previous: 391.1

Percentage foster care placements which are in-house or with relatives and friends (excluding UASC)

**AMBER**  
⇒



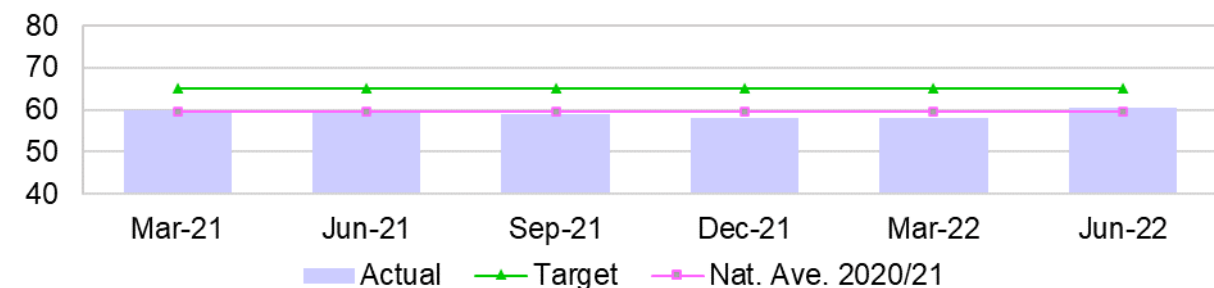
Current: 75.4%

Target: 85.0%

Previous: 78.3%

Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training (of those KCC is in touch with)

**AMBER**  
⇒



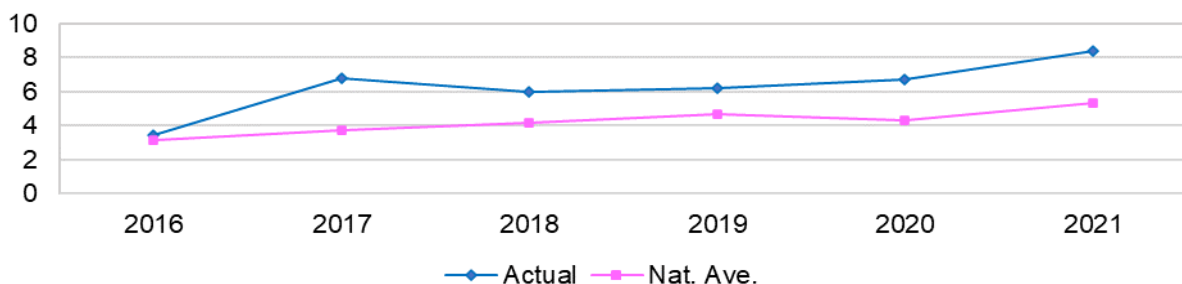
Current: 60.5%

Target: 65.0%

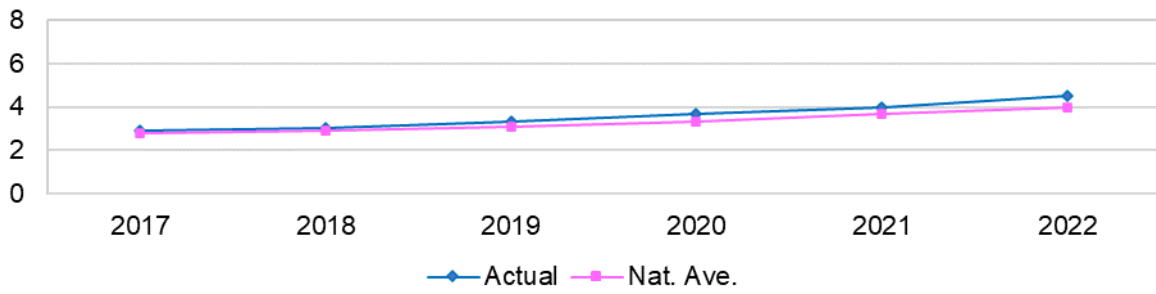
Previous: 57.9%

### Activity indicators

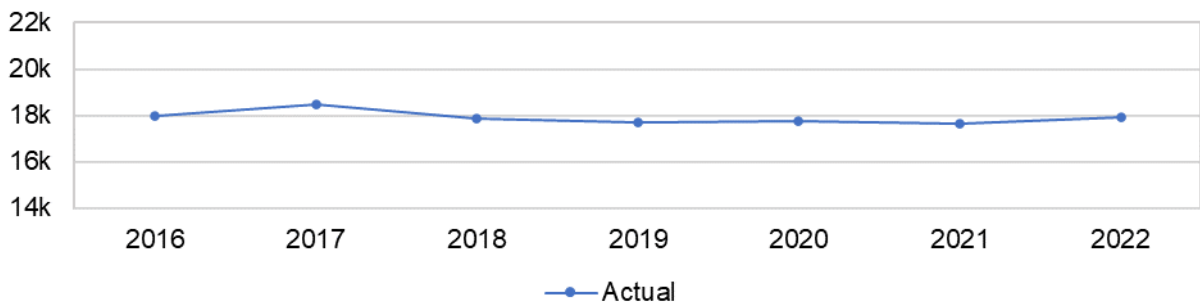
Number of initial requests for statutory assessment (for an EHC plan) per 1,000 population



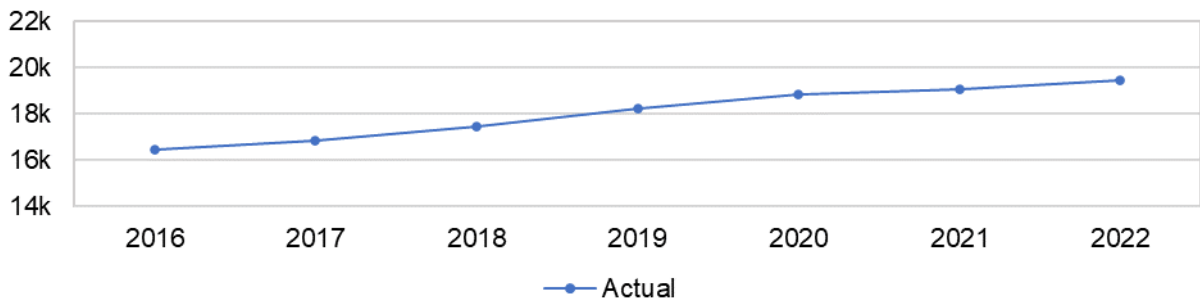
Percentage of pupils with an EHCP



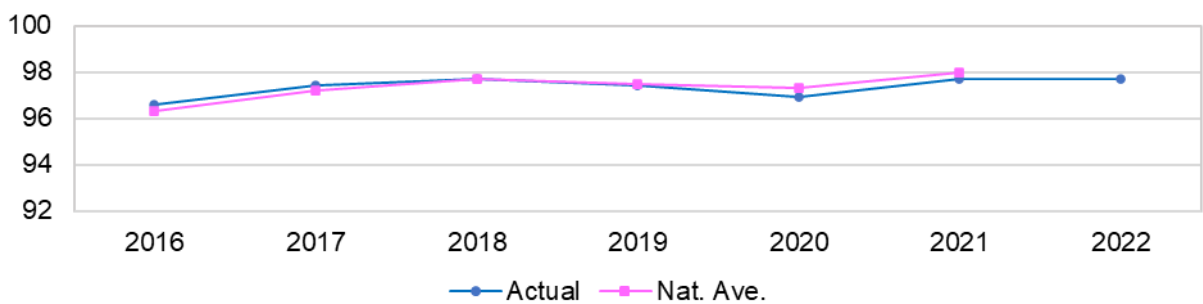
Number of pupils in Reception year (Kent state funded schools)



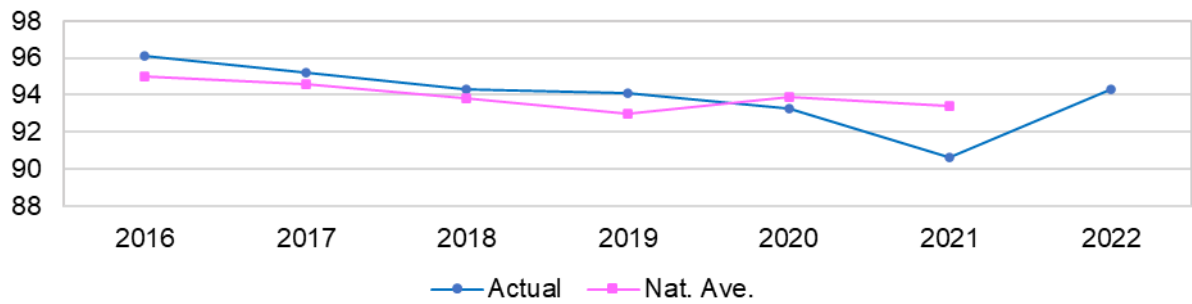
Number of pupils in Year 7 (Kent state funded schools)



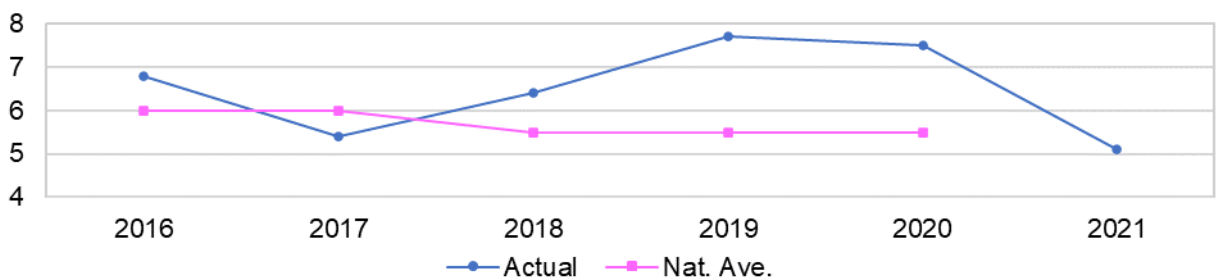
Percentage of Primary school applicants offered one of top three preferences



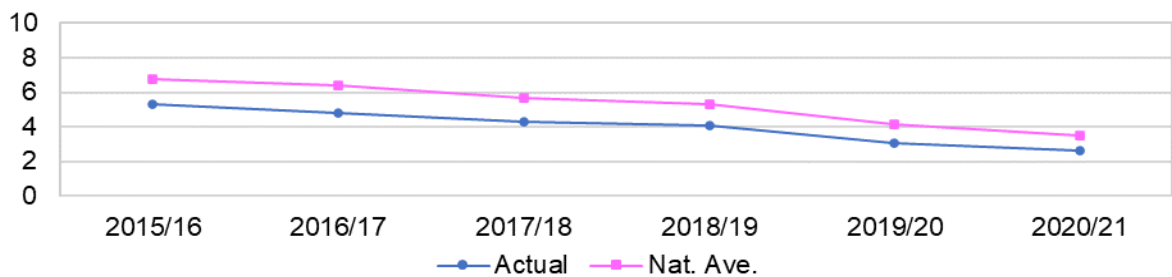
Percentage of Secondary school applicants offered one of top three preferences



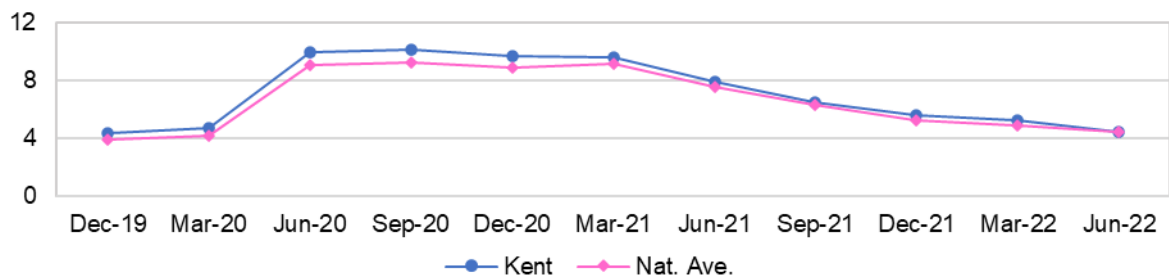
Percentage of 16-17 years olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) or whose activity is Not Known



Percentage of 16-18 year olds who start an apprenticeship

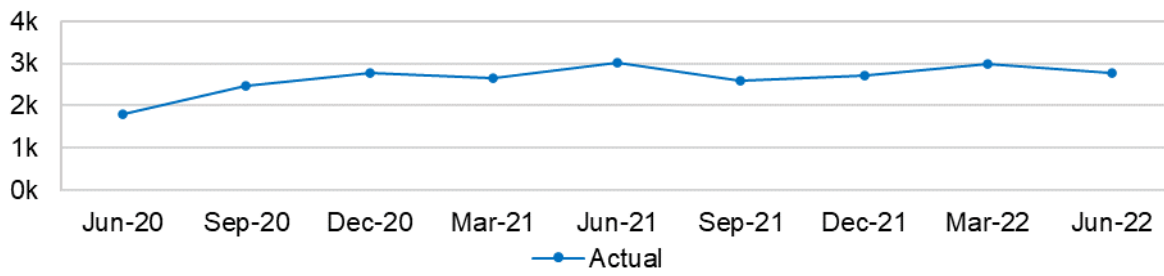


Percentage of 18-24 year olds claiming Universal Credit

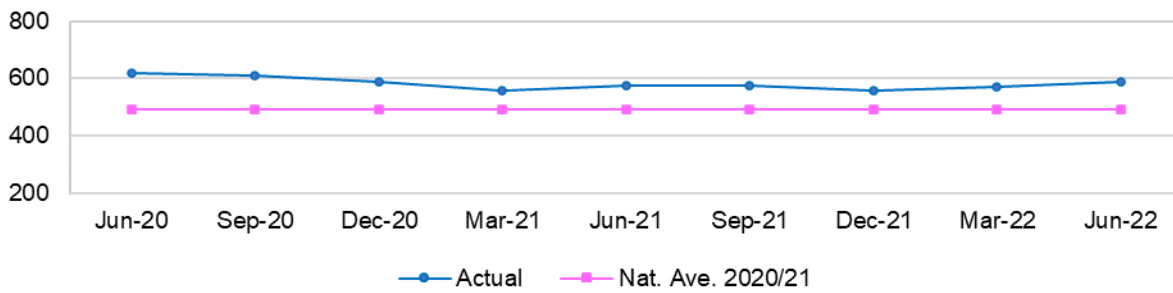




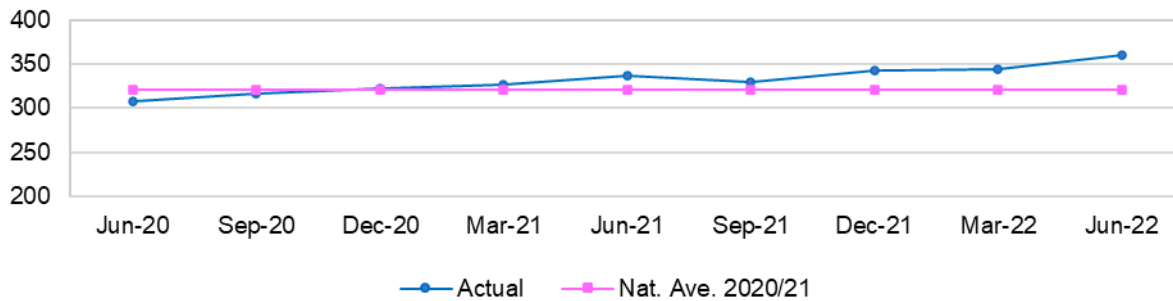
### Number of open Early Help cases managed by Units



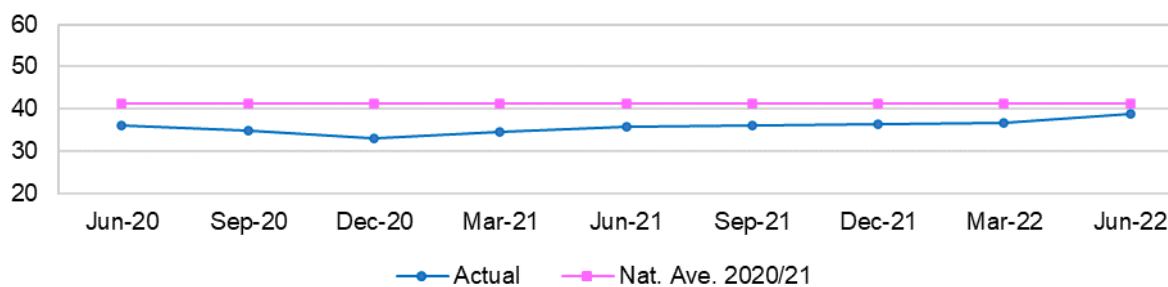
### Rate of CSW referrals per 10,000 population aged under 18 – rolling 12 months



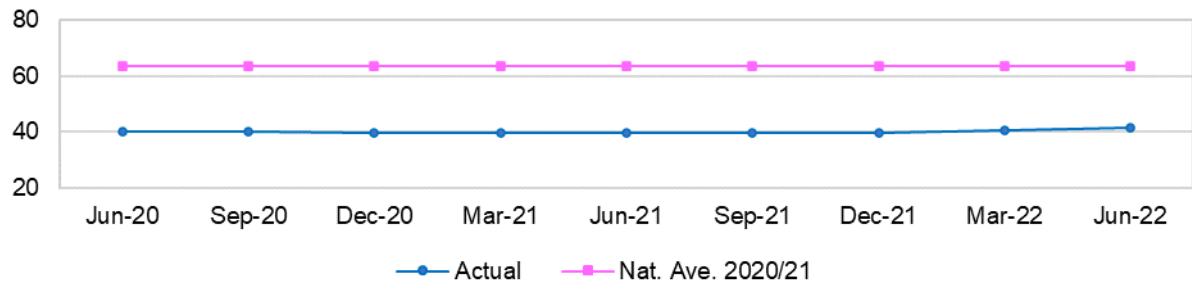
### CSW caseload per 10,000 child population – snapshot at quarter end



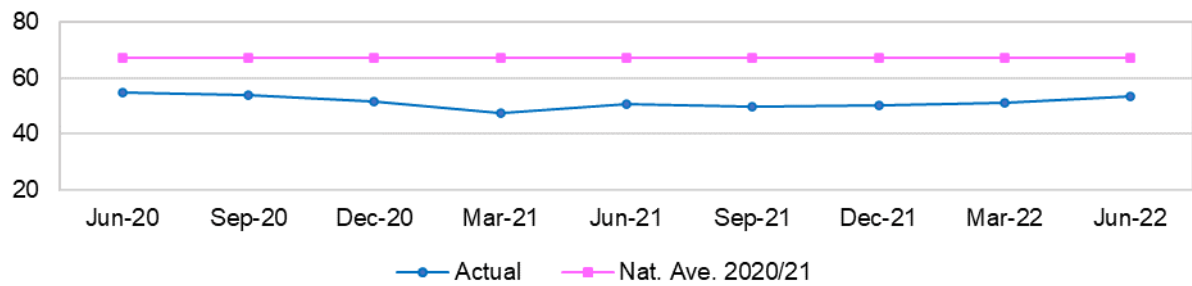
### Rate of children with Child Protection Plans per 10,000 child population – snapshot at quarter end



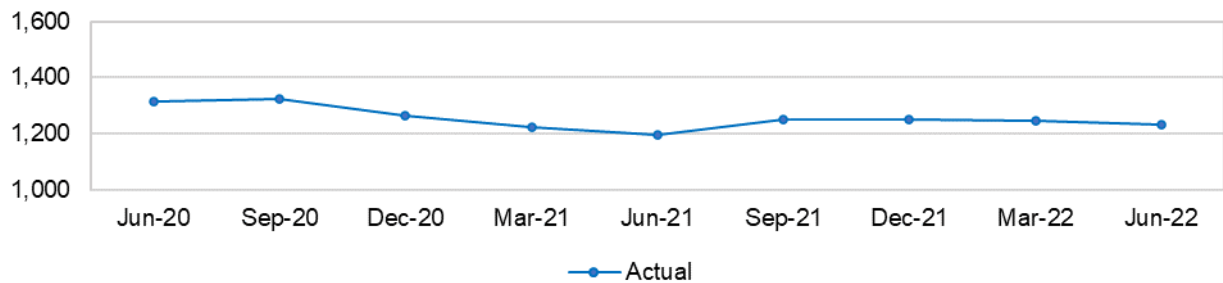
Rate of Children in Care (excluding UASC) per 10,000 child population – snapshot at quarter end



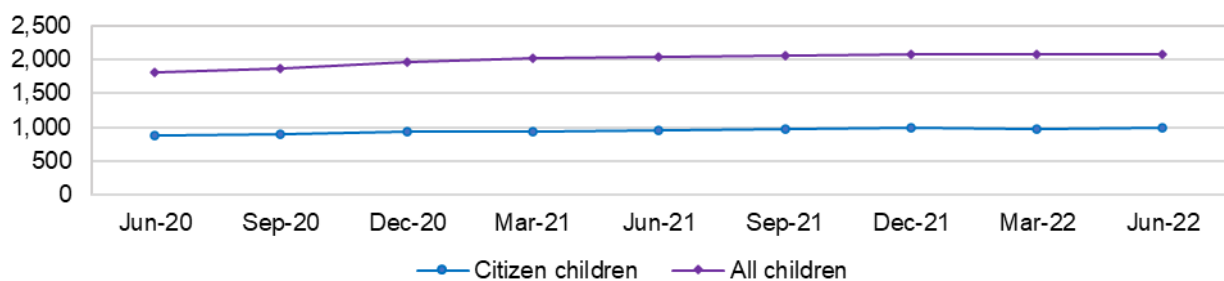
Rate of Children in Care (including UASC) per 10,000 child population – snapshot at quarter end






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 & Health						
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Clair Bell					
<b>Corporate Director</b>	Richard Smith					
KPI Summary	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>RED</b>			
	4	1	1		5	1

For 2022/23 onwards Adult Social Care & Health (ASCH) implemented a new series of KPIs and activity measures to better reflect the work delivered by ASCH and the pressures the sector is experiencing following the pandemic.

ASCH continue to have over 20,000 people making contact each Quarter, with 21,725 people contacting us in Quarter 1. In response to this high demand and in order to improve how we respond to requests for assistance, work is being undertaken to refine and diversify how people can contact us. This includes expanding our use of online tools and self-service options. The new KPI on the percentage of people who re-contacted ASCH having had a previous contact resolved with advice and information, allows the monitoring of the effectiveness of the service provided at first contact, albeit there are factors that will affect this, especially where someone has experienced a change in circumstance or an increased need not related to the original contact. ASCH aim to have no more than 9% of all contacts made up of re-contacts within a 3-month period, and this was achieved in Quarter 1.

A Care Needs Assessment (CNA) is where a person’s social care needs are identified and eligibility for support is assessed (Care Act 2014), ASCH have on average 1,600 CNAs to complete each month, with 4,725 completed in Quarter 1 (down from 4,994 in Quarter 4). Of the CNAs newly initiated within Quarter 4, 75% were completed within 28 days. This measure runs a quarter in arrears and looking back at the previous year, ASCH was below the new target of 90% set for 2022/23.

The time taken to complete a CNA is dependent on the person and their needs, with some people with complex circumstances taking months to complete. However, the majority of CNAs can be completed within 28 days (Care Act compliance is that they are timely) and ASCH are prioritising work on completing CNAs as part of its Performance Assurance process.

Alongside delivering CNAs there are also Carer Assessments being delivered with the general trend having been upwards over the last year, with 1,102 completed in Quarter 1. Commissioned Carers Organisations deliver these assessments for KCC ASCH. The Carers Strategy (NHS and KCC) has been completed and Roadshows promoting our approach to carers were delivered in August.

Following the Assessments and where eligible for support, people receive a Care and Support Plan which details how a person will be supported and the services they may receive. ASCH had 16,932 people with an active Care & Support Plan at the end of Quarter 1, which is the highest number of people since before Quarter 3 2020/21. Not everyone will go on to need a support package (for example Residential care, Homecare, Supported Living) and ASCH has seen decreasing numbers of new support packages being arranged each quarter. Whilst the numbers have decreased, the

average weekly cost of the newly arranged packages has increased in general, indicating a rise in the cost of care or increases in the complexity of needs.

When people have a Care and Support Plan in place and are receiving support from ASCH, they receive an initial 8-week review and then an Annual Review 12 months later. The number of people requiring an annual review on the last day of Quarter 1 was 5,044, and the number has been increasing quarter on quarter. In Quarter 1 over 3,300 annual reviews were delivered. Work on completing Annual Reviews is also being prioritised as part of the ASCH Performance Assurance process.

Where people are in need of short-term enablement services, ASCH have the Kent Enablement at Home service (KEaH) which aims to keep people independent, in their home and reduce the need for ongoing care. In Quarter 1, there were 2,109 people actively receiving this support. Some individuals require residential or nursing care on a temporary basis (either while their longer-term needs or circumstances are assessed, or to provide respite) and ASCH have seen increasing number of people in short term beds since the pandemic with 1,322 individuals receiving this service in Quarter 1.

Long Term Support is provided either through community or residential/nursing care. ASCH have nearly 12,000 people in long term community services each quarter, which include Direct Payments, Day Care, Supported Living and Homecare. A key priority for ASCH is to enable people to remain independent and in their own homes with clear personal choice over their support. Direct Payments are nationally recognised as an effective way of delivering these aims and so ASCH have set itself a challenging target of 30% of people in receipt of community services accessing these via a Direct Payment. Over the last 2 years, around a quarter of people in receipt of community services have accessed these via a Direct Payment and so ASCH is actively promoting growth in this area, including recruiting a specialist Personal Assistant Development worker, developing a digital platform, and working with other KCC directorates to deliver community catalysts and grow community provision.

ASCH have seen a decreasing number of people receiving long-term residential or nursing care since Quarter 3 2021/22. As residential and nursing care potentially reduces an individual's choice and independence, these services are considered and discussed with a person and their families/carers when other support options are not suitable, adequate or safe. Where appropriate for an individual's needs, there have been recent moves of people with mental health needs from residential care into community services (SIS/Supported Living).

The numbers of people accessing support with ASCH who have a mental health need had been increasing prior to the pandemic, during which this increase escalated, however the numbers appear to be plateauing with 1,220 people in Quarter 1. SIS/Support Living remains the most prevalent service provision.

