

From: Paul Carter, the Leader and Cabinet Member for Business Strategy, Audit and Transformation and Commercial and Traded Services
David Cockburn, Corporate Director for Strategic and Corporate Services

To: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2016

Subject: Welfare Reform Update

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report provides the Committee with an update on the indicators relating to Welfare Reform.

Recommendation(s):

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to NOTE and COMMENT on the Welfare Reform Update report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The last Welfare Reform report was presented to the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee in January 2015.
- 1.2. It was agreed that a follow on report in the form of an annual update should be provided to the Committee.

2. The Report

- 2.1. The Welfare Reform Update report as attached as Appendix 1. This is provided as a statistical report on the past trends for a range of indicators relating to changes for benefit claimants due to Welfare Reform, and to the wider contextual situation such as the economic context and housing market.
- 2.2. The Update does not provide any forecasts of planned or potential future changes to the Welfare system.
- 2.3. In providing the update a small number of changes and improvements have been made in the presentation of the available information, which are outlined below.
- 2.4. The indicators have been grouped into new sections relating to particular topics of interest in relation to the issues. There are now separate sections relating to changes in benefits, migration, economic context, housing and other indicators.

- 2.5. A fuller range of indicators are now available in relation to the various changes to the Welfare system, so new information has been added to the report, which was not included in the last reform.
- 2.6. Additional indicators have been included for Migration, the Economic Context, and the Housing Market to ensure a balanced and full overview of these areas.
- 2.7. The Welfare Reform Update is a self-contained statistical report including an introduction and a summary of findings.
- 2.8. As with the last report, it is difficult to draw any conclusions that changes in one area such as migration or housing are related to Welfare Reform or to the general economic context within which the Reform is taking place.
- 2.9. It is the intention that the Welfare Reform Update will be published on the KCC web-site following discussion by the Committee.

3. Recommendation(s):

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to NOTE and COMMENT on the Welfare Reform Update report.

4. Contact details

Report Author: Richard Fitzgerald
Business Intelligence Manager - Performance
Strategic Business Development and Intelligence
03000 416091
Richard.Fitzgerald@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director: Emma Mitchell
Director of Strategic Business Development & Intelligence
03000 421995
Emma.Mitchell@kent.gov.uk

Welfare Reform Update

February 2016



Introduction.....	4
Summary of findings.....	5
Section 1: Benefit changes.....	6
1.1 Benefit Cap.....	6
1.2 Housing Benefit Flows.....	11
1.3 Removal of spare room subsidy.....	11
1.4 Universal Credit Claimants.....	13
1.5 Child Benefit.....	14
1.6 PIP & health related benefits.....	17
1.7 Benefits Sanctions.....	19
Section 2: Migration.....	25
2.1 Net Migration.....	25
2.2 Internal Migration.....	27
2.3 Migration from London.....	29
2.4 Child protection transfers into Kent.....	33
2.5 In School Moves.....	33
2.6 In school moves from London Boroughs.....	34
Section 3: Economic Context.....	37
3.1 Employment rate.....	37
3.2 Unemployment.....	38
3.3 Earnings.....	41
3.4 Benefit claimants.....	43
3.5 Children in out of work benefit households.....	47
3.7 Business Demography.....	49
Section 4: Housing.....	52
4.1 Homeless households.....	52
4.2 Local authority housing lists.....	53
4.3 Rents and Local Housing Allowance.....	54
4.4 Landlord and mortgage possessions.....	57
4.5 House prices and affordability.....	58
5.1 Foodbanks.....	59
5.2 Citizens Advice Bureau visits.....	60
5.3 Kent Support and Assistance Service.....	61

Time-line of Welfare Reform changes – 2012 - 2016

Autumn 2012	Jan 2013	Apr 2013	Jun 2013	Jul 2013	Oct 2013	Apr 2014	Feb 2015	Apr 2015	Oct 2015	Apr 2016
12 local authority led Universal Credit pilot begins	Child Benefit becomes means tested	Council Tax Benefit is replaced by localised Council Tax Reduction schemes.	The Benefit Cap starts in four local authority areas - Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey.	Parts of the Social Fund abolished, including Community Care grants and Crisis Loans. In England, local authorities given money to spend on local schemes.	New claims for PIP introduced nationally	Reassessment of DLA claims for PIP for those reporting changes or reaching end of award	Removal of access to Housing Benefit for EEA jobseekers	Universal credit introduced in some areas in Kent	Benefit cap reduced to £20,000 for those living outside London (£23,000 for those living inside London)	
		Housing Benefit 'bedroom tax' for social housing tenants introduced	Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is introduced in selected areas. The Benefit Cap starts in four local authority areas - Bromley, Croydon, Enfield and Haringey.	Benefit cap national roll out begins (to be complete by September 2013)		New claims for Universal Credit start being rolled out to other areas of the UK	Roll out of UC across the country for new single claimants		Reassessment of remaining DLA caseload for PIP begins	

Introduction

This data report provides an update to the report presented in January 2015.

Welfare Reform roll outs are well underway in Kent and the initial impacts of changes to the benefits system can now be seen.

In Kent the removal of the Spare Room Subsidy (commonly known as the bedroom tax) was introduced in April 2013 and the Benefit Cap in July 2013.

From June 2013 Personal Independence Payment or PIP (replacing Disability Living Allowance - DLA) was introduced for new claimants aged 16 to 64 and from October 2013 existing DLA claimants who had changes to report or were reaching the end of an award were reassessed for PIP. From October 2015 the remaining DLA caseload began to be assessed for PIP.

Universal Credit roll out in Kent began in April 2015. Universal Credit is currently available in Ashford, Gravesend, Maidstone, Margate, Ramsgate, Sheerness, Sittingbourne, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Medway Jobcentre areas, however it is only available to single claimants without a partner and without child dependents. Universal Credit will become available in the remaining Jobcentre areas from January 2016.

Working age benefits and tax credits will be frozen for four years from 2016 while pensioner benefits are protected. The rates of other benefits such as Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Employment and Support Allowance are increased in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) however, a fall in the CPI in the year to September 2015 means these benefits will not be increased in the next financial year.

2016 will see further welfare reform changes (not presented in this report), including the benefit cap threshold being reduced to £20,000 (or £23,000 for those living in London).

Increasingly more statistical information is being made available which reflects the changes which are underway. However many of the data are still classified as experimental statistics and are subject to revision.

This update uses the latest data available from government, internal and external sources to provide a holistic picture of the impact of welfare reform changes on Kent.

Comparisons are provided with regional (South East) and national figures where available. The first section (Impact of Welfare Reform) includes an additional comparison with London.

Summary of findings

Since the original conception of welfare reform changes the economy in general has improved, both locally and nationally. More people are finding employment, earnings have increased steadily and house prices have recovered and are now at an all-time high. For this reason it is not possible to say whether changes in the population and those claiming benefits can be attributed solely to the changes that the benefits system is undergoing. Economic stability and greater business confidence is a significant factor in the increased numbers of people who are now in work and the reduction of the number of children in out of work benefit claimant households.

We are however able to look at each of the key changes individually and see how they have affected the population in Kent.

In Kent 384 households had their benefit capped as at August 2015 accounting for 0.6% of Housing Benefit claimants in the county, below the national average of 1.0%. This has fallen since the original introduction of the cap. The majority of capped households in Kent were households with 3 or more child dependents, almost a third of which were in Swale and Thanet districts. Further households are likely to be impacted when the cap limit is reduced in April 2016.

5,884 Housing Benefit claimants in Kent were affected by the spare room subsidy (bedroom tax) as at August 2015, accounting for 5.9% of all claimants, below the national average of 8.5%. The number in Kent affected has fallen by 1,102 since its introduction in 2013. The majority of those affected are subject to a reduction in their benefit of up to £20 per week.

Universal Credit began to be introduced in Kent in April 2015 and will be available in all areas in Kent in early 2016. Universal Credit is currently only available to single claimants with no dependants. As at October 2015 there were 1,407 Universal Credit claimants, two thirds of which were out of work claimants.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) was introduced in April 2013 to replace Disability Living Allowance for 16-64 year olds. As at June 2015 there were 8,896 PIP claimants in Kent. The length of time it takes to process a claim for PIP is higher in the South East and London regions than anywhere else in the country, 9 weeks as opposed to a national average of 6 weeks.

There is no evidence of significant atypical inward migration from London. Most of the migration from London into Kent is into the west of the county from the neighbouring areas of Bromley and Bexley.

With local authority housing at full capacity many Housing Benefit claimants are encouraged to rent through a private landlord. Private landlord rents vary across the county. In many areas including Canterbury, Dartford and Sevenoaks they are significantly higher than the amount of housing benefit a person could receive. This applies to properties of all sizes.

Section 1: Benefit changes

1.1 Benefit Cap

The cap on benefits for working age households was introduced to ensure that households in receipt of a working age benefit did not receive more in benefits than the average weekly wage for working households.

For the majority of households the cap is administered through Housing Benefit, with the household's Housing Benefit entitlement being reduced so that the total amount of benefit a household receives is not higher than the cap.

As at August 2015 384 households in Kent were affected by the benefit cap. More than a quarter of these households were in Thanet and Swale districts. The rate per 1,000 households is lower in Kent than seen nationally, although higher than the South East regional rate. Significantly higher rates of London households are capped than anywhere else in the country and they account for 47.5% of all capped households in England.

Table 1: Households affected by the benefit cap – August 2015

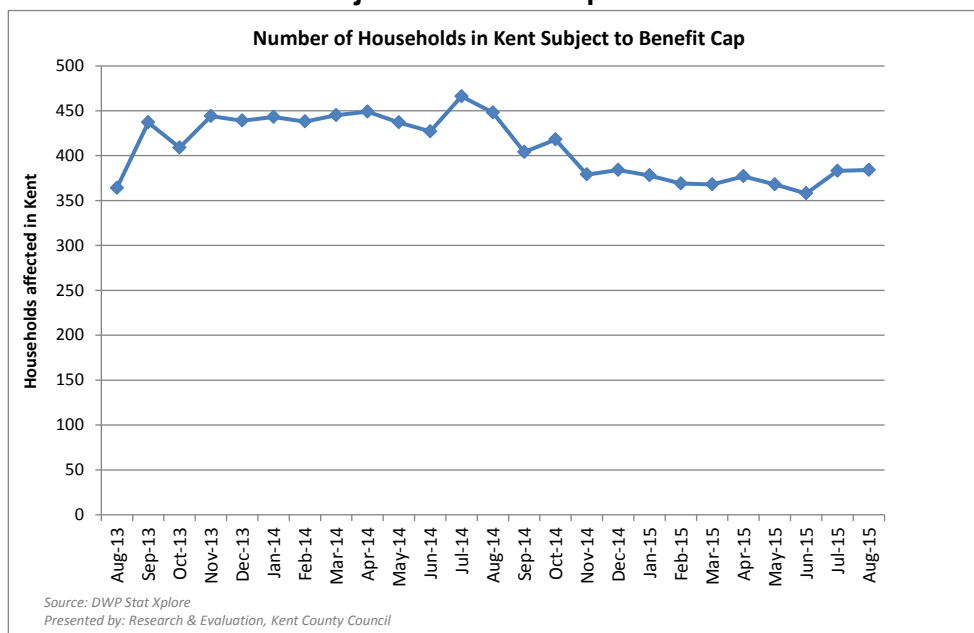
	Total Number of Households (2012)	Households affected by benefit cap	Households affected by the benefit cap per 1,000 households
Kent	613,987	384	0.6
South East	6,274,899	2,419	0.4
London	3,329,512	10,377	3.1
England	22,304,760	21,839	1.0

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; DCLG Household Figures 2012

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The number of households affected has fallen since the initial introduction of the cap, a pattern that is also seen nationally, however further impacts are likely when the benefit threshold is lowered from £26,000 to £20,000 (£23,000 for those living within London) in 2016.

Chart 1: Households subject to benefit cap



The majority of Kent households subject to the benefit cap were capped by £100 a week or less.

Table 2: Households affected by the benefit cap – amount capped – August 2015

	Households affected	up to £50	£50.01 to £100	£100.01 - £200	£200.01 - £300	£300.01 - £400 and above
Kent	384	258	75	25	0	0
South East	2,419	1,453	605	311	40	0
London	10,377	5,678	2,425	1,694	440	146
England	21,839	12,581	5,501	3,082	511	160
Kent	100%	67%	20%	6.5%	0.0%	0.0%
South East	100%	60%	25%	12.9%	1.7%	0.0%
London	100%	55%	23%	16.3%	4.2%	1.4%
England	100%	58%	25%	14.1%	2.3%	0.7%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Note: Due to DWP rounding methodology percentages may not sum.

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

In Kent the data shows that the majority of benefit claimants affected have children, two thirds of these are single parents.

Table 3: Capped benefit households by family type, August 2015

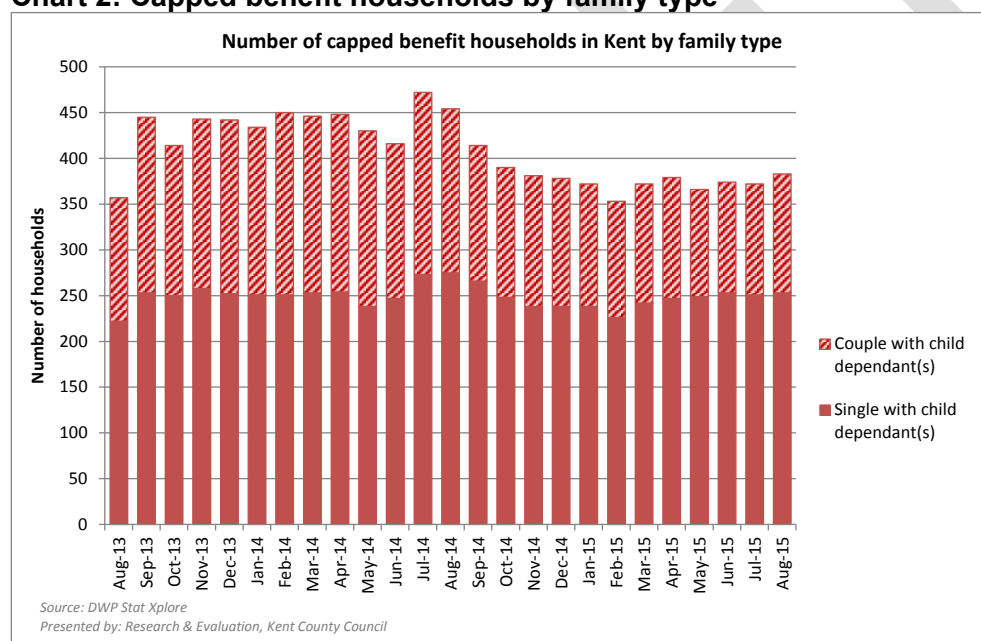
	Households affected	Single, no child dependant	Single with child dependant(s)	Couple, no child dependant	Couple with child dependant(s)
Kent	384	5	253	0	130
South East	2,419	18	1,726	0	668
London	10,377	1,053	7,002	19	2,299
England	21,839	1,103	14,199	28	6,509
Kent	100%	1.3%	65.9%	0.0%	33.9%
South East	100%	0.7%	71.4%	0.0%	27.6%
London	100%	10.1%	67.5%	0.2%	22.2%
England	100%	5.1%	65.0%	0.1%	29.8%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Note: Due to DWP rounding methodology percentages may not sum.

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 2: Capped benefit households by family type



The families affected in Kent are larger families (those with at least 3 children).

Table 4: Households affected by the benefit cap – number of child dependants – August 2015

	Households affected	No child dependant	1-2 child dependants	3-4 child dependants	5 or more child dependants
Kent	384	5	0	40	165
South East	2,419	17	95	748	717
London	10,377	1,076	2,896	5,152	1,254
England	21,839	1,133	3,086	7,038	7,244
Kent	100%	1.3%	0.0%	10.4%	43.0%
South East	100%	0.7%	3.9%	30.9%	29.6%
London	100%	10.4%	27.9%	49.6%	12.1%
England	100%	5.2%	14.1%	32.2%	33.2%

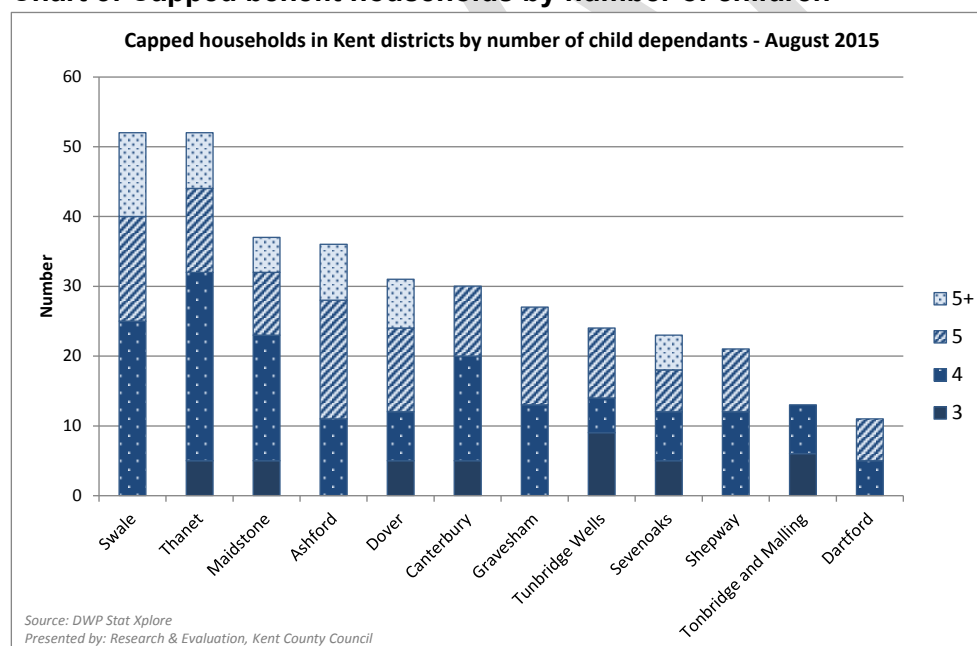
Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Note: Due to DWP rounding methodology percentages may not sum.

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Some of the largest families affected by the benefit cap live in Thanet and Swale. A third of the affected households in Kent with 5 or more children live within these districts.

Chart 3: Capped benefit households by number of children



More of the households which are currently capped are renting within the social sector. This has changed since the beginning of the cap where more were living in private rented accommodation.