ASCH have an ongoing KPI which reports on the percentage of people in residential or nursing care with a CQC rating of Good or Outstanding. For 2022/23, ASCH increased the target to 80% and met this in Quarter 1 with 81% of people placed in settings with Good or Outstanding ratings. Where providers are rated as Inadequate or Poor, Locality Commissioners provide advice and support to ensure that effective action plans are in place that respond to identified concerns and/or CQC findings and monitor these action plans as required. Where necessary contract suspensions are put in place to prevent further placements whilst improvements are being made.

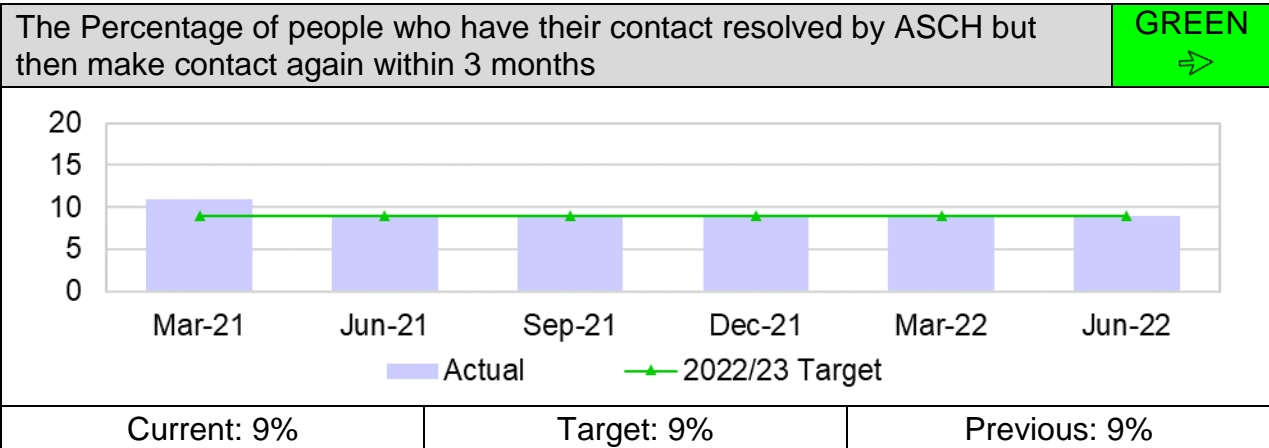
ASCH report two KPIs that are national Better Care Fund measures; the Better Care Fund is a programme that supports local systems to successfully deliver and monitor the integration of health and social care, looking for better outcomes for people. For those people aged 65 and over who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital having received enablement, ASCH remains above the target of 82% at 85% for Quarter 4. ASCH have increased the target for 2022/23 to 85%.

The second of these Better Care Fund measures presents the rate per 100,000 population of people receiving long term support, aged 65 and over, by admission to residential and nursing care homes. As previously discussed, it is an ASCH priority to ensure people stay at home and independent for as long as possible, with support from community services where necessary and we have seen decreasing numbers in, and entering, residential and nursing care since Quarter 3 2021/22. This is reflected in the decreasing rate with 104 per 100,000 in Quarter 1, meaning ASCH is below the target of 111 and RAG Rated Green.

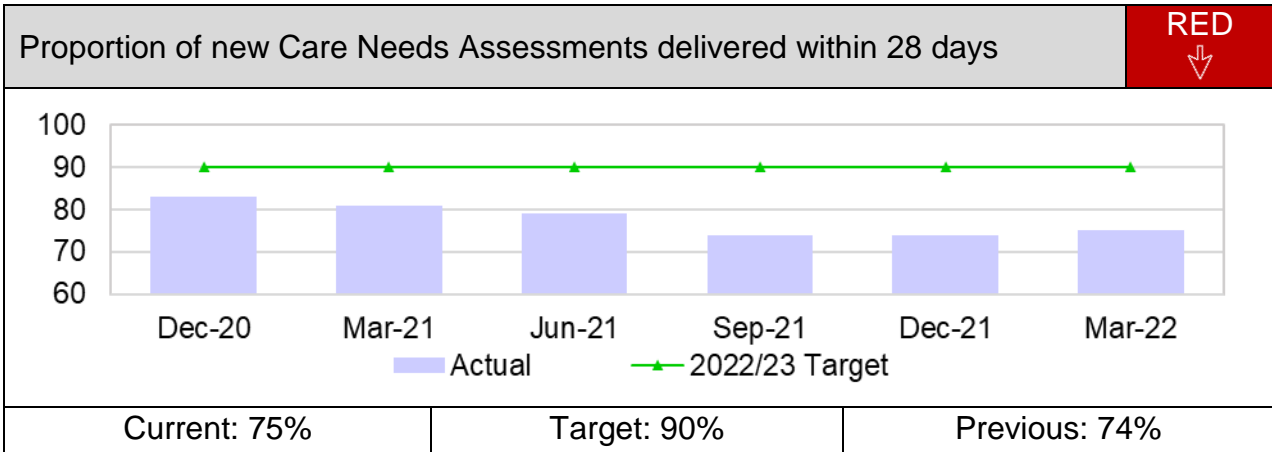
For 2022/23, ASCH have expanded the previously reported Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) measure to show both the number of applications received each quarter and those completed. Quarter 1 saw a further increase in the number of DoLS applications received at 2,453, which is the highest for over 6 Quarters. The number of completed applications vary Quarter on Quarter and is influenced by the capacity of the team and the volumes of urgent applications. On average 42% of applications take under 4 weeks to be signed off.

ASCH had 1,043 Safeguarding Enquiries open on the last day of Quarter 1. The Safeguarding Teams have held the number of open enquires at a more sustainable level following the implementation of a dedicated team brought in during 2021/22, who assisted the teams in balancing the volume of incoming and existing work allowing for the volume of open safeguarding enquiries to be reduced having exceeded 2,000 in Quarter 2, 2021/22.

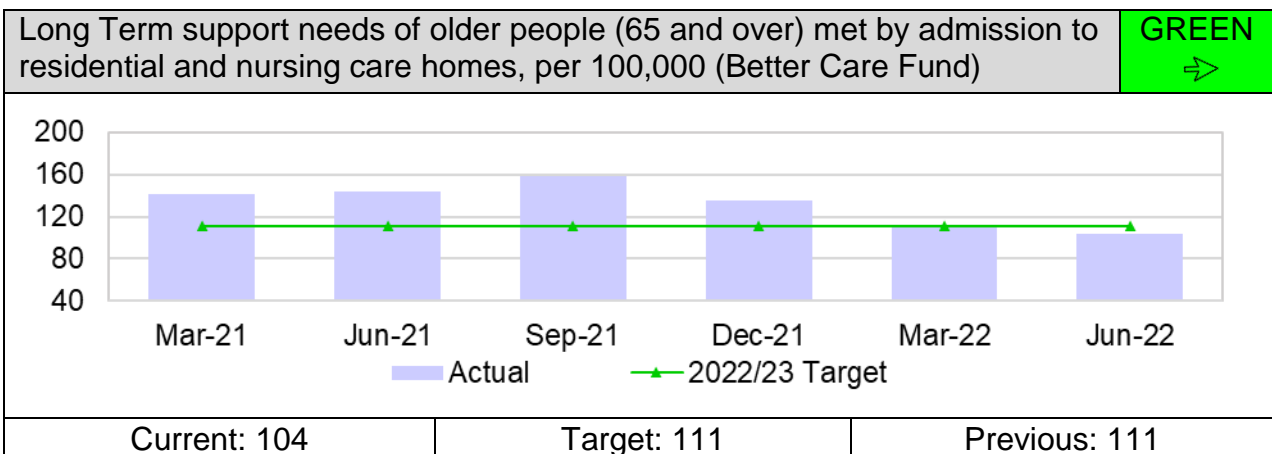
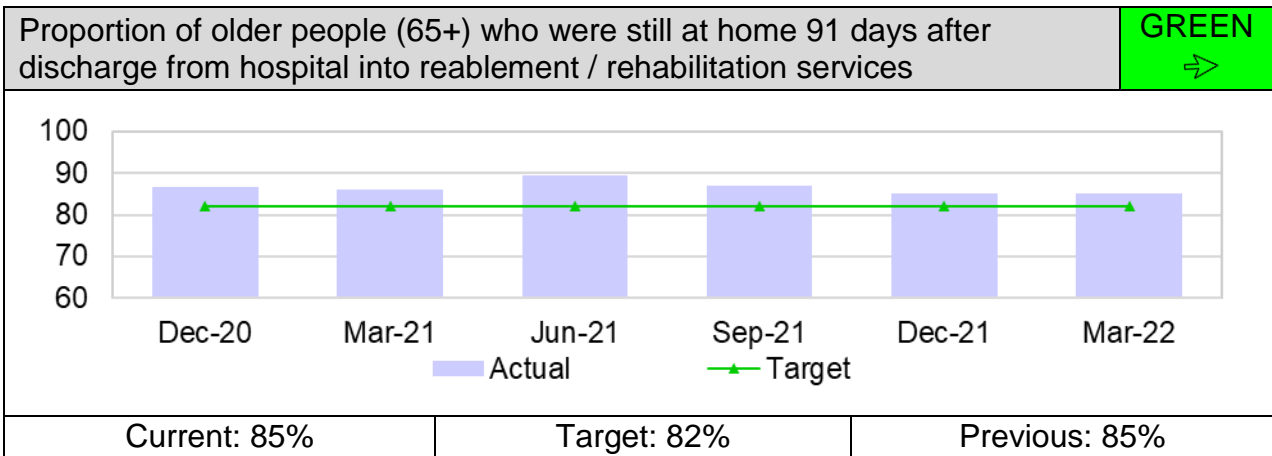
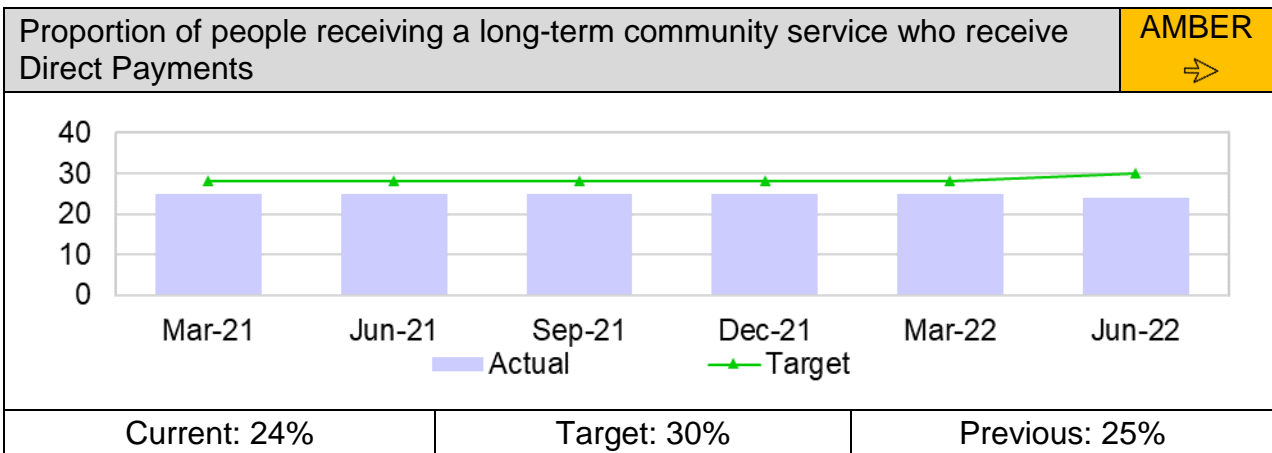
**Key Performance Indicators**



New Indicator – target line for previous periods shown for comparison only



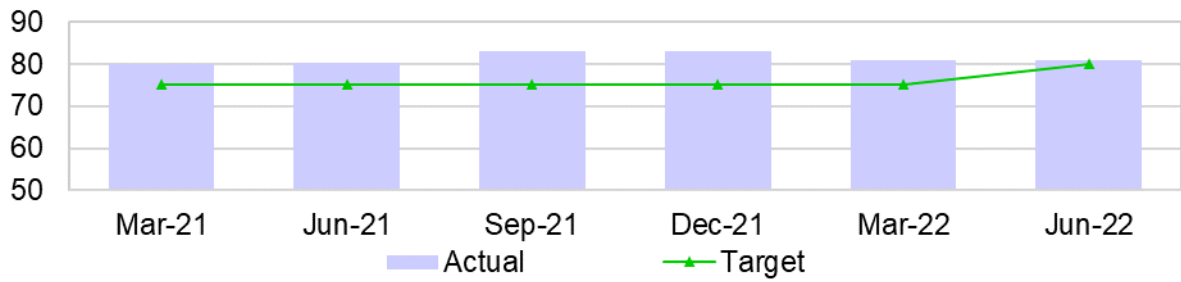
New Indicator – target line for previous periods shown for comparison only



New Indicator – target line for previous periods shown for comparison only

Percentage of KCC supported people in residential or nursing care where the CQC rating is Good or Outstanding

**GREEN**  
➔



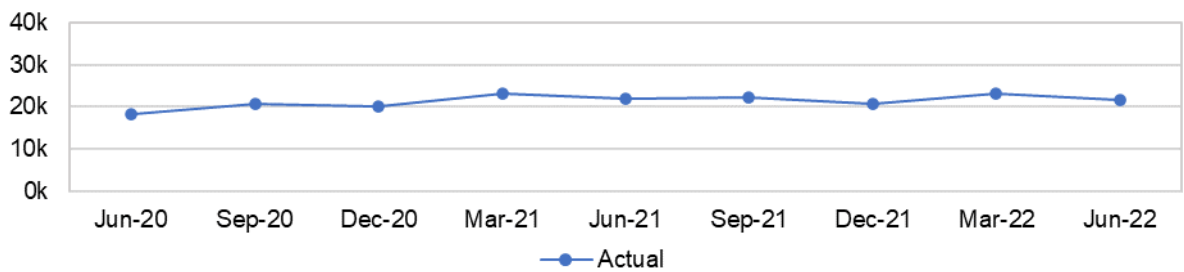
Current: 81%

Target: 80%

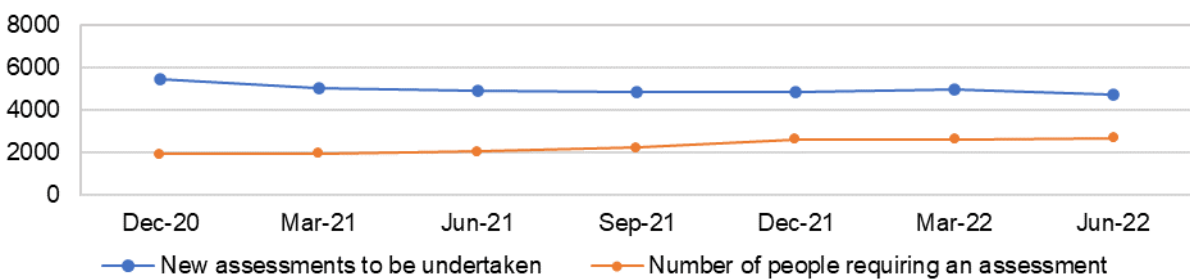
Previous: 81%

### Activity indicators

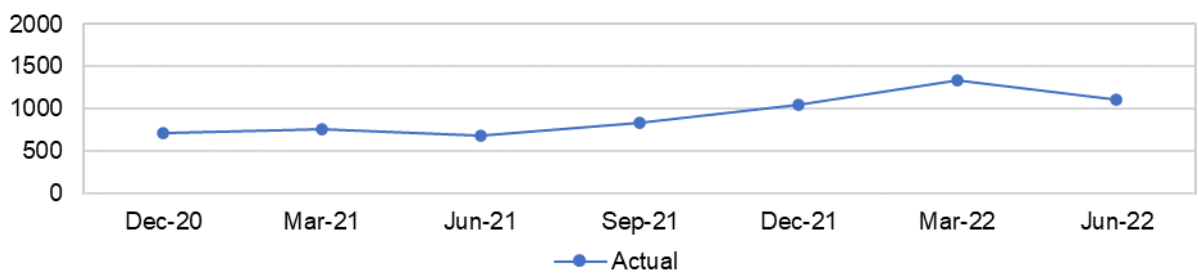
Number of people making contact with ASCH



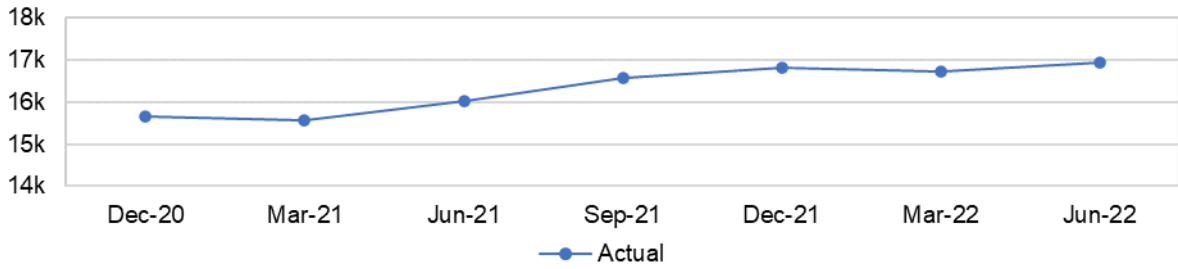
Number of new Care Needs Assessments to be undertaken and the number of people requiring a Care needs Assessment on the last day of the quarter



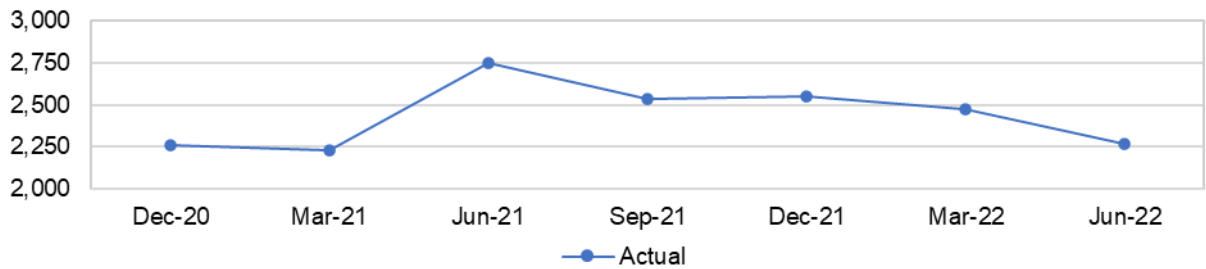
Number of new Carers assessments delivered



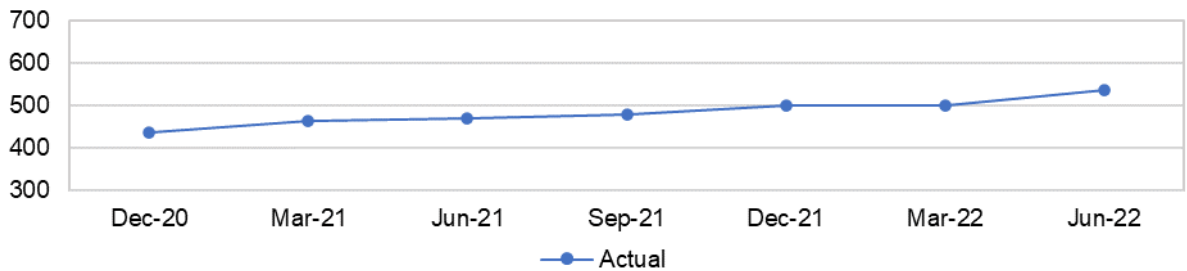
### Number of people with an active Care & Support Plan at the end of the Quarter



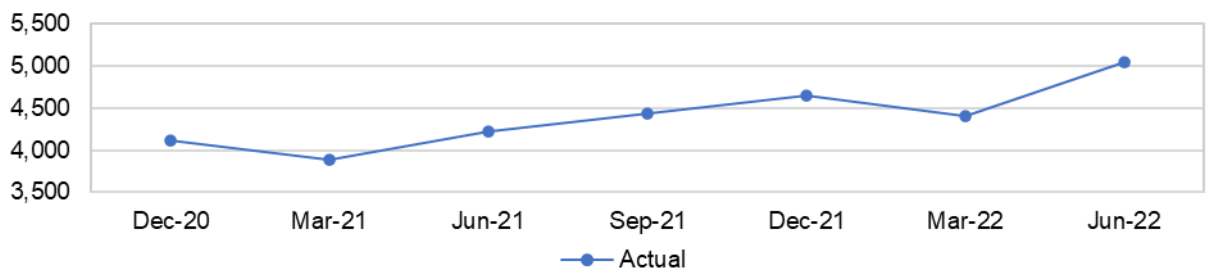
### Number of new support packages being arranged for people in the Quarter



### Average cost (£s per week) of new support packages arranged for people in the Quarter

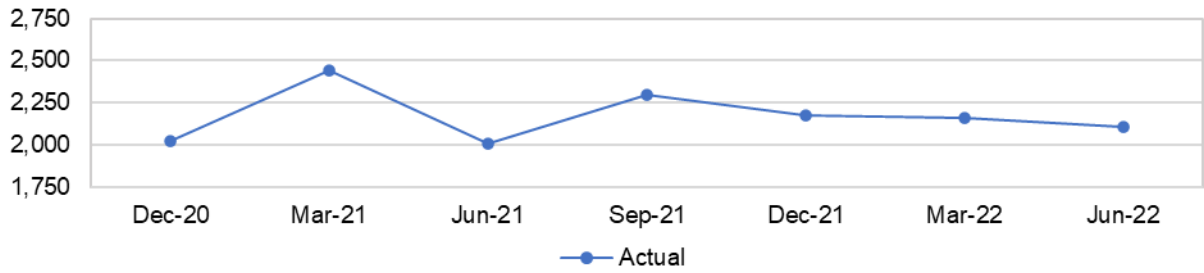


### Number of people requiring an annual review to be completed on the last day of the Quarter

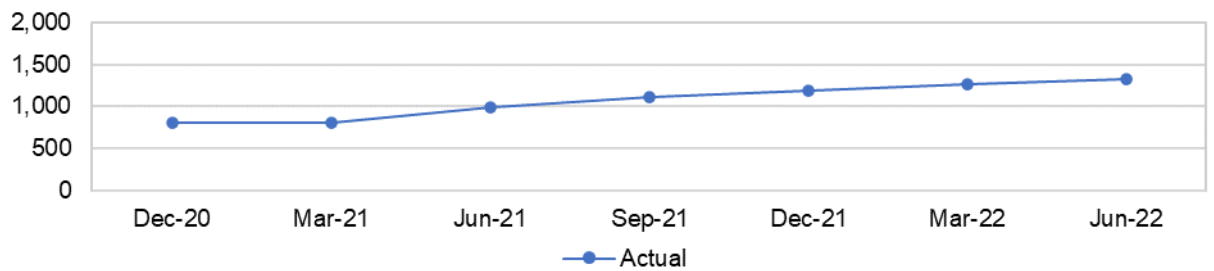




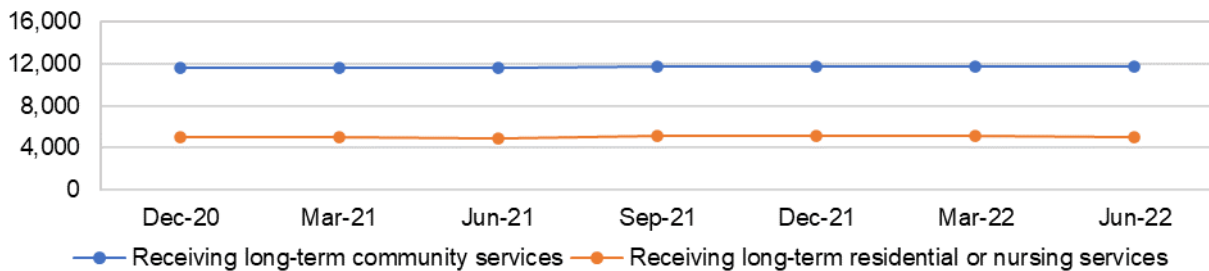
### Number of people in Kent Enablement at Home (KeaH)



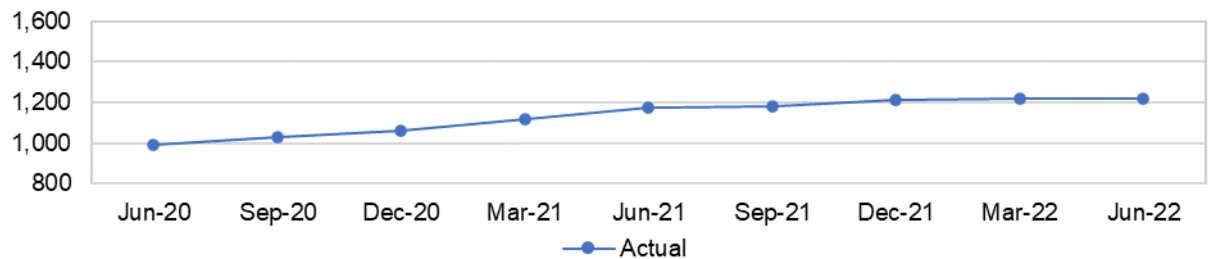
### Number of people in Short Term Beds during the Quarter



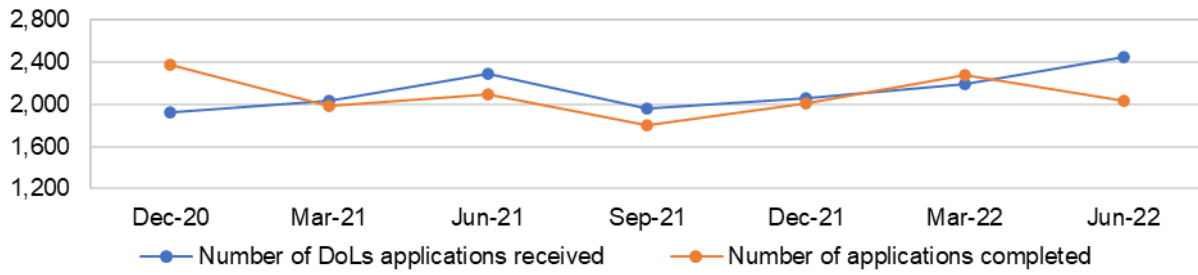
### Number of people in Long Term Services



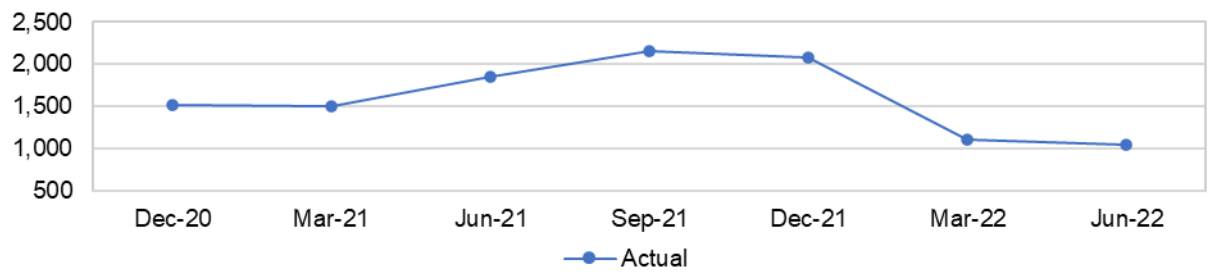
### Number of People accessing ASCH Services who have a Mental Health Need



### Number of DoLS applications received and completed



### Number of safeguarding enquiries open on the last day of the Quarter



Public Health	
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Clair Bell
<b>Director</b>	Anjan Ghosh

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

The NHS Health Check Programme continues to recover after the service resumed delivery in Quarter 2 2020/21, following a national pause due to COVID-19. There were 5,945 Health Checks provided in Quarter 1. Although the 12 month rolling checks performance is amber for this period, activity continues to increase rapidly with this quarter representing a 213% increase in checks delivered compared to the same quarter last year. A risk-stratified approach to NHS Health Checks, where those at highest risk of cardiovascular disease are targeted, has been rolled out and will continue to be piloted until 2023/24.

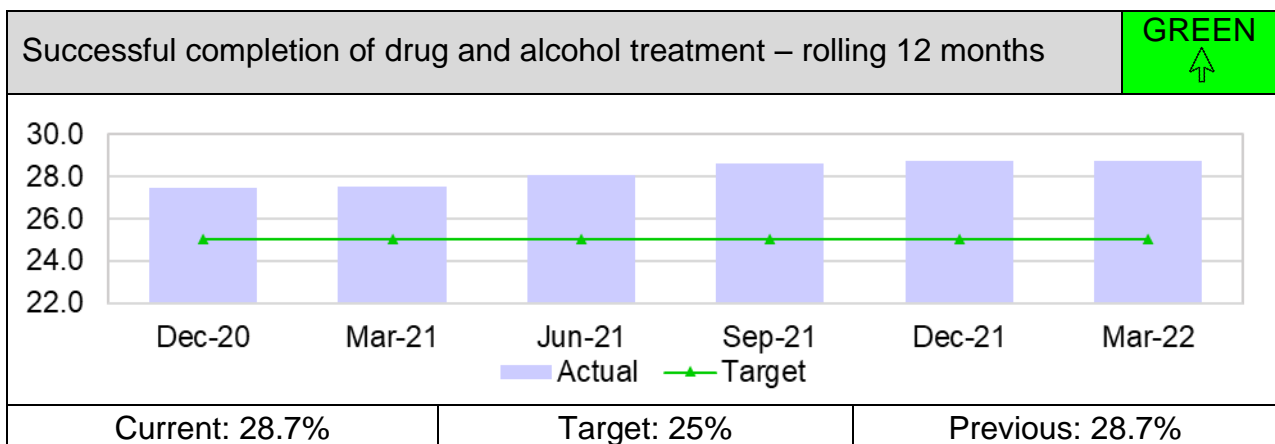
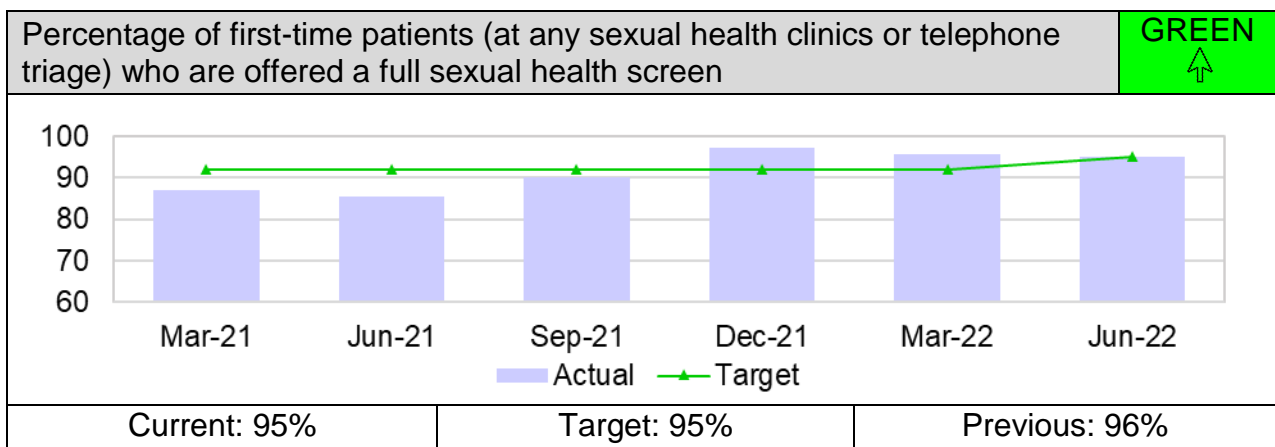
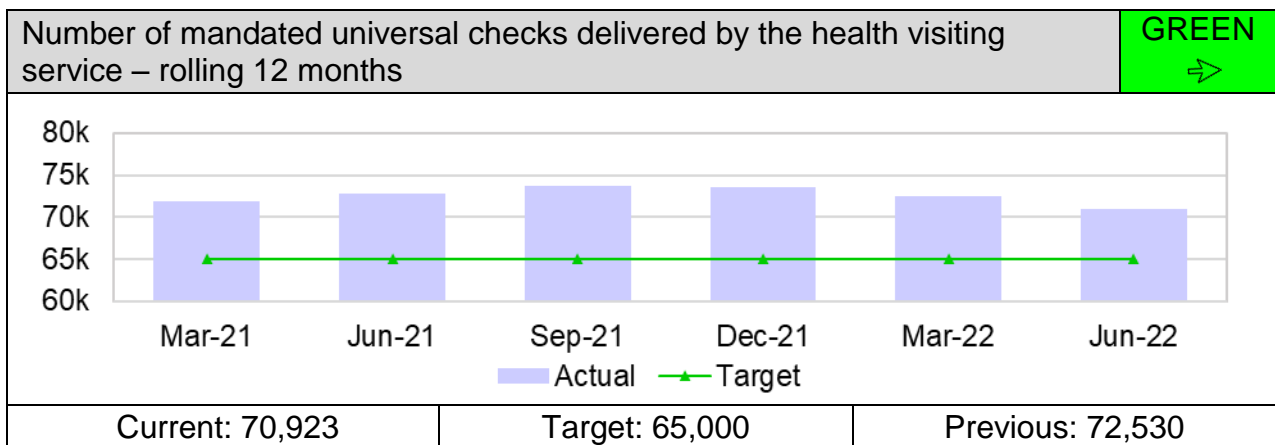
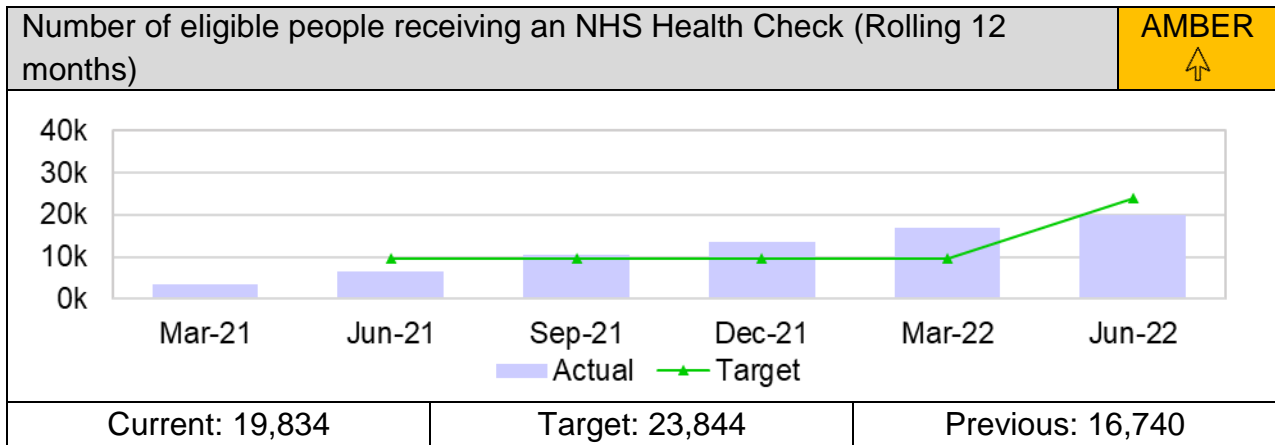
In Quarter 1 of 2022/23, the Health Visiting Service delivered 17,057 mandated universal contacts, an increase on last quarter and still on track to meet the annual target of 65,000 mandated universal contacts. Delivery of all five mandated contacts remained above target during Quarter 1.

In Quarter 1, the Sexual Health service has performed well overall despite the ongoing strain on the service due to the Monkeypox outbreak. The Sexual Health KPI target has been increased to 95% as a reflection of a successful year in 2021/22. Over Quarter 1 this target has been met, showing an ongoing commitment by the service. The service continues to operate a hybrid model with service users generally being directed initially to the online STI testing prior to booking a face-to-face appointment in clinic. This is being reflected in the number of attendances at clinics, with more effective triaging and medication being able to go straight to the person's house or local pharmacy. This model proved successful in 2021/22 and will continue to be developed in 2022/23

The community drug and alcohol data for Quarter 1 was unavailable at the time of writing the report.

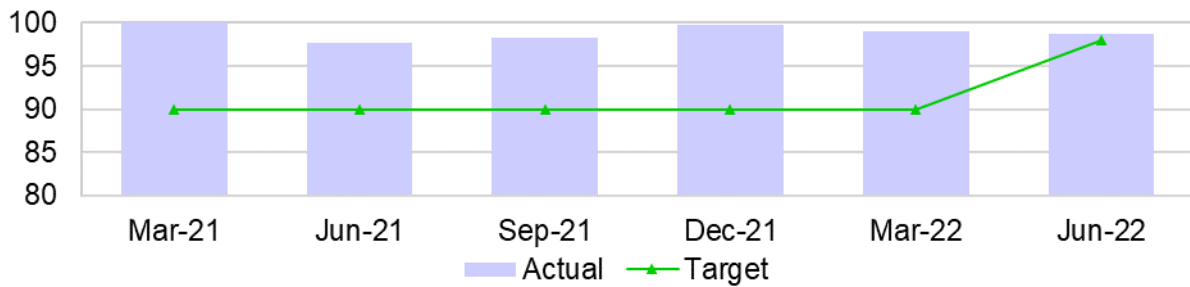
In Quarter 1, Live Well Kent (LWK) referrals have increased from the previous quarter. Self-referrals continue to be the greatest source of referrals. Client satisfaction rates remain above the target, at 98.7%. Over the last year LWK staff have been sitting as a partner in a number of Community Mental Health Team triage meetings. This has proved beneficial and has created a good working relationship, enabling a more joined up pathway for mental health services

## Performance Indicators



Percentage of Live Well clients who would recommend the service to family, friends, or someone in a similar situation

**GREEN**  
➔



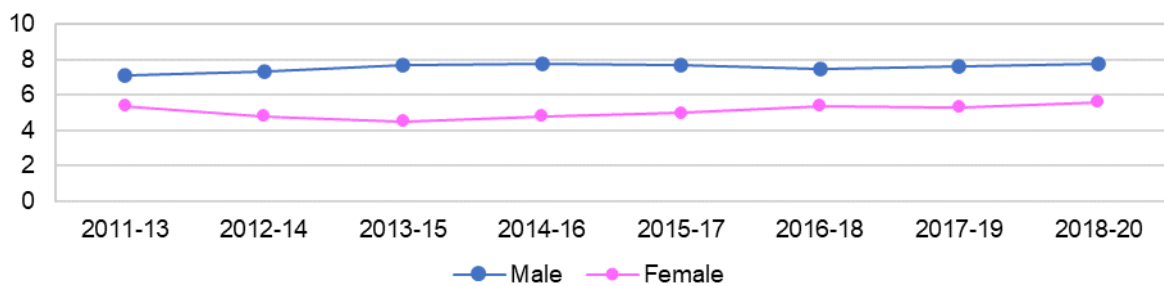
Current: 98.7%

Target: 98.0%

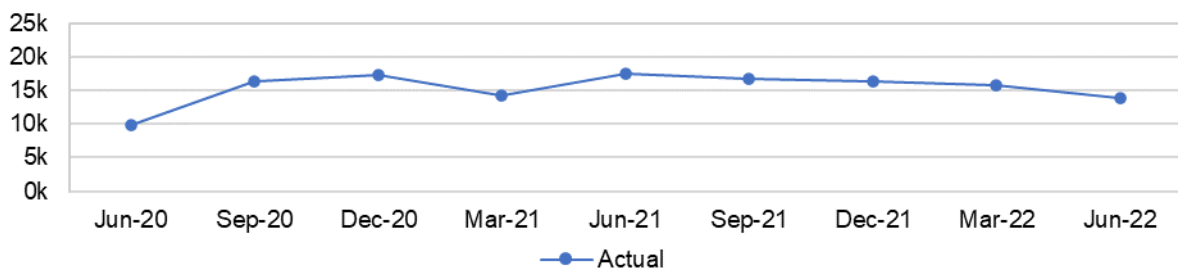
Previous: 99.0%

### Activity indicators

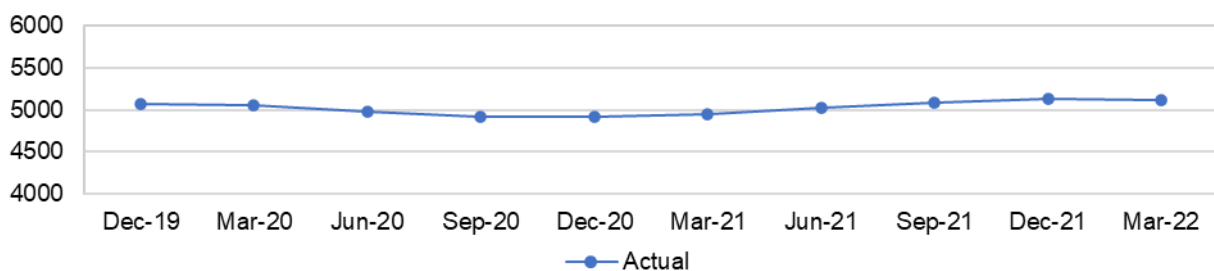
Life expectancy gap in years between least and most deprived areas



Number of attendances at KCC commissioned Sexual Health Clinics



Number of adults accessing structured Substance Misuse Treatment Services



## Corporate Risk Register – Overview

A combination of the cost-of-living crisis, including rising energy bills and inflation pressures, all exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and global supply chain issues, mean that the council, its residents, service users and staff are facing significant challenges, which carry risk implications for the achievement of the Authority’s objectives.

The table below shows the number of corporate risks in each risk level (based on the risk score) in June 2022, compared with March 2022.

	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
<b>Current risk level March 2022</b>	0	3	12
<b>Current risk level June 2022*</b>	0	4	16

\*One risk rating to be decided

### NEW RISK

CRR0055 - Adult Social Care Reform. There are several risk implications for councils including concerns that the Government’s Social Care Reform impact assessment had not adequately factored in the cost and impact on KCC and providers. Available evidence indicates that the implications flowing from the implementation of the twin policy proposals of the ‘Fair Cost of Care’ and Section 18(3) of the Care Act 2014 necessitate further consideration of the funding commitment; otherwise, there is the potential for the council to be subject to unacceptable financial risk.

The details of further new risks are being developed relating to Ukraine Resettlement Schemes and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) transport.

### RISK LEVEL REDUCED

CRR0001: Safeguarding Vulnerable Children. The risk level has been reduced to reflect the findings from the recent Ofsted inspection of children’s services, which deemed services for the protection of vulnerable children as good, with an overall effectiveness of outstanding.

### RISK RATINGS ASSIGNED

The number of High rated risks has increased since last quarter due to several risks having this rating assigned to them, namely:

- Impacts of climate change on KCC services
- Capital Programme affordability (impacts on performance and statutory duties)
- Supply chain and market factors

## MITIGATING ACTIONS

The Corporate Risk Register mitigations are regularly reviewed for their continued relevance and urgency, and new mitigations introduced as required.

Updates have been provided for 13 actions to mitigate elements of Corporate Risks that were due for completion or review up to the end of July 2022. These are summarised below.

Due Date for Review or Completion	Actions Completed/ Closed	Actions Partially complete	Actions subject to Regular Review
Up to and including July 2022	6	6	1

### **CRR0002: Safeguarding – protecting adults at risk**

#### Complete

Frameworks for both quality and practice in relation to safeguarding have now been launched.

#### Partially complete

Programme of training events to support practitioners to develop knowledge and skills as part of continuing professional development has been developed. Manager training commenced July 2022. Core training commences in September.

### **CRR0004 – Simultaneous Emergency Response**

#### Complete

Continued preparations for and mitigations against implications of future UK/EU relationship in relation to border friction, regulatory change etc – Simon Jones 31/7/22

The Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Waste has several actions underway to mitigate challenges experienced at the border which are held separately on the corporate risk CRR0042 'Border fluidity, infrastructure and regulatory arrangements' these include:

- Applying for Government funding to support improving access to the Borders.
- Working with Government to develop short, medium and long term plan for Border resilience looking at infrastructure and technological solutions
- KCC continues to make a case for further funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Department for Transport (DfT) for direct impact costs

**CRR0009: Future financial and operating environment for Local Government**Complete

Potential impacts of Government 'Levelling Up UK' White Paper have been assessed and reported to Cabinet.

**CRR0014: Technological resilience and information security**Partially complete

Implementation of actions within the Consolidated Security Action Plan continues. The security and compliance package implementation planned for mid-August is reliant on available resources with our provider.

**CRR0015: Managing and working with the social care market**Complete

Extension of the contract for discharge services was approved by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health in July.

Complete

Pipeline prioritisation tool for Strategic Commissioning projects for oversight and resource purposes is in place and shared with Divisional Management Team on a regular basis.

**CRR0039: Information Governance**Partially complete (cross-reference with CRR0014 action)

Implementation of actions within the Consolidation Security Action Plan continues. The security and compliance package implementation planned for mid-August is reliant on available resources at Cantium.

Regular review

Working from Home Information Governance and Records Management audit implementation of recommendations are being incorporated into the Data Strategy.

**CRR0051: Supporting the workforce transition to hybrid working**Partially Complete

Post staff survey, quarterly check ins with directorates for progress updates on action plans have commenced. Feedback on action plans to be delivered to the Corporate Directors in the coming weeks.



**CRR0053: Impacts on fulfilment of Statutory Duties due to Capital Programme affordability**

Partially Complete

External funding bid for priority school build programme has been submitted to the Department for Education for their consideration.

Complete

Written communications have gone to schools to clarify their obligations for maintenance and their responsibilities for repairs under financial thresholds.

**CRR0055: Impacts of the 'People at the Heart of Care' Social Care Reform White Paper**

Partially Complete

Fair Cost of Care exercise is underway. Quality checks of data returned from a sample of providers have commenced. On track for completion by October.

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**From:** Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services, Peter Oakford  
Interim Corporate Director Finance, John Betts

**To:** Cabinet, 29 September 2022

**Subject:** Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report – June 2022-23

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Summary:**

The attached report sets out the revenue and capital budget monitoring position as at June 2022-23.

**Recommendation(s):**

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) NOTE the forecast Revenue and Capital position.
- b) NOTE and AGREE the Revenue budget adjustment.
- c) NOTE and AGREE the Capital budget adjustments.
- d) NOTE the Prudential Indicators report.
- e) NOTE the Reserves monitoring position

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The June 2022-23 budget monitoring report being presented is the first monitoring position for 2022-23 and sets out the revenue and capital forecast position.

**2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report – June 2022-23**

- 2.1 The attached report sets out the overall forecast position as at 30 June 2022-23, which is a revenue overspend of +£50.6m and a capital underspend of -£11.2m.
- 2.2 There is £3.8m of Covid-19 and committed Helping Hands and Contain Outbreak Management spend within the +£50.6m overspend. This spend will be funded from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve. This leaves an underlying overspend of £46.8m.
- 2.3 2022/23 continues to be an extremely challenging time for local government and KCC is no exception. Inflationary and demand pressures, combined with non-delivery of some savings proposals, are impacting on both income and expenditure. In particular, the in-year and ongoing impact of these inflationary pressures is a serious new cause for concern in terms of the Council's ability to manage its budgetary position. It is not unusual for the revenue position to reflect a forecast overspend at this stage, which then improves over the course of the year. However, £50.6m is a high figure by historical standards (this time last year the predicted overspend was

£9.7m) and represents a serious cause for concern and creates a large degree of financial uncertainty. Considerable action will be needed to substantially reduce the current forecast overspend on the revenue budget. Any overspend at the end of the financial year will need to be met from general or earmarked reserves, but this sort of approach is not sustainable in the medium term. The forecast renews the imperative to maintain financial discipline and prioritise the Council's medium-term financial position and this theme will be reiterated as forecasts develop and the Council begins preparations for setting the 2023/24 budget.

2.4 The Schools' Delegated budgets are reporting an overspend of +£51.5m. This reflects the impact of high demand for additional SEN support and greater demand for specialist provision. The High Needs deficit is the Council's single most significant financial challenge. Officers continue to work with the Department for Education on the Safety Valve programme to reduce the impact on the authority.

### **3. Recommendation(s)**

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) NOTE the forecast Revenue and Capital position.
- b) NOTE and AGREE the Revenue budget adjustment.
- c) NOTE and AGREE the Capital budget adjustments.
- d) NOTE the Prudential Indicators report.
- e) NOTE the Reserves monitoring position

### **4. Contact details**

Report Author

Emma Feakins  
Chief Accountant  
03000 416082

[Emma.feakins@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.feakins@kent.gov.uk)

Relevant Director

John Betts  
Interim Corporate Director Finance  
03000 410066

[John.betts@kent.gov.uk](mailto:John.betts@kent.gov.uk)



# Finance Monitoring Report

As at June 22-23

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By Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services,  
Peter Oakford

Interim Corporate Director Finance, John Betts

Corporate Directors

To Cabinet – 29 September 2022

Unrestricted

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## Contact Details

Interim Corporate Director Finance – John Betts  
Head of Finance Operations – Cath Head  
Chief Accountant – Emma Feakins  
Capital Finance Manager – Jo Lee  
Capital Finance Manager – Julie Samson

03000 410066 | [john.betts@kent.gov.uk](mailto:john.betts@kent.gov.uk)  
03000 416 934 | [cath.head@kent.gov.uk](mailto:cath.head@kent.gov.uk)  
03000 416 082 | [emma.feakins@kent.gov.uk](mailto:emma.feakins@kent.gov.uk)  
03000 416 939 | [joanna.lee@kent.gov.uk](mailto:joanna.lee@kent.gov.uk)  
03000 416 950 | [julie.samson@kent.gov.uk](mailto:julie.samson@kent.gov.uk)

# 1 Introduction

This report sets out the Council's financial position up to the end of June 2022-23 and is the first quarterly monitoring report for the financial year. The Revenue General Fund forecast is a +£50.6m overspend. Adult Social Care and Children, Young People and Education are forecasting significant overspends of +£25.6m and +£24.5m respectively.

This financial year continues to be an extremely challenging time for local government and KCC is no exception. Inflationary and demand pressures, combined with non-delivery of some savings proposals, are impacting on both income and expenditure. In particular, the in-year and ongoing impact of these inflationary pressures is a serious new cause for concern in terms of the Council's ability to manage its budgetary position. It is not unusual for the revenue position to reflect a forecast overspend at this stage, which then improves over the course of the year. However, £50.6m is a high figure by historical standards (this time last year the predicted overspend was £9.7m) and represents a serious cause for concern and creates a large degree of financial uncertainty. Considerable action will be needed to substantially reduce the current forecast overspend on the revenue budget. Any overspend at the end of the financial year will need to be met from general or earmarked reserves, but this sort of approach is not sustainable in the medium term. The forecast renews the imperative to maintain financial discipline and prioritise the Council's medium-term financial position and this theme will be reiterated as forecasts develop and the Council begins preparations for setting the 2023/24 budget.

Revenue and Capital budget adjustments are also included which require Cabinet approval.

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1.1	The overall Revenue General Fund forecast is a +£50.6m overspend.	The Revenue General Fund forecast position is a net overspend of +£50.6m.  Overspends are forecast in all Directorates except NAC. The largest variances are +£25.6m in ASCH and +£24.5m in CYPE, with smaller overspends GET +£5.7m, DCED +£0.4 and CED +£0.1m. NAC is forecasting an underspend of -£5.7m. Details can be found in the individual directorate sections.
1.2	There is £3.8m of Covid-19, and committed Helping Hands and Contain Outbreak Management (COMF) spend that will be funded from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve.	The forecast net spend of £1,248.9m includes £3.8m of Covid-19, and committed Helping Hands and COMF spend which will be funded from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve.  After drawing down £3.8m from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve, the underlying overspend to be met from general or earmarked reserves is £46.8m.
1.3	The Schools' Delegated Budgets are reporting a +£51.5m overspend.	The overspend position of +£51.5m reflects the impact of high demand for additional SEN support and high cost per child resulting from greater demand for more specialist provision. The projected deficit on the High Needs budget has increased by £47m in this year from £101m at the end of the 2021-22 and estimated to increase to around £148m by the end of this financial year. The High Needs deficit is the Council's single most significant financial risk which therefore requires continued action, officers are working with the DfE on the Safety Valve Programme to reduce the impact on the authority.

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# 1 Introduction

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1.4 The Capital forecast is a net underspend of -£11.2m. The net underspend is made up of +£21.0m real overspend and -£32.2m rephasing variance, which represents 3% of the budget.

The largest real variance is an overspend of +£14.6m in GET. Details can be found in the capital sections.

The major rephasing variances are -£21.1m in GET and -£12.0 in S&CS. Details can be found in the capital section.