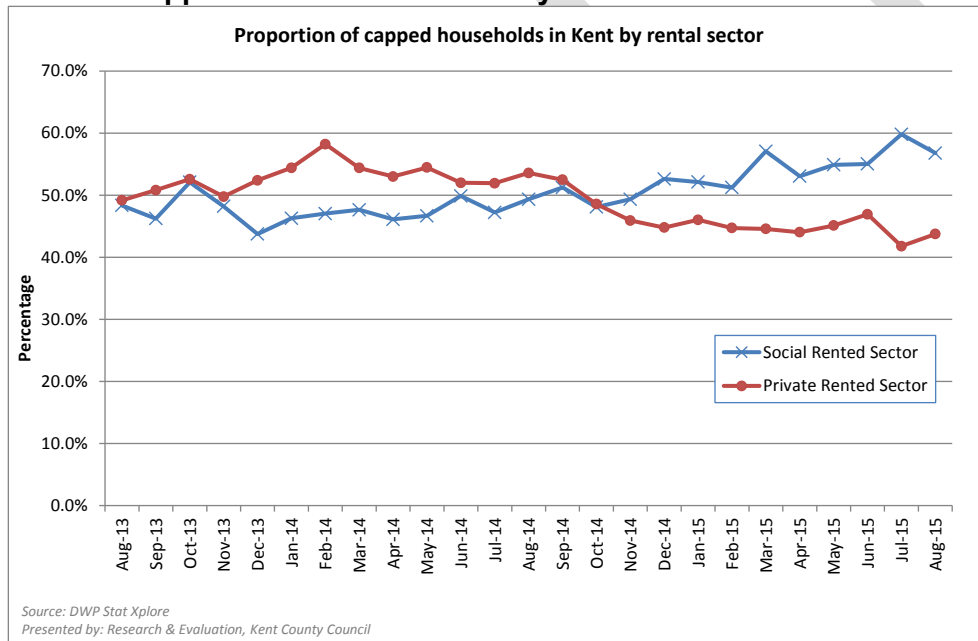
Table 5: Households affected by the benefit cap – rental sector – August 2015

	Households affected	Social Rented Sector	Private Rented Sector
Kent	384	218	168
South East	2,419	1,233	1,180
London	10,377	5,146	5,000
England	21,839	11,487	10,125
Kent	100%	56.8%	43.8%
South East	100%	51.0%	48.8%
London	100%	49.6%	48.2%
England	100%	52.6%	46.4%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 4: Capped benefit households by rental sector



1.2 Housing Benefit Flows

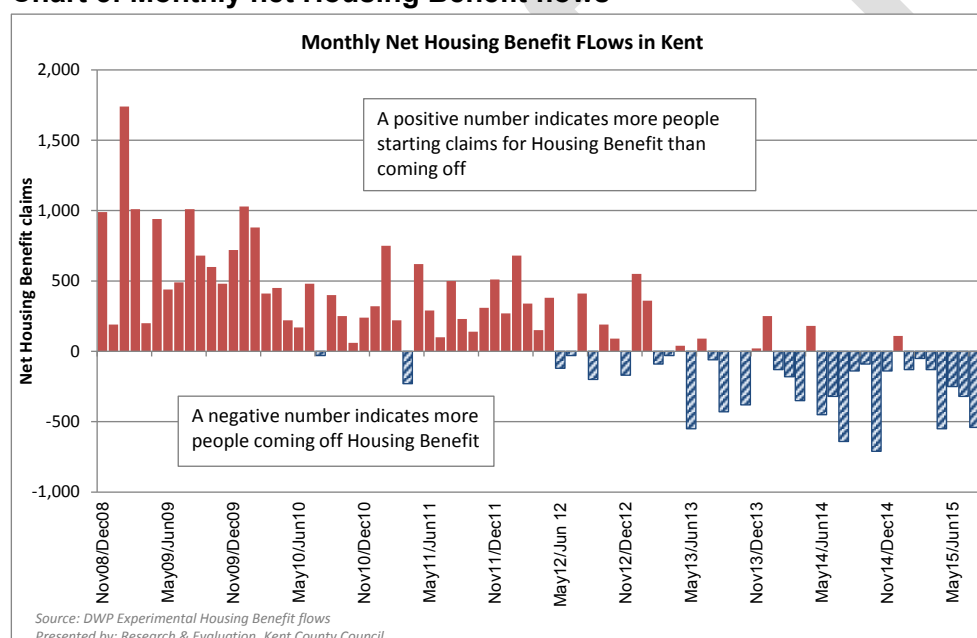
Housing Benefit flows data are new experimental statistics from the Department of Work and Pensions. The data shows that over the last two years more people were coming off Housing Benefit than starting new claims.

Table 6: Net Housing Benefit claimant flows

	Jul09 to Aug09	Jul10 to Aug10	Jul11 to Aug11	Jul12 to Aug12	Jul13 to Aug13	Jul14 to Aug14	Jul15 to Aug15
Kent	1,010	-30	500	410	-60	-640	-540
South East	3,130	-410	1,500	840	-150	-2,270	-3,150
London	3,890	1,390	2,670	2,760	2,900	-1,940	-4,580
GB	15,350	-850	15,280	13,550	3,780	-25,490	-34,940

Source: DWP Housing Benefit Flows Experimental Statistics
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 5: Monthly net Housing Benefit flows



1.3 Removal of spare room subsidy

The removal of the spare room subsidy (also known as bedroom tax) means that Housing Benefit claimants living in social rented properties have their Housing Benefit reduced if they had more bedrooms than they need.

The number of people in Kent that have been affected by this change has fallen since it was introduced in 2013 however there remain 5,884 Housing Benefit claimants affected. The majority of those affected (almost 80%) are subject to a reduction of up to £20 per week.

1,240 claimants in Kent are having their benefit reduced by £20 or more, accounting for one in five of all Housing Benefit claimants in the county.

To avoid having their benefit reduced claimants in social housing need to move into a property with fewer bedrooms. They can apply to their social

housing provider to be added to their waiting list to enable them to move to a property with fewer bedrooms when one becomes available.

Table 7: Housing Benefit claimants subject to removal of spare room subsidy, August 2015

	Total Number of Housing Benefit Claimants	Number of Housing Benefit claimants subject to removal of spare room subsidy	Percentage of Housing Benefit claimants subject to removal of spare room subsidy	Number change in claimants subject to removal of spare room subsidy since May 2013	Percentage change in claimants subject to removal of spare room subsidy since May 2013
Kent	99,728	5,884	5.9%	-1,102	-15.8%
South East	521,947	30,320	5.8%	-6,570	-17.8%
London	811,831	45,038	5.5%	-10,096	-18.3%
England	4,090,008	347,627	8.5%	-65,740	-15.9%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 6: Housing Benefit claimants subject to removal of spare room subsidy

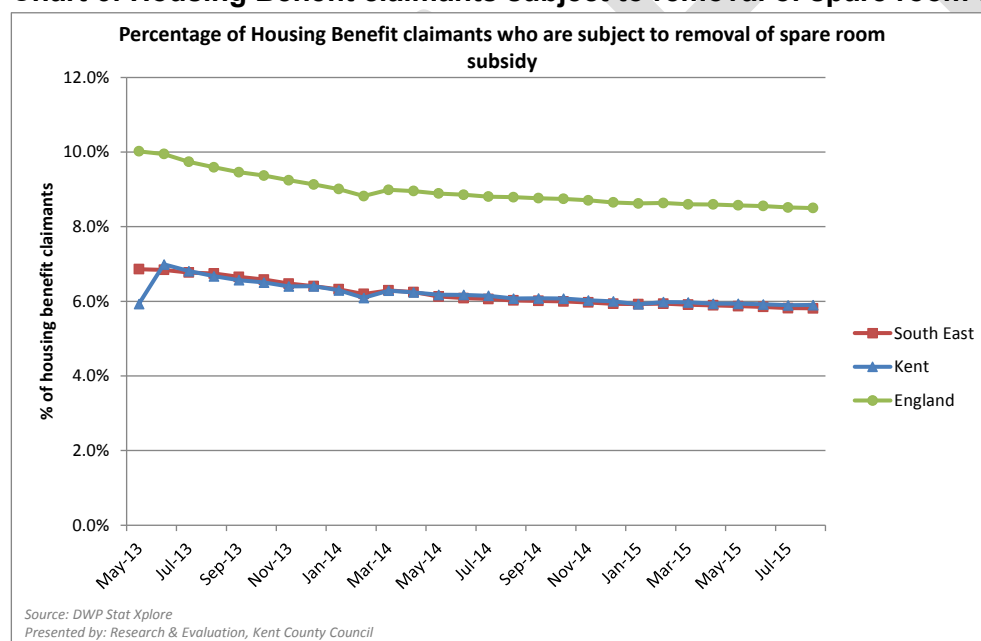


Table 8: Proportion of claimants subject to removal of spare room subsidy by weekly reduction amount, August 2015

	Number subject to removal of spare room subsidy	Up to £4.99	£5 to £9.99	£10 to £14.99	£15 to £19.99	£20 to £24.99	£25 and above
Kent	5,884	0.0%	1.0%	41.6%	36.3%	8.0%	13.1%
South East	30,320	0.0%	0.8%	29.2%	46.5%	8.3%	15.2%
London	45,038	0.0%	0.6%	8.6%	51.7%	18.0%	21.2%
England	347,627	0.0%	2.9%	56.7%	20.4%	11.8%	8.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

1.4 Universal Credit Claimants

Since April 2015 Universal Credit has started to be rolled out within Kent, It is currently available in the following Jobcentre areas: Ashford, Gravesend, Maidstone, Margate, Ramsgate, Sheerness, Sittingbourne, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells & Medway however it is only available to single claimants without a partner and without child dependents. It will be rolled out to the remaining Jobcentre areas in Kent in early 2016

The government plans to have expanded the roll out of Universal Credit to all areas by April 2016. From 2017 Universal Credit will be extended to new benefit claims by all claimants (with or without dependents) will be for Universal Credit not existing benefits and tax credits. Existing benefit and tax credit claimants who do not have a change of circumstance will not be affected until 2018 at the earliest, however no timetable has been announced for this.

In May 2015 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) began to release early figures showing the number of people claiming Universal Credit. These figures are new and are considered as experimental, therefore may be subject to revision.

In Kent as at October 2015 there were 1,407 claimants of Universal Credit. There were twice as many claimants who were out of work as were in work.

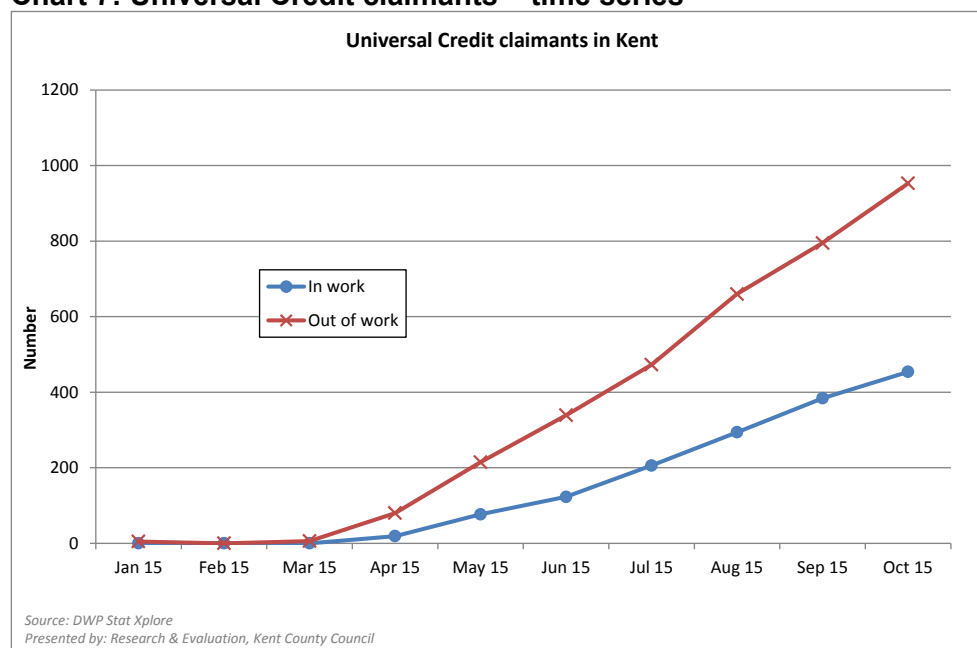
Table 9: Universal Credit claimants – October 2015

	Total Number of Universal Credit Claimants	Universal Credit Claimants in Employment	Universal Credit Claimants Not in Employment
Kent	1,407	454	953
South East	4,313	1,319	2,992
London	7,334	2,024	5,307
England	122,216	40,139	82,072

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 7: Universal Credit claimants – time series



The majority of Universal Credit claimants are aged 18 to 24, for both in work and out of work claimants, however this is unsurprising as the benefit is currently only available in Kent to single claimants without dependents.

Table 10: Kent Universal Credit claimants by age – October 2015

	Total UC claimants	Out of work UC claimants	In work UC claimants
18-24	58.5%	60.0%	55.3%
25-34	20.2%	19.0%	22.7%
35-44	8.6%	8.4%	9.0%
45-54	8.7%	9.1%	7.7%
55+	3.1%	2.8%	3.5%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

1.5 Child Benefit

Child benefit is a tax-free payment that is aimed at helping parents cope with the cost of bringing up children.

From January 2013 the eligibility rules for claiming Child Benefit changed. The benefit is no longer universal and contains some element of means testing.

Families with at least one parent earning more than £50,000 a year can no longer claim the total amount of child benefit. If one of the parents earns more than £60,000, they may choose to stop claiming Child Benefit altogether. Alternatively, it can continue to be claimed however it must be disclosed in a

self-assessment tax form. It is then recovered by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs by taxing the parent's earnings.

As at August 2014 170,250 families were in receipt of Child Benefit, with 295,680 children benefitting.

Table 11: Child Benefit claimants – August 2014

	Number of families in receipt	Number of children in families in receipt
Kent	170,250	295,680
South East	959,600	1,656,975
London	982,060	1,738,575
England	6,259,275	10,913,100

Source: HMRC

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

7.3% of families in Kent opted out of Child Benefit when the financial eligibility rules came into force in 2013. This increased to 8.7% in 2014. This is below the average for the region (12.0%) but is higher than the national average (6.7%). In 2014 26,490 children in Kent were affected, 9.0% of children who would have been eligible if the benefit were not means tested.

Table 12: Families opting out of Child Benefit – August 2014

	Number		%	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Kent	12,530	14,895	7.3%	8.7%
South East	97,455	115,545	10.0%	12.0%
London	47,325	89,190	4.5%	8.3%
England	352,725	421,715	5.6%	6.7%

Source: HMRC

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 8: Percentage of families opting out of Child Benefit claim

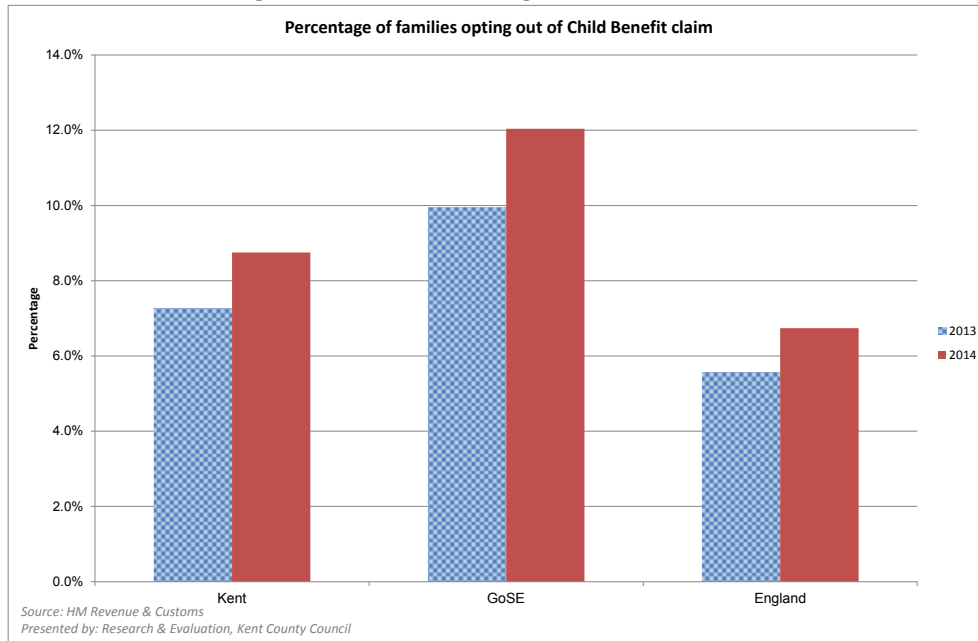


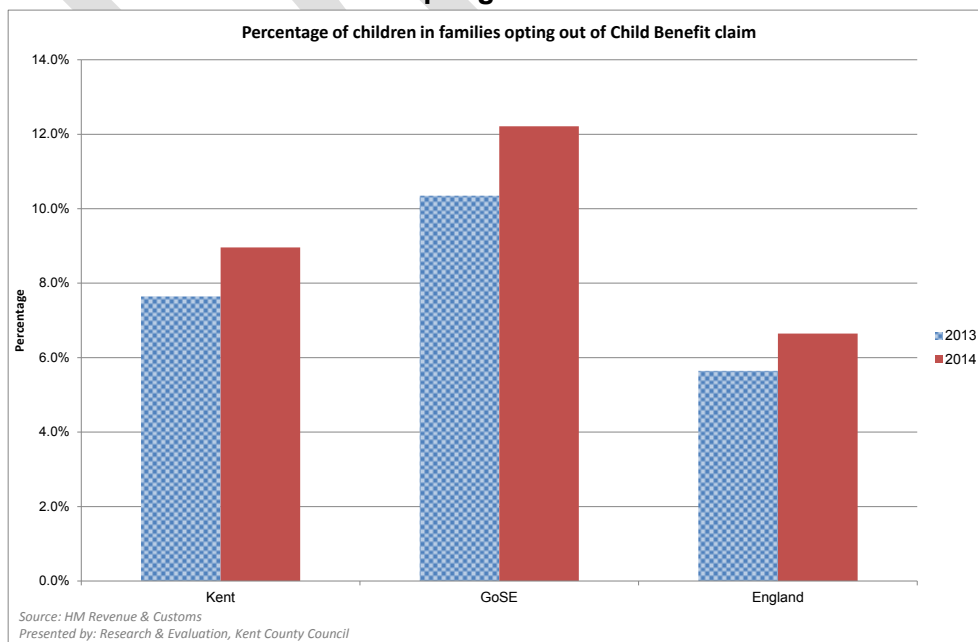
Table 13: Children in families opting out of Child Benefit – August 2014

	Number		%	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Kent	22,880	26,490	7.6%	9.0%
South East	175,245	202,380	10.3%	12.2%
London	82,150	149,820	4.5%	7.9%
England	622,430	725,545	5.6%	6.6%

Source: HMRC

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 9: Children in families opting out of Child Benefit claim



1.6 PIP & health related benefits

Personal Independent Payment (PIP) was introduced in April 2013. It is paid to eligible people aged 16 to 64. It is a new benefit which is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for working age people. From June 2013 this incorporated all new disability related claims in the country from anyone aged 16-64. Gradually existing 16-64 year old claimants of DLA will be asked to claim PIP until by 2017 all existing DLA claimants will have been invited to claim PIP and reassessed accordingly. New and existing claimants under the age of 16 will continue to be able to claim DLA.

Claims for PIP are sent to assessment providers who decide whether or not an applicant needs a face to face interview. Most applicants will be invited for interview with a healthcare worker however written evidence alone may be acceptable under special circumstances for example for those who are terminally ill.

By the end of July 2015 20,301 people in Kent had registered for PIP, 17,875 claims had gone through the clearance process, where a decision whether or not to award PIP had been made, and 9,059 people had been awarded PIP.