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## 2 Recommendations

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### Cabinet is asked to:

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2.1	Note the forecast Revenue and Capital monitoring position	Management action needs to be taken to eliminate the current forecast overspend on the Revenue budget to ensure we achieve a balanced budget by the year end.
2.2	Note and agree the Revenue budget adjustments	Please refer to Section 13 and Appendix 2 for details.
2.3	Note and agree the Capital budget adjustments	Please refer to Section 14 for details.
2.4	Note the Prudential Indicators report	Please refer to Appendix 3.
2.5	Note the Reserves monitoring position	Please refer to Appendix 4.

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## General Fund

### Forecast position as overspend/(underspend)

Directorate	Revenue Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Net Revenue Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care & Health	460.6	486.2	25.6
Children, Young People & Education	321.0	345.5	24.5
Growth, Environment & Transport	178.7	184.4	5.7
Deputy Chief Executive's Department	71.7	72.2	0.5
Chief Executive's Department	33.5	33.5	0.0
Non-Attributable Costs	128.7	123.0	(5.7)
Corporately Held Budgets	4.1	4.1	0.0
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>1,198.4</b>	<b>1,248.9</b>	<b>50.6</b>
<b>Ringfenced Items</b>			
Schools' Delegated Budgets	0.0	51.5	51.5
<b>Overall Position</b>	<b>1,198.4</b>	<b>1,300.4</b>	<b>102.1</b>

## General Fund

The General Fund forecast position is a net overspend of +£50.6m, with the most significant overspends in Adult Social Care and Children, Young People and Education. There is £3.8m of Covid-19 related spend to be offset by a drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency reserve which reduces the underlying overspend to +£46.8m. More detail is provided in the Covid-19 section below. There is £24.9m set aside in a risk reserve that can be used to mitigate in part the projected overspend, but action will be required to address the remaining overspend.

## Covid-19

The cost of Covid-19 continues to cause uncertainty in the Council's forecast outturn position. This is due to the nature of the financial impact, ranging from additional expenditure, market sustainability payments, loss of income, and unachieved savings. The forecasting in this area is also impacted by the effect of the relaxation in restrictions, ongoing costs, and the expected withdrawal of a range of government support schemes.

The 2021-22 Outturn position set aside £15m for the continuation of Contain Outbreak Management (COMF), £8.3m for Helping Hands, £6.8m for Reconnect, £5m for Market Sustainability and £3.7m Covid-19 related roll forward requests. There is £14.9m set aside to support future Covid-19 related spend, loss of income and unrealised savings that have been impacted by Covid-19.

The forecast net spend of £1,248.9m includes £10.4m spend relating to Covid-19 and committed COMF and Helping Hands off set by a £6.0m drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve and a £0.6m budget allocation. The remaining overspend of £3.8m will be covered by a further drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency reserve.

### Collection Fund

Council Tax remains a significant source of income and the 2023-24 budget will be dependent on the improved levels budgeted for in 2022-23 for Council Tax Reduction Scheme discounts and the collection rate materialising.

At this early stage, we can gain some confidence that the forecast collection fund deficit is relatively minor (0.2% of the budget). There have also been some changes to the payment arrangements for Council Tax which affect the profile of collections; this has not been factored into this forecast and is likely to improve the position further. For more information, please refer to section 16

### Schools' Delegated Budgets

The forecast overspend is +£51.5m. The DSG deficit will increase from £97.6m to £147.6m in 2022-23. This is almost entirely due to an increase in the High Needs budget deficit, which is the Council's single biggest financial risk and the finalisation and successful implementation of the Council's deficit recovery plan is critical. The Council continues to work with the Schools' Funding Forum to set out the challenge and agree and deliver a plan to address the deficit. The Department for Education (DfE) have invited the Council to take part in the second round of the Safety Valve Programme for those Councils with the highest deficits to support the development of a sustainable plan for recovery; this may include further funding from the DfE to pay off part of the deficit but only if the Council can demonstrate a credible plan. For more information, please refer to section 10.

	Forecast Variance		
	Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Net Revenue Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care & Health Operations	411.7	442.9	31.3
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets (ASCH)	40.0	34.8	(5.2)
Public Health	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Delivery	8.9	8.4	(0.5)
<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Health</b>	<b>460.6</b>	<b>486.2</b>	<b>25.6</b>
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	4.2	4.2	0.0
<b>Net Total incl provisional share of CHB</b>	<b>464.8</b>	<b>490.4</b>	<b>25.6</b>

The Adult Social Care & Health directorate has a projected net overspend of +£25.6m. Adult Social Care & Health Operations division is showing an overspend of +£31.3m of which +£16.8m and +£4.0m is in Older People – Residential Care Services and Older People – Community Based Services respectively.

Forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts is contributing +£1.2m to the overall overspend, with this pressure arising due to both an increase in levels of debt owed to the authority driven by delays in court of protection proceedings, as well as the requirement to set aside an amount for debts not yet due.

The £486.2m forecast includes a net £0.3m contribution to reserves. £0.2m is a contribution to the Leap year reserve.

There is £1.1m of Covid-19, COMF and Helping Hands spend included in the forecast and this will be covered by a drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve.

Details of the significant variances on the General Fund are shown below:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Older People - Residential Care Services	+£16.8m	High levels of complexity requiring additional support	<p>+£16.5m of this overspend is driven by demand and costs for older people accessing residential and nursing care services, including +£9.5m from the increasing use of short-term beds.</p> <p>These are in part due to people leaving hospital with increased complex needs requiring additional support and an increase in situations where it is considered detrimental to move an individual to a lower cost placement.</p> <p>A further overspend of +£0.5m relates to the forecast contribution to the provision for bad and doubtful debts.</p> <p>The overspend is partly offset by -£0.3m of realigned savings which are now expected to be achieved against this service line.</p>

Adult Mental Health - Community Based Services	+£4.1m	Increases in Supported Living care packages & non-achievement of savings	<p>+£2.1m of this overspend relates to clients receiving supported living care packages, with an increase in hours provided per client to meet more complex needs.</p> <p>A further +£2.0m relates to savings which are no longer expected to be realised against this service line. Achievement of savings has been impacted by changes to market conditions and in particular workforce challenges in the supported living sector, which means that the original assumptions made when calculating the savings no longer apply. £0.6m of the unachieved savings is due to delays in the procurement of new models of care relating to microenterprises and Technology Enabled Care (TEC).</p>
Older People - Community Based Services	+£4.0m	Non-achievement of savings	<p>The overspend is largely due to +£4.6m of savings which are no longer expected to be realised against this service line. £2.7m is due to arranging care and support where achievement of savings has been impacted by demand and pressures in the social care market and £1.9m is due to delays in the procurement of new models of care relating to microenterprises and Technology Enabled Care (TEC).</p> <p>+£0.5m of the overspend relates to an increase in forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts.</p> <p>The overspends are offset by a -£1.2m forecast underspend on service activity, where continuing workforce shortages in the social care market have reduced the availability of suitable homecare packages and resulted in more clients receiving alternative support.</p>
Adult Learning Disability - Community Based Services & Support for Carers	+£2.9m	Increased complexity and higher costs than anticipated.	<p>+£2.8m of the overspend relates to clients receiving supported living and day care packages with higher costs driven by increasing complexity of needs.</p> <p>Clients with particularly high packages of care will be under regular review to ensure that care needs can be met using the most efficient use of resources.</p> <p>+£0.1m of this overspend is due to unrealised savings, mainly due to contract and commissioning savings which are no longer expected to be achieved this financial year.</p> <p>+£0.04m due to an increase to forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts.</p>
Adult Mental Health - Residential Care Services	+£2.3m	Increased complexity and higher costs than anticipated.	<p>+£2.1m of the overspend on mental health residential care services is due to service activity exceeding budgeted levels.</p> <p>An overspend of +£0.2m relates to contract and commissioning savings no longer expected to be achieved this financial year, and a further pressure of +£0.02m is due to an increase in forecast contributions to the provision for bad and doubtful debts.</p>

Adult Physical Disability – Community Based Services	+£1.3m	Increased complexity and higher costs than anticipated.	+£0.8m of the overspend on physical disability community based services is driven by an increase in client package costs above anticipated levels.  A further overspend of +£0.5m relates to savings which are no longer expected to be realised against this service line, with £0.3m due to arranging care and support where achievement of savings has been impacted by demand and pressures in the social care market and £0.2m due to delays in the procurement of new models of care relating to microenterprises and Technology Enabled Care (TEC).
Adult Learning Disability – Residential Care Services & Support for Carers	+£1.0m	Non-achievement of savings	+£0.7m of this overspend is due to savings where contract and commissioning savings are no longer expected to be achieved this financial year.  +£0.3m driven by an increase in client package costs above anticipated levels.
Strategic Management & Directorate Support (ASCH)	-£1.7m	Release of centrally held funds.	There is a -£1.7m forecast underspend on this service due to the release of centrally held funds to offset pressures across ASCH operations.
Adaptive & Assistive Technology	-£2.5m	Re-alignment of savings	-£2.2m of this forecast underspend relates to savings, with - £1.5m. relating to alternative savings proposals replacing initial plans to achieve efficiencies through greater use of technology, and -£0.6m from realigned savings which are now expected to be achieved against this service line.
Provision for Demographic Growth - Community Based Services	-£3.7m	Release of centrally held funds.	This is a release of centrally held funds to offset pressures across ASCH operations.

	Forecast Variance		
	Budget	Revenue	Net
		Forecast	Revenue
£m	Outturn	Variance	
Integrated Children's Services (East & West)	165.8	171.4	5.6
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	91.8	99.3	7.5
Education	61.2	72.2	11.0
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets (CYPE)	2.3	2.6	0.3
<b>Children, Young People &amp; Education</b>	<b>321.0</b>	<b>345.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Net Total incl provisional share of CHB</b>	<b>321.0</b>	<b>345.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>

The Children, Young People & Education directorate is projected to be overspent by +£24.5m. This is due to significant inflationary pressures in school transport services along with higher costs of supporting both looked after children and disabled children and young people.

The £345.5m forecast includes a net £5.3m drawdown from reserves relating to the Reconnect project.

There is £1.1m of COMF spend included in the forecast and this will be covered by a drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve.

Details of the significant variances on the General Fund are shown here:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Home to School Transport (Education)	+£10.3m	Significant inflationary increases on transport contracts and increase in demand	<p>The initial forecast includes +£1.7m overspend on mainstream home to school transport and +£8.2m on SEN transport services.</p> <p>Significant inflationary increases on new transport contracts due to higher operating costs and a reducing supplier base, along with increasing bus ticket prices have led to price rises of between 10-20% and pressures of approximately +£1.1m and +£5.8m on mainstream and SEN transport services respectively.</p> <p>The forecast assumes the number of children requiring SEN transport will continue to increase in line with historic trends with nearly 10% year on year increase in the number travelling. This is a consequence of the higher EHCP numbers and greater number of children with SEN not being educated in their local school. The forecast assumes work to slow this trend will not start to impact significantly until 2023 (leading to a total pressure of +£2.4m).</p> <p>The mainstream home to school transport forecast also assumes a rise in the number of pupils travelling from the Autumn term due to a combination of rises in</p>

secondary population, greater automation of the eligibility process that may result in more children being identified to receive free transport, and wider changes in bus services (leading to a pressure of +£0.8m).

Further updates to this forecast will be made once the September & October actual pupil numbers are known.

Other School Services (Education)	+£0.8m	Various school related costs	Delays in basic need projects have resulted in use of more temporary accommodation to ensure sufficient school places are available (+£0.5m). Initial forecast estimates +£0.3m pressure on essential maintenance of school properties that do not meet the threshold for capital projects. There is a further risk of costs associated with feasibility costs or capital surveys that may result in additional works updates. Further updates will be given in future months.
Adoption & Special Guardianship Arrangements & Service (Integrated Children Services)	+£0.8m	Increasing use of Special Guardianship Orders and Child Arrangement Orders	In recent years there has been a slow increasing trend in the use of SGOs and Child Arrangement Orders, the forecast assumes this trend will continue. In previous years this has been funded from underspends on the adoption staffing service, however the initial forecast suggests this is not expected to occur again in 2022-23 leading to higher variance on this service than previous years. This will be kept under review.
Children's Social Work Services - Assessment & Safeguarding Service (Integrated Children Services)	+£1.1m	High use of agency required to meet demand and inflationary cost increases of agency workers	Recruitment and retention of social workers continues to be a challenge, along with the need to provide sufficient cover for higher levels of maternity leave than other parts of the council. This has led to higher numbers of agency staff to meet demand, coupled with higher costs following high inflationary increases.
Looked After Children - Care & Support (Integrated Children Services)	+£3.6m	Increase in number and cost of looked after children. High costs of legal services.	The number of looked after children has increased over the past 6 months (6%) resulting in a higher use of independent fostering agency placements. The cost of placements continues to rise with a greater number being placed in more expensive external settings as no suitable alternative is available. In addition, the use of unregulated placements has also become more common where it has become more difficult to find suitable residential placements and at significant cost (+£1.4m). Campaigns are continuing to recruit more in-house foster carers but based on current success rates it is likely some savings may not be achieved whilst some will be delayed to 2023-24 (+£0.8m). The cost of legal services has increased significantly since COVID-19 and initial forecasts suggest similar levels of activity will occur in 2022-23 due to the continual backlog in court proceedings (+£1.4m).



<p>Adult Learning &amp; Physical Disability Pathway – Community Based Services (Special Educational Needs &amp; Disabilities)</p>	<p>+£3.8m</p>	<p>Increasing cost of Supported Living and Homecare packages</p>	<p>The number of supported living and homecare packages have remained relatively static, however the average cost of packages continues to increase in response to level of support required. The service has seen a reduction in the use of residential care but this has resulted in higher packages of community support contributing to the higher cost.</p>
<p>Children in Need (Disability) - Care &amp; Support (Special Educational Needs &amp; Disabilities)</p>	<p>+£0.7m</p>	<p>Increasing number of Direct Payments and cost of homecare packages</p>	<p>The number and cost of packages for disabled children have increased, this is partly due to inflationary increases and additional support required.</p>
<p>Looked After Children (with Disability) - Care &amp; Support (Special Educational Needs &amp; Disabilities)</p>	<p>+£1.5m</p>	<p>Increased number and cost of residential and unregulated placements</p>	<p>The forecast assumes the number of residential &amp; unregulated placements continue to increase in line with historic trends. The forecast is recognising the increasing cost of new placements.</p>
<p>Special Educational Needs &amp; Psychology Services (Special Educational Needs &amp; Disabilities)</p>	<p>+£0.9m</p>	<p>Increased use of agency</p>	<p>Difficulties in the recruitment of suitably qualified Education Psychologist and SEN officers has led to an increasing use of agency staff.</p>

	Forecast Variance		
	Budget	Revenue	Net
		Forecast	Revenue
£m	Outturn	Forecast	Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Highways, Transportation & Waste	66.3	68.0	1.7
Growth & Communities	29.1	31.1	1.9
Environment & Waste	81.9	83.9	2.0
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets (GET)	1.4	1.4	0.1
<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>	<b>178.7</b>	<b>184.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	0.2	0.2	0.0
<b>Net Total incl provisional share of CHB</b>	<b>179.0</b>	<b>184.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>

The Growth, Environment & Transport Directorate is projected to be overspent by £5.7m with significant inflationary pressures (close to £6m) contributing to this position. The forecast variance includes £0.5m of approved Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) projects, as well as £0.6m of Helping Hands projects and these will be funded from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve.

The forecast continues to show that bus operators are being supported through this period of recovery and transition and continue to be paid at budgeted levels of activity, which are significantly above actual levels of activity. These payments are being paid on a phased reducing basis down towards the actual level of activity in line with the Government request. For Kent Travel Saver (KTS) and the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) this is a combined cost of £2.8m. This is included in the forecast, and is within the existing cash limits, but has also been recorded as Covid related expenditure and should sufficient Covid-19 reserve remain, this could be funded in future months which would help reduce the in-year overspend.

Details of the significant variance on the General Fund are shown below:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Residual Waste, Environment & Waste)	+£2.0m	Inflationary pressure partially offset by reduced volumes	This relates to the significant price pressure for Allington Waste to Energy plant as the contractual uplift based on April RPI was much higher than the budgeted estimate (£2.6m). This is partially offset by reduced tonnes (-£0.8m).
Supported Bus Services (Highways & Transportation)	+£1.7m	Undelivered saving	A budget reduction of £2.2m was agreed at County Council but a delay in progressing the decision has meant that the profiled savings have not been delivered as planned. The decision is still pending, when it is finalised 90 days' notice must be given to operators and savings would commence after that. The quantum of routes that required withdrawal (to achieve the net £2.2m budget reduction) is in excess of £3m.

Highway Assets Management (Highways & Transportation)	+£1.2m	Streetlighting Energy inflationary pressure	The cost of streetlighting energy has increased significantly since the budget was set (+£1.2m). The forecast is based on a known summer price and an estimated winter price as advised by LASER. Small increases in street works and permit income help to offset small overspends in Highways Managers and Soft Landscaping.
Growth and Support to Businesses	+£0.6m	Expenditure relating to Helping Hands projects	This is expenditure relating to approved Helping Hands projects, which is expected to be funded centrally, so this pressure should be removed in later reports.
Community (Assets & Services) (Growth & Communities)	+£0.5m	Expenditure relating to COMF projects	This is expenditure relating to approved COMF projects, which is expected to be funded centrally, so this pressure should be removed in later reports.
Public Protection (Enforcement) (Growth & Communities)	+£0.4m	Trading Standards new burdens grant not received	The budget for this service was built on the assumption that funding would accompany the additional burdens being placed on Trading Standards following EU Exit (including Border Ports, Animal Health and Feed Officers/Teams) but this income is not likely to be received (+£0.5m). This is partially offset by other small variances.
Libraries, Registration & Archives (Growth & Communities)	+£0.4m	Shortfall in Library income	Library usage has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, with income down in areas such as fines and printing (+£0.4m). There are several other smaller variances including costs resulting from increased demands on the Registration service following the introduction of the Marriage Schedule Act 2021 (+£0.1m), without funding being received from the Government.
Kent Travel Saver (Highways & Transportation)	£0.0	Suppressed underspend as paying above actual activity	Although this budget is forecasting to breakeven it would ordinarily be forecasting an underspend on operator payments (-£0.4m) if the service were not continuing to pay bus operators at budgeted levels. This is in line with a request from Government and such payments are profiled to continue until the end of the current academic year. These payments (+£0.4m) are continuing to be recorded as Covid related expenditure and may possibly be funded from the Covid reserve if sufficient remains and this is deemed a priority use of the funding.
Waste Facilities & Recycling Centres (Environment & Waste)	-£0.1m	Favourable recycling prices offsetting other pressures	This underspend is due to favourable prices relating to the material recycling facility as well as additional income for recyclables (-£2.0m). However, these savings are almost entirely offset by pressures within haulage, increased price of composted waste, inflationary increases in the costs of managing Transfer Stations and Household Waste Recycling Centres, and shortfalls in some areas of income.

<p>English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) (Highways &amp; Transportation)</p>	<p>-£0.9m</p>	<p>Activity is below budgeted level</p>	<p>The service is forecasting an underspend (-£0.9m) as activity is forecast to be below the levels built into the budget.</p> <p>The Government's expectation is that bus operators are paid at pre pandemic rates, reducing towards actual activity by the end of the financial year. Without this request, the service would have been forecasting an additional underspend of around (-2.4m), (-3.3m in total).</p> <p>The payments to operators of (+£2.4m) are being recorded as Covid related costs attributable to the pandemic and the Government's expectation to continue paying at pre pandemic levels. Funding from the Covid emergency reserve will be considered as an option later in the financial year, depending on other calls and commitments on this reserve.</p>
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### Forecast Variance

	Budget	Revenue Forecast	Net Revenue Forecast
	£m	£m	£m
Finance	12.7	12.9	0.2
Strategic Commissioning	8.0	8.1	0.1
Governance, Law & Democracy	8.3	8.1	(0.2)
Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance	4.4	4.4	0.0
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets (S&CS)	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Chief Executive's Department</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>

The Chief Executive's Department is projected to overspend by +£0.1m.

Details of the significant variance on the General Fund are shown below:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Finance	+£0.2m	Overspend against staffing.	This forecast overspend is on staffing and is due primarily to unfunded trainee costs and additional resource required to deliver legislative changes
Governance, Law & Democracy	-£0.2m	Additional income	Increased income from Schools appeals together with reduced cost of provision.

### Forecast Variance

	Budget £m	Revenue Forecast Outturn £m	Net Revenue Forecast Variance £m
Property Related Services	6.2	6.2	(0.0)
Technology	24.0	23.5	(0.6)
Corporate Landlord	27.1	28.4	1.3
People & Communication	14.4	14.1	(0.3)
<b>Deputy Chief Executive's Department</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>

The Deputy Chief Executive's Department is projected to overspend by +£0.4m.

The £72.2m forecast includes a net £3.5m drawdown from reserves. The drawdowns include £2.5m for the Strategic Reset Programme and £0.8m to fund one-off Facilities Management contract mobilisation costs.

Details of the significant variances on the General Fund are shown here:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Corporate Landlord	+£1.3m	Inflationary Pressure on Utilities	This £1.3m pressure is due to an anticipated increase in utility costs across all properties. These increases are related to the current national trend and are significantly higher than the budgeted price increase funded as part of the 2022-23 budget. The forecast overspend has been modelled by Laser.
Technology	-£0.6m	Project rephasing and contract price renegotiations	This £0.6m underspend is primarily due to annual maintenance requirements being rephased as the projects that they related to have not yet been completed, and contract prices on telephone rental and software licences have been renegotiated.
People & Communication	-£0.3m	Additional Income from several sources	This £0.3m additional income on Human Resources related service lines is mostly due to additional grants and income, together with surplus internal income on the AVC scheme.

	Forecast Variance		
	Budget	Revenue Forecast Outturn	Net Revenue Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Non-Attributable Costs	128.7	123.0	(5.7)
Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately	(0.3)	(0.3)	0.0
<b>Net Total incl provisional share of CHB</b>	<b>128.5</b>	<b>122.7</b>	<b>(5.7)</b>

The Non-Attributable Costs are projected to be underspent by (£5.7m). -£3m of the underspend relates to a drawdown from reserves of the S31 grant for Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF) which was accrued for in 2021-22.

Details of the significant variances on the General Fund are shown below:

Key Service (Division)	Variance	Summary	Detail
Non-Attributable Costs	-£5.7m	S31 grant for Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF), net debt costs and increase in Extended Rights to Travel grant	<p>-£3.0m of the underspend is due to the drawdown from reserves of the S31 grant for Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF) which was accrued for in 2021-22 based on a Government data collection exercise and the final figure has not been confirmed. This funding had not been built into the 2022-23 budget and will be an in-year underspend.</p> <p>-£1.7m net debt costs due to the estimated impact of the increase in the Bank of England base rate on our interest on cash balances.</p> <p>-£1.0m increase in the Extended Rights to Travel grant compared to the budget assumption.</p>

**The latest forecast for the Schools' Delegated Budget reserves is a surplus of £59.8m on individual maintained school balances, and a deficit on the central schools' reserve of £147.6m.**

The balances of individual schools cannot be used to offset the overspend on the central schools reserves and therefore should be viewed separately. The table below provides the detailed movements on each reserve.

The Central Schools Reserve holds the balance of any over or underspend relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This is a specific ring-fenced grant payable to local authorities to support the schools' budget. It is split into four main funding blocks, schools, early years, high needs and central, each with a different purpose and specific rules attached. The Council is required to hold any under or overspend relating to this grant in a specific reserve and is expected to deal with any surplus or deficits through future years' spending plans.

	Individual School Reserves	Central Schools Reserve	<i>Note: a negative figure indicates a drawdown from reserves/deficit</i>
Balance brought forward	61.3	-97.6	
Forecast movement in reserves:			
Academy conversions and closing school deficits	-1.5		
School Block Related Spend		-3.0	
High Needs Placements, Support & Inclusion Fund		-45.5	
Underspend on Early Years		0.3	
Overspend on Central DSG Budgets		-1.2	
Forecast reserve balance	59.8	-147.6	

In accordance with the statutory override implemented by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) during 2020-21, and in line with the Department for Education (DfE) advice that local authorities are not expected to repay deficits on the DSG from the General Fund and can only do so with Secretary of State approval, the central DSG deficit of £147.6m will be held in a separate unusable reserve from the main council reserves. This statutory override is expected to be in place until April 2023 whilst Councils implement recovery plans. The Council continues to work with the Schools Funding Forum to set out the challenge and agree a plan to address the deficit. The DfE have invited the Council to take part in the second round of the Safety Valve Programme for those Councils with the highest deficits to support the development of a sustainable plan for recovery; this may include further funding from the DfE to pay off part of the deficit but only if the Council can demonstrate a credible plan. The DSG deficit is the Council's single biggest financial risk; therefore, the finalisation and successful implementation of the Council's deficit recovery plan is critical. The SEND Green Paper published earlier this year sets out the Government's proposed reforms to the SEND and alternative provision (AP) system which in part is expected to support a more sustainable high needs funding system although it is recognised this will not impact immediately and local actions are required.



Key Issues	Details
School Block: One-off Settlement	<p>The DSG Reserve as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 of £98m is formed from a net surplus on the Schools Block of £3m and a net deficit on the High Needs block of £101m. The two blocks of funding have different purposes and rules and Secretary of State Approval is needed to transfer funding from the schools' block to other funding blocks. The Schools Block funds primary and secondary schools' budgets, and the accumulated balance from previous years underspend, has been fully committed to be paid to schools, as a one-off additional payment to support the cost of changes to the calculation of pay for term time only staff. Payments began in 2021-22 and the remaining payments are expected to be paid in 2022-23.</p>
Early Years: general underspend	<p>The Early Years Block is used to fund early years' providers the free entitlement for eligible two, three and four-year olds. Each year, when setting the funding rate an estimate must be made as to likely hours that will be provided to ensure it is affordable within the grant provided. This can lead to minor under or overspends if activity is slightly lower or higher than expected. This has led to an underspend of £0.3m, which will be used to fund spend on the Early Years SEN Inclusion Fund.</p>
Reduction in government funding for Central Services	<p>Since 2020-21, the Government has reduced the funding used to support some of the central services currently funded from the DSG (£3.3m). Although some of this has been addressed through the Medium-Term Financial Plan (£1.5m) and other short term alternative funding sources (£1.3m) without any direct impact to schools; during the next year we will need to review our relationship with schools in line with Government policy, funding and wider DSG deficit recovery plan and implement changes that will eliminate the funding shortfall.</p>
Higher demand and higher cost for high needs placements	<p>The High Needs Block (HNB) is intended to support the educational attainment of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and pupils attending alternative education provision. The HNB funds payments to maintained schools and academies (both mainstream and special), independent schools, further education colleges, specialist independent providers and pupil referral units. Some of the HNB is also retained by KCC to support some SEND services (staffing/centrally commissioned services) and overheads.</p> <p>The net deficit on the high needs block was £101m as at 31st March 2022 and is estimated to increase to around £148m by 31st March 2023. The overspend on the high needs block has been growing significantly over recent years and is the most significant financial risk to the council.</p> <p>The forecast in-year funding shortfall for High Needs placements and support in 2022-23 is +£47m due to a combination of both higher demand for additional SEN support and higher cost per child resulting from greater demand for more specialist provision. The forecast levels of growth are expected to be similar to previous years, since the introduction of the legislative changes in 2014, which also saw the expansion of duties to the age of 25 without sufficient extra funding. Most other local authorities are also reporting deficits on their high needs block resulting from significant increases in their number of EHCPs and demand for SEN services. However, the increases locally are increasing at a faster rate than the other comparative councils and the council is now placing a greater proportion of children in both special and independent schools compared to other local authorities, and a smaller proportion of children with SEND included in mainstream schools. The tables below detail the trend in both spend and number of HNB funded places or additional support across the main placement types.</p>

Table: Total Spend on High Needs Block by main spend type

	19-20 £'ms	20-21 £'ms	21-22 £'ms	22-23 £'ms
Maintained Special School	97	106	123	137
Independent Schools	40	49	60	70
Mainstream Individual Support & SRP* **	38	46	54	62
Post 16 institutions***	16	17	19	21
Other SEN Support Services	44	49	43	49
Total Spend	234	264	299	338

\*Specialist Resource Provision

\*\* Please note this data excludes any costs incurred by primary & secondary schools from their own school budget.

\*\*\*Individual support for students at FE College and Specialist Provision Institutions (SPIs)

Table: Average number of HNB funded pupils receiving individualised SEN Support/placements. This is not the total number of children with SEN or number of EHCPs.

	19-20 No	20-21 No	21-22 No	22-23 No
Maintained Special School	4,751	5,118	5,591	5,786
Independent Schools	907	1,126	1,348	1,554
Mainstream Individual Support & SRP*	39,22	4,510	5,258	5,938
Post 16 institutions***	1,196	1,281	1,453	1,516
Total Number of Pupils	10,776	12,035	13,650	15,069

Table: Average cost of HNB funded pupils receiving individualised SEN Support or placement cost.

	19-20 £s per pupil	20-21 £s per pupil	21-22 £s per pupil	22-23 £s per pupil
Maintained Special School	£20,330	£20,629	£21,648	£21,928
Independent Schools	£43,851	£43,734	£44,799	£45,349
Mainstream Individual Support & SRP* **	£9,691	£10,294	£15,464	£16,326
Post 16 institutions***	£13,393	£13,309	£13,090	£13,865

Since 2020-21 the Government has provided further funding; however, as can be seen from the forecast, this has been insufficient to meet the demand and Kent will need to take further actions to ensure we are able to support children with SEN sustainably, in partnership with the Schools Funding Forum. The Council, with support from Schools, Schools Funding Forum and the Secretary of State have continued to transfer £10m from the schools' budget to the high needs budget each year to fund activities to support inclusive practices in mainstream schools. These activities are being implemented and impact monitored.

The Written Statement of Action (WSOA), put in place to address a number of areas of concern raised in the 2019 Ofsted/CQC Local Area SEND Inspection, overlaps in a

number of places with our strategy for reducing the pressure on the High Needs budget which includes:

- Reviewing our commissioning strategy for SEN provision across the county including supporting the development of new special schools and Specialist Resource Provisions to reduce our increasing reliance on independent schools including the opening of two new special schools last year which when fully opened will avoid over 350 higher cost placements.
- Reviewing commissioning arrangements including independent providers, home tuition and therapy services.
- Improving parental confidence through supporting inclusive practice and capacity building in mainstream schools and FE Colleges to reduce reliance on special and independent schools. This will support the Local Authorities ambition set out in the report presented to Cabinet in January setting out the Local Authorities intention to support a model of provision where the proportion of children and young people supported in each provision type (mainstream and specialist provision) will more closely reflect both statistical neighbours and national averages.
- Further collaborative working with Health and Social Care partners

The longer-term impact of children being out of school during the COVID pandemic on this budget is starting to be evidenced though increasing demand for Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) services.

Directorate	2022-23 Target £m	Previous year saving delivered in 2022-23 £m	Not achieved in 2022-23 £m	Saving no longer required £m	Not Deliverable £m	Over Recovery £m	Forecast Savings 2022-23 £m
Adult Social Care & Health	22.1	5.4	(4.5)		(1.1)		21.9
Public Health	2.4						2.4
Children, Young People & Education	2.7	5.2	(1.2)		(0.3)		6.4
Growth, Environment & Transport	7.1		(1.7)		(2.2)	0.2	3.4
Chief Executive's Department	0.4						0.4
Deputy Chief Executive's Department	0.1						0.1
Non Attributable Costs	6.1					2.0	8.1
Corporately Held Budget	0.3						0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>(7.4)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(3.6)</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>43.0</b>

The savings target for 2022-23 is £51.8m which includes £10.6m of last year's undelivered savings with £43.0m forecast to be achieved.

- A net position of £7.4m is forecast for ASCH, CYPE and GET as not achieved in 2022-23 and will slip into future years due to timing issues;
- £3.6m has been identified by ASCH, CYPE and GET as undeliverable in 2022-23;
- The Public Health, CED, DCED and Corporately Held budget savings for 2022-23 are £3.1m and are on track to be delivered;
- The NAC overachieved saving is due to MRP underspend and reduction in debt charges.

Explanation of the Directorate Savings variances are shown below:

<p>11.1 The ASCH budget savings for 2022-23 are £22.1m plus £5.4m previous year saving. Of the overall £27.5m £21.9m is identified as being on track to be delivered with £4.5m forecast to slip into future years, and £1.1m assumed at this stage not to be achievable.</p>	<p>The £4.5m is due to delays in the procurement of new models of care; Microenterprises and Technology Enabled Care (TEC) £2.0m, and £2.5m on commissioning activity, which will need to be achieved fully once the new adult social care and health operating model is implemented later in the year.</p> <p>There is £1.0m which relates to arranging care and support, it is felt this will not be achieved over the medium term primarily due to the demand and pressures in the social care market, increased unit costs and potential overlap with other commissioning and review work that is underway.</p> <p>There is £0.1m on Commissioning savings, it is felt this would not be achieved at the time of the collation of the forecast, but anticipated that this may be able to be achieved and will be reflected in the next forecast.</p>
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11.2 The CYPE budget savings for 2022-23 £2.7m plus a £5.2m previous year saving. £6.4m has been identified as on track to be achieved, £0.3m will not be achieved and the remaining £1.2m has been slipped into future years.

CYPE budget savings for 2022-23 were set at £2.7m and £5.2m of a prior year savings target has been added to the 2022-23 target, a total of £7.9m. £6.4m is forecast to be achieved this year, of which £2.1m has been covered through alternative actions including use of MTFP funding and one-off grants.

The remaining £1.2m savings has slipped into future years and is due to:

- delays in the piloting of standard pick up points for some SEN transport services until 2023-24 to allow more time to explore and plan for any changes.
- efficiency savings to offset the anticipated 20% annual reduction in Dedicated Schools Grant: Central Services for Schools Block has not been achieved and is to be considered as part of a wider review of the DSG and services currently paid for on behalf of the schools. This has been delayed further to reflect any requirements of the DSG safety valve plan.
- £0.5m of CFKC savings has been slipped to future years where has COVID delayed delivery.

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11.3 The GET budget savings for 2022-23 are £7.1m. £3.4m is identified as being on track to be delivered with £1.7m forecast to slip into future years, £2.2m assumed at this stage not to be achievable and £0.2m to be over recovered.

The £1.7m saving that has not been delivered relates to a budget reduction of £2.2m in relation to Subsidised/Supported Bus services that was agreed at County Council. A delay in progressing the decision has meant that the profiled savings have not been delivered as planned. The decision is still pending and when finalised 90 days' notice must be given to operators and savings would commence after that. The quantum of routes that required withdrawal (to achieve the net £2.2m budget reduction) is in excess of £3m as a number of commercial routes ceased to be delivered by operators and these were critical for school journeys so these routes have been supported since April but the offsetting saving has not been delivered.

The £2.2m saving that has not been delivered comprises of two elements:

- £0.7m was primarily an income target from a grant expected from Government for new burdens in relation to a new border control team that was a required following Brexit/Transition. No new burdens monies have been provided.
- £1.5m was a proposal to try and utilise Business Rates income to fund regenerative and environmental activities. This has not been delivered in-year. The proposal will look to be rolled out to fund future growth pressures and projects going forward but this will be worked up working collaboratively with districts on certain projects/initiatives rather than having a target set. An alternative to realign the budget is to be identified.

The £0.2m of over recovery relates to additional income generated in the Waste service.

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| 11.4 | The NAC budget savings for 2022-23 are £6.1m with £8.1m forecast to be achieved. | Of the £2.0m over achievement relates to additional Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) saving due to fewer assets becoming operational in 2021-22 due to slippage in the capital programme, but this is simply re-phasing of MRP into future years. |
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Directorate	Capital Budget	Variance	Real Variance	Rephasing Variance
Adult Social Care & Health	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Children, Young People & Education	102.9	1.9	1.0	0.9
Growth, Environment & Transport	253.0	-6.5	14.6	-21.1
Strategic & Corporate Services	37.7	-6.6	5.4	-12.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>395.4</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>-32.2</b>

The total approved General Fund capital programme including roll forwards for 2022-23 is £395.4m

The current estimated capital programme spend for the year is forecast at £384.2m, which represents 97% of the approved budget. The spend to date is £57.7m, representing 15% of the total approved budget.

The directorates are projecting a £11.2m underspend against the budget, this is split between a +£21.0m real variance and -£32.2m re-phasing variance.

Across the capital programme there are expected inflationary pressures which will result in overspends amounting to approximately £14m in 2022-23. Discussions about the options to fund this are ongoing.

The major variances are described below:

**Adult, Social Care & Health:**

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
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New variances to report:

There are no variances to report.

**Children, Young People & Education:**

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
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New Variances to Report:

Annual Planned Enhancement Programme	-0.1	-0.5	The real variance is due to a project which has been transferred to the Modernisation Programme. Funding will be transferred and listed in the cash limit changes section of the report.
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Modernisation Programme	+0.1		The real variance is due to a project which has been transferred from the Annual Planned Enhancement Programme. Funding will be transferred and listed in the cash limit changes section of the report.
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2016	+0.2		The real variance is due to the addition of a school managed project to enable additional places.
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2017	-1.8	-0.5	The real variance is due to the removal of the Deal Special School project which is now being reported under the High Needs Provision line (-£3.7m), and +£1.7m for Meopham School where phase 2 tenders have come in at a higher cost and new car park costs have been added.
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2018	-1.2	-0.9	The real variance is due to Garlinge Primary now being reported under the High Needs Provision line.
Basic Need Kent Commissioning Plan 2019	3.5		The real variance is due to: +£2.7m Highsted Grammar School – increase in cost due to material price increases. +0.6m Towers School – to reflect the forecast as in the Record of Decision (ROD). +£0.4m Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School – a school managed project for which the school have requested additional funding. +£0.3m Wye School – additional funding may be required for science facilities. +£0.1m Chilmington Green Secondary – increase in costs due to inflation. -£0.5m Nexus Special School – now reported under the High Needs Provision line.
Basic Need KCP 2021-25		-1.0	The £1m rephasing is due to a delay in feasibilities at St Mary of Charity.
Overall Basic Need Programmes			Across the basic need programmes over the next three years, there is a forecast in excess of current budget of approximately £15m. Of this, £7m is due to forecast inflation pressures, the majority of which are not expected to materialise until 2023/24 and 2024/25. There are sufficient basic need grant allocations to cover the expected overspend, however cash limit changes are on hold pending discussions around other pressures on the capital programme.
High Needs Provision	0.3		Tenders for the Canterbury Academy are higher than expected due to the requirement of a steel frame.



High Needs Provision 2022-24	+5.8	A number of projects have been added and brought forward: Deal Special School, Garlinge Primary, Oakley Satellite, Nexus Satellite, Sunny Bank Primary and East Kent College. Expenditure is to be funded from the high needs grant which is due to be received in 2022/23.
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Nest 2	-1.6	Rephasing due to land being sought and the project is still at discussion/planning stage.
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**Growth, Environment & Transport:**

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
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New Variances to Report:

Highway Major Enhancement (Highways & Transportation)	7.6		The majority of the real variance is due to the re-establishment of the £7m per annum Pothole Blitz programme. A solution for funding this is being worked up. +£0.5m relates to additional grant which has been awarded from the Department of Transport for traffic signal maintenance. +£0.2m relates to additional external funding which has been received towards the Urban Tree Challenge to reinstate tree loss.
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Integrated Transport Schemes (Highways & Transportation)	0.6		The real variance is due to the addition of a number of minor schemes which will be externally funded and the cash limit will be increased when the funding is banked.
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A226 St Clements Way (Highways & Transportation)	-0.2		The defects period of the main works has been completed and retention has been released. An allowance has been held back this year to complete some minor works and for landscape works. The underspend is to be released back to the Strategic Transport Infrastructure Programme (formerly known as Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme) as these are the conditions of the funding.
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Bearsted Road (National Productivity Investment Fund) – Kent Medical Campus (Highways & Transportation)	-1.9	Significant challenges have been encountered during the design phase which has delayed the programme and contract award. The current profiling reflects expected construction to commence in August 2022 (delayed from April 2022), however since the original pricing of the contract, there have been significant increases in construction costs, notably due to increase in energy and fuel prices and on top of this inflation costs have increased significantly along with changes to red diesel tax and National Insurance increases. Until the price and programme is agreed there could be further changes to the profiling and the overall cost.	
Dover Bus Rapid Transit (Highways & Transportation)	-3.9	The profiling of the scheme has been updated to reflect the latest works programme from Colas, and has resulted in rephasing following slow mobilisation.	
Fastrack Full Network (Highways and Transportation)	-6.0	The rephasing is due to the construction works not expected to start until Autumn 2022 with a forecast completion date of Autumn 2023. Delays have been due to covid, the Scape framework and design works which were more challenging than anticipated.	
Green Corridors (Highways and Transportation)	-2.4	The rephasing is due to the construction of the three largest sites (sites 6, 8 and 11) will span 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. The construction periods have been delayed so that the sites can be procured together and constructed by a single contractor. Other works nearby mean that the construction of these sites cannot begin before January 2023 due to road space availability and procurement timescales.	
Kent Active Travel Fund Phase 3 (Highways & Transportation)	1.3	-1.1	A grant of £1.3m has been awarded by the Department for Transport to implement further activities in the Active Travel Fund. The areas covered by this grant are Herne Bay Seafront and Sevenoaks Urban area. Timeframes suggest £1.1m of the funding received will be in contract by the end of this financial year but spend will incur in 2023-24, hence the rephasing.
Thanet Parkway (Highways & Transportation)	5.4	The costs in excess of budget are expected to start crystallising in this financial year with an anticipated overspend of £5.4m, and another £1.2m in 2022-23. Funding options are being sought and the position will continue to be closely monitored.	
Kings Hill Solar Farm (Growth & Communities)	0.2	Higher than anticipated costs have resulted in a forecast overspend, which will be funded from reserves.	

Digital Autopsy (Growth & Communities)	-1.9	Rephasing is due to specification changes to the project and the contract having been split into two separate contracts.
Javelin Way Development (Growth & Communities)	-1.0	Rephasing is due to delays in finalising the legal agreements, and limited capacity of UKPN following the storms.
Marsh Million (Growth & Communities)	-0.3	The project has now come to an end and distributions will be made to the contributors of the scheme.

**Strategic & Corporate Services:**

Project	Real Variance £m	Rephasing Variance £m	Detail
<u>New variances to report:</u>			
Modernisation of Assets	+5.4		The real variance is due to inflation (approximately £0.7m) and addressing category 1 and urgent works. Funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund will offset approximately 0.6m of the variance. Funding options are being considered as part of the Capital Budget process to address the remainder of the overspend alongside other pressures identified on the Capital Programme.
Dover Discovery Centre		-2.4	Procurement has been pushed back to October 2022 resulting in rephasing.
Strategic Estate Programme		-9.0	The rephasing reflects the descoping of initial Stage 2 proposals for Sessions and Invicta refurbishment to keep costs in line with the approved budget, which alongside a delay in the release of the Sessions House Masterplan means a postponement of the original planned commencement date for any refurbishment.

## 13 Revenue Budget Changes

In line with usual practice at this stage of the year, revenue budgets have been realigned to reflect a reallocation of savings and pressures between Key Services in light of the 2021-22 final spend and activity levels and the latest service transformation plans. Explanations for these changes is provided below, and a breakdown of the changes by Key Service is available in Appendix 2.

Cabinet is asked to approve these changes. The variances reflected in this report assume these cash limit changes have been approved.

### Adult Social Care & Health

Gross increase +£7.4m  
Income increase -£7.0m

Roll forwards previously agreed at the June Cabinet meeting:

Various budgets £0.372 gross

Technical adjustments, more accurately reflecting current levels of services and income to be received:

Realignment of budget within OPPD Social Support for Carers to reflect 22-23 Contracted Care Act Implementation income	+£0.575m gross -£0.575m income
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Realignment of Adaptive & Technology budgets based on 22-23 funding and expenditure plans	+£1.340m gross -£1.340m income
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Realignment of Strategic Commissioning budgets based on 22-23 funding and expenditure plans	+£1.560m gross -£1.560m income
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Realignment of Public Health budgets based on 22-23 funding and expenditure plans	+£1.390m gross -£1.390m income
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Allocation of 22-23 Better Care Fund uplifts to centrally held budgets	+£1.860m gross -£1.860m income
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Allocation of 22-23 Care Act Implementation uplifts to centrally held budgets	+£0.235m gross -£0.235m income
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Formal virements, requiring approval:

Transfer of staffing post from the Learning Disability Safeguarding Team to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Team	+/- £0.056m
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Transfer of legal budget from Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards service to centrally held ASCH legal budget	+/- £0.172m
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Allocation of In-House Service Redesign savings from centrally held budgets to individual In House units	+/- £3.210m
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Realignment of budget across Older People, Learning Disability, and Mental Health safeguarding budgets following Safeguarding service reorganisation	+/- £0.917m
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Allocation of Service Redesign savings from centrally held budgets to area budgets	+/- £13.700m
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Allocation of Contract & Commissioning savings from centrally held budgets to area budgets	+/- £5.000m
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## 13 Revenue Budget Changes

Transfer of 18-25 Improved Better Care Funds from CYPE to ASCH	+£0.029m gross
Transfer of staffing posts from Practice Development and Policy & Quality Assurance teams to Safeguarding Adults Team	+/- £0.065m
Transfer of budget from Autism to Mental Health teams following restructure	+/- £1.100m
Allocation of 22-23 funding for provider price uplifts from centrally held budgets to area budgets	+/- £14.500m
Transfer of budget from Older People staffing to Mental Health and Learning Disability staffing services to fund new staffing posts in Forensic and Quality & Standards Teams	+/- £0.675m
Allocation of 22-23 Better Care Fund uplifts from central budgets to services	+/- £1.860m
Allocation of 22-23 Care Act Implementation uplifts from central budgets to services	+/- £0.235m
Transfer of budget from services to centrally held budgets following allocation of Better Care Fund and Care Act Implementation uplifts.	+/- £1.500m
Allocation of centrally held funding for 22-23 one-off items	+/- £1.450m

### Children, Young People & Education

Gross increase +£19.9m  
Income increase -£17.5m

Roll forwards previously agreed at the June Cabinet meeting:

Various Budgets	+£2.430m gross
Technical adjustments, more accurately reflecting current levels of services and income to be received:	
Asylum – realignment of asylum cash limits to reflect new funding rates and activity levels	+£15.021m gross -£15.021m income
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets - realignment of cash limits to reflect revised asylum recharge	+£0.146m gross -£0.146m income
Care Leavers service – realignment of cash limits to reflect revised asylum recharge	+£0.485m gross -£0.485m gross
Care Leavers Service – realignment of cash limits to reflect revised activity levels and reduced Staying Put grant income	-£0.090m gross +£0.090m income
Children's Social Work Services - Assessment & Safeguarding Service – realignment of cash limits to reflect revised Asylum recharge	+£0.640m gross -£0.640m income

## 13 Revenue Budget Changes

Looked after children – Care & Support – realignment of cash limits to reflect revised asylum recharge	+£0.250m gross -£0.250m income
Pupil referral units & inclusion – Transfer of DSG from schools budget line to PRU budgets to match 22-23 devolved allocation	+£0.120m gross -£0.120m gross
Special Educational Needs & Psychology Services – Increase FE college budget in line with agreed allocations from Schools Delegated Budget line	+£0.604m gross -£0.604m income
Special Educational Needs & Psychology Services – transfer of teacher’s pension grant from Schools Delegated Budget line to Specialist Teaching & Learning Service (STLS)	+£0.343m gross -£0.343m income
Formal virements, requiring approval:	
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Community Based Services – realignment to reflect service provision	+£0.471m gross
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers – realignment to reflect service provision	-£0.491m gross +£0.029m income
<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>	<b>Gross increase +£4.3m Income increase -£1.2m</b>
Roll forwards previously agreed at the June Cabinet meeting:	
Various Budgets	+£3.114m gross
Technical adjustments, more accurately reflecting current levels of services and income to be received:	
Increase in funding for Kent Downs AONB	+£1.853m gross -£1.853m income
Increase in funding for Country Parks	+£0.206m gross -£0.206m income
Decrease in funding for Planning Applications	-£0.133m gross +£0.133m income
Decrease in funding for Natural Environment	-£0.159m gross +£0.159m income
Decrease in funding for Sports	-£0.452m gross +£0.452m income
Formal virements, requiring approval:	
Transfers of staff between key services in relation to the directorate restructure comprising £0.359m gross from Environment and Waste Divisional management costs and £0.247m gross from Growth and Support to Businesses to Growth and Communities Divisional management costs (gross +£0.606m)	No Impact
Transfer of £0.491m gross budget for the recharge from Medway for cross boundary usage from Residual Waste to Waste Facilities & Recycling Centres following the opening of the Allington Household Waste Recycling Centre in May 2022	No Impact

## 13 Revenue Budget Changes

### Chief Executive's Department

Gross increase +£1.3m  
Income increase -£0.2m

Roll forwards previously agreed at the June Cabinet meeting:

Various Budgets +£1.087m gross

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Technical adjustments, more accurately reflecting current levels of services  
and income to be received:

Revisions to Strategic Commissioning to reflect increased internal recharges +£0.184m gross  
-£0.184m income

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Formal virements, requiring approval:

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A budget transfer from Non-Attributable Costs to fund the Support for Community  
Care Inform roll out +£0.022m gross

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### Deputy Chief Executive's Department

Gross decrease -£0.8m  
Income decrease +£0.8m

Technical adjustments, more accurately reflecting current levels of services  
and income to be received:

Change in expected partner income for the Kent Public Sector Network within ICT  
related services -£0.263m gross  
+£0.263m income

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Realignment in Corporate Landlord primarily for rental income from investment  
properties -£0.216m gross  
+£0.216m income

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Formal virements, requiring approval:

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Realignment of budget within Technology including an adjustment to the recharge  
with Property Related Services to reflect property staff time spent on IT work +/-£0.159m  
-£0.340m gross  
+£0.340m income

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### Non-Attributable Costs

Gross decrease -£0.0m

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Formal virements, requiring approval:

A budget transfer from Non-Attributable Costs to fund the Support for Community  
Care Inform roll out in CED -£0.022m gross

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## 14 Capital Budget Changes

### Cabinet is asked to approve the following changes:

Project	Year	Amount (£m)	Reason
Annual Planned Enhancement Programme (CYPE)	22-23	-0.126	Transfer of Schools Condition Allocation (SCA) funding to Schools Modernisation re Lydden Hall.
Modernisation Programme	22-23	+0.126	Transfer of Schools Condition Allocation (SCA) funding from Annual Planned Enhancement Programme re Lydden Hall.

### Cabinet is asked to note the following changes to the Capital Budget:

Project	Year	Amount (£m)	Reason
Basic Need Programme KCP 2017 (CYPE)	22-23	-6.204	Reduction of basic need grant available due to accounting entries.
	23-24	-1.897	
Basic Need Programme KCP21 (2022-26) (CYPE)	23-24	-1.022	Reduction of unfunded budget which had been added in error.
	24-25	-4.688	
Highway Major Enhancement (GET)	22-23	-0.1	Department for Transport (DfT) grant funding already allocated within Herne Bay Relief Road project.
	22-23	+0.2	Additional external funding for reinstatement of Trees.
	22-23	+0.01	Additional grant funding.
	22-23	+0.5	Additional DfT grant funding for Traffic Lights.
Integrated Transport Schemes	22-23	+0.15	Additional Ebbsfleet Development Corporation grant.
Kent Active Travel Fund	22-23	+1.3	Additional grant funding.



## 15 Treasury Management Monitoring

Treasury management relates to the management of the Council's debt portfolio (accumulated borrowing to fund previous and current capital infrastructure investments) and investment of cash balances. The Council has a comparatively high level of very long-term debt, a significant proportion of which was undertaken through the previous supported borrowing regime.

15.1 Total external debt outstanding in June was £824.64m down by £1.33m since 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

KCC debt includes £426.94m of borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). The vast majority is maturity debt (debt is only repaid upon maturity) at a fixed rate of interest. The average length to maturity of PWLB debt is 15.44 years at an average interest rate of 4.70%.

Outstanding loans from banks amount to £291.8m. This is also at fixed term rates with average length to maturity of 36.26 years at an average interest rate of 4.40%.

The council has £90m of Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans. These loans can only be renegotiated should the lender propose an increase in interest rates. The average length to maturity of LOBO loans is 41.63 years at an average interest rate of 4.15%.

The balance of debt relates to loans for the LED streetlighting programme. The outstanding balance is £15.90m with average of 11.39 years to maturity at an average rate of 1.71%.