Table 14: PIP registrations, clearances & awards up to July 2015

	Registrations	Clearances	Awards
Kent	20,301	17,875	9,059
South East	99,546	86,446	44,221
England	911,605	797,875	427,624

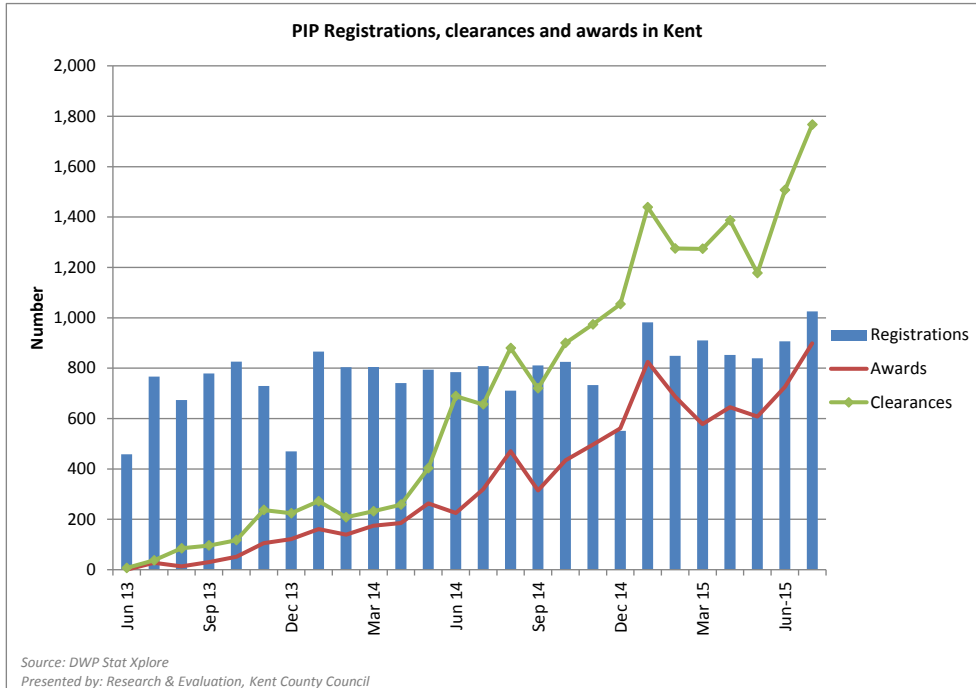
Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The number of registrations for PIP has increased as reassessment of DLA claimants has been rolled out.

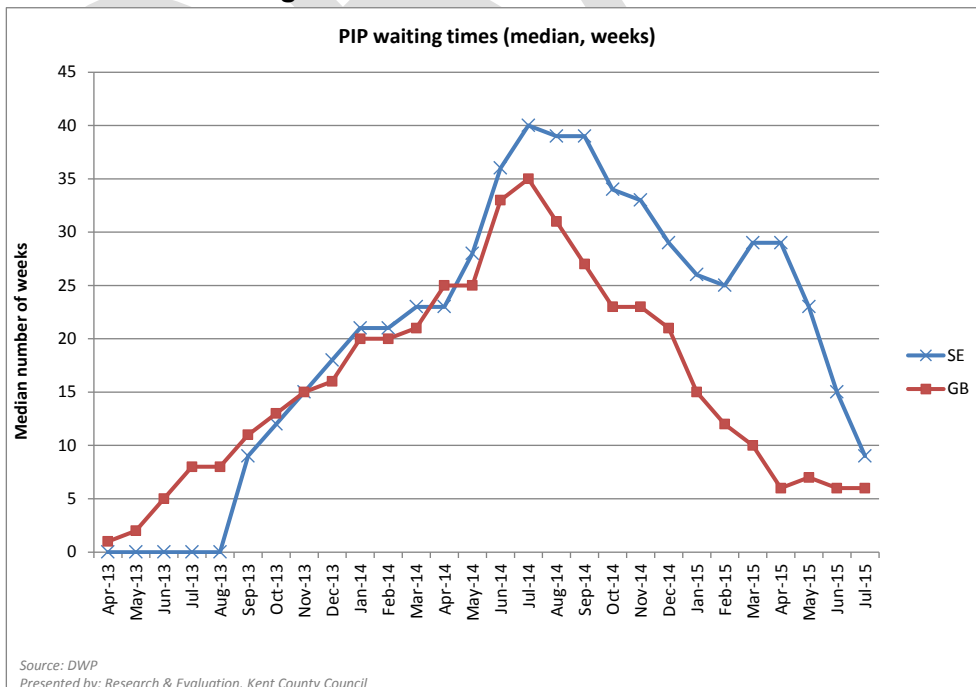
The number of decisions made to claimants (clearances) increased significantly from April 2014 in Kent.

Chart 10: PIP registrations, clearances and awards



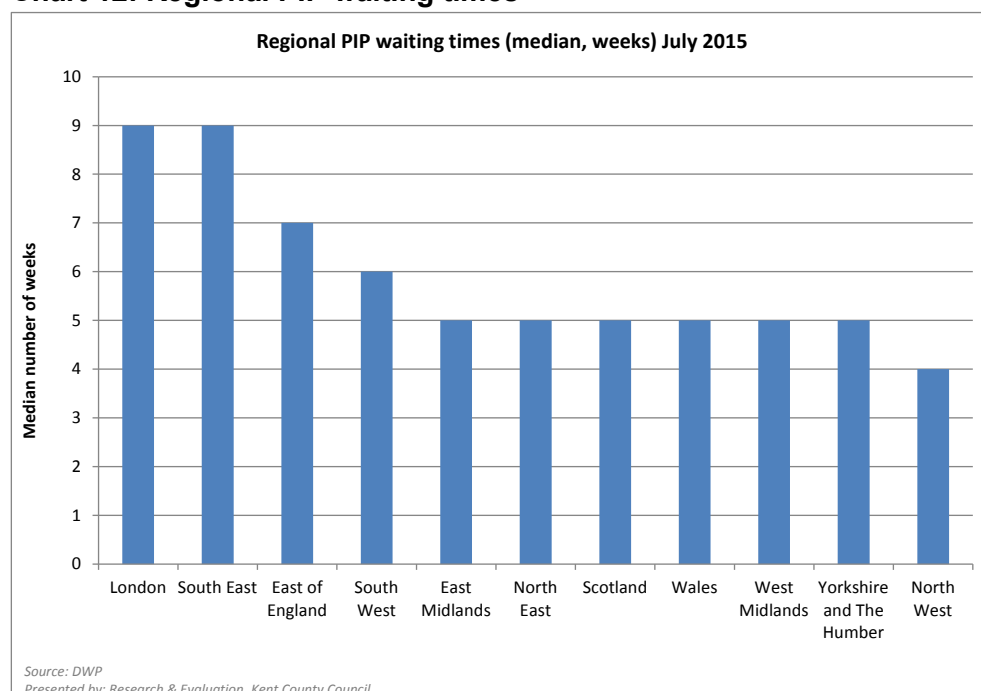
The average length of time an application for PIP takes is higher in the South East than is seen nationally. As at July 2015 the average time taken to process a claim in the South East, from referral to assessment providers to a final decision being made, was nine weeks. This compares to the national average of six weeks.

Chart 11: PIP waiting times



Waiting times for a PIP claim to be processed are higher in the South East and London than any other region in the country.

Chart 12: Regional PIP waiting times



Currently 1% of the 16-64 year old population in Kent have been assessed as being eligible and are now claiming PIP (8,896 claimants).

Table 15: Personal Independence Payments – June 2015

	Total PIP Caseload July 2015	% of 16-64 population
Kent	8,896	1.0%
South East	43,044	0.8%
England	425,058	1.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

1.7 Benefits Sanctions

Benefit claimants must comply with the rules which apply to the individual benefit that they are claiming. If they do not comply with these rules and do not have a good reason for not doing so then their benefit may be suspended, stopped or their claim ended altogether. This is called a sanction.

Depending on the benefit a sanction may last for between 4 weeks and 156 weeks (JSA) or for an indeterminate time (ESA) depending on which rules or how many rules the claimant has failed to comply with.

JSA Sanctions

Jobseekers Allowance claimants are expected to take specific agreed steps to look for employment. If they fail to do this a sanction (suspensions of benefit) will be applied.

From October 2012 new JSA sanction rules were introduced:

- 3 categories of sanction – ‘higher’, ‘intermediate’ and ‘lower’ – depending on the nature of the offence

- different levels of sanction for first, second and third offences

- changes to the date a sanction starts

Previously, a sanction started from the beginning of the benefit week after it was decided to impose the sanction. However, to ensure that claimants see the consequences of their actions or inactions sooner, the new rules enable sanctions to be imposed at a time closer to the offence.

The level and length of a sanction for a JSA claimant depends upon:

- the reason for claiming JSA – if dismissed for misconduct or left former job without good reason

- what the claimant has done to find work

- whether an earlier sanction has been received within the last year.

A lower or intermediate sanction (4 to 13 weeks) may be applied if the claimant fails to turn up for meetings with their work coach, take actions they are told to do or take part in interviews, fail to attend recommended training courses, fail to take part in employment schemes or lose their place on an employment scheme due to misconduct or if they aren't available for and actively seeking work.

A higher level sanction (13-156 weeks) may be applied if the claimant was dismissed from their last job for misconduct, left their last job for no good reason, don't apply for suitable jobs or don't take a job that has been offered.

The following data shows the number of claimants who received a sanction each month, it does not show the cumulative total number of claimants who have their benefit sanctioned at any one time.

In June 2015 there were 461 decisions to apply a sanction issued to JSA claimants in Kent.

Table 16: JSA sanction decisions – June 2015

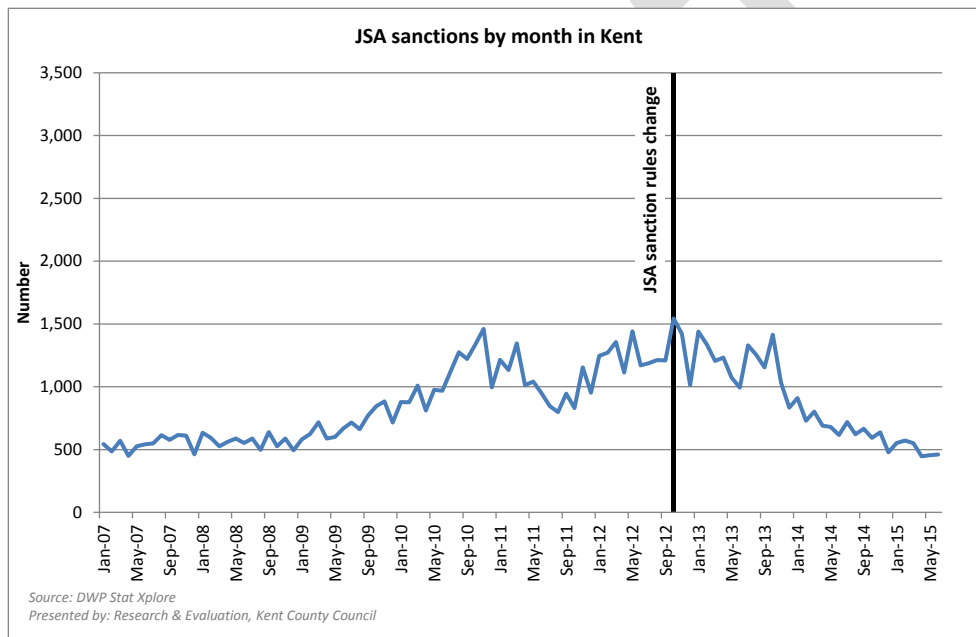
	JSA
Kent	461
South East	2,109
England	19,562

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The number of JSA sanctions applied each month has fluctuated. They reached a peak in October 2013 when 1,414 claimants had sanctions applied. This has gradually fallen.

Chart 13: JSA sanctions



Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

There were a variety of reasons for a JSA claimant to be receiving a sanction in June 2015. The majority (34.0%, 289 claimants) were sanctioned because they did not take part in a scheme to obtain employment and they did not have a good reason for not doing so.

Table 17: JSA sanction decisions by reason for sanction – June 2015

Reason for Sanction - June 2015	Number of sanction decisions	% of all sanctions
Not actively seeking employment	109	23.6%
Failure to attend or failure to participate in an Adviser interview without good reason	108	23.4%
Failure to participate in a scheme for assisting person to obtain employment without good reason - Work Programme	106	23.0%
Failure to participate in a scheme for assisting person to obtain employment without good reason - other scheme	26	5.6%
Left employment voluntarily without good reason	22	4.8%
Failure to participate in Mandatory Work Activity without good reason	18	3.9%
Failure to participate in a scheme for assisting person to obtain employment without good reason - Skills Conditionality	12	2.6%
Losing employment through misconduct	12	2.6%
Refusal or failure to comply with a Jobseeker's Direction without good reason	5	1.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

% may not sum to 100 due to rounding

ESA Sanctions

ESA claimants have to undergo a work capability assessment to determine to what extent an illness or disability affects their ability to work. If a claimant is assessed as being able to take part in work-related activity (to prepare them for returning to work) they are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) and expected to take part in regular interviews with an adviser to help with things like job goals and improving skills. If a claimant fails to attend interviews or do work-related activity then their benefit can be sanctioned (suspended).

From 3 December 2012 revisions to the sanctions for ESA claimants who are in the Work Related Activity Group were introduced.

Prior to December 2012 ESA claimants in the Work Related Activity Group who failed to meet requirements were subject to an open ended sanction which was lifted when they re-complied. The sanction amount was 50% of the work related activity component of the benefit rising to 100% after 4 weeks.

From December 2012 the sanctions were changed so that claimants in the WRAG who did not comply with the conditions for receiving benefit would receive an open ended sanction, followed by a fixed period sanction when they re-comply. The amount sanctioned would increase to 100% of the benefit amount for a single claimant and a hardship regime for ESA claimants was introduced.

The following data shows the number of claimants who received a sanction each month, it does not show the cumulative total number of claimants who have their benefit sanctioned at any one time.

In June 2015 138 Kent ESA claimants were reviewed resulting in 63 claimants being sanctioned.

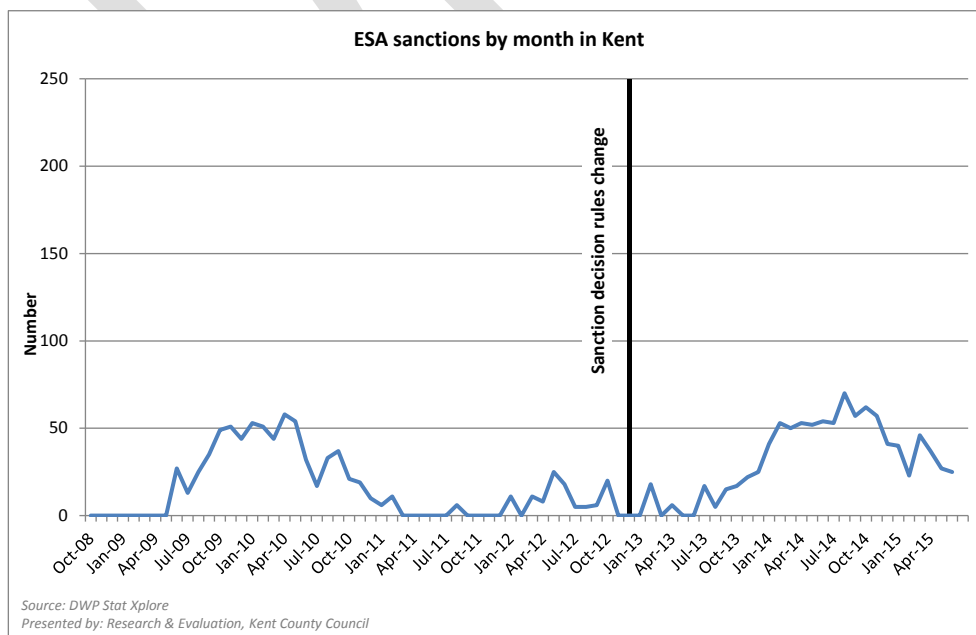
Table 18: ESA sanctions– June 2015

	ESA
Kent	63
South East	212
England	1,408

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 14: ESA sanctions



The number of ESA claimants having a sanction made against them each month increased between mid 2013 and mid 2014. In August 2014, 70 claimants had their benefit suspended due to a sanction. Since then the number of claimants being sanctioned has fallen.

Almost a third of ESA claimants (63.5%) who were sanctioned in June 2015 were sanctioned because they had failed to take part in work related activity.

Table 19: ESA sanctions by reason for sanction – June 2015

Reason for Sanction - June 2015	Number of sanctions	% of all sanctions
Failed to attend mandatory interview	10	15.9%
Failure to participate in work related activity	40	63.5%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

% may not sum to 100 due to rounding

Section 2: Migration

This section looks at migration into and out of Kent. It also focusses on the movements of migrants into Kent from London.

Migration is the key component of population change for Kent and thus plays an important role in the county's population and economic profile.

It is important to remember that ONS migration figures show all estimated migration. It is not possible to discern why people are moving, we don't know whether they are in employment or if they are dependent on the state or whether they are moving for study or another reason.

2.1 Net Migration

Net migration is the difference between the numbers of people who move into an area minus the number of people who move out of that area. A positive Net migration figure means that more people are moving in than are moving out.

Migration has been the key component of population change for Kent since 1993. Net migration to the county reached a peak in Mid-2006 to Mid-2007 when Kent saw 15,000 net migrants in a single year. In the latest year there were 13,200 net migrants to Kent – the second highest number in twelve years. This count includes both internal migrants (those moving from another part of the country) and international migrants (those moving into Kent from overseas).

Table 20: Net migrants as a proportion of the total population, 2013/14

	Total population mid-2014	Net migrants 2013/14	Migrants as % of total population
Kent	1,510,400	13,200	0.9%
South East	8,873,800	53,400	0.6%
England	54,316,600	241,200	0.4%

*Source: MYE3 Components of population change- Mid-2014 population estimates, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 for presentation so may not sum when added. Percentages calculated using unrounded numbers
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council*

The following table shows net migration into Kent broken down by internal and international migrants.

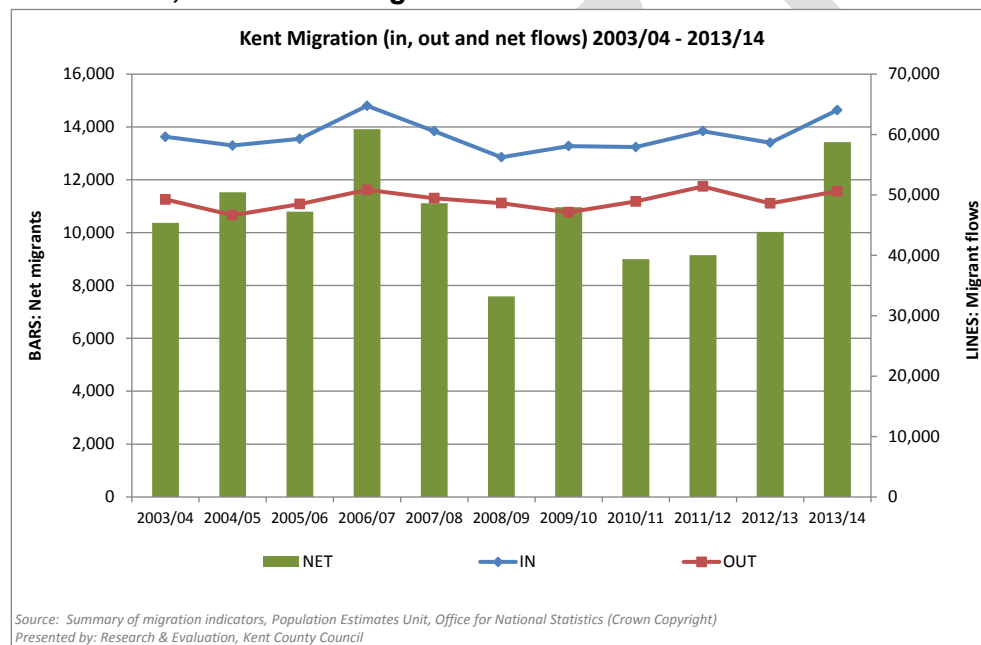
Table 21: Net migration in Kent – 2003/04 – 2013/14

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Net	11,300	12,700	12,100	15,000	12,200	8,900	12,600	10,300	9,300	9,800	13,200
Net internal	6,200	6,100	6,700	7,800	6,500	4,700	6,000	6,200	6,500	7,000	7,800
Net international	4,200	5,400	4,100	6,100	4,700	2,900	5,000	2,800	2,600	3,000	5,600

Source: Detailed components of change, Mid Year Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)
 Figures up to 2011 are based on revised data in light of the 2011 Census as at 13 May 2013. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100 so may not sum when added
 Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Whilst net figures show the overall volume of migrants in an area, they mask the turnover of population. For this reason it is also useful to look at the in-flows and out-flows of migrants. The following chart shows that Kent saw an in-flow of 64,000 migrants to the county in the year Mid-2013 to Mid-2014 whilst out-migration from the county was 50,600.