KCC's principal objective for borrowing is to achieve an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest rates and certainty of financing costs. This is achieved by seeking to fund capital spending from internal resources and short-term borrowing, only considering external long-term borrowing at advantageous interest rates.

15.2 Majority is long term debt with 12.55% due to mature within 5 years

Maturity 0 to 5 years £103.45m (12.55%)<sup>1</sup>  
Maturity 5 to 10 years is minimal  
Maturity 10 to 20 years £213.59m (25.90%)  
Maturity over 20 years £507.60m (61.55%)

15.3 Total cash balance at end of June was £504.2m, up by £40.4m from the end of March

Cash balances accrue from the council's reserves and timing differences between the receipt of grants and other income and expenditure. Balances are forecast to rise through the next quarter and decline over the remainder of the year in line with the typical trend observed in previous years.

<sup>1</sup> Split across the next five years is as follows: Year 1 £17.67m, Year 2 £20.60m, Year 3 £24.18m, Year 4 £24.00m, and Year 5 £17.00m

15.4 Cash balances are invested in a range of short-term, medium term and long term deposits

Investments are made in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy agreed by full Council alongside the revenue and capital budgets. The treasury strategy represents a prudent approach to achieve an appropriate balance between risk, liquidity and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses on the sum invested. Longer term investments aim to achieve a rate of return equal or exceeding prevailing inflation rates.

Short term deposits (same day availability) are held in bank accounts and money market funds. Current balances in short-term deposits in June were £135.8m (26.94% of cash balances). Short-term deposits enable the Council to manage liquidity. Bank accounts and money market funds are currently earning an average rate of return of 1.09%.

Deposits are made through the Debt Management Office (an executive agency responsible for debt and cash management for the UK Government, lending to local authorities and managing certain public sector funds). As at the end of June, the Council had £45.1m in DMO deposits and a further £26.8m in government bonds. In total these deposits represent 14.28% of cash investments with an average rate of return of 1.08%.

Medium term deposits include covered bonds, a form of secured bond issued by a financial institution that is backed by mortgages or public sector loans. In the UK the covered bond programmes are supervised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). King and Shaxson acts as the Council's broker and custodian for its covered bond portfolio. As at the end of June, the Council has £93.9m invested in covered bonds earning an average rate of return of 1.43%.

The Council has lent £16.3m through the No Use Empty Loans programme which achieve a return of 1.50% that is available to fund general services. This total includes £1.7m of loans made since March.

The Council has now agreed 3 rolling credit facilities (RCF) with registered providers totalling £25m, for which we are receiving a fee ranging from 0.25% to 0.40%. None of the facilities have been drawn so far.

Long term investments are made through Strategic Pooled Funds. These include a variety of UK and Global Equity Funds, Multi Asset Funds and Property Funds. In total the Council has £184.8m invested in pooled funds (36.65% of cash balances). Excluding capital returns, these funds have earned a total income of £38.5m since inception, at an average annual rate of 4.11%. Returns on pooled funds can be volatile.

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## 15 Treasury Management Monitoring

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15.5	Treasury Management Advice	The Council secures external specialist treasury management advice from Arlingclose. They advise on the overall strategy as well as borrowing options and investment opportunities. Arlingclose provide regular performance monitoring reports.
15.6	Quarterly and Bi-annual reports	A fuller report is presented to Governance and Audit Committee on a regular quarterly basis. A report on treasury performance is reported twice a year to full Council.

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**The purpose of this section is to monitor actual Council Tax discounts and collection rates against the budget throughout the year and to use this to inform collection fund and the Council Tax Base estimates to be included in next financial year's budget.**

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16.1 Council Tax income is vital source of funding for the Council's revenue budget

Council Tax income is a key source of funding for council services and makes up almost 70% of our net budget (and just under 50% of our gross budget). The amount generated through Council Tax is principally determined by the Council Taxbase. The Council Taxbase is the number of properties (expressed as the number of weighted band D equivalent properties) adjusted for exemptions, discounts and premiums, other minor adjustments (e.g. estimated new builds), the band D charge per property and the collection rate. The most significant discounts are the 25% single persons discount and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for low income households.

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16.2 The budget is based on estimated Council Tax collection. Actual collections are managed through local district collection funds

The twelve Kent districts provide the budgeted Council Taxbase. This forms the basis for the County Council precept after applying the county's share of the Council Tax charge (including a separate precept for adult social care), which is included in the Council's annual budget. Districts must provide the budgeted precept to the County Council in-year and any difference between the budgeted precept and the actual Council Tax collected is accounted for by districts through their local collection funds.

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16.3 Following an unprecedented collection fund deficit in 2021-22 due to the pandemic, the budgeted taxbase for 2022-23 has increased by 2.63%

From 2015-16 to 2020-21 the budgeted taxbase increased each year by an average of 1.95%. During this period we also saw collection fund surpluses ranging from £3.9m to £12.5m, reflecting over-collection on the budgeted precept. The Covid-19 pandemic significantly affected both the discounts provided through the CTRS and the collection rate, and this resulted in an unprecedented collection fund deficit of £13.9m in 2021-22. This deficit is being accounted for over three years from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

The budgeted increase in taxbase for 2022-23 is 2.63%. This increase reflects a return to pre-pandemic levels for the budget assumptions for CTRS discounts, and an improvement on collection rates from last financial year, from 97.8% to 98.2%.

The purpose of this section of the monitoring report is to provide an early indication of whether CTRS discounts and collection rates during the year are consistent with the amounts in the 2022-23 budget estimates, and to have early oversight of the likely impact of any variances on the collection fund and the Council Taxbase to be included in the forthcoming year's budget.

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## Budgeted Tax Base 2022-23

16.4 563,284.89 band D Equivalents = £823.1m for the County Council precept

The 2022-23 net budgeted Council Taxbase for Kent is 563,284.89 band D equivalents which produces the County Council precept of £823.1m. The precept includes the following reductions: £74.2m due to single persons discount, £77.8m relating to Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and £15.4m for the expected collection rate loss. The table below shows the composition of the budgeted Council Taxbase for the Kent County Council precept:

	Band D equivalent	Total Precept @ £1,461.24
Number of Dwellings (692,361)	685,572.00	£1,001.8m
Less Exemptions & Disabled	-14,338.11	£-21.0m
Less Single Persons Discount	-50,801.21	£-74.2m
Less Council Tax Reduction Discounts	-53,216.26	£-77.8m
Less Other Discounts	-1,880.42	£-2.7m
Add Premiums, New Builds, etc	8,508.38	£12.4m
Less Collection Losses	-10,559.49	£-15.4m
Net Taxbase/Precept	563,284.89	£823.1m

The net precept of £823.1m includes £97.6m for the Adult Social Care precept.

## Council Tax Charge Increase

16.5 KCC's element of individual household Council Tax charge for 2022-23 increased by 2.994% compared to 2021-22

The 2022-23 budget, which was approved by full council on 10th February 2022, included a 2.994% increase to the Council Tax charge. This increased the band D charge by £42.48, from £1,418.76 to £1,461.24. This increase consists of a £28.35 (1.998%) general increase up to the referendum limit and a £14.13 (0.996%) maximum permitted increase for the Adult Social Care Precept.

Kent County Council and Kent Fire and Rescue Service have a total band D charge of £1,543.59. It is essential to include the Fire Authority's share of Council Tax for comparison purposes with other Shire Counties because some are still responsible for Fire & Rescue Services and do not levy a separate precept. The charge in Kent is ranked 10th out of 24 when compared with other Shire Counties, the highest charge is £1,728.66 and the lowest is £1,432.17.

## Monitoring

16.6 Quarter 1 monitoring is showing a small collection fund deficit of £1.8m, largely as a result of lower than estimated collection rates to date.

The twelve Kent Districts have provided an update as at quarter 1 on the Council Tax collection and level of CTRS claimants. This information has been used to produce an initial forecast against the budget. The table below shows a forecast collection fund deficit of £1.8m (0.2%), due to lower than estimated collection rates, partially offset by very slightly lower than budgeted CTRS.

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
CTRS	-£77.8m	-£77.7m	£0.1m
Collection Rate	98.2%	97.9%	-£1.8m
Forecast Collection Fund Deficit			-£1.8m

It is still very early in the financial year to confidently rely on this forecast for budgeting, and the forecast collection rate does not take into consideration any payments against 2021-22 arrears or the impact of the option for Council Tax payers to change to making payments over twelve monthly instalments (which changes the profile of collection compared to the standard 10 monthly payments). These are likely to reduce the forecast collection fund deficit by the end of the year.

As the post-pandemic recovery continues, and in the context of the national cost of living crisis, CTRS and collection fund rates will continue to be closely monitored throughout the financial year, and a further update will be provided at quarter 2. At this stage we will also be able to more confidently draw conclusions to inform the 2023-24 estimated taxbase.

## 16.7 Conclusion

Council Tax remains a significant source of income and the 2023-24 budget will be dependent on the improved levels budgeted for in 2022-23 for CTRS discounts and collection rates materialising. At this early stage, we can gain some confidence that the forecast collection fund deficit is relatively minor (0.2% of the budget). There have also been some changes to the payment arrangements for Council Tax which affect the profile of collections; this has not been factored into this forecast and is likely to improve the position further.

However, there are also several other variables and external factors at play and therefore this will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year, and a further update will be provided at quarter 2.

## Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast (£m)	Variance £m
Community Based Preventative Services	13.3	13.7	0.4
Housing Related Support	4.6	4.6	0.0
Statutory and Policy Support	1.2	1.4	0.2
Provision for Demographic Growth - Community Based Services	10.2	6.5	-3.7
Strategic Management & Directorate Support (ASCH)	6.8	5.1	-1.7
Social Support for Carers	3.2	3.0	-0.2
Partnership Support Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
Strategic Safeguarding	0.6	0.4	-0.2
<b>Strategic Management &amp; Directorate Budgets</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>-5.2</b>
Public Health - Advice and Other Staffing	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health - Children's Programme	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health - Mental Health, Substance Misuse & Community Safety	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Health - Sexual Health	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Public Health</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Adult In House Carer Services	2.4	2.5	0.1
Adult In House Community Services	5.9	5.7	-0.2
Adult In House Enablement Services	7.3	6.9	-0.4
Adult Learning Disability - Case Management & Assessment Service	5.7	5.7	0.0
Adult Learning Disability - Community Based Services & Support for Carers	101.6	104.5	2.9
Adult Learning Disability - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers	72.2	73.2	1.0
Adult Mental Health - Case Management & Assessment Services	10.2	10.2	0.0
Adult Mental Health - Community Based Services	11.4	15.5	4.1
Adult Mental Health - Residential Care Services	15.6	17.8	2.3
Adult Physical Disability - Community Based Services	20.9	22.2	1.3
Adult Physical Disability - Residential Care Services	17.7	17.8	0.1
ASCH Operations - Divisional Management & Support	6.8	7.2	0.4
Older People - Community Based Services	37.3	41.3	4.0
Older People - In House Provision	14.5	15.0	0.5
Older People - Residential Care Services	46.2	63.1	16.8
Older People & Physical Disability - Assessment and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Services	21.7	21.7	0.0
Older People & Physical Disability - In House Community Homecare Service	0.0	0.0	0.0
Older People & Physical Disability Carer Support - Commissioned	1.2	1.6	0.3
Physical Disability 26+ Lifespan Pathway & Sensory and Autism 18+ - Community Based Services	5.9	6.6	0.6
Physical Disability 26+ Lifespan Pathway & Sensory and Autism 18+ - Residential Care Services	1.1	1.1	0.0
Sensory & Autism - Assessment Service	0.7	0.7	0.0
Service Provision - Divisional Management & Support	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adaptive & Assistive Technology	5.3	2.8	-2.5
<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Health Operations</b>	<b>411.7</b>	<b>442.9</b>	<b>31.3</b>
Business Delivery	8.2	7.7	-0.5
Independent Living Support	0.7	0.7	0.0
<b>Business Delivery Unit</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Health</b>	<b>460.6</b>	<b>486.2</b>	<b>25.6</b>
<b>Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast (£m)	Variance £m
	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast (£m)	Variance £m
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	2.3	2.6	0.3
Community Learning & Skills (CLS)	-0.4	-0.4	0.0
Early Years Education	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education Management & Division Support	1.4	1.3	-0.2
Education Services provided by The Education People	4.5	4.5	0.0
Fair Access & Planning Services	0.3	0.3	0.1
Home to School & College Transport	49.7	60.0	10.3
Other School Services	5.8	6.5	0.8
<b>Education</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>11.0</b>
Adoption & Special Guardianship Arrangements & Service	15.5	16.2	1
Asylum	-0.1	-0.1	0
Care Leavers Service	6.0	6.3	0
Children in Need - Care & Support	3.3	3.3	0
Children's Centres	4.6	4.7	0
Children's Social Work Services - Assessment & Safeguarding Service	51.2	52.3	1
Early Help & Preventative Services	6.9	7.1	0
Integrated Services (Children's) Management & Directorate Support	5.7	5.5	0
Looked After Children - Care & Support	66.8	70.4	4
Pupil Referral Units & Inclusion	0.1	0.1	0
Youth Services	5.7	5.7	0
<b>Integrated Children's Services (East &amp; West)</b>	<b>165.8</b>	<b>171.4</b>	<b>5.63</b>
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Community Based Services	32.7	36.6	3.8
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers	9.3	9.4	0.1
Children in Need (Disability) - Care & Support	5.5	6.3	0.8
Children's Disability 0-18 Commissioning	1.7	1.7	0.0
Disabled Children & Young People Service (0-25 LD & Complex PD) - Assessment Service	9.0	9.4	0.3
Looked After Children (with Disability) - Care & Support	16.4	17.9	1.5
Looked After Children (with Disability) - In House Provision	3.6	3.7	0.0
Special Educational Needs & Disability Management & Divisional Support	0.2	0.2	0.0
Special Educational Needs & Psychology Services	13.2	14.2	0.9
<b>Special Educational Needs &amp; Disabilities</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>99.3</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Children, Young People &amp; Education</b>	<b>321.0</b>	<b>345.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>
<b>Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>



## Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast (£m)	Variance £m
	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast (£m)	Variance £m
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	1.4	1.4	0.1
Growth and Support to Businesses	4.7	5.3	0.6
Community (Assets & Services)	2.8	3.3	0.5
Public Protection	11.4	11.9	0.4
Libraries, Registration & Archives	9.5	9.8	0.4
Growth and Communities Divisional management costs	0.8	0.8	0.0
<b>Growth &amp; Communities</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Highway Assets Management	33.0	34.2	1.2
Transportation	6.6	6.4	-0.1
Supported Bus Services	4.5	6.2	1.7
English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS)	13.8	12.9	-0.9
Kent Travel Saver (KTS)	4.8	4.8	0.0
Highways & Transportation divisional management costs	3.6	3.5	-0.1
<b>Highways &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Environment	2.4	2.4	0.0
Residual Waste	45.8	47.8	2.0
Waste Facilities & Recycling Centres	31.9	31.8	-0.1
Environment and Waste Divisional management costs	1.8	1.9	0.1
<b>Environment &amp; Waste</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>	<b>178.7</b>	<b>184.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Earmarked Budgets Held Corporately</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Appendix 1 - Key Service Summary

	Revenue Budget £m	Forecast (£m)	Variance £m
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	0.0	0.0	0.0
Finance	12.7	12.9	0.2
Governance & Law	6.9	6.7	-0.2
Local Member Grants	1.4	1.4	0.0
Governance, Law & Democracy	8.3	8.1	-0.2
Strategic Commissioning	8.0	8.1	0.1
Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance	4.4	4.4	0.0
<b>Total - Chief Executive's Department</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Customer Contact, Communications & Consultations	6.2	6.2	0.0
Human Resources related services	8.2	7.9	-0.3
People & Communication	14.4	14.1	-0.3
Property related services	6.2	6.2	0.0
Technology	24.0	23.5	-0.6
Corporate Landlord	27.1	28.4	1.3
<b>Total - Deputy Chief Executive's Department</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Non Attributable Costs</b>	<b>128.7</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>-5.7</b>
<b>Corporately Held Budgets (to be allocated)</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total excluding Schools' Delegated Budgets</b>	<b>1,198.4</b>	<b>1,248.9</b>	<b>+50.6</b>
<b>Total Including Schools' Delegated Budgets</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>+51.5</b>

## Appendix 2 - Revenue Budget Changes

	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
Community Based Preventative Services	19.1	-5.3	13.8	20.1	-6.8	13.3	1.1	-1.5	-0.4
Housing Related Support	6.1	-1.4	4.6	6.1	-1.4	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Statutory and Policy Support	1.1	+0.0	1.1	1.2	+0.0	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Provision for Demographic Growth - Community Based Services	11.8	-1.6	10.2	11.8	-1.6	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Strategic Management & Directorate Support (ASCH)	6.7	-0.3	6.4	7.1	-0.3	6.8	0.4	0.0	0.4
Social Support for Carers	5.0	-1.7	3.2	5.5	-2.3	3.2	0.6	-0.6	0.0
Partnership Support Services	10.4	-10.4	0.0	10.4	-10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Strategic Safeguarding	1.0	-0.4	0.5	1.0	-0.4	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Strategic Management &amp; Directorate Budgets</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>-21.2</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>-23.3</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Public Health - Advice and Other Staffing	4.6	-4.6	0.0	6.2	-6.2	0.0	1.6	-1.6	0.0
Public Health - Children's Programme	32.8	-32.8	0.0	33.1	-33.1	0.0	0.3	-0.3	0.0
Public Health - Healthy Lifestyles	9.7	-9.7	0.0	8.9	-8.9	0.0	-0.9	0.9	0.0
Public Health - Mental Health, Substance Misuse & Community Safety	13.3	-13.3	0.0	13.8	-13.8	0.0	0.5	-0.5	0.0
Public Health - Sexual Health	15.0	-15.0	0.0	14.9	-14.9	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>Public Health</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>-75.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>-76.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Adult In House Carer Services	2.4	-0.0	2.4	2.4	-0.0	2.4	0.0	-0.0	0.0
Adult In House Community Services	5.9	-0.1	5.9	6.0	-0.0	5.9	0.1	0.0	0.1
Adult In House Enablement Services	18.9	-11.6	7.3	18.9	-11.6	7.3	0.1	-0.0	0.0
Adult Learning Disability - Case Management & Assessment Service	5.3	-0.3	5.0	5.9	-0.3	5.7	0.7	0.0	0.7
Adult Learning Disability - Community Based Services & Support for Carers	108.9	-9.7	99.3	111.2	-9.7	101.6	2.3	0.0	2.3
Adult Learning Disability - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers	78.0	-5.6	72.4	77.8	-5.6	72.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.2
Adult Mental Health - Case Management & Assessment Services	8.7	-0.3	8.4	10.4	-0.3	10.2	1.7	0.0	1.7
Adult Mental Health - Community Based Services	12.0	-0.9	11.1	12.3	-0.9	11.4	0.4	0.0	0.4
Adult Mental Health - Residential Care Services	16.7	-1.1	15.6	16.6	-1.1	15.6	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Adult Physical Disability - Community Based Services	24.9	-4.2	20.7	25.1	-4.2	20.9	0.2	0.0	0.2
Adult Physical Disability - Residential Care Services	19.1	-1.3	17.7	19.0	-1.3	17.7	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
ASCH Operations - Divisional Management & Support	6.9	-0.2	6.6	7.1	-0.2	6.8	0.2	0.0	0.2
Older People - Community Based Services	66.6	-28.5	38.1	65.9	-28.6	37.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.7
Older People - In House Provision	21.6	-7.4	14.2	21.9	-7.4	14.5	0.3	0.0	0.3
Older People - Residential Care Services	112.6	-64.5	48.1	112.3	-66.0	46.2	-0.3	-1.5	-1.8
Older People & Physical Disability - Assessment and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Services	26.1	-2.6	23.6	24.1	-2.5	21.7	-2.0	0.1	-1.9
Older People & Physical Disability - In House Community Homecare Service	0.0	+0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Older People & Physical Disability Carer Support - Commissioned	2.1	-0.9	1.2	2.1	-0.9	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physical Disability 26+ Lifespan Pathway & Sensory and Autism 18+ - Community Based Services	6.5	-0.6	5.9	6.6	-0.6	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physical Disability 26+ Lifespan Pathway & Sensory and Autism 18+ - Residential Care Services	1.1	-0.0	1.1	1.1	-0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sensory & Autism - Assessment Service	1.8	+0.0	1.8	0.7	+0.0	0.7	-1.1	0.0	-1.1
Service Provision - Divisional Management & Support	0.0	+0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adaptive & Assistive Technology	12.2	-6.9	5.3	14.2	-8.8	5.3	1.9	-1.9	0.0
<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Health Operations</b>	<b>558.4</b>	<b>-146.9</b>	<b>411.6</b>	<b>561.9</b>	<b>-150.3</b>	<b>411.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>

## Appendix 2 - Revenue Budget Changes

	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
Business Delivery	8.7	-0.6	8.1	8.8	-0.6	8.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Independent Living Support	0.9	-0.2	0.7	0.9	-0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Business Delivery Unit</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Health</b>	<b>704.4</b>	<b>-244.2</b>	<b>460.2</b>	<b>711.8</b>	<b>-251.2</b>	<b>460.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	6.1	-3.8	2.3	6.2	-3.9	2.3	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Community Learning & Skills (CLS)	13.5	-14.0	-0.4	13.5	-14.0	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Early Years Education	75.1	-75.1	0.0	75.1	-75.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education Management & Division Support	2.3	-1.0	1.4	2.4	-1.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education Services provided by The Education People	9.0	-4.5	4.5	9.0	-4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fair Access & Planning Services	2.9	-2.6	0.3	2.9	-2.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Home to School & College Transport	53.4	-3.7	49.7	53.4	-3.7	49.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other School Services	40.5	-35.8	4.7	41.5	-35.8	5.8	1.1	0.0	1.1
<b>Education</b>	<b>196.7</b>	<b>-136.6</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>197.8</b>	<b>-136.6</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Adoption & Special Guardianship Arrangements & Service	16.6	-1.3	15.3	16.8	-1.3	15.5	0.2	0.0	0.2
Asylum	17.0	-17.1	-0.1	32.0	-32.1	-0.1	15.0	-15.0	-0.0
Care Leavers Service	9.5	-3.4	6.0	9.9	-3.8	6.0	0.4	-0.4	0.0
Children in Need - Care & Support	3.3	-0.0	3.3	3.3	-0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Children's Centres	8.2	-3.5	4.6	8.2	-3.5	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Children's Social Work Services - Assessment & Safeguarding Service	54.4	-3.3	51.2	55.1	-3.9	51.2	0.6	-0.6	0.0
Early Help & Preventative Services	15.3	-8.4	6.9	15.3	-8.4	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Integrated Services (Children's) Management & Directorate Support	8.2	-2.5	5.7	8.2	-2.5	5.7	0.0	-0.0	0.0
Looked After Children - Care & Support	70.9	-4.1	66.8	71.2	-4.4	66.8	0.2	-0.2	0.0
Pupil Referral Units & Inclusion	8.5	-8.4	0.1	8.6	-8.5	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Youth Services	7.2	-2.5	4.7	8.2	-2.5	5.7	1.0	0.0	1.0
<b>Integrated Children's Services (East &amp; West)</b>	<b>219.1</b>	<b>-54.6</b>	<b>164.5</b>	<b>236.8</b>	<b>-71.0</b>	<b>165.8</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>-16.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>

## Appendix 2 - Revenue Budget Changes

	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Community Based Services	33.8	-1.5	32.3	34.3	-1.5	32.7	0.5	0.0	0.5
Adult Learning & Physical Disability Pathway - Residential Care Services & Support for Carers	10.2	-0.4	9.8	9.7	-0.4	9.3	-0.5	0.0	-0.5
Children in Need (Disability) - Care & Support	5.5	-0.0	5.5	5.5	-0.0	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Childrens Disability 0-18 Commissioning	2.7	-1.0	1.7	2.7	-1.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Disabled Children & Young People Service (0-25 LD & Complex PD) - Assessment Service	9.0	+0.0	9.0	9.0	+0.0	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Looked After Children (with Disability) - Care & Support	18.2	-1.8	16.4	18.2	-1.8	16.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Looked After Children (with Disability) - In House Provision	5.4	-1.8	3.6	5.4	-1.8	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special Educational Needs & Disability Management & Divisional Support	0.2	+0.0	0.2	0.2	+0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special Educational Needs & Psychology Services	100.3	-87.0	13.2	101.2	-88.0	13.2	0.9	-0.9	-0.0
<b>Special Educational Needs &amp; Disabilities</b>	<b>185.3</b>	<b>-93.5</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>186.2</b>	<b>-94.4</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-0.0</b>
<b>Children, Young People &amp; Education</b>	<b>607.2</b>	<b>-288.5</b>	<b>318.7</b>	<b>627.0</b>	<b>-306.0</b>	<b>321.0</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>-17.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	1.5	-0.1	1.4	1.5	-0.1	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Growth and Support to Businesses	8.7	-4.2	4.5	8.8	-4.1	4.7	0.1	0.1	0.2
Community (Assets & Services)	8.0	-5.6	2.4	8.2	-5.4	2.8	0.2	0.2	0.4
Public Protection	14.6	-3.5	11.1	14.9	-3.5	11.4	0.3	0.0	0.3
Libraries, Registration & Archives	16.0	-6.6	9.5	16.0	-6.6	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Growth and Communities Divisional management costs	0.2	+0.0	0.2	0.8	+0.0	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.6
<b>Growth &amp; Communities</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>-19.8</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>-19.5</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Highway Assets Management	37.2	-4.6	32.6	37.5	-4.4	33.0	0.3	0.2	0.4
Transportation	11.0	-4.5	6.5	11.0	-4.5	6.6	0.0	0.1	0.1
Supported Bus Services	8.1	-3.6	4.5	8.1	-3.6	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS)	13.9	-0.0	13.8	13.9	-0.0	13.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kent Travel Saver (KTS)	11.4	-6.6	4.8	11.4	-6.6	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Highways & Transportation divisional management costs	4.2	-0.6	3.6	4.2	-0.6	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Highways &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>-19.9</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>-19.7</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>

## Appendix 2 - Revenue Budget Changes

	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
Environment	7.7	-5.6	2.1	9.8	-7.4	2.4	2.0	-1.7	0.3
Residual Waste	45.6	-0.5	45.2	46.2	-0.5	45.8	0.6	0.0	0.6
Waste Facilities & Recycling Centres	36.5	-5.1	31.4	37.0	-5.1	31.9	0.5	0.0	0.5
Environment and Waste Divisional management costs	2.1	-0.0	2.1	1.8	-0.0	1.8	-0.3	0.0	-0.3
<b>Environment &amp; Waste</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>80.8</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>-13.0</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Growth, Environment &amp; Transport</b>	<b>226.7</b>	<b>-51.0</b>	<b>175.6</b>	<b>231.0</b>	<b>-52.3</b>	<b>178.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Strategic Management & Directorate Budgets	2.7	-2.7	0.0	2.7	-2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Finance	19.6	-6.8	12.7	19.6	-6.8	12.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Governance & Law	7.2	-0.3	6.9	7.2	-0.3	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Local Member Grants	0.8	+0.0	0.8	1.4	+0.0	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.6
<b>Governance, Law &amp; Democracy</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Strategic Commissioning	8.9	-1.3	7.6	9.5	-1.5	8.0	0.6	-0.2	0.4
Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance	6.4	-2.1	4.3	6.5	-2.1	4.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Total - Chief Executive's Department</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>-13.2</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>-13.4</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Customer Contact, Communications & Consultations	6.9	-0.6	6.2	6.9	-0.6	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Human Resources related services	8.9	-0.7	8.2	8.9	-0.7	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>People &amp; Communication</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Property related services	8.2	-1.8	6.3	8.3	-2.1	6.2	0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Technology	27.8	-4.0	23.9	27.2	-3.1	24.0	-0.7	0.8	0.2
Corporate Landlord	35.9	-8.8	27.1	35.7	-8.6	27.1	-0.2	0.2	0.0
<b>Total - Deputy Chief Executive's Department</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>-16.0</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>86.9</b>	<b>-15.2</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Appendix 2 - Revenue Budget Changes

	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
	Base Budget			Working Budget			Movement		
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
Non Attributable Costs	144.6	-15.8	128.8	144.6	-15.8	128.7	-0.0	0.0	-0.0
Corporately Held Budgets (to be allocated)	4.1	0.0	4.1	4.1	0.0	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total excluding Schools' Delegated Budgets</b>	<b>1,820.2</b>	<b>-628.8</b>	<b>1,191.5</b>	<b>1,852.2</b>	<b>-653.8</b>	<b>1,198.4</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>-25.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Schools' Delegated Budgets</b>	<b>711.5</b>	<b>-711.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>700.0</b>	<b>-700.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-11.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total including Schools' Delegated Budgets</b>	<b>2,531.8</b>	<b>-1,340.3</b>	<b>1,191.5</b>	<b>2,552.3</b>	<b>-1,353.9</b>	<b>1,198.4</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>

### Appendix 3 - Monitoring of Prudential Indicators as at 30 June 2022

The prudential indicators consider the affordability and impact of capital expenditure plans, in line with the prudential code.