Chart 15: In, out and net migration flows



Source: Summary of migration indicators, Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)
 Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

In the year ending June 2014 there were a total of 93,100 in-migrants to Kent and 79,700 out-migrants from Kent. The result was a net increase of 13,400 migrants. The following table illustrates the estimated age profile of migrants for the year Mid-2013 to Mid-2014.

The majority of net migrants to Kent in the year Mid-2013 to Mid-14 were aged 25-44 years old. This age group will add to the working age population of Kent. The 25-44 year old age group is also the main child bearing age group and possibly have young families therefore it is also likely that the second largest net increase of 2,300 0-15 year olds is linked to the net increase of 25-44 year olds

Kent sees a net outflow of 16-24 year olds to other parts of the UK. The table shows that there are significant flows both into and out of the county of 16-24 year olds. However, there are more people in this age group leaving the

county than entering. This profile is thought to reflect the movement of young people going to university or other forms of higher education.

Table 22: Age profile of internal and international migrants to and from Kent – Mid 2013 to Mid 2014

Age	Internal migration			International migration			Total Migration		
	IN	OUT	NET	IN	OUT	NET	IN	OUT	NET
All Ages	83,500	75,700	7,800	9,600	4,000	5,600	93,100	79,700	13,400
0-15	14,200	11,700	2,600	1,500	200	1,300	15,700	11,900	3,900
16-24	19,200	20,500	-1,300	2,600	1,000	1,600	21,800	21,500	300
25-44	28,100	24,400	3,700	3,700	2,300	1,400	31,800	26,700	5,100
45-64	14,300	12,400	1,900	1,300	400	900	15,600	12,800	2,800
65+	7,700	6,700	1,000	400	100	300	8,100	6,800	1,300

Age	Internal migration			International migration			Total Migration		
	IN	OUT	NET	IN	OUT	NET	IN	OUT	NET
All Ages	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
0-15	17.0%	15.5%	33.3%	15.6%	5.0%	23.2%	16.9%	14.9%	29.1%
16-24	23.0%	27.1%	-16.7%	27.1%	25.0%	28.6%	23.4%	27.0%	2.2%
25-44	33.7%	32.2%	47.4%	38.5%	57.5%	25.0%	34.2%	33.5%	38.1%
45-64	17.1%	16.4%	24.4%	13.5%	10.0%	16.1%	16.8%	16.1%	20.9%
65+	9.2%	8.9%	12.8%	4.2%	2.5%	5.4%	8.7%	8.5%	9.7%

Source: Mid-year Population Estimates analysis tool. Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright.
 Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 for presentation so may not sum when added. Percentages calculated using unrounded numbers
 Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

2.2 Internal Migration

Internal migrants are people who have moved from a different area within the UK for example from Surrey to Kent.

Net Internal migration to Kent was +7,800 people which accounts for 0.5% of the total population. Kent attracts people from all over the UK but mainly from London and elsewhere in the South East.

Table 23: In, out and net INTERNAL migration in Kent

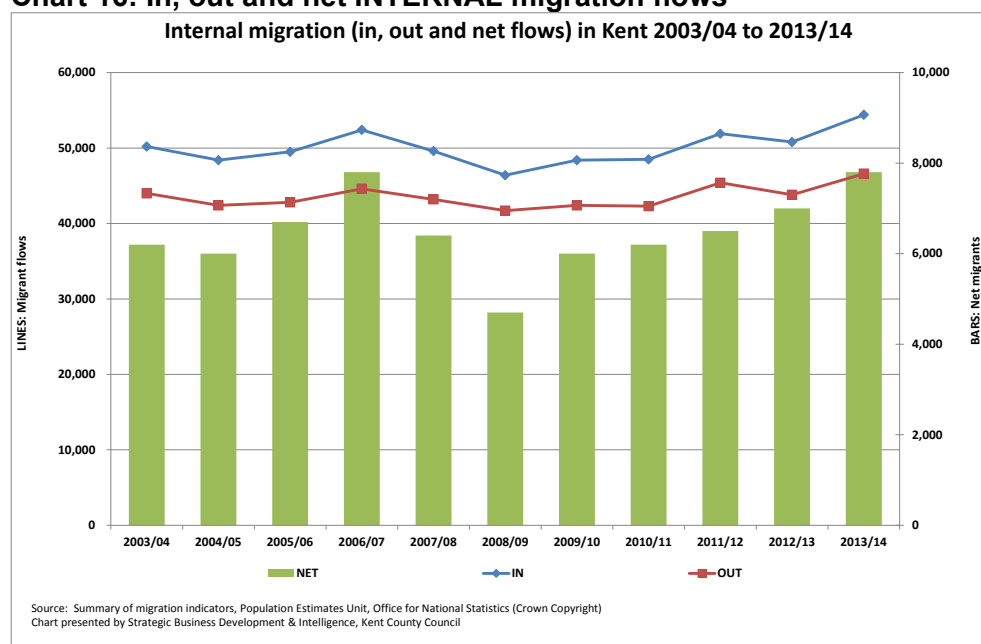
	IN	OUT	NET
2003/04	50,200	44,000	6,200
2004/05	48,400	42,400	6,100
2005/06	49,500	42,800	6,700
2006/07	52,400	44,600	7,800
2007/08	49,600	43,200	6,400
2008/09	46,400	41,700	4,700
2009/10	48,400	42,400	6,000
2010/11	48,500	42,300	6,200
2011/12	51,900	45,400	6,500
2012/13	50,800	43,800	7,000
2013/14	54,400	46,600	7,800

Source: Detailed components of change, Mid Year Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)
 Number are rounded to the nearest 100 for presentation so may not sum when added.
 Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Over the past ten years the average annual number of people moving into Kent from elsewhere in the UK is 50,100 whilst the average number of people who leave Kent each year is 43,600.

In Mid-2013 to Mid-2014 Kent saw 54,400 internal migrants moving into Kent and 46,600 people moving out.

Chart 16: In, out and net INTERNAL migration flows



The flow of internal migrants is considerably higher than the flow of international migrants not only for the county as a whole but also for each Kent district.

Table 24: In, out and net INTERNAL migration in Kent districts, 2013/14

	IN	OUT	NET
Ashford	6,400	5,700	700
Canterbury	12,900	11,700	1,200
Dartford	6,300	5,700	600
Dover	4,900	4,200	600
Gravesham	5,100	4,600	500
Maidstone	8,800	7,700	1,100
Sevenoaks	7,100	6,800	200
Shepway	5,300	4,900	500
Swale	6,300	5,600	700
Thanet	6,200	5,000	1,300
Tonbridge & Malling	7,800	7,100	700
Tunbridge Wells	6,500	6,700	-200

Source: Detailed components of change 2001 to 2014, Mid Year Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)

Number are rounded to the nearest 100 for presentation so may not sum when added.

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

2.3 Migration from London

The majority of people who moved into Kent in the year ending June 2014 came from London. 22,500 people, equivalent to 41.3% of all in-migrants, came from the capital. In contrast, of all the people leaving Kent, 25.1% (11,700 people) moved to London. The result was a net gain of 10,800 people from London.

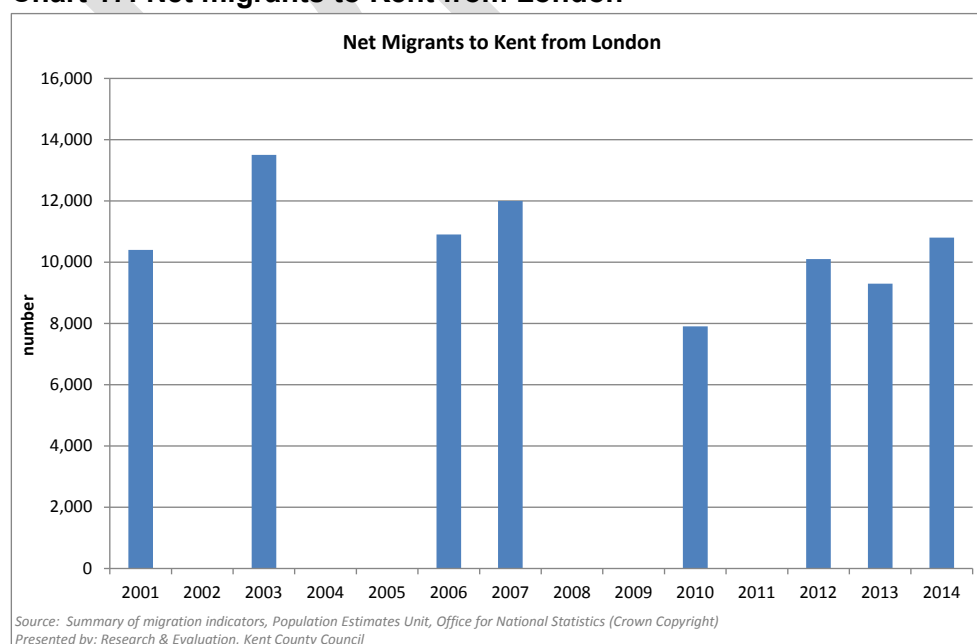
Table 25: Origin and destination of Kent migrants, 2013/14

	Net Migrants (persons)		
	IN to Kent	OUT of Kent	NET
East	5,200	5,400	-200
East Midlands	1,900	2,400	-500
London	22,500	11,700	10,800
North East	600	700	-100
North West	1,500	1,600	-100
South East	14,900	15,000	-200
South West	3,100	4,000	-900
West Midlands	1,600	1,700	-200
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,500	1,700	-200
Northern Ireland	200	200	0
Scotland	700	1,000	-400
Wales	900	1,000	-200
Grand Total	54,400	46,600	7,800

Source: Detailed Estimates File by Origin and Destination; Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
All figures have been separately rounded to the nearest 100 so may not sum when added
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The following chart shows how net migration to Kent from London has changed. Due to administrative changes data is missing for some years. Net migration from London has remained fairly consistent.

Chart 17: Net migrants to Kent from London



The following table shows the in, out and net migration into Kent districts from London in 2013/14.

The highest levels of net migration to Kent from London were to districts in the north and west of the county. Dartford, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Gravesham saw the greatest net gain in people from London.

These districts all saw the highest in-flow of migrants from London. Canterbury also saw a high inflow of migrants from London, however this was counteracted by a high out-flow to London. This population churn is likely to be as a result of the movements of university students who come to Canterbury.

Table 26: Migration into Kent districts from London, 2013/14

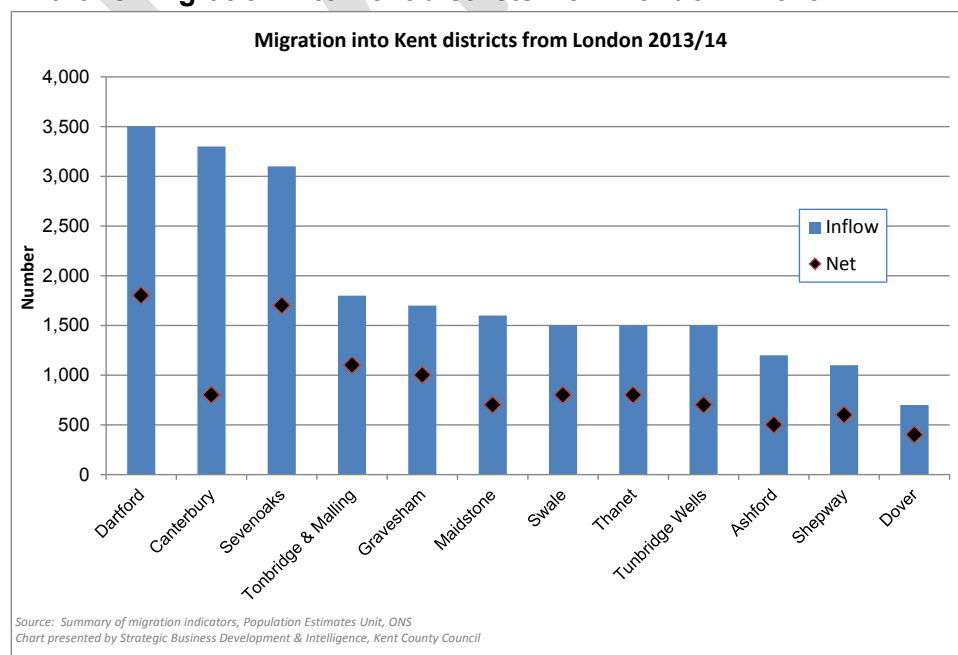
District	In	Out	Net
Ashford	1,200	700	500
Canterbury	3,300	2,500	800
Dartford	3,500	1,700	1,800
Dover	700	400	400
Gravesham	1,700	700	1,000
Maidstone	1,600	900	700
Sevenoaks	3,100	1,400	1,700
Shepway	1,100	500	600
Swale	1,500	600	800
Thanet	1,500	700	800
Tonbridge & Malling	1,800	700	1,100
Tunbridge Wells	1,500	900	700
Total	22,500	11,700	10,800

Source: Summary of migration indicators, Population Estimates Unit, ONS

Presented by Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The following chart shows the inflow of migrants to Kent districts from London, together with the net gain.

Chart 18: Migration into Kent districts from London – 2013/14



The following table shows the in, out and net migration into Kent from London boroughs. This gives an idea of where it is estimated that migrants into Kent from London came from in 2013/14.

The highest number of migrants came from Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich and Lewisham, all of which are close neighbours.

Table 27: In, Out and Net Migration into Kent from London Boroughs, 2013/14

London Borough	In	Out	Net
Bromley	3,200	1,400	1,800
Bexley	3,400	1,700	1,600
Greenwich	2,300	900	1,400
Lewisham	1,700	600	1,100
Croydon	1,200	500	800
Southwark	1,200	600	600
Newham	600	200	300
Wandsworth	800	500	300
Barking and Dagenham	300	100	200
Enfield	400	200	200
Hackney	400	200	200
Lambeth	700	500	200
Merton	400	200	200
Redbridge	400	200	200
Sutton	400	200	200
Waltham Forest	400	200	200
Barnet	400	200	100
Brent	300	200	100
Ealing	400	200	100
Haringey	300	200	100
Harrow	200	100	100
Havering	300	300	100
Hillingdon	300	200	100
Hounslow	300	200	100
Islington	400	300	100
Kingston upon Thames	300	200	100
Tower Hamlets	400	400	100
Camden	300	400	0
City of London	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	200	200	0
Kensington and Chelsea	200	200	0
Richmond upon Thames	200	200	0
Westminster	300	200	0

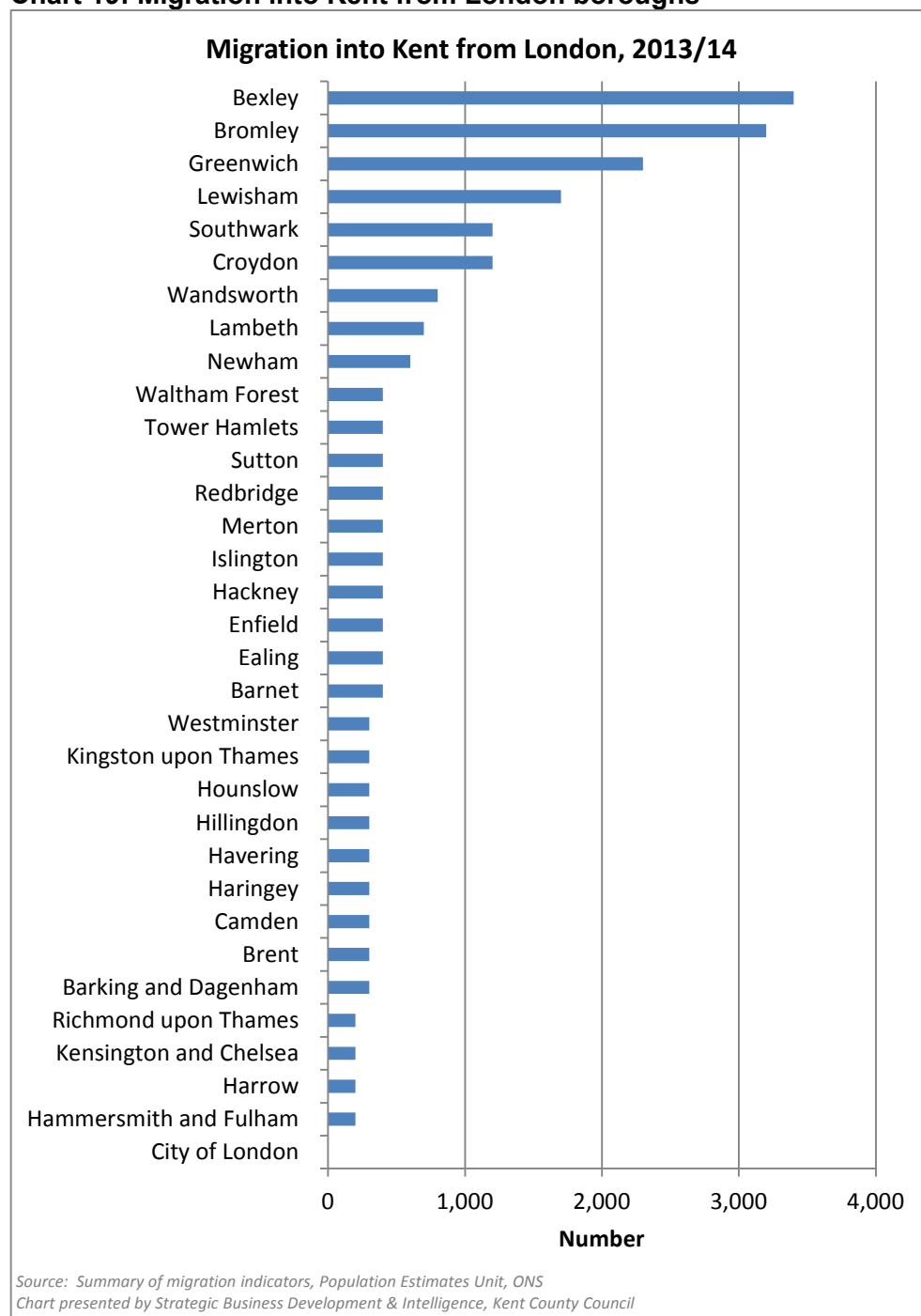
Total	22,500	11,700	10,800
--------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

Source: Summary of migration indicators, Population Estimates Unit, ONS

Presented by Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The following chart shows the in-flow of migrants from London into Kent in 2013/14.