#### Prudential Indicator 1 : Estimates of Capital Expenditure (£m)

	21-22 Actuals	22-23 Budget	22-23 Forecast
Total	335.3	339.3	384.20

#### Prudential Indicator 2: Estimate of Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (£m)

The CFR is the total outstanding capital expenditure not yet financed by revenue or capital resources. It is a measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need.

	21-22 Actuals	22-23 Budget	22-23 Forecast
Total CFR	1,294.10	1,364.00	1,335.90

#### Prudential Indicator 3: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement (£m)

Projected levels of the Authority's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities, leases and transferred debt) are shown below, compared with the CFR.

	21-22 Actuals	22-23 Budget	22-23 Forecast
Other Long-term Liabilities	232.07	235.80	232.07
External Borrowing	825.97	802.50	802.47
Total Debt	1,058.04	1,038.30	1,034.54
Capital Financing Requirement	1,294.10	1,364.00	1,335.90
Internal Borrowing	236.06	325.70	301.36

#### Prudential Indicator 4 : Authorised Limit and Operation Boundary for External Debt (£m)

The Authority is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (the authorised limit for external debt). A lower "operation boundary" is set should debt approach the limit.

	21-22 Actuals	22-23 Limit	22-23 Forecast
Authorised Limit - borrowing	826	876	825
Authorised Limit - PFI and leases	232	245	232
Authorised Limit - total external debt	1,058	1,121	1,057
Operational Boundary - borrowing	826	851	825
Operational Boundary - PFI and leases	232	245	232
Operation Boundary - total external debt	1,058	1,096	1,057

#### Prudential Indicator 5: Proportion of Finance Costs to Net Revenue Stream (%)

Financing costs comprise interest on loans and minimum revenue provision (MRP) and are charged to revenue. This indicator compares the net financing costs of the Authority to the net revenue stream.

	21-22 Actual	22-23 Budget	22-23 Forecast
Proportion of net revenue stream	9.18%	9.06%	8.63%



## Appendix 4 - Reserves Monitoring as at 30 June 2022

	Balance as at 1 April 2022 £m	Forecast Contribution to/(from) Reserve £m	Projected Balance at 31 March 2023 £m
<b>General Fund (GF) Balance</b>	56.2		56.2
Budgeted contribution to/(from) in MTFP		3.0	3.0
	<b>56.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>59.2</b>
<b>Earmarked reserves :</b>			
Vehicle, Plant & Equipment (VPE)	18.7	(0.5)	<b>18.2</b>
Smoothing	124.7	(12.9)	<b>111.8</b>
Major Projects	62.3	(1.2)	<b>61.1</b>
Partnerships	26.3	4.6	<b>30.9</b>
Grant/External Funds	79.1	(30.5)	<b>48.6</b>
Departmental Under/Overspends	8.4	(29.7)	<b>(21.3)</b>
Insurance	13.8	(1.0)	<b>12.8</b>
Public Health	16.8	(3.9)	<b>12.9</b>
Trading	1.2	0.0	<b>1.2</b>
Special Funds	0.6	0.1	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>351.9</b>	<b>(75.0)</b>	<b>276.9</b>
<b>Total GF and Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>408.1</b>	<b>(72.0)</b>	<b>336.1</b>
	Balance as at 1 April 2022 £m	Forecast Contribution to/(from) Reserve £m	Projected Balance at 31 March 2023 £m
<b>Schools Reserves</b>			
School delegated revenue budget reserve - committed	21.8	(1.5)	20.3
School delegated revenue budget reserve - uncommitted	39.3	0.0	39.3
Community Focussed Extended Schools Reserves	0.2	0.0	0.2
<b>Total School Reserves</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>(1.5)</b>	<b>59.8</b>

### DSG Adjustment Account - Unusable Reserve

	Balance as at 1 April 2022 £m	Forecast Contribution to/(from) Reserve £m	Projected Balance at 31 March 2023 £m
<b>Unallocated Schools Budget</b>	<b>(97.6)</b>	<b>(49.4)</b>	<b>(147.0)</b>

The General fund Reserve has been increased as agreed by County Council in the 2022-23 MTFP.

The earmarked reserves are decreasing mainly due to the following:

- Funding of £46.8m underlying overspend including using the £24.9m set aside in the risk reserve
- £9.9m drawdown from the Covid-19 emergency grant reserve as reflected in the June monitoring.

The DSG Adjustment Account deficit has increased due to pressures in Schools Funding. More details can be found in Section 10.

The net £75.0m drawdown from earmarked reserves reflected in the table above covers more than the reserve drawdowns set out in the Directorate sections of this report, as this includes funding elements, which are roll forwards and the S31 Compensation grants.

From: Roger Gough, Leader of the Council  
David Cockburn, Chief Executive

To: **Cabinet – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Subject: KCC's Response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Summary:** This report sets out the current picture and KCC's response to the cost-of-living crisis. Whilst acknowledging that the primary responsibility for easing the crisis at the population level sits with Government, through existing schemes and grant programmes following the Covid-19 pandemic, the council already has in place several support programmes that are helping vulnerable residents in Kent with financial hardship and cost-of-living issues. The report also sets out a range of next steps, particularly regarding an enhanced response working alongside strategic partners. It does not address the issue of the inflationary pressures on KCC services or budgets directly, or those of our providers, as this will be considered through the budget development process.

This report is based on the paper intended for County Council on 15 September, postponed due to the death of the Queen. An addendum paper summarising key announcements in the interim including energy support schemes for residents, businesses and non-domestic users, can be found in Appendix 1.

**Recommendations:**

**Cabinet is asked to:**

(1) **NOTE and DISCUSS** the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on people and households and the current response to it.

(2) **NOTE** that a separate report on the impacts of the crisis on businesses and enterprises and the support available is scheduled to be presented at a future Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee.

(3) **NOTE** that the Financial Hardship Programme will continue to provide support to people and households over the winter period.

(4) **NOTE** that a third round of the Household Support Fund is expected to be provided by Government and, depending on any restrictions, KCC's intention is to allocate the funding as it has previously between support for families eligible for free school meals, some funding issued to District and Borough Councils, some funding provided through KSAS, and some funding held for dedicated support with water and energy bills.

(5) **AGREE** that KCC will lobby Government to ensure that any cost-of-living grant support to local authorities has clear objectives but limited restrictions to allow KCC

and its partners to flexibly meet local need, and that capacity funding is provided to local authorities to administer and deliver any such schemes.

(6) **AGREE** that KCC will lobby Government to consider the immediate and direct benefit of providing grants schemes targeted at vulnerable households to improve thermal insulation.

(7) **NOTE** that an emergency meeting of Kent Council Leaders did go ahead on the 15 September to discuss the cost-of-living crisis and how Kent councils should respond jointly. This included agreement to expand the scope of the Financial Hardship Task & Finish Group.

(8) **NOTE** the potential for the Integrated Care Partnership to be the vehicle through which Kent and Medway partners can work together to jointly address the medium to longer term impact of the cost-of-living crisis, and that the Integrated Care Partnership will discuss a paper about cost of living at their October meeting and consider a collective response.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This paper aims to provide an overview of the national cost-of-living crisis and how it is impacting on Kent, the response that KCC is already delivering to help vulnerable residents cope with cost-of-living pressures and sets out proposals for next steps to enhance the support available. The cost-of-living crisis presents a significant challenge to the county and its economy, KCC services, our partners and the people of Kent as the impacts of inflation and rising costs are felt by households and organisations.
- 1.2. However, the agenda is fast paced and on 08 September, the new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, made an announcement on a package of significant investment and support from the Government on tackling energy price rises. Whilst we now know the headlines of the measures the new Government will take, due to delays as a result of the Queen's death, some of the finer details are still emerging. A supplementary addendum paper outlining the key announcements to date can be found in Appendix 1. It is highly likely that by the time of this Cabinet meeting, further details may have been released.
- 1.3. The scale of the support packages announced for households and businesses will materially impact on the inflationary cost-of-living crisis that this paper discusses and will help alleviate a significant amount of pressure. However, it is unlikely to be able to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis completely. Whilst energy costs are perhaps the most significant aspect of the inflationary pressures driving the cost-of-living crisis, as this paper notes, it is important to recognise that other prices, including food, transport and other day-to-day prices are rising significantly faster than many household incomes.
- 1.4. Therefore, the cost-of-living crisis will likely remain a significant challenge to many Kent residents, and evidence is clear that inflationary pressures disproportionately impact vulnerable households' income more than those with

greater financial means. Moreover, it is not yet clear whether the support package on energy costs for businesses will be extended beyond six months. As such, even with the significant package of national support to households and businesses, other price rises facing households and businesses remain a significant risk to the Kent's economy and social fabric. As such, the County Council has a clear role to play in doing what it can to help Kent residents, particularly the most vulnerable in our county, through what will be a period of economic uncertainty and pressure.

- 1.5 Although the inflationary cost-of-living crisis is an international and national issue, local factors mean that Kent can feel the effects more strongly. Kent has pockets of significant deprivation which can be masked by the wider South East picture, and factors such as lower average earnings in these areas compared to other parts of the region could make it harder for people to manage increasing costs.
- 1.6 KCC plays an important and long-standing role in developing the success and resilience of the county's economy, working with our partners to boost skills levels, facilitate good-quality jobs, support businesses and sectors, put in place the infrastructure for a successful economy and attract investment into the county. The aim of these interventions is to improve productivity, which is the biggest driver of economic growth and prosperity, raising employment prospects, earnings and quality of life for local people and putting them in a better position to withstand financial pressures. We have set out our plans to accelerate our progress in many of these areas over the next four years and beyond in our Council Strategy *Framing Kent's Future*<sup>1</sup>, with a particular focus on areas that are falling behind the rest of the county and closing gaps with the rest of the South East.
- 1.7 While longer-term work to develop the economy is vital, there is also a more immediate need to respond to the cost-of-living crisis that is impacting on people now and will heighten over the winter. Aside from some discrete commissioned services, KCC's role, levers and resources as a county council to provide responsive short-term support to people facing financial crisis have been very limited. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, upper tier authorities have been expected to step into the provision of crisis support through emergency funding schemes that Government has introduced. This has allowed KCC to work with partners to develop a comprehensive and nationally commended Financial Hardship programme to support people struggling with the impacts of the pandemic.
- 1.8 The cost-of-living crisis is not a critical incident in the same way that the Covid pandemic was and KCC will not have the same level of resources available to respond. However, the Covid response has created a legacy of strengthened partnerships, improved ways of working and successful interventions that KCC and partners can learn from and take forward in responding to the cost-of-

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<sup>1</sup> KCC's Council Strategy 2022-26 [Framing Kent's Future](#).

living crisis. Given the complex national and global issues impacting the cost of living, many of which require macro level economic and policy interventions at national level, KCC cannot remove the pressures. Instead it has a role to play in working with partners to support people to mitigate, manage and cope with the impacts they are experiencing as far as we are able to do so within the resource envelope provided by central Government and that maintains strong financial sustainability of the Council.

- 1.9 The cost-of-living crisis has seen a significant amount of media coverage, reporting and projected modelling. This paper has, wherever possible, attempted to use official sources to ensure consistency and confidence in modelling. However, this means some more recent reports from third party sources may not be included even if they are more up to date. The interrelationship between the drivers of inflation and cost of living are inherently complex (e.g., Ukraine conflict, post-pandemic global economic surge, Brexit transition) and readers should use caution in drawing hard conclusions where there is strong correlation but limited evidence of causation.

## **2. Background**

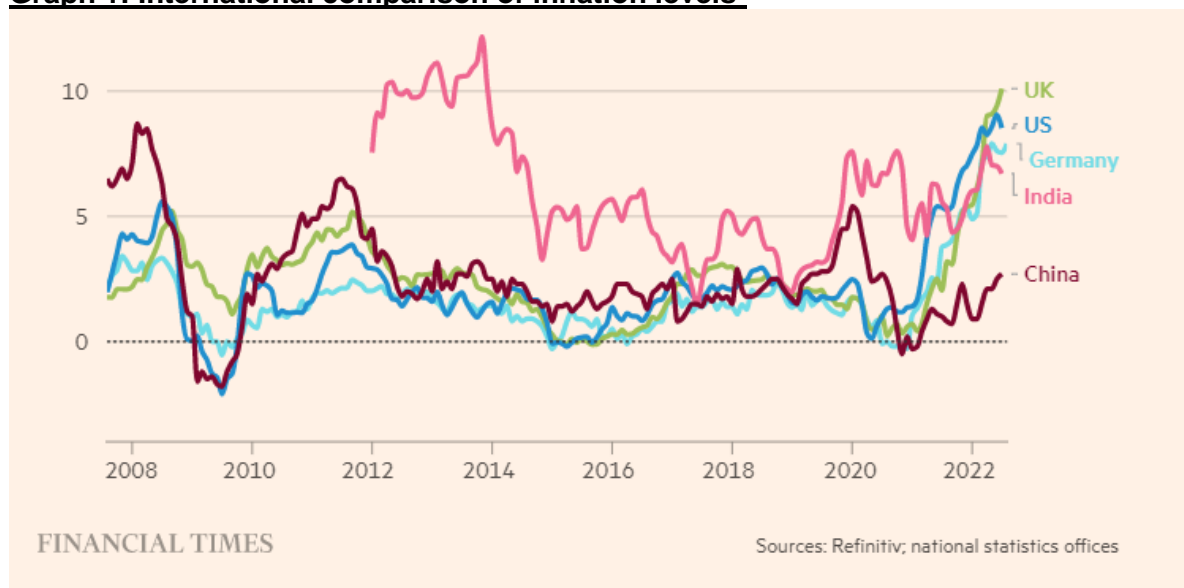
### **National and global picture**

- 2.1 The UK is undergoing a prolonged period of economic challenge as it has moved through the Pandemic and now contends with a new but more universal problem as the cost of living, which has been rising since 2021, is beginning to reach crisis levels that may be unsustainable for many.
- 2.2 The key events that have contributed to this situation are well known. The Covid-19 pandemic introduced an unprecedented economic impact as households and businesses navigated lockdowns which brought about reductions in consumer spending, income and production, causing employment challenges as people were either made redundant or furloughed, and requiring many firms to cut production, sell assets and lower investment. However, as the world's economies have recovered, this has in turn created an increase in consumer price inflation (see graph below) due to Pandemic related shortages as pared back businesses have struggled to meet an increased demand in consumer goods and materials. Therefore, this imbalance of strong demand and globally disrupted supply has led to rising prices and higher transportation costs.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> House of Commons Library briefing [‘Rising cost of living in the UK’](#), 17 August 2022, page 13.

**Graph 1: International comparison of inflation levels<sup>3</sup>**



2.3 The rising prices as a result of the Pandemic have now been significantly compounded by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which economic forecasters anticipate will cause consumer price inflation to be higher for much longer<sup>4</sup>, due to Russia being a major exporter of gas and oil globally and both Russia and Ukraine’s significant role in the global food market. The Governor of the Bank of England has highlighted that the war in Ukraine is “the largest contributor to UK inflation by some way.”<sup>5</sup>

2.4 The recent rise in energy, fuel and food prices are the most noticeable areas of expenditure for households, and rising energy and food prices have been the largest contributors to the change in inflation, fuelling the current cost-of-living crisis:

- **Energy<sup>6</sup>:** The rise in energy prices is a key contributor to the exponential rise in inflation. Prices for oil and gas were already volatile during the height of Pandemic due to dramatic changes in demand and the need to manage supply and pricing accordingly. According to the House of Commons Library, domestic gas prices increased by 96% and domestic electricity prices by 54% in the twelve months to July 2022. To respond to the rising wholesale gas and electricity prices, the energy regulator Ofgem is increasing the price cap that sets maximum prices for energy units and standing charges. It is also increasing the frequency of changing the price cap from every six months to quarterly in order to better address the market’s current volatility. This capping, even though increasing, does not cover everyone: prior to the Government’s intervention on 21 September detailed in Appendix 1, businesses’ energy prices were not capped, and as

<sup>3</sup> Financial Times [Global Inflation Tracker](#)

<sup>4</sup> House of Commons Library briefing, *ibid*, page 12.

<sup>5</sup> Bank of England [Press Conference](#), 4 August 2022

<sup>6</sup> House of Commons Library briefing, *ibid*, page 16-19

things stand will not be after six months, which means higher costs may be passed onto the consumer. Heating oil prices are not capped either, which will affect approximately 1.6m households in the UK. Furthermore, the cap varies depending on method of bill payment: direct debit attracts a lower cap, whereas customers on pre-payment schemes – approximately 4.5 million customers and often those more vulnerable - have a higher cap. These saw a 54% increase in April 2022 (to £1,971 and £2,017 respectively<sup>7</sup>). As announced by Ofgem on 26 August<sup>8</sup>, the cap without the Government intervention announced on 08 September detailed in Appendix 1, would have further increased in October 2022 to £3,549 for those paying for dual fuel by direct debit; that is an 80% increase on April's cap, and a 177% increase on the cap of £1,277 before that. However, as a result of the Government's intervention, from 01 October 2022 until 2024, a typical household will pay no more than £2,500 per year.

- **Food<sup>9</sup>:** Food and drink prices (excluding the hospitality sector) have been rising since the second half of 2021 due to factors such as supply chain challenges, the rising costs of energy and transportation, and labour shortages. The Russian invasion of Ukraine significantly compounds this: both countries are major exporters of staples such as wheat. Ukraine's farming and harvesting have been profoundly disrupted by the conflict, as have its ports which are major transportation hubs for commodities. Fertilisers have also seen a price surge as Russia, a major producer, has restricted its exports. All of this has a direct impact on food prices for the UK, and the House of Commons Library cites forecasts by research company Kantar that the average household grocery bill will increase annually by £380; an extra £32 a month.

2.5 Economic forecasts predict that the rising cost of living for households will worsen. The Governor of the Bank of England (BoE) has commented that “there are a lot of people out there who are very badly affected by this inflation – all inflation affects people on low incomes badly – but this time particularly because it is concentrated in energy and food.”<sup>10</sup>

2.6 The BoE has also forecast that inflation, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), “is expected to rise...from 9.4% in June to just over 13% in” October “and to remain at very elevated levels throughout much of 2023, before falling to the 2% target two years ahead.”<sup>11</sup> This forecast is mainly due to the previously anticipated October 2022 energy price cap increase and may be reduced to some extent by the Government's subsequent intervention on the price cap. However, the rate of CPI inflation may rise above 13% by the end of the year, and several economists have also predicted a rise of between 15% to 18% by early next year. To put this into context, the ONS have already

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<sup>7</sup> Ofgem '[Price cap to increase by £693 from April](#)', 3 February 2022

<sup>8</sup> Ofgem '[Ofgem updates price cap level and tightens up rules on suppliers](#)', 26 August 2022

<sup>9</sup> House of Commons Library briefing, *ibid*, page 22-24, BBC News '[Food bills are set to soar by £380 this year](#)', 21 June 2022

<sup>10</sup> BBC Today programme, 5 August 2022

<sup>11</sup> Bank of England Quarterly Monetary Report *ibid*



reported that CPI inflation has already risen to 10.1% in the 12 months to July 2022.<sup>12</sup>

- 2.7 The high level of inflation has impacts on the overall performance of the economy. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has reported<sup>13</sup> that the economy contracted by 0.1% in the three months to June, and on 4 August, the Bank of England raised interest rates for the sixth time this year, by 0.5% to 1.75%, in an effort to tackle to rising cost of living.<sup>14</sup> However, as inflation is significantly driven by energy and food prices due to external factors, it is unclear whether interest rate increases will help reduce inflation in the short to medium-term.
- 2.8 The Governor has added that when inflation starts to fall, he expects interest rates to settle below 5%, which was last seen before the 2008 financial crisis, saying, “I don’t think that in the steady state we are going back to where we were before the financial crisis.”<sup>15</sup> The risk of a prolonged economic downturn and interest rates remaining at pre-2008 levels increase the pressure on many households and the risk of long-term social and economic scarring to national and local economies.

### 3. How is this impacting upon people and households?

#### Cost of living:

- 3.1 Households are already feeling the effects of the rise in the cost of living and are having to adapt. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reports<sup>16</sup> that between March and June 2022, about 9 in 10 adults (89%) continue to report an increase in their living costs – this equates to about 46 million people. This has increased from 62%, or 32 million adults when the ONS first asked the question in November 2021 – significantly more people are being drawn into the crisis. 94% reported an increase in the prices of their food shopping, 82% an increase in gas or electricity bills, and 77% reported an increase in the price of fuel. People are having to make changes to cope with these price increases: while 57% are cutting back on non-essentials, worryingly, 51% are using less gas and electricity at home and 35% are cutting back on food and essentials. In addition to cutting back, just under a quarter of people (23%, approximately 11 million) are using savings to cover costs, and around 6 million people (13%) said they were using more credit than usual.
- 3.2 Disposable income<sup>17</sup> is set to fall by 3.7% over 2022 and 2023 – the biggest fall since records began in 1963. The Resolution Foundation calculates this as an average fall of £2000 for households during this period.<sup>18</sup> For household

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<sup>12</sup> ONS [Consumer Price Inflation UK: July 2022](#), 4 August 2022

<sup>13</sup> [GDP first quarterly estimate, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#), 12 August 2022

<sup>14</sup> Bank of England [Monetary Policy Summary](#), 4 August 2022

<sup>15</sup> BBC Today programme, 5 August 2022

<sup>16</sup> ONS [‘What actions are people taking because of the rising cost of living?’](#), 5 August 2022

<sup>17</sup> ONS definition: the amount of money households have available for spending and saving after direct taxes have been accounted for.

<sup>18</sup> House of Commons Library, *ibid* page 39-40, Resolution Foundation [‘Slower for Longer’](#) 4 August 2022

income, the BoE has forecast that “real household post tax income is projected to fall sharply in 2022 and 2023.”<sup>19</sup> This is on top of the fall in real-terms growth in total pay and regular pay in the year from April to June 2022 that the ONS has reported, at 2.5% and 3.0% respectively.<sup>20</sup> This is the fastest fall in regular pay for 20 years. Coupled with this, the unemployment rate is forecast to rise from 3.5% to 5.5% by 2024.

- 3.3 For more vulnerable groups, the picture looks worse. ONS reported<sup>21</sup> that disabled people were more likely reduce their spending on food and essentials due to increased costs than non-disabled people (42% compared to 31%). People aged between 55 and 74 years were more likely to be cutting their gas and electricity use (just under 60%), which, considering this was reported in warmer months, does not bode well for the winter. People renting who experienced rising costs were more likely to reduce their spending on food and essentials (46%) than those with a mortgage (33%). People living in the most deprived areas were more likely have cut back on spending on food and essentials (42%) than the average (35%), while more likely to be using credit more than usual:18% in most deprived areas compared with the average of 13%, and 8% in the least deprived areas.