Chart 19: Migration into Kent from London boroughs



The majority of migrants into Kent from London are aged 25 to 44. As previously stated this age group will add to the working age population of the county. The 25-44 year old age group is also the main child bearing age group and possibly have young families.

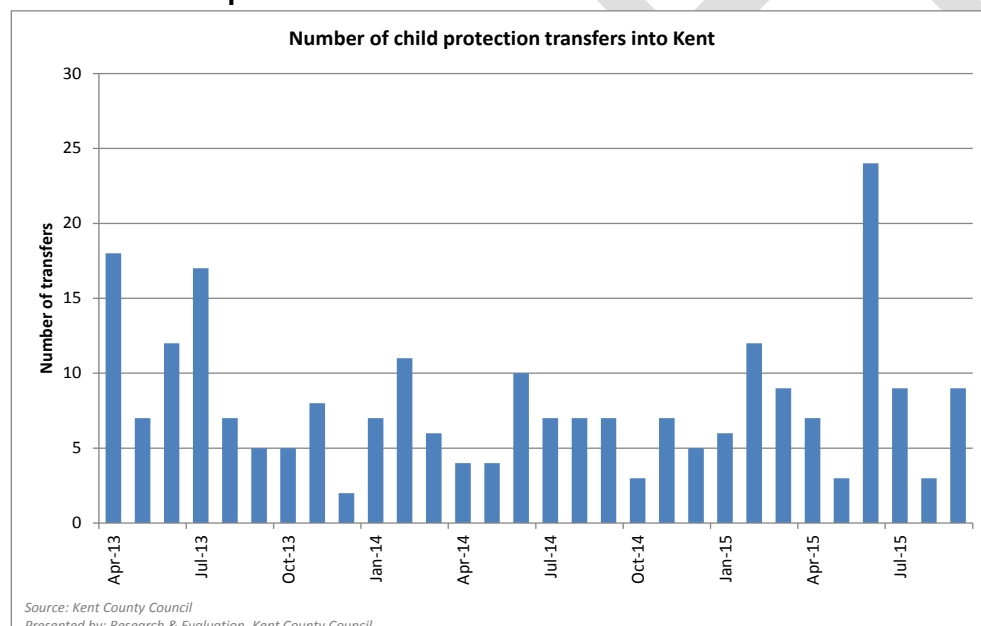
Table 28: Age profile of internal migrants from London In to Kent – Mid 2013 to Mid 2014

Age	Number	Percentage
0-15	4,400	19.4%
16-24	4,000	17.6%
25-44	8,500	37.9%
45-64	3,800	17.0%
65+	1,800	8.1%
Total	22,500	

2.4 Child protection transfers into Kent

The number of child protection transfers into Kent saw a peak in June 2015 of 24 transfers. Numbers are generally low and since the single peak month have stayed at below 10 a month in the following months.

Chart 20: Child protection transfers into Kent



2.5 In School Moves

Over the past four years, relatively few children have moved into Kent from elsewhere. The total number has varied between 416 and 548 pupils. A recently declining trend has been reversed in the latest time period as the number moving rose slightly on the previous year.

Overall there was a slight increase in the number of pupils moving from London to Kent schools over the time period 2011/12 to 2012/13 followed by a decrease in 2013/14 (see chart 1). In the latest period, the number of pupils moving to Kent from London has risen back to 12/13 levels, but this has not been the case for Medway and other parts of the Country. At the same time

there has been a drop in the number of pupils moving to Kent schools from outside London. The movement from Medway schools has also declined.

Chart 21: In year school moves into Kent

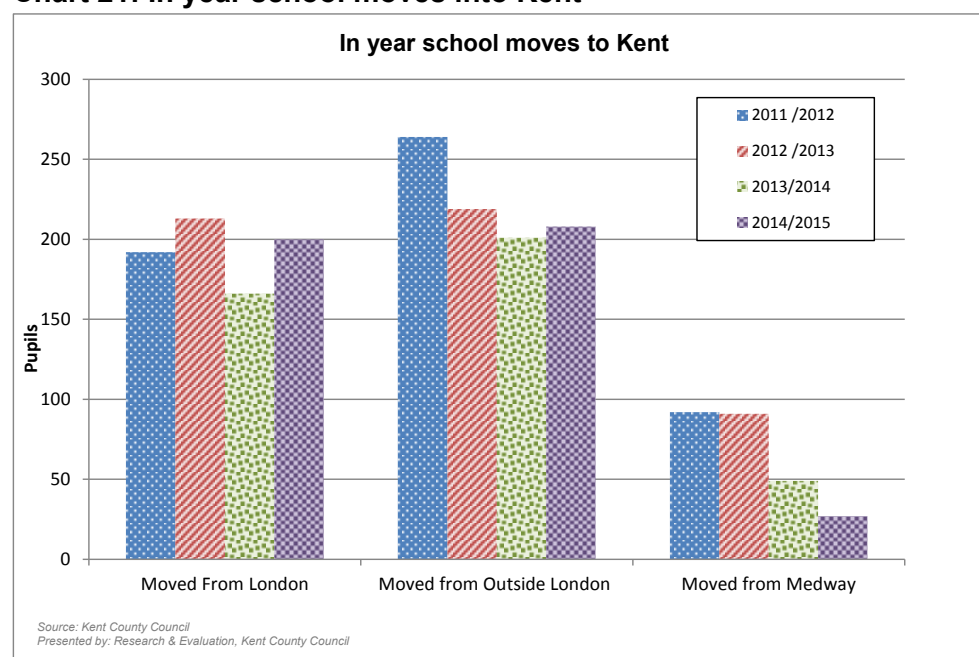


Table 29: Pupils moving to Kent schools 2014/15

Moved to:	From London	From outside London	From Medway	Total
Ashford	16	13	1	30
Canterbury	15	17	1	33
Darford	44	20	1	65
Dover	7	29	0	36
Gravesham	16	7	1	24
Maidstone	15	32	4	51
Sevenoaks	13	7	0	20
Shepway	11	19	0	30
Swale	24	7	7	38
Tonbridge and Malling	24	12	10	46
Thanet	11	6	1	18
Tunbridge Wells	4	38	1	43
Grand Total	200	208	27	435

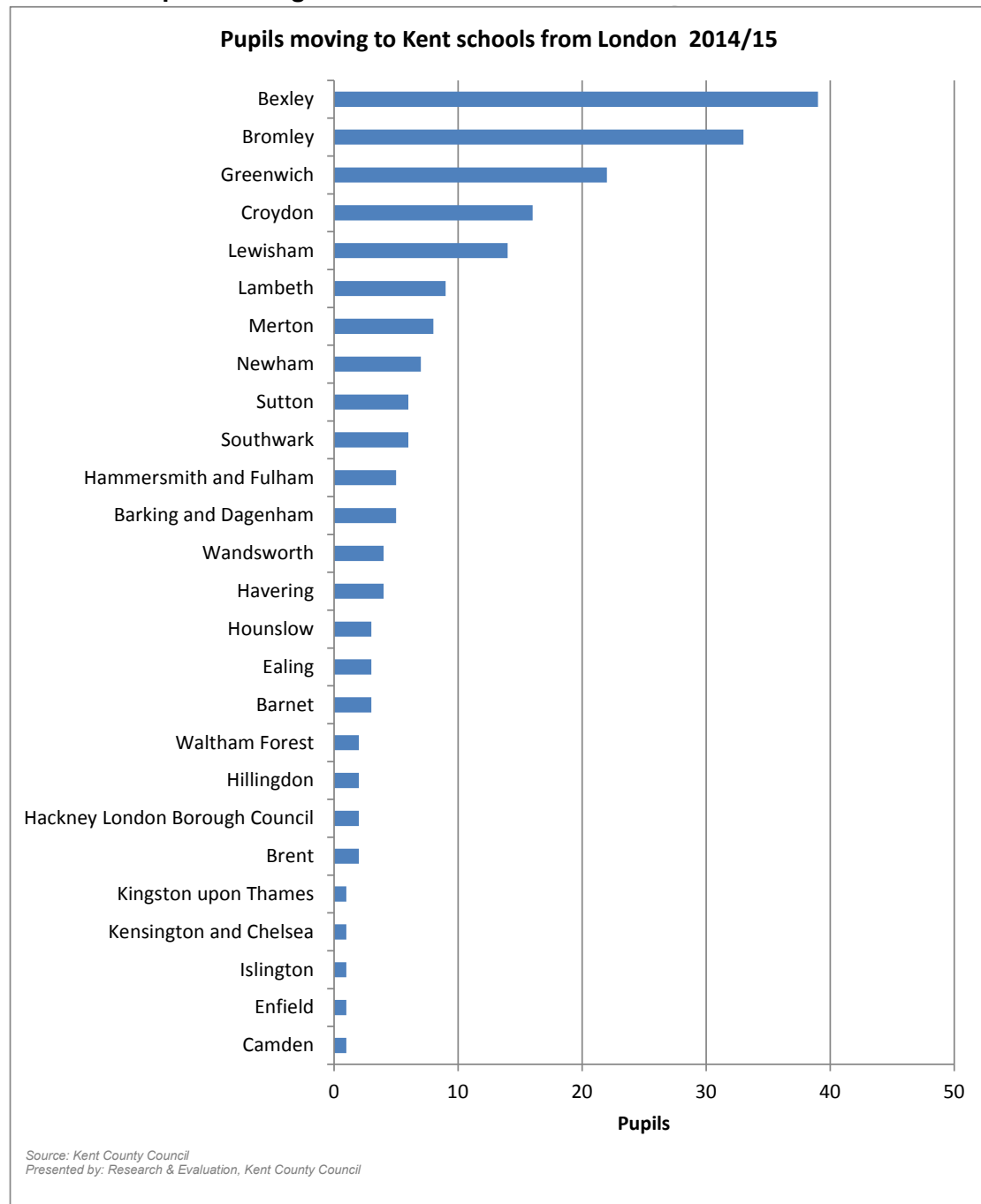
Source: Kent County Council
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

2.6 In school moves from London Boroughs

Overall the numbers of moves by pupils from London Boroughs is relatively low. The boroughs with the greatest number of moves to Kent are Bexley and Bromley, which is explained by these boroughs being adjacent to Kent,

followed by Greenwich, Croydon and Lewisham. Kent saw an increase of moves from each of these areas in the period 14/15 over the numbers in 13/14. It is interesting to note that the numbers of pupils moving from Lewisham and Croydon have continued to increase over the period under consideration; however, the numbers are still low overall. The higher numbers from Bexley and Bromley reflect the fact that some of the moves are due to pupils changing school without the family moving address.

Chart 22: Pupils moving to Kent schools from London



There appears to have been a stabilisation in the number of moves by pupils into schools in the KCC area from elsewhere over the last four years. There

has been however a decline in moves from Medway to Kent. The findings do not give any strong evidence to indicate that changes due to family circumstances as a result of welfare reform have led to an increase in the number of pupils moving into Kent.

DRAFT

Section 3: Economic Context

Since welfare reform changes were announced there have been significant improvements to the economy both locally and nationally.

This section looks at a range of economic indicators and observes the changes over time.

3.1 Employment rate

From the year July 2008 to June 2009 the employment rate in Kent began to fall. This was slightly later than the fall that began a year earlier nationally and elsewhere in the South East. The employment rate began to increase in Kent in the year July 2013 to June 2014 although fell very slightly over the last year. This data tends to fluctuate at local level.

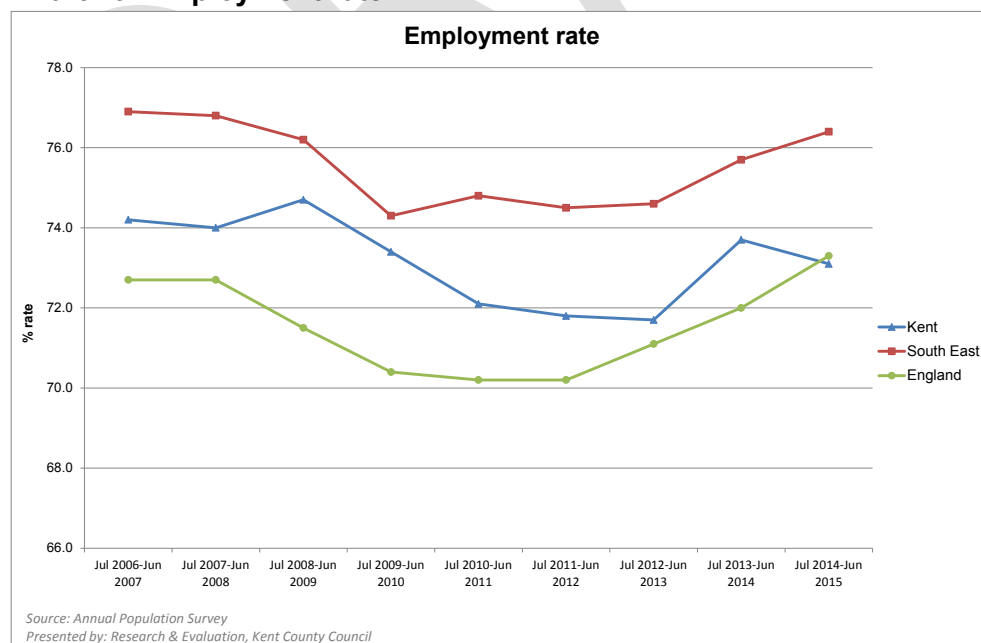
Table 30: Employment rate

	Jul 2006- Jun 2007	Jul 2007- Jun 2008	Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015
Kent	74.2	74.0	74.7	73.4	72.1	71.8	71.7	73.7	73.1
South East	76.9	76.8	76.2	74.3	74.8	74.5	74.6	75.7	76.4
England	72.7	72.7	71.5	70.4	70.2	70.2	71.1	72.0	73.3

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 23: Employment rate



3.2 Unemployment

There are a number of ways in which we can measure unemployment.

The first measure of unemployment shown here is taken from the Annual Population Survey (APS). This is based upon the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment, a wide definition which takes into account anyone who has been out of work for the last 28 days and is still actively seeking work.

This is a wide definition of unemployment, as it is not restricted to an individual's eligibility to claim unemployment benefit.

The latest figures (for the year beginning July 2014) show that the unemployment rate in Kent was 5.4%. While this is below the national rate (5.7%) it is higher than the average for the South East as a whole (4.6%).

Unemployment reached a peak in the year beginning July 2010 but has fallen steadily since.

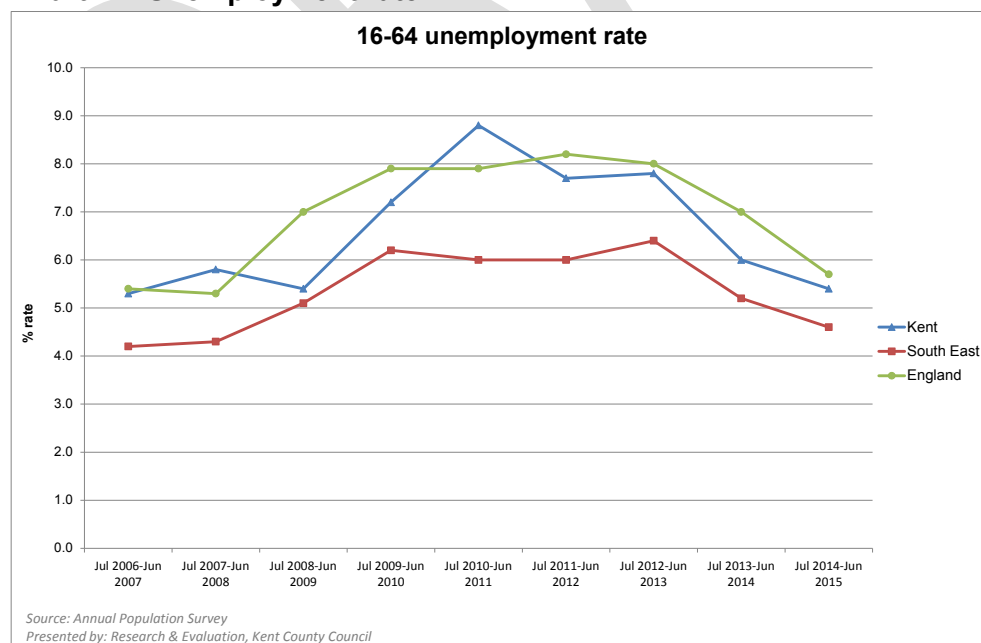
Table 31: 16-64 unemployment rate

	Jul 2006- Jun 2007	Jul 2007- Jun 2008	Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015
Kent	5.3	5.8	5.4	7.2	8.8	7.7	7.8	6.0	5.4
South East	4.2	4.3	5.1	6.2	6.0	6.0	6.4	5.2	4.6
England	5.4	5.3	7.0	7.9	7.9	8.2	8.0	7.0	5.7

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 24: Unemployment rate



The APS also gives the unemployment rate for those people aged 16 to 24.

The current Kent rate of unemployment for people in this age group is 17.0%. This is higher than the national average (15.6%) and significantly higher than the average for the south East as a whole (13.5%).

Unemployment for this age group reached its peak in the year beginning July 2010. At this point the rate of unemployment for young people in Kent was 29.0% while the national rate was 20.0% and the regional rate was 17.1%.

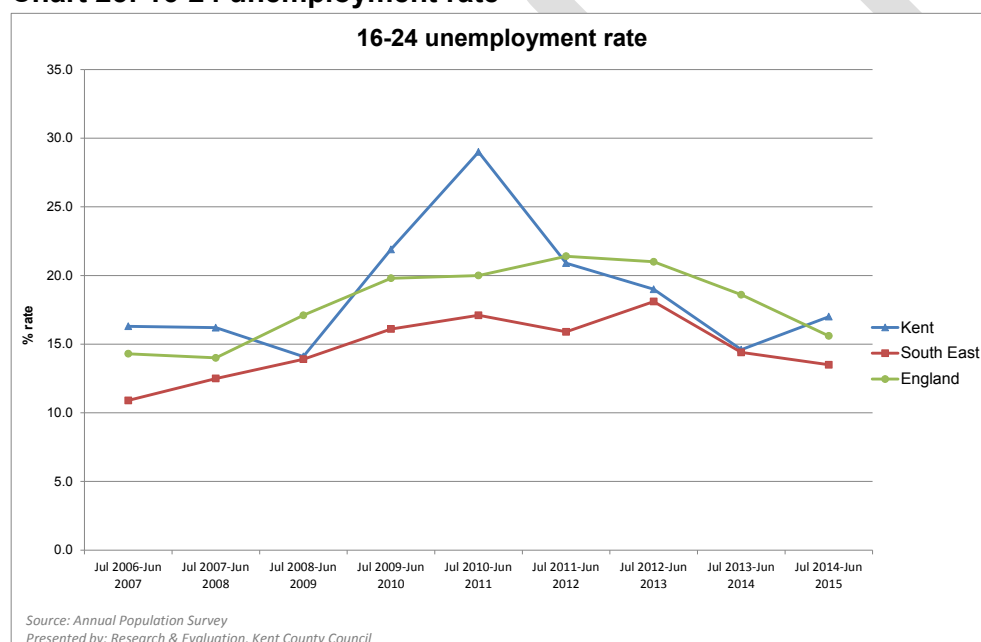
Table 32: 16-24 unemployment rate

	Jul 2006- Jun 2007	Jul 2007- Jun 2008	Jul 2008- Jun 2009	Jul 2009- Jun 2010	Jul 2010- Jun 2011	Jul 2011- Jun 2012	Jul 2012- Jun 2013	Jul 2013- Jun 2014	Jul 2014- Jun 2015
Kent	16.3	16.2	14.1	21.9	29.0	20.9	19.0	14.6	17.0
South East	10.9	12.5	13.9	16.1	17.1	15.9	18.1	14.4	13.5
England	14.3	14.0	17.1	19.8	20.0	21.4	21.0	18.6	15.6

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 25: 16-24 unemployment rate



An alternative measure of unemployment commonly used is the count of people who are claiming an unemployment related benefit, either Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) or Universal Credit (UC).