### **Energy inflation impact:**

- 3.4 Low-income households<sup>22</sup> are disproportionately affected by the cost-of-living increases as they spend a larger proportion of their income on food and energy than average income households, thereby facing higher inflation. The Resolution Foundation estimated that a low-income household faces paying an additional £418 on their direct debit gas and electricity bills for the period of January to March 2023, compared to what was forecast for them back in May 2022. They are also more susceptible to ‘fuel stress’ whereby more than a tenth of household income is spent on energy, and the Resolution Foundation reports that an increasing number of households are facing this predicament. Arrears on energy bills are more widespread than seven months ago. Some 2 million low-income families (17%) are in arrears with energy bills, an increase of more than a quarter.<sup>23</sup>
- 3.5 Research has identified energy crisis hotspots across England and Wales local authorities.<sup>24</sup> Energy crisis hotspots are neighbourhoods (LSOAs<sup>25</sup>) where energy use is high and typical household income is below the national average. In many cases, energy use is high in these neighbourhoods because homes are poorly insulated, meaning they require more energy to remain warm. Swale and Thanet have the highest number and proportion of

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<sup>19</sup> Bank of England [Monetary Policy Summary and minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee on 3 August 2022](#)

<sup>20</sup> ONS [Average weekly earnings in Great Britain: August 2022](#), 16 August 2022

<sup>21</sup> ONS ‘What actions...’ ibid

<sup>22</sup> House of Commons Library, ibid page 40-43, Resolution Foundation ‘[Cutting back to keep warm](#)’, 15 August 2022

<sup>23</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation ‘[Cutting back to keep warm](#)’, 15 August 2022

<sup>24</sup> Friends of the Earth, published by the End Fuel Poverty Coalition

<sup>25</sup> Local-layer Super Output Areas: “small areas designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households” MHCLG [The English Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019](#), September 2019

neighbourhoods identified as energy crisis hotspots in the county, ranking 44th and 52nd out of 331 local authorities in England and Wales. The average annual energy bills in these hotspot areas are £2,226 (rising to £3,244 in October 2022) and £2,132 (rising to £3,105) respectively.

### **Universal Credit:**

- 3.6 The number of Universal Credit claimants in Kent peaked in March 2021 when 132,131 people were claiming (13.8% of 16–64-year-olds). Since then, the number of claimants has fallen slightly; however, the latest data (May 2022 to June 2022) shows that the number of claimants has increased slightly. This is true in all Kent districts except Dover and Folkestone & Hythe. All districts have seen an increase in claimants who were in work, while in all districts except Gravesham and Sevenoaks claimants who were not in work fell.

### **Pay:**

- 3.7 Pay has fallen further behind the rising cost of living, according to the latest official data. While average wages rose 4.7% between April and June, that was outpaced by inflation - or price rises - which is growing at a much faster pace. As a result, the "real value" of pay fell by 3%, according to the Office for National Statistics. Arrears have increased and families have been pushed to take on more borrowing. At the end of May and early June 2022, 4.6 million low-income households (40%) were in arrears in at least one type of bill or had fallen behind on their borrowing repayments. This is an increase of a fifth (21%) since the October 2021 survey.<sup>26</sup>

### **Food Banks:**

- 3.8 Independent food banks are struggling to cope with increases in demand for their services. 93% of organisations reported an increase or significant increase in the need for their services since the start of 2022. More than 80% of organisations reported that they have struggled with food supply issues over the last four months. 78% of these organisations saw a drop in food and/or financial donations and half of these organisations have needed to dip into their financial reserves to pay for food or vouchers. 95% of organisations reporting increases say that the cost-of-living crisis is the reason behind this.<sup>27</sup>

### **Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS):**

- 3.9 Prior to Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis, KSAS on average received a little over 7000 applications a year, with the service receiving 7112 applications in 2018/19, averaging 136.8 applications a week. Due to the financial pressures that have impacted communities since 2019, service demand has increased exponentially. KSAS received 28,728 applications during 2021/22, averaging 552.5 applications a week, this is an increase in

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<sup>26</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation – survey of 4,000 low income households

<sup>27</sup> IFAN independent food bank survey

service demand of over 300% (303.9%). This financial year, KSAS demand has been similar of that in 2021/22. With seasonal pressures and a further and significant uplift in the energy price cap in October, the service is expecting similar applications volumes as to those seen in last financial year. KSAS has administered a voucher scheme funded by the Household Support Fund Extension which saw unprecedented demand with over 4,000 applications received in one week. This further highlights the increasing financial pressures on residents.

## **Public Health:**

3.10 The Health Foundation<sup>28</sup> has highlighted that living in poverty is likely to lead to poorer health outcomes including:

- Increase in mortality rates - including excess deaths due to living in cold houses through hypothermia and infection, potential increase in suicide linked to depression and anxiety, heart attacks and strokes linked to experiencing long term anxiety and stress.
- Children experiencing food insecurity are more likely to suffer from anxiety and stress, and hunger in childhood has been linked to depression and suicidal episodes in teenagers. Hunger is also linked to increased levels of chronic illnesses such as asthma and impacts on years lived in good health.
- Mental health needs associated with money worries - feelings of low self-esteem, insecurity, anger, despair, anxiety and depression
- Burden of disease - the 'food poor' are at higher risk of developing chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The risk of developing hypertension, cancer and heart disease is also linked to long periods of low-level stress. Cold, damp and mouldy homes pose increased risks of respiratory infections and the onset or worsening of asthma
- Unhealthy lifestyle choices leading to increased risk of disease. Taking care of your own health is not a priority for the financially insecure. The conditions surrounding insecurity of income are linked to an increase in drug and alcohol consumption, smoking, lack of exercise and unhealthy eating.

## **4. Existing Support and the Current Response**

### **Government Support**

4.1. To date, the Government has provided a number of financial support interventions for households and individuals to help mitigate the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. These include<sup>29</sup>:

- a £400 payment per household which will be taken off their energy bills

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<sup>28</sup> The Health Foundation, [Poverty and Health](#), January 2018, '[Living in poverty was bad for your health long before COVID-19](#)', July 2020

<sup>29</sup> House of Commons Library briefing, *ibid*, pages 25-29.

- a £650 payment of two instalments in July and autumn 2022 for those on means-tested benefits (about 8 million people)
  - an additional £300 payment for approximately 8 million pensioners who receive the Winter Fuel Payment
  - an additional £150 payment for approximately 6 million people receiving disability benefits.
  - A council tax rebate of £150 for households in Bands A to D.
- 4.2. This amounts to a maximum of £1650 for an individual receiving the Winter Fuel Payment, disability benefits and the council tax rebate.
- 4.3. Throughout the pandemic, via various Grant funding streams, the Government provided local authorities with the means to provide additional support to vulnerable residents. On 23 March 2022, an extension to the Household Support Fund was announced. The allocation to Kent (received by KCC) in this tranche was £11.06m to be used by the end of September 2022. It is being utilised as follows:
- £4.74m devolved to Kent's 12 District Councils of which £3.60m ringfenced for pension age residents for energy bills, the remainder for local schemes targeted according to area need
  - £3.55m for Free School Meals over May half-term and £50 flat rate over summer holidays, building on the work that KCC has undertaken in this area since October 2020
  - £1.55m to be used by the Kent Support and Assistance Service and other services to distribute help to families in financial hardship
  - £1.22m for countywide initiatives to support households with energy and water
- 4.4. A key difference with this tranche in contrast to previous allocations is that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) specifically stipulated that a third must be spent on pension age residents.
- 4.5. As part of this support, KCC launched a voucher scheme with the Kent Support and Assistance Team (KSAS) to allow residents in need who met the eligibility criteria to apply for support. The scheme opened on the 29 July and within one week the scheme had unprecedented demand, receiving over 4,000 applications. The volume of applications received utilised the funding available and therefore the voucher scheme was forced to close.
- 4.6. In addition, KCC is running a referral scheme where professional partners can refer residents who meet the eligibility criteria for a fuel voucher. As with other voucher schemes, the scheme will remain open until the end of September, or until funding has been used.
- 4.7. The Government has announced that there will be a third Household Support Fund; however, details of this scheme have not yet been confirmed by the Government at the time of publication of this report. Initial DWP briefings suggest it is likely that the third round of funding will not require allocated amounts of spend to be used on families, or pension age residents. Assuming that when announced, the funding will have similar guidelines to previous rounds, it is suggested that support offered by KCC will continue in a similar pattern to previously. This could therefore include some support for families

eligible for free school meals, some funding issued to District and Borough Councils, some funding provided to an application form with KSAS, and some funding held for dedicated support with water and energy bills. Early discussions with partners also indicates support for warm hubs which will be considered as part of this fund where appropriate.

## **Kent County Council Support**

### **KCC Financial Hardship programme**

4.8. In February 2021, Kent County Council announced a local discretionary scheme designed to offer support directly to those Kent residents and businesses most impacted by the pandemic. The Helping Hands scheme would set aside £10m of the emergency Covid- 19 monies to underpin a raft of projects and workstreams that would support those in immediate need. In addition to this, the programme has been designed to provide a sustainable legacy and increase community resilience for the future when large one-off grants are no longer available.

4.9. The four categories of spend are as follows:

- £4m to support low-income households and households in financial distress, including through council services such as the Kent Support and Assistance Service, district and borough councils, voluntary and community sector organisations, such as Kent Community Foundation and utility companies such as South East Water.
- £3m to provide a range of support for businesses and the self-employed not in receipt of government funding, including through council services, district and borough councils, voluntary and community sector organisations, and business support organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce. This delivers support to businesses through funding projects which target delivery of growth, innovation and/or employment. Further information on this workstream will be provided in a report to Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee which will take into account any additional support announced by the government for businesses.
- £2.5m to tackle digital poverty, working with schools and colleges, district and borough councils and voluntary and community sector organisations.
- £500k to match-fund crowdfunded community projects and initiatives that support local communities in responding to and recovering from the impact of the pandemic.

4.10. £4m was allocated to support low-income households and those in financial distress. This includes providing support to families and individuals in food and fuel poverty and with other essentials through the Council's Kent Support and Assistance Service, district and borough councils, voluntary and community sector organisations, such as Kent Community Foundation and utility companies such as South East Water. The funding is and will also be used to provide financial advice and support to address debt and financial hardship and capability issues. Part of the funding is allocated to enhance existing services, including mental health, suicide prevention, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol misuse services, and support for both young and old experiencing

social isolation, all of which have seen significant increases in need due to the impact of the pandemic. A number of projects will be delivered over Winter 2022/23 to support residents in Financial Hardship which are outlined below:

- **Debt Advice** – the debt advice work is intending to provide financial advice and support to people in hardship and provide a financial plan to support them and improve their financial resilience. A key part of this has been supporting a Money and Mental Health project that since April 2022 has helped 265 clients. The service has helped with a number of different issues such as debt, benefits and housing. This has resulted in an income gain of just under £200k for clients as well as more than £34k of debt written off or rescheduled.
- **Underwritten Loans Scheme** – the underwritten loans scheme is a partnership project with Citizen’s Advice Bureau and Kent Savers. The project will provide no interest loans to residents in high interest debt. Applicants would need to undertake financial resilience training to improve their financial resilience, which will provide long term benefits to the residents. The scheme anticipates supporting over 200 people over the coming Winter.
- **Support for those who are new to financial hardship** – one of the areas of focus for the residential workstream is to support people who are new to financial hardship as a result initially of the pandemic, and now as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.

4.11. The Financial Hardship Programme includes the Helping Hands Scheme which expands on this work to utilise funding from other sources. As a result of this, three additional workstreams are included in the Financial Hardship Programme which also support tackling the cost-of-living crisis:

- **Data Sharing:** Across local authorities, at both County and District level, we cannot effectively identify individuals at risk of crisis. As such there is a strategic need to develop a solution which allows frontline teams greater visibility of individual vulnerability, both financially and socially to enable a proactive response in providing support. The Data Sharing Workstream has been testing two systems which specialise in extracting, combining, and representing data in a more useful way: Policy in Practice and Xantura. These systems are being implemented across Kent, in partnership with District level authorities.
- **Referrals:** This workstream promotes referring residents directly for support with other organisations, above simply signposting residents with contact information. By referring an individual to a support service, the ownership of contact is placed on the referring agency, and ensures the individual is not left to initiate contact at a time of crisis or hardship. KCC has launched a secure referral system called ReferKent across the county for organisations to refer individuals for financial advice and wider holistic support. The system will also provide the ability to track referrals and generate reports on aggregated data relating to the referrals made - meaning more targeted services can be developed. The ReferKent system launched a pilot on the 25 July 2022 and has so far recruited 14 organisations, with 17 organisations signed up to join the system. There have been 66 referrals over the first 6 weeks, and as the system is more

widely adopted, it is anticipated that this number will substantially increase. The system, alongside other referrals projects, aims to become systemic in the Kent community, allowing both residents and organisations to better connect and understand the support on offer. This will be especially crucial over the Winter as more people require support.

- **Free School Meals and Healthy Start:** This workstream aims to increase uptake of Free School Meals (FSM) and Healthy Start (HS) by automatically notifying and/or registering eligible families. This will ensure children who are entitled to healthy food receive it and schools access an additional £2.25m to close the attainment gap, as well as families receive an additional £1.4m support to buy food.

### **KCC's community services**

- 4.12. A number of services within KCC are either providing support where they can, or plan to in the months ahead:
- 4.13. **Kent's libraries** provide open and warm spaces that offer a range of free services including books, activities, ICT, WiFi, e-books/e-magazines/e-newspapers, and they are planning a promotional push because not everyone is aware of this offer. Wood Avenue Library in Folkestone is also hosting a [Community Fridge](#) scheme with partner organisations to provide free food supplies for the community, and Libraries, Registration & Archives (LRA) are looking to roll this out more widely. Dartford library hosts 'Green Doctor' sessions where experts come in to advise about energy grants, how to save energy and can also help refer to food banks. LRA can also offer spaces so that KCC services and partners wanting to reach people with advice or drop-in surgeries can host these in our libraries.
- 4.14. **The Gypsy and Traveller Service** will be carrying out a 'winter preparedness' campaign for all residents on its sites and will begin this in October by highlighting risks and signposting to support and advice. The service will also look to refer some of their more vulnerable residents to the Household Support Fund which could see them receive a £150 energy voucher.
- 4.15. **Public Protection** is currently seeing a steady increase in scams aiming to exploit the cost-of-living crisis. The service is already seeing sophisticated scams targeting heating cost reduction, council/government financial support grants, fake employment opportunities, and cheap food – financially devastating to those who are caught out. It is anticipated that this will follow the pattern of Covid whereby scams escalated and became more sophisticated over time. The service is also expecting to see increases in unsafe/cheaper counterfeit goods, including food, and in the run up to Christmas an increase in cheap, unsafe and counterfeit goods aimed at children.
- 4.16. The Public Protection group will be monitoring and coordinating tactical campaigns with partners, and Trading Standards, Kent Scientific Services and Community Wardens will continue to share intelligence, take direct action, and warn and inform the public using our digital and social media channels. Public Protection's digital and social media channels protected vast numbers of



residents and businesses against the wave of scams during the Pandemic, and will have a critical role in doing so again during the cost-of-living crisis – they have an enormous digital reach (3.4 million in July 2022) and will continue to warn the public about scams and other deceptive practices aimed at those most vulnerable during this crisis.

- 4.17. **The Kent Community Warden Service** provides an essential lifeline for many of our residents. Its support includes knowledge of benefits available to help residents access support, can identify residents in hardship who would be eligible for council tax reductions and make the request on their behalf, identify, engage with and support homeless individuals into accommodation, and work with District Council community hubs to help link eligible residents into Districts' hardship funds or to energy/fuel poverty advisers. Acting as a frontline, Community Wardens use local knowledge and intelligence from Trading Standards to check the legitimacy of traders, guard residents against fuel payment scams, and reinforce messages against illegal money lenders.
- 4.18. Community Wardens have knowledge of local resources such as food banks; for example, on the Isle of Sheppey, Wardens are engaged with four food banks that they regularly refer people to, and also support the Sheppey Support Bus which is a hub for people experiencing food poverty. The Wardens are also supporting locally emerging 'Heat Hubs' within community settings, which during the daytime welcome those who are struggling to heat their homes. Venues include nominated churches and libraries (such as Paddock Wood) and in some areas are run in partnership, such as the [scheme starting in September](#) with Age Concern Sandwich.
- 4.19. It is anticipated that the Community Wardens will spend a greater proportion of time engaging with and attempting to address the various needs of a growing cohort of vulnerable residents (beyond older people and homeless people) who will be increasingly affected by the cost-of-living crisis, especially those having to cut their expenditure on fuel and food, or experiencing heightened social isolation (for example, caused by reduced financial means) and deteriorating mental health. Community Wardens will support the re-instigation of any 'good neighbour' and community-based volunteer schemes (evident during the height of the Pandemic) to alleviate this.

#### **Social Care Services:**

- 4.20. Alongside our community services, KCC's social care services (adults and children's) will be working with vulnerable families many of whom will be at heightened risk of struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. It will be important that our social care and wider workforce who engage with service users and families directly are aware of the wider support and referral pathways that will be open to vulnerable residents so they can signpost them to the relevant agencies and support services.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1. As noted earlier, it is important to remember that the primary responsibility and means for addressing the inflationary cost-of-living crisis sits with the

Government, and the incoming Prime Minister and new Cabinet have already begun setting out additional proposals to deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

## Lobbying

- 5.2. In addition to the already announced interventions on energy price caps for households and businesses, should the new Government determine that additional targeted support to vulnerable individuals, households and communities is to be delivered through targeted grants via local authorities (as opposed to direct payment, price controls or the tax system) then KCC will of course stand ready to support the Government in meeting its objectives.
- 5.3. However, the clear lesson from the pandemic response is that any future funding from the Government should replicate the successes of the Covid Emergency Grant. This fund was unringfenced and allowed local authorities to put in place innovative solutions with long-term benefits that truly supported residents with wrap-around support. We would urge the Government that any grant support to local authorities has clear objectives but limited restrictions which gives KCC and its partners the ability to flexibly meet local need as it materialises, rather than against central Government planning assumptions.
- 5.4. Moreover, unlike the pandemic, which allowed the Council to bring a large proportion of its workforce to directly supporting the Response phase of Covid-19, the cost-of-living crisis is different in that local authorities must still deliver all of our services as business-as-usual, with the expectation that the crisis will also increase short, medium and long-term demand pressures on services which are already overheating. Therefore, the Government should recognise that to administer and deliver additional targeted grant schemes will require some element of capacity funding. If it is determined by Kent Leaders that it is necessary to stand back up District level Community Hubs as an effective means of intervention and support at a local level (see section below), this will also require additional capacity funding.
- 5.5. It will be for the Government to determine the policy objectives for any grant schemes delivered by local councils in meeting the cost-of-living crisis. However, we would strongly urge the Government to consider the immediate and direct benefit of providing grants schemes targeted at vulnerable households to improve thermal insulation. Almost half of the poorest fifth of households live in uninsulated homes, and it has been calculated that come January 2023, households in energy inefficient homes face paying an additional £231 a month than those in an EPC 'C' rated home.<sup>30</sup> Previous discounted insulation schemes have now ended, but this could provide direct

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<sup>30</sup> House of Commons Library, *ibid* page 40-43, Resolution Foundation '[Cutting back to keep warm](#)', 15 August 2022

and immediate benefit to vulnerable people whilst also supporting the council to meet our Environmental Step Change objectives.<sup>31</sup>

### **KCC commitment to providing ongoing support**

- 5.6. KCC is committed to continuing the support that it currently provides to vulnerable residents in need of financial support, insofar as the resources required do not impact on our ability to manage a balanced budget.
- 5.7. KSAS continues to work with residents who have experienced an unforeseen, short-term crisis or who are facing an emergency.
- 5.8. Support for residents with their energy bills continues to be provided through the Household Support Fund. KCC is currently delivering with partners the second round of this funding, and there are indications from the government that there will be an additional round of support for household bills from October 2022 to March 2023.
- 5.9. The Financial Hardship Programme will continue to build awareness in Kent's communities about current support available. This will be done through the development and expansion of the ReferKent network as well as working closely with the Voluntary, Community and Social sector (VCS) to share knowledge of support between organisations. KCC will continue to support local initiatives put forward by communities which help residents in hardship, for example warm hubs, where evidence supports this activity as being beneficial. By supporting different initiatives that have been identified locally, we will ensure that support given is tailored to the needs of the local area.
- 5.10. A key success of the Financial Hardship Programme has been the ability to remove barriers to data sharing and ensure that information is shared safely and securely to better support residents. The Programme will look to grow on this success, and use the processes put in place to help residents to access benefits that they are entitled to. Improving the take up of Free School Meals, Healthy Start, as well as other key benefits will help residents to maximise their income. Work is currently being undertaken to determine if it is possible to extend the timeframe of the programme, or specific aspects of the Programme, beyond March 2023.

### **Strengthening the short and long-term partner response**

- 5.11. It is almost certain that the cost-of-living crisis will drive an economic downturn, potentially a lengthy recession, which risks leaving some element of social and economic scarring which will have a negative impact on Kent residents and communities. Alongside any direct intervention from government, we need to ensure that our short-term response across statutory and voluntary partners is joined up, but also that we coordinate our future

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<sup>31</sup> KCC's Council Strategy 2022-26 [Framing Kent's Future](#).

partnership work to provide leadership and co-ordination from a system wide perspective and ensure any scarring effect is minimised.

## **Kent Districts**

- 5.12. In the immediate term we have a model template for joint working through the arrangements that were established to support Kent Council Leaders and Joint Kent Chief Executives through the Covid pandemic. An emergency meeting of Kent Council Leaders was convened on the 15 September.
- 5.13. At this meeting, Leaders agreed to expand the scope of the existing Financial Hardship Task & Finish Group to assess the data and intelligence on how the cost-of-living crisis is impacting Kent as it emerges and changes over time, provide a vehicle for strong political leadership and oversight to ensure strong coordination of our collective response to the crisis, and work together to determine the best way of devolving help and support to the local communities that need it most. Leaders agreed that it would also provide a single point of contact for Government and support Kent in providing clear messaging back to Government on issues as they emerge and the impact of any interventions. Membership of this group will include representatives from KCC, District and Borough Councils, Health, VCS, Parish and Town Councils, Police and Fire, and other statutory partners.
- 5.14. From the start of the pandemic a different approach was taken to the majority of County Councils across the country, with Kent County Council devolving a large amount of funding District Councils to support the establishment and operation of a range of crucial community-based initiatives including the Community Hubs, recognising the unique and crucial role District Councils play in their community, their knowledge of key local ground-level organisations and groups, and access to local facilities and staff which could be redeployed at short notice. The Community Hubs supported local people with food, emergency supplies and help whilst isolating (particularly Kent's Clinically Extremely Vulnerable community), help at community centres and youth hubs, ground-level VCS organisations delivering direct to vulnerable people including befriending services, debt advice and support for victims of domestic abuse. At the emergency 15 September meeting, Kent Council Leaders also considered the appropriateness of standing back up Community Hubs at a District level. This will be further informed by the work of the reconstituted Financial Hardship Task & Finish Group.

## **Integrated Care System (ICS)**

- 5.15. Traditionally, the NHS has been very focussed on meeting the immediate health needs or implications from any social or economic issues. However, the creation of the statutory Integrated Care Partnership for Kent and Medway, to which the upper tier local authorities in Kent are statutory members, will see them playing a wider role across the Kent and Medway as a system. One of the purposes of creating the ICS is to support addressing the broader social and economic pressures which impact on the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in the area.

- 5.16. As the Integrated Care Partnership develops further, it will be a natural vehicle through which Kent and Medway partners can work together to jointly address the medium to longer term impact that the cost-of-living crisis associated economic downturn will have. The ICS is required to develop an interim Integrated Care Strategy by December 2022 which will be influenced by Director of Public Health (DPH) professional advice and a refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The needs assessment will highlight how deprivation impacts on health inequalities and how the system can focus on preventative measures to mitigate the effects. This will undoubtedly pick up the latest impact on health inequalities caused by the cost-of-living crisis.
- 5.17. The ICS has requested a paper about cost of living at their October meeting to consider a collective response which will reference this paper. One of the issues that the Leader will be asking the Integrated Care Partnership Board to consider is whether there are additional monies within the system, however limited, that could be repurposed and reprioritised downstream to support direct intervention in the most vulnerable communities before that presents as demand for NHS services.

### **Voluntary, Community and Social Sector (VCS)**

- 5.18. Moreover, a considerable risk the ICS will need to consider is the risk that demand for preventative activity including social prescribing, which is a fundamental aim of NHS long-term plan to reduce demand on acute services, will increase significantly during the cost-of-living crisis, which in turn will place additional pressure on services provided by the VCS sector in Kent. It will be necessary to ensure that there is effective engagement and coordination of impact of the cost-of-living crisis on VCS both as a sector, and on the services they provide. The Kent VCS Strategic Partnership Board that was established following the Pandemic will play a vital role in assessing this impact and flagging key issues to statutory partners and Government. The ICS, KCC and District Councils are all represented on the VCS Strategic Partnership Board.
- 5.19. As a Council, we have committed to supporting the sector through our infrastructure support commitments in the Civil Society Strategy. This type of support will be vital in helping organisations who are under increasing pressure to look at or access training and support in relation to their organisational strategy, financial planning, budgeting, rebalancing costs and opportunities for collaboration, whilst not underestimating the challenges the sector are facing.

## **6. Recommendations:**

### **Cabinet is asked to:**

- (1) **NOTE and DISCUSS** the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on people and households and the current response to it.

(2) **NOTE** that a separate report on the impacts of the crisis on businesses and enterprises and the support available is scheduled to be presented at a future Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee.

(3) **NOTE** that the Financial Hardship Programme will continue to provide support to people and households over the winter period.

(4) **NOTE** that a third round of the Household Support Fund is expected to be provided by Government and, depending on any restrictions, KCC's intention is to allocate the funding as it has previously between support for families eligible for free school meals, some funding issued to District and Borough Councils, some funding provided through KSAS, and some funding held for dedicated support with water and energy bills.

(5) **AGREE** that KCC will lobby Government to ensure that any cost-of-living grant support to local authorities has clear objectives but limited restrictions to allow KCC and its partners to flexibly meet local need, and that capacity funding is provided to local authorities to administer and deliver any such schemes.

(6) **AGREE** that KCC will lobby Government to consider the immediate and direct benefit of providing grants schemes targeted at vulnerable households to improve thermal insulation.

(7) **NOTE** that an emergency meeting of Kent Council Leaders did go ahead on the 15 September to discuss the cost-of-living crisis and how Kent councils should respond jointly. This included agreement to expand the scope of the Financial Hardship Task & Finish Group.

(8) **NOTE** the potential for the Integrated Care Partnership to be the vehicle through which Kent and Medway partners can work together to jointly address the medium to longer term impact of the cost-of-living crisis, and that the Integrated Care Partnership will discuss a paper about cost of living at their October meeting and consider a collective response.

## **7. Contact details**

### **Relevant Director:**

David Whittle, Director of Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance (SPRCA)

[david.whittle@kent.gov.uk](mailto:david.whittle@kent.gov.uk)

03000 416833



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