As at October 2015 1.4% of people in Kent aged 16 to 64 were out of work and claiming an unemployment benefit, below the national average (1.9%) but above the average for the South East (1.2%).

The number of people claiming an unemployment benefit increased rapidly from January 2009, reaching its first peak in February 2010 when Kent saw 30,148 people unemployed, an unemployment rate of 3.3%. This pattern reflects what was happening both nationally where the unemployment rate reached 4.1% and regionally although the average rate for the South East was lower at 2.9%.

While claimants rates fell slightly during the first half of 2010 they began rising again from the beginning of 2011 and reached their highest peak in February 2012 when 31,525 people in Kent were unemployed and claiming an unemployment benefit, equating to 3.4% of the working age population. Again this followed the same pattern as was being seen elsewhere in the country. Nationally the rate reached 4.1% and the South East saw an average claimant rate of 2.8%.

Since the 2012 peak claimant rates have continued to fall with slight peaks in January of each year. This January peak is generally attributed to the end of contracts for seasonal workers who found temporary employment during the Christmas period.

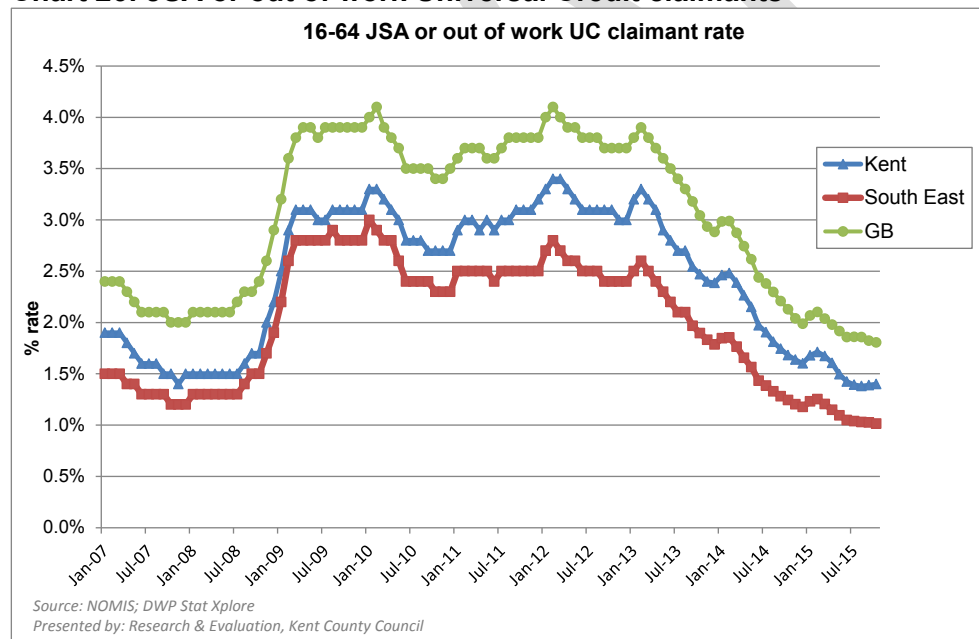
Table 33: Unemployed claimants of JSA or UC – October 2015

	Number	%
Kent	12,970	1.4%
GoSE	63,441	1.2%
Great Britain	751,795	1.9%

Source: NOMIS; DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 26: JSA or out of work Universal Credit claimants



In Kent 2.4% of 18 to 24 year olds were unemployed as at October 2015. 3,140 were claiming JSA or UC and accounted for almost a quarter of all people who were unemployed (24.2%).

Unemployment rates for 18 to 24 year olds reached their peak in January 2010. In Kent the unemployment rate was 7.6%, above the South East (6.1%) but below the national average (8.3%). They peaked again at 7.6% in Kent in February 2012. The South East peaked at a lower rate than previously (5.6%) but nationally the unemployment rate reached a new high of 8.4%.

During these peaks 18 to 24 year olds accounted for a higher proportion of all those claiming unemployment benefits (30% in Kent) than is currently seen.

Unemployment rates for 18 to 24 year olds have fallen steadily since the peak in 2012.

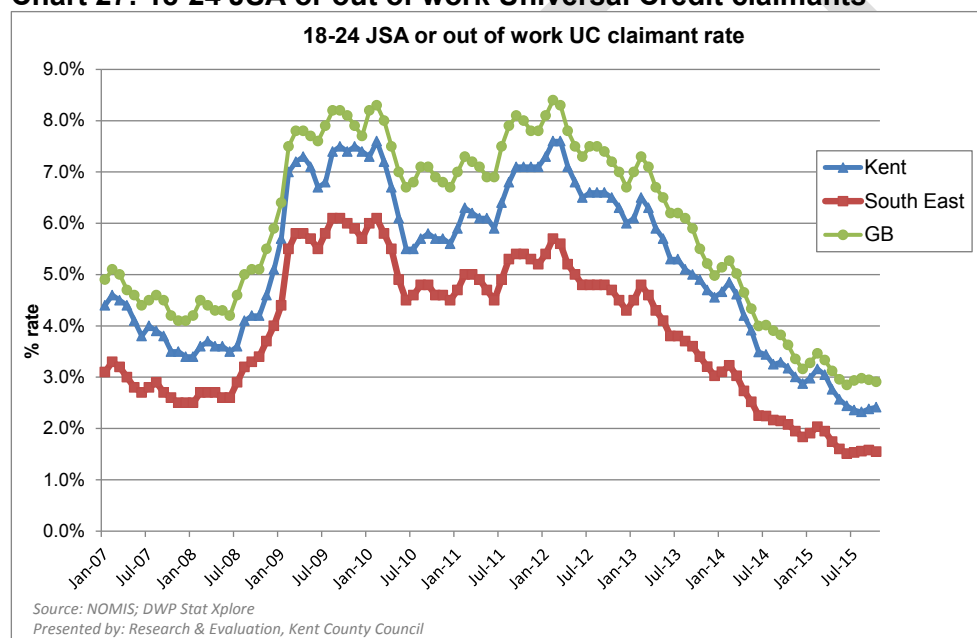
Table 34: 18-24 year old claimants of JSA or UC – October 2015

	Number	%
Kent	3,140	2.4%
GoSE	11,796	1.5%
Great Britain	166,284	2.9%

Source: NOMIS; DWP Stat Xplore

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 27: 18-24 JSA or out of work Universal Credit claimants



3.3 Earnings

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings looks at average (median) gross earnings (earnings before tax, National Insurance or other deductions) based on resident or workplace populations.

The median (mid-point) value is the preferred measure of earnings, as it is less affected by a relatively small number of very high earners that tend to skew the distribution of earnings, giving a better indication of typical pay.

Average full time weekly earnings for people living in Kent in 2015 are £552. This is higher than the national average (£529.60) but lower than the average for the South East as a whole (£574.90).

Earnings for people who are resident in Kent increased steadily until 2012 when they fell for two years in a row. The latest data shows that earnings in Kent have recovered in the last two years. Overall they have increased by 11.3% (£55.90 in real terms) since 2007. This is a slower rate of increase than has been seen nationally (15.1%, +£69.60) and in the South East (14.5%, +£72.60)

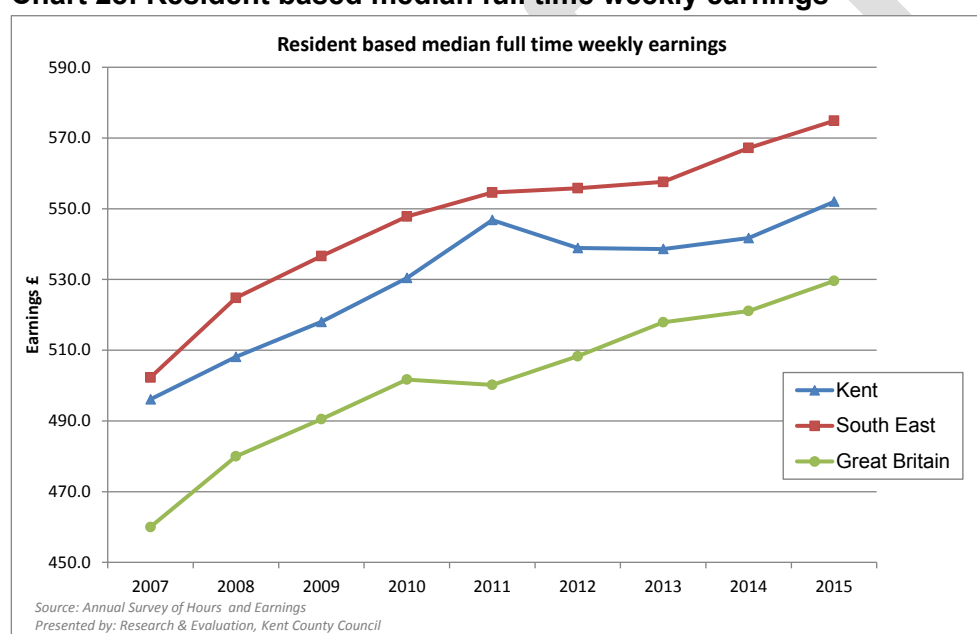
Table 35: Residence based median weekly full time earnings

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Kent	496.1	508.1	518.0	530.4	546.8	538.9	538.6	541.7	552.0
South East	502.3	524.8	536.6	547.8	554.6	555.8	557.6	567.2	574.9
Great Britain	460.0	480.0	490.5	501.7	500.2	508.3	517.9	521.1	529.6

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 28: Resident based median full time weekly earnings



Earnings for people who work in Kent are below the national average and significantly lower than those for the South East as a whole.

In 2015 average full time weekly earnings for people who work in Kent was £504.10 (Great Britain £529.00, South East £552.10).

Earnings for workers in Kent continued to increase throughout the recession however they saw a fall in 2013 which wasn't seen nationally or in the South East as a whole.

Overall, while earnings for people who work in Kent have increased since 2007 (11.1%, +£50.50), it is at a lower rate than seen nationally (15.2%, +£69.70) and regionally (14.6%, +£70.20).

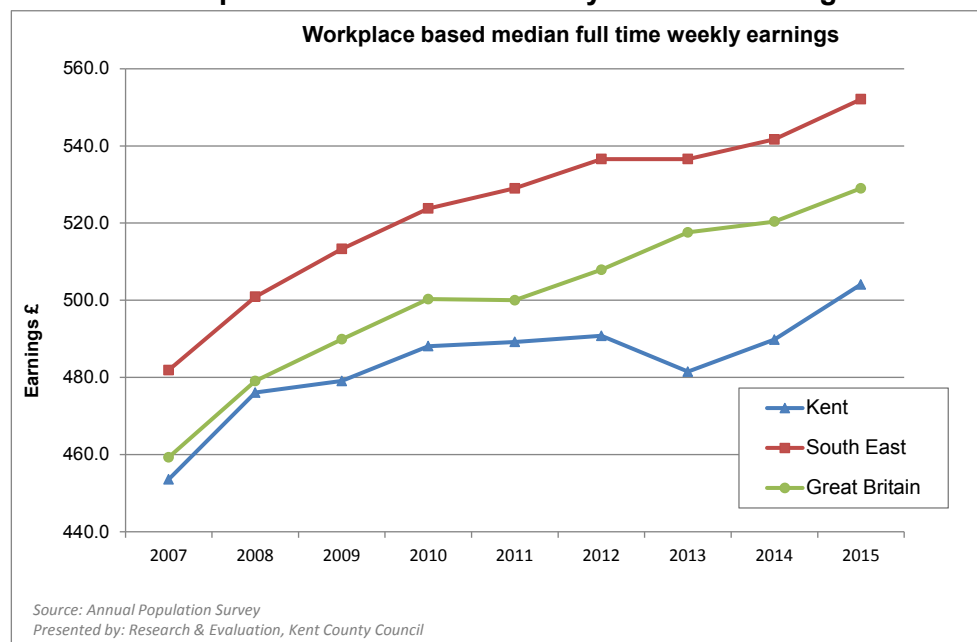
Table 36: Workplace based median weekly full time earnings

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Kent	453.6	476.1	479.1	488.1	489.2	490.8	481.5	489.8	504.1
South East	481.9	500.9	513.3	523.8	529.0	536.6	536.6	541.7	552.1
Great Britain	459.3	479.1	489.9	500.3	500.0	507.9	517.6	520.4	529.0

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 29: Workplace based median weekly full time earnings



3.4 Benefit claimants

There are a wide group of Department for Work and Pensions benefits, many of which are in the process of being brought together as Universal Credit.

The following table shows the benefit expenditure in Kent, the South East and England and Wales in 2014/15.

The highest proportion of benefit expenditure is on State Pension. In Kent this accounted for 58.0% of the total benefit expenditure in the county, below the South East average of 60.1% and higher than the national average of 53.5%.

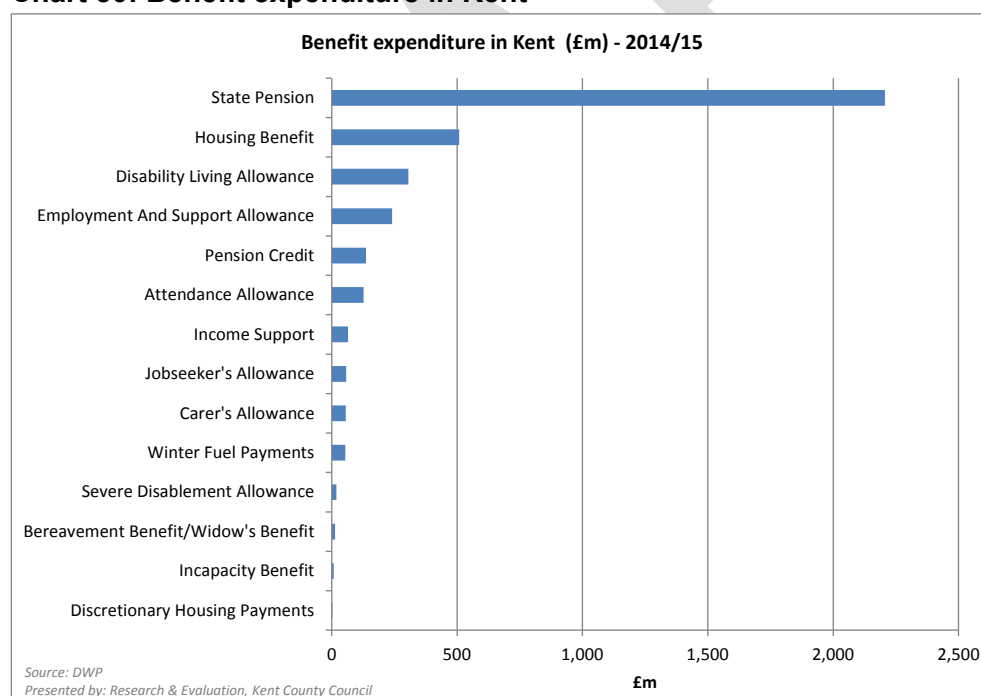
The second highest spend is on Housing Benefit which accounts for 13.4% of Kent's total expenditure.

Table 37: Benefit expenditure – 2014/15

	Benefit spend 2014/15 (£m)			% of Benefit spend		
	Kent	South East	England & Wales	Kent	South East	England & Wales
Total	3,802.4	20,618.1	161,596.7	100%	100%	100%
Attendance Allowance	127.6	675.8	5,421.8	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%
Bereavement Benefit/Widow's Benefit	13.4	76.7	570.7	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Carer's Allowance	55.8	242.0	2,319.2	1.5%	1.2%	1.4%
Disability Living Allowance	305.6	1,414.0	13,798.3	8.0%	6.9%	8.5%
Discretionary Housing Payments	2.7	14.7	199.8	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Employment And Support Allowance	241.1	1,276.0	12,827.4	6.3%	6.2%	7.9%
Housing Benefit	508.5	2,897.0	24,312.6	13.4%	14.1%	15.0%
Incapacity Benefit	7.9	15.4	244.5	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Income Support	64.6	289.2	2,893.5	1.7%	1.4%	1.8%
Jobseeker's Allowance	58.3	254.3	3,065.0	1.5%	1.2%	1.9%
Pension Credit	136.8	685.5	6,576.1	3.6%	3.3%	4.1%
Severe Disablement Allowance	19.0	79.3	735.2	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
State Pension	2,207.0	12,392.9	86,515.8	58.0%	60.1%	53.5%
Winter Fuel Payments	54.2	305.2	2,116.9	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%

Source: department for Work & Pensions
Table presented by Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 30: Benefit expenditure in Kent



The following table shows the number of claimants of each of the individual benefits as at February 2015. Individual benefits claimant rates are calculated as a proportion of those in the qualifying age group for each individual benefit. As it is possible for a person to claim more than one benefit the totals cannot be summed to create a total count of benefit claimants as this could result in a claimant being counted more than once.

Table 38: Individual benefit claimants – February 2015

	Number			% of eligible population		
	Kent	South East	England & Wales	Kent	South East	England & Wales
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance	5,720	23,050	215,380	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%
Disability Living Allowance	71,440	333,280	2,819,400	4.7%	3.8%	4.9%
Personal Independence Payments	8,896	43,044	425,058	1.0%	0.8%	1.1%
Income Support	17,220	76,080	690,550	2.0%	1.5%	2.1%
Job Seekers Allowance	15,520	67,200	785,480	1.8%	1.3%	2.3%
Pension Credits	47,110	231,690	1,966,290	12.4%	10.9%	14.8%
State Pension	308,830	1,721,680	10,694,890	91.3%	90.8%	91.1%
Attendance Allowance	38,090	202,740	1,450,150	12.9%	12.3%	14.3%
Employment and Support Allowance	44,790	230,410	2,064,990	5.1%	4.4%	5.9%
Carers Allowance	17,370	75,240	657,740	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%

Source: NOMIS - DWP Work & Pensions
Table presented by Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Working age benefit claimants (those aged 16 to 64) can be allocated to statistical groups to give an indication of the main reason that they are claiming. For these statistical groupings benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to a group according to the highest ranking benefit which they receive. For example a person who is a lone parent who claims Income Support and receives Incapacity Benefit would be classified in the Incapacity Benefits statistical group as Incapacity Benefit is a higher ranking benefit. For this reason the statistical group lone parent, for example, will not contain all lone parents claiming Income Support. Some will be included in the incapacity benefits group instead.

The following table shows the statistical groupings of Kent working age benefit claimants as at February 2015.

Table 39: Working age benefit claimants – February 2015

	Number			% of 16-64 population		
	Kent	South East	England & Wales	Kent	South East	England & Wales
Job seekers	15,520	67,200	700,980	1.7%	1.2%	1.9%
ESA & Incapacity Benefits	49,820	250,090	2,254,310	5.4%	4.5%	6.2%
Lone Parents	10,470	49,270	412,450	1.1%	0.9%	1.1%
Carers	14,360	62,360	546,430	1.5%	1.1%	1.5%
Others on income related benefits	2,390	11,160	106,570	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Disabled	12,150	57,500	399,860	1.3%	1.0%	1.1%
Bereaved	1,810	10,360	66,080	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%

Source: NOMIS
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Another of the possible groupings of benefits claimants which is used by Kent County Council is the Out Of Work Benefits group. This group includes people claiming Jobseekers Allowance, lone parents claiming Income Support, Incapacity Benefits claimants and others on income related benefits with the exception of carers, and is used as an indicator of worklessness.

8.4% of the working age population in Kent are claiming an out of work benefit. Kent has always seen a higher proportion of people claiming an out of work benefit than the South East region and a lower proportion than the national average.

Table 40: Out of Work Benefit claimants – February 2015

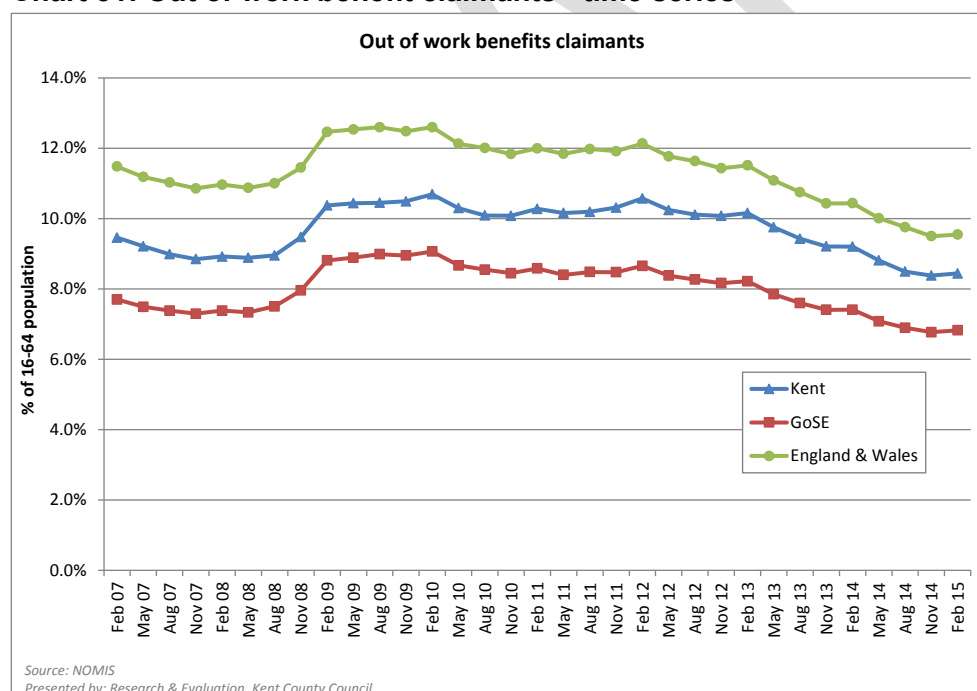
	Number	%
Kent	78,200	8.4%
South East	377,720	6.8%
England & Wales	3,474,320	9.5%

Source: NOMIS

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The number of people claiming out of work benefits increased rapidly between 2008 and 2009 at the beginning of the recession. In Kent the number of people claiming peaked in February 2010 when 96,550 in Kent were claiming equivalent to 10.7% of the working age population. Numbers have gradually fallen since this peak in Kent, the South East and nationally, and are at their lowest level since 1999 when the data was first recorded.

Chart 31: Out of work benefit claimants - time series



Source: NOMIS

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The following table shows the number of people claiming out of work benefits as at February 2015.

The majority of out of work benefits claimants are claiming ESA or an Incapacity Benefit. 63.7% of out of work benefits claimants are in this group.

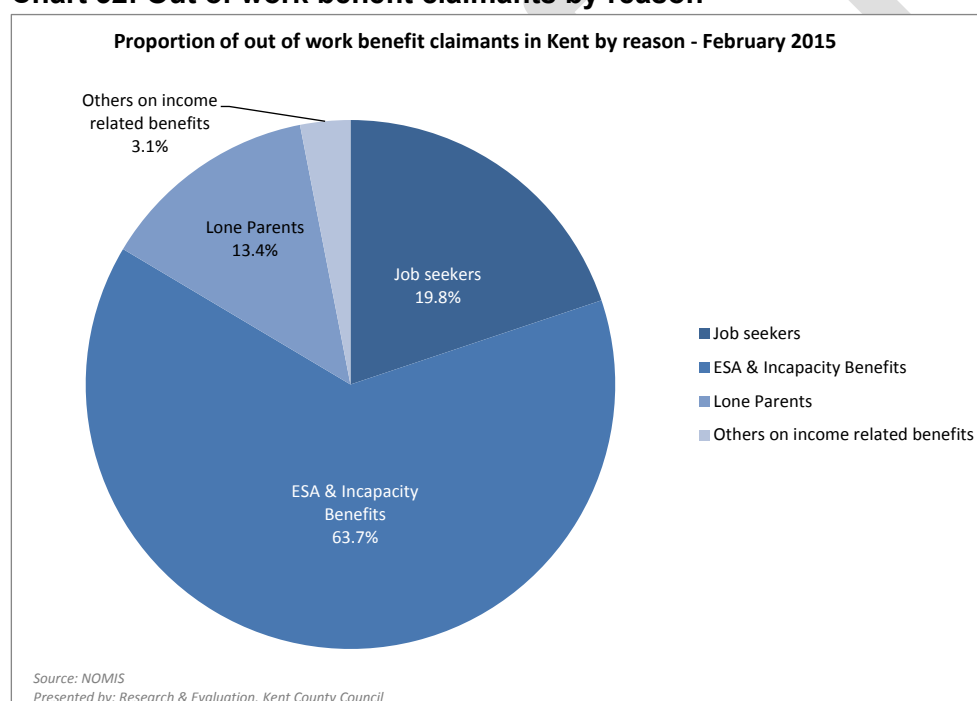
Kent has a higher proportion of out of work benefit claimants who are lone parents claiming Income Support than is seen nationally and regionally, however it has a lower proportion of claimants who are claiming ESA or Incapacity benefits.

Table 41: Out of work benefit claimants – February 2015

	Number			% of total out of work benefits claimants		
	Kent	South East	England & Wales	Kent	South East	England & Wales
Out of work benefits	78,200	377,720	3,474,320	100%	100%	100%
Job seekers	15,520	67,200	700,980	19.8%	17.8%	20.2%
ESA & Incapacity Benefits	49,820	250,090	2,254,310	63.7%	66.2%	64.9%
Lone Parents	10,470	49,270	412,450	13.4%	13.0%	11.9%
Others on income related benefits	2,390	11,160	106,570	3.1%	3.0%	3.1%

Source: NOMIS
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 32: Out of work benefit claimants by reason



3.5 Children in out of work benefit households

This data looks at the number of children living in households where a parent or guardian claimed out-of-work benefits in May each year. The parent or guardian would be claiming at least one of the following benefits:

- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance
- Pension Credit

This data gives a more up to date picture than other sources of children living in households where the income levels are likely to be low. It is based on administrative data therefore gives an accurate count. For the purposes of this report this measure is used as a proxy for child poverty.

In all areas the proportion of children living in households with a parent or guardian is claiming an out of work benefit has fallen. In Kent 15% of children aged under 16 are living in out of work benefit households.

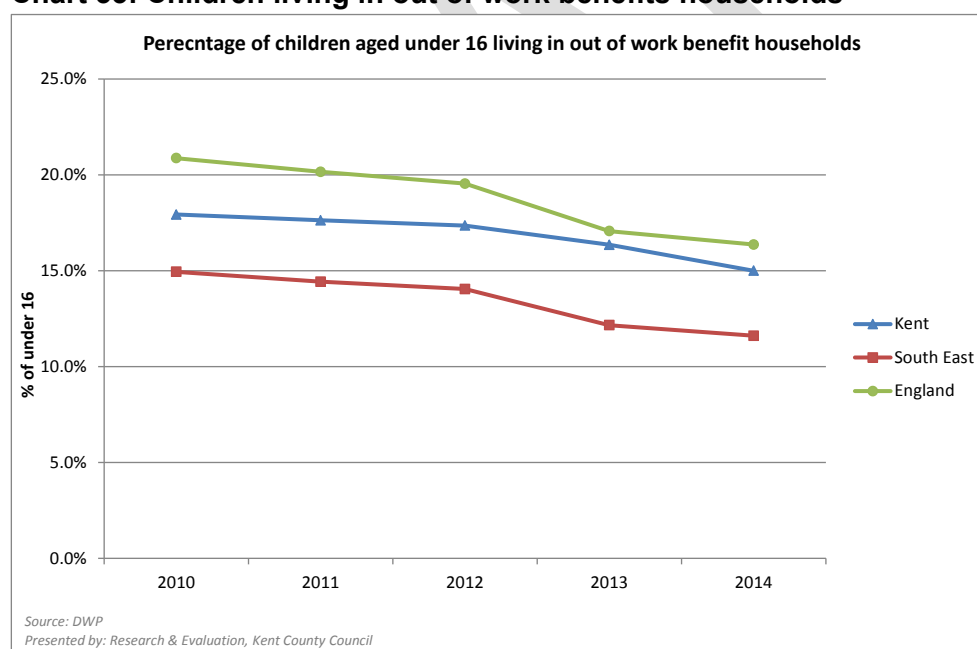
Table 42: Children aged under 16 in out of work benefits households

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Kent	17.9%	17.6%	17.4%	16.4%	15.0%
South East	14.9%	14.4%	14.0%	12.2%	11.6%
England	20.9%	20.2%	19.5%	17.1%	16.4%

Source: DWP

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 33: Children living in out of work benefits households



A higher proportion of children aged 0 to 4 are living in an out of work benefit household as at May 2014 than is seen in other age groups.

Table 43: Children living in out of work benefit households – May 2014

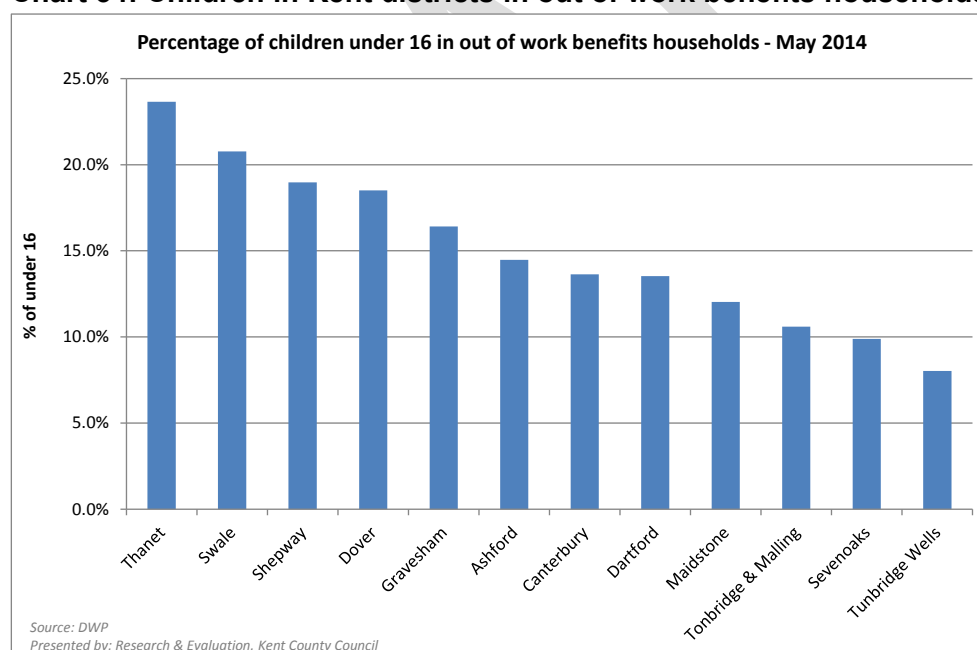
	Age 0-4	Age 5-10	Age 11-15	Age 16-18	Under 16
Kent	16,970	15,340	10,840	5,200	43,150
South East	77,170	69,540	47,880	22,560	194,590
England	637,860	605,300	427,750	209,520	1,670,910
Kent	18.6%	14.4%	12.0%	9.1%	15.0%
South East	14.1%	11.2%	9.5%	7.0%	11.6%
England	18.7%	16.0%	14.2%	10.8%	16.4%

Source: DWP

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The highest proportions of children in out of work benefits households in Kent are in eastern and coastal areas. Between them Thanet and Swale account for more than a quarter of all children in out of work benefit households in the county.

Chart 34: Children in Kent districts in out of work benefits households



Source: DWP

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

3.7 Business Demography

This data shows the initial impact on business creation and survival during the pre- and post- recession periods. A clearer picture is now emerging about the impact of the recession. The latest data shows that the number of new businesses starting up is now outweighing the number of business which fail.

The number of new businesses being formed has steadily increased since 2010. Business formations were at their lowest in 2010, however since then they have increased by 42.8% in Kent (50.9% nationally).

Business deaths have fallen in Kent. They reached a peak in 2009 but since then have fallen by 10.4% (-12.1% nationally).

Table 44: Business Births

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Kent	6,785	6,170	5,445	5,380	6,190	6,325	7,745	7,680
South East	42,320	40,365	36,320	36,910	40,775	41,245	50,895	51,280
England	246,700	236,345	209,035	207,520	232,460	239,975	308,770	313,200

Source: ONS Business Demography Dataset

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Table 45: Business deaths

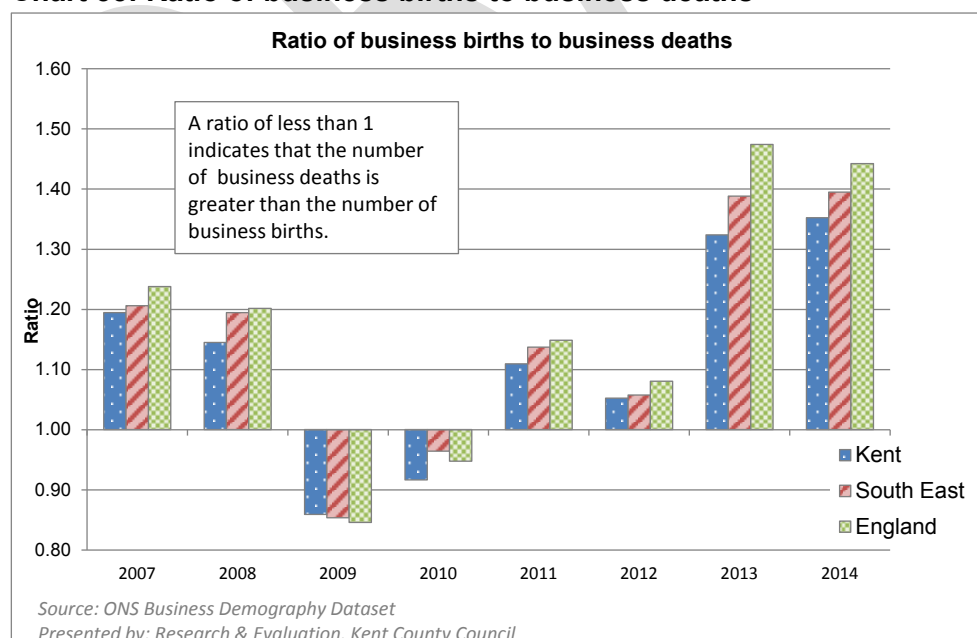
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Kent	5,680	5,390	6,340	5,870	5,580	6,010	5,850	5,680
South East	35,090	33,790	42,550	38,285	35,855	39,000	36,665	36,765
England	199,300	196,695	247,150	219,030	202,365	222,115	209,465	217,175

Source: ONS Business Demography Dataset

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The number of business births in Kent outweighs the number of business deaths to a greater extent than at any time in recent years.

Chart 35: Ratio of business births to business deaths



The number of new businesses surviving at the end of the first year of trading has increased. 94.3% of businesses formed in 2013 survived their first year. This is higher than seen nationally (93.5%).

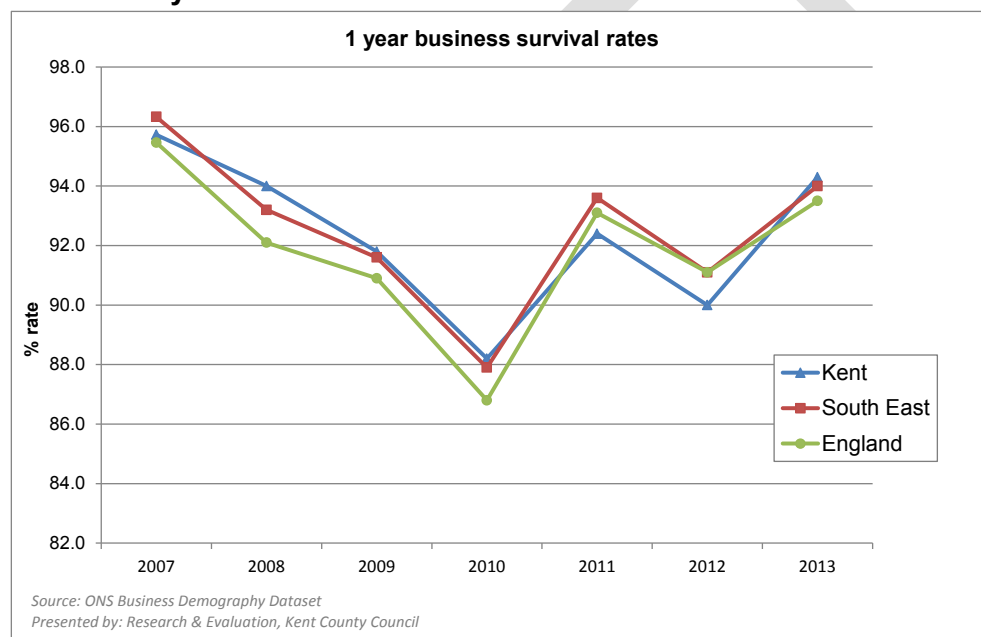
Table 46: 1 year survival rates of new businesses

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Kent	95.7	94.0	91.8	88.2	92.4	90.0	94.3
South East	96.3	93.2	91.6	87.9	93.6	91.1	94.0
England	95.5	92.1	90.9	86.8	93.1	91.1	93.5

Source: ONS Business Demography Dataset

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 36: 1 year business survival rates



Section 4: Housing

Welfare reform and other legislature changes such as the Localism Act, together with impacts from recent economic changes, have also had an effect on housing.

This section looks at a range of housing related indicators and observes the changes over time.

DCLG no longer produce statistics for regions so comparisons with the South East are only available up to 2011/12.

4.1 Homeless households

In 2014/15 local authorities in Kent accepted 1,178 applications for housing assistance under the homelessness legislation from families considered homeless and in priority need. Priority need households are those with dependent children or pregnant, elderly, a disability, mental illness, young person or suffering domestic violence.

Table 47: Number of households accepted as homeless – priority need

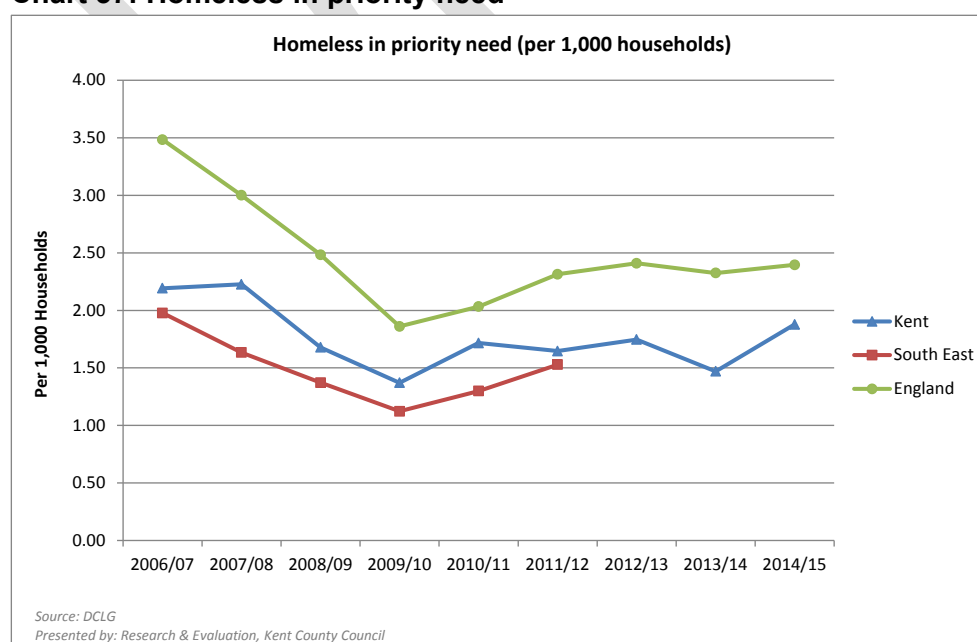
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Kent	1,241	1,260	973	795	1,006	965	1,076	912	1,178
South East	6,660	5,510	4,730	3,870	4,520	5,320	-	-	-
England	73,360	63,170	53,430	40,020	44,160	50,290	53,770	52,290	54,430

Source: DCLG P1E returns

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 37: Homeless in priority need



If a settled housing solution is not immediately available accepted households may be placed in temporary accommodation. Temporary accommodation may include bed and breakfast accommodation, hostels, local authority or registered social landlord dwellings and leased private sector dwellings.

Bed and breakfast hotels represent the least suitable form of temporary accommodation for most households, particularly those with families, and should be used only as a last resort. Preferably for up to six weeks while applications are processed.

Table 48: Number of households accepted as homeless – priority need in temporary accommodation

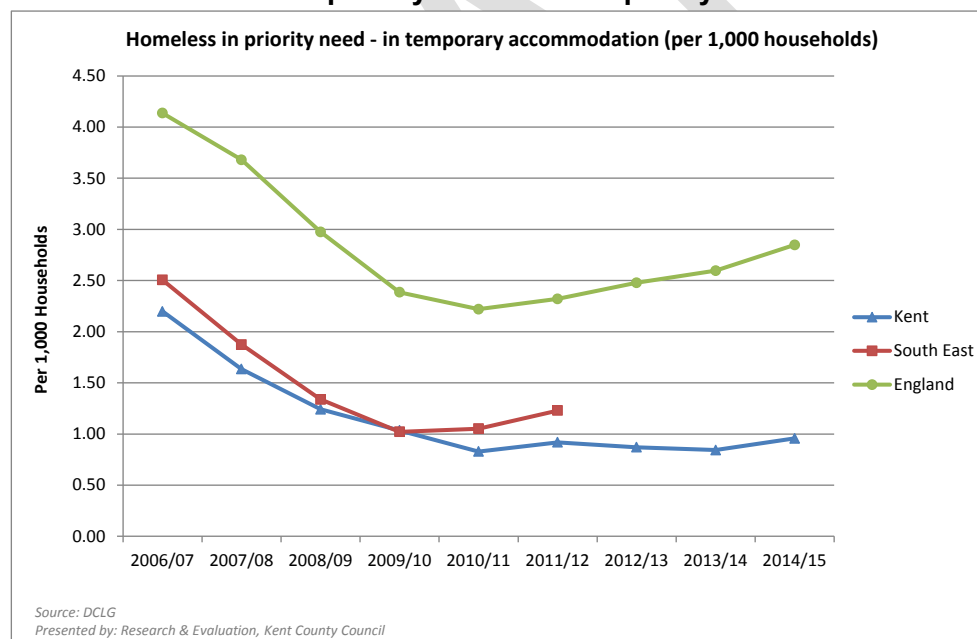
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Kent	1,244	925	720	600	486	538	536	523	600
South East	8,440	6,320	4,610	3,520	3,660	4,280	-	-	-
England	87,120	77,510	64,000	51,310	48,240	50,430	55,320	58,410	64,710

Source: DCLG P1E returns

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

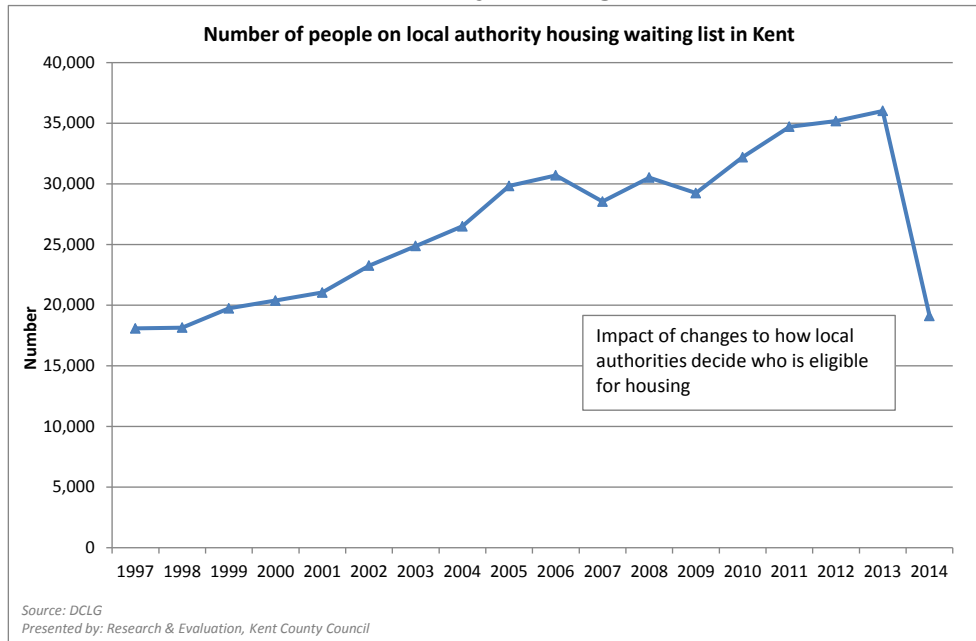
Chart 38: Homeless in priority need – in temporary accommodation



4.2 Local authority housing lists

The total number of people on local authority housing waiting lists was steadily increasing, when changes to legislation from the Localism Act 2011 took effect. This act allowed local authorities to set their own rules about who can apply to be on a housing register or waiting list. As a result of these changes there is a significant drop in the number of people on Kent local authority waiting lists.

Chart 39: People on local authority housing lists



4.3 Rents and Local Housing Allowance

Average rents vary from place to place with private rental prices being significantly higher than local authority or Private Registered Provider rents.

Not all local authorities in Kent own housing stock. Five Kent authorities (Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Swale, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells) have transferred their housing stock to Private Registered Providers with whom they work closely on housing rental matters.

The following table shows average rents by provider type in Kent local authorities.

Table 49: Average rents by rental provider type – 2013/14

	Local authority rents (£ per week)	Private registered provider rents (£ per week)	Private rental market rents (£ per month)
Ashford	51.13	97.01	766
Canterbury	49.10	99.77	853
Dartford	48.67	103.72	753
Dover	52.12	87.69	566
Gravesham	48.28	101.69	698
Maidstone	48.98	91.29	743
Sevenoaks	-	103.24	1,401
Shepway	44.84	92.12	558
Swale	35.04	94.32	661
Thanet	46.33	90.66	556
Tonbridge & Malling	-	107.40	985
Tunbridge Wells	-	106.80	922
Kent	n/a	n/a	743
South East	n/a	n/a	873
England	42.25	92.30	742

Source: DCLG; Valuation Office Agency

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Changes have been made to Housing Benefit and the way it is calculated using Local Housing Allowance figures for people who are renting privately. These changes include a change to the way benefit is calculated in each area, limiting benefit to working age tenants based on property size and capping benefit to out of work tenants of working age. The impact of the changes will affect social and private landlords, tenants, and strategic housing authorities. The first of these changes took effect from 1st April 2011 others will be introduced in subsequent years.

Housing Benefit for people renting from the private sector is calculated using Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates.

LHA rates relate to the area in which the tenant makes a claim. These areas are called Broad Rental Market Areas. A Broad Rental Market Area is where a person could reasonably be expected to live taking into account access to facilities and services.

LHA rates are based on private market rents being paid in the area which can differ from advertised rents. Valuation Office Agency (VOA) Rent Officers collect the rental information from letting agents, landlords and tenants.

Table 50: Local Housing Allowance Rates (£ per month)

Broad Market Rental Area	District	Room	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed
Ashford	Ashford	292	517	632	730	972
Canterbury	Canterbury	324	538	673	784	1,219
North West Kent	Dartford	308	542	665	758	1,053
Dover-Shepway	Dover	257	375	500	625	730
North West Kent	Gravesham	308	542	665	758	1,053
Maidstone	Maidstone	297	537	685	784	1,023
High Weald	Sevenoaks	336	588	767	970	1,464
Dover-Shepway	Shepway	257	375	500	625	730
Medway & Swale	Swale	285	481	600	665	861
Thanet	Thanet	275	351	506	627	750
High Weald	Tonbridge & Malling	336	588	767	970	1,464
High Weald	Tunbridge Wells	336	588	767	970	1,464

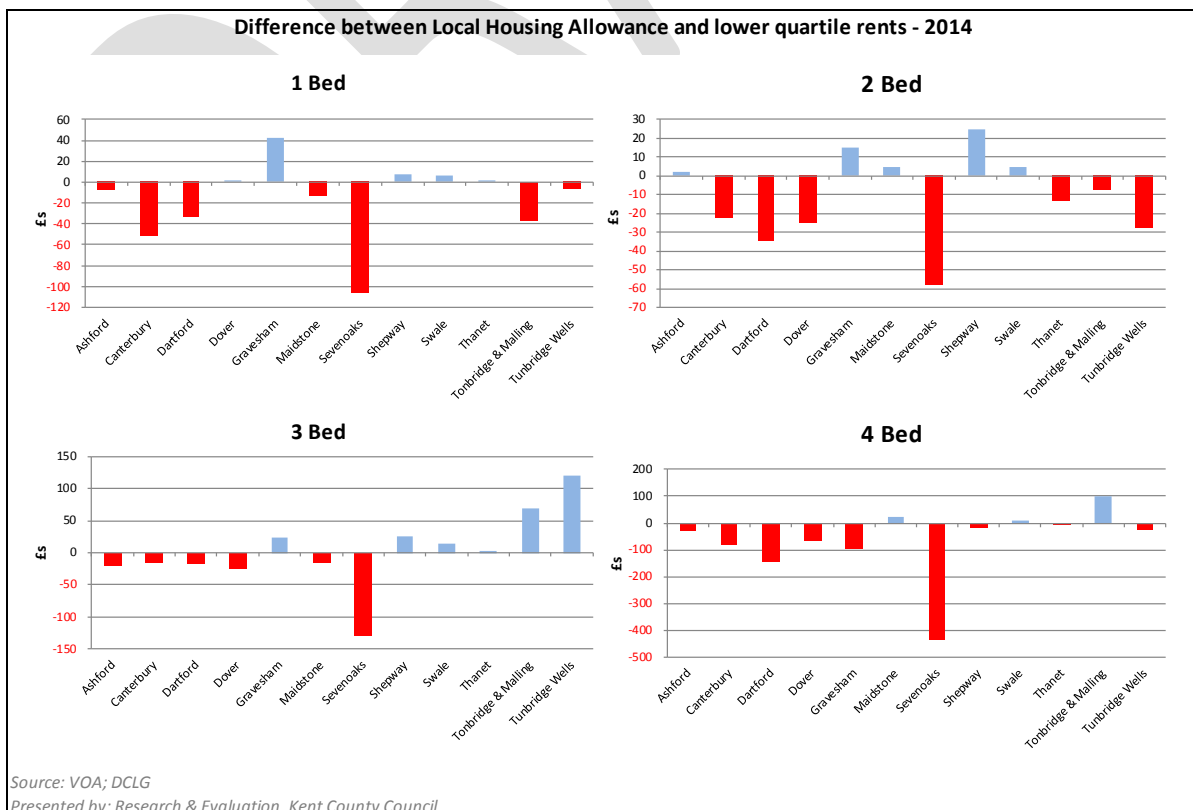
Source: Valuation Office Agency

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The following chart compares Local Housing Allowance rates with lower quartile rents in Kent districts for varying size properties. This shows us the availability of private rental properties which would be reasonably be available to a person claiming Housing Benefit in each area.

The charts show that lower quartile rents in Canterbury, Dartford and Sevenoaks are significantly higher than the amount of housing benefit a person could receive for all sizes of private rental property.

Chart 40: Difference between Local Housing Allowance and lower quartile rents



4.4 Landlord and mortgage possessions

A landlord or mortgage possession indicates that a landlord or lender has made a possession claim to court and that repossession has been granted.

The most common reason for repossession is arrears of mortgage or rent.

The following table shows the number of landlord and mortgage possessions since 2007. While total possessions increased during 2008 and 2009 they have fallen in subsequent years. There has been a marked decline in mortgage possessions, however there has been a significant incline in Accelerated landlord possessions. This method of repossession is quicker than a normal eviction and doesn't usually need a court hearing. A private landlord may only use this accelerated method if the tenant has an assured shorthold tenancy or a statutory periodic tenancy, a written tenancy agreement, they have given the tenant the required written notice (a minimum of 2 months) in the right form and if they haven't asked the tenant to leave before the end of a fixed-term tenancy,

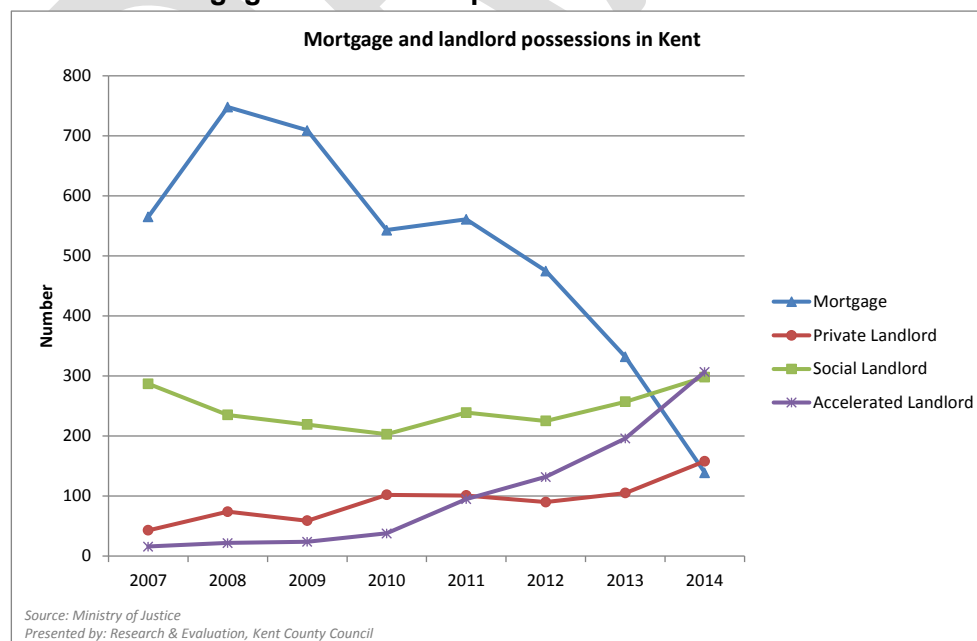
Table 51: Landlord and mortgage possessions in Kent

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Private landlord	43	74	59	102	101	90	105	158
Social landlord	287	235	219	203	239	225	257	298
Accelerated landlord	16	22	24	38	95	132	196	307
Mortgage	565	748	709	543	561	475	332	139
Total	911	1,079	1,011	886	996	922	890	902

Source: Ministry of Justice

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 41: Mortgage and landlord possessions



4.5 House prices and affordability

Average house prices have fluctuated. The average price for a house in Kent fell to £219,871 in 2009. Since then prices have begun to recover and are now at their highest ever level. They are, on average lower than prices in the South East region as a whole,

Table 52: Average house prices (£)

	Kent	South East
2007	232,012	261,264
2008	234,136	262,921
2009	219,871	250,339
2010	243,376	278,317
2011	235,670	273,756
2012	239,314	278,630
2013	246,121	286,032
2014	260,943	303,841

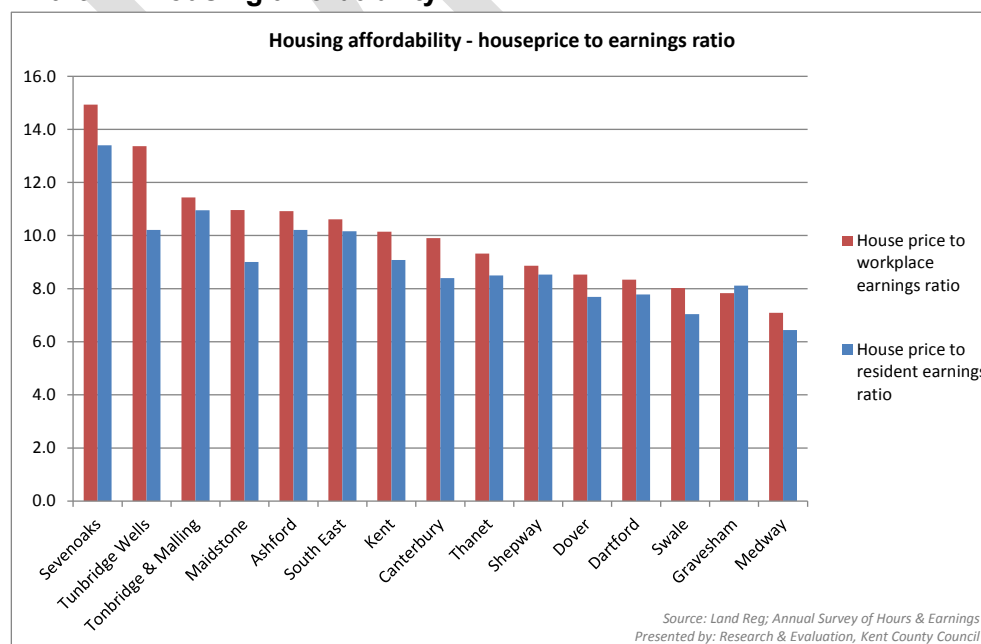
Source: Land Registry

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Looking at house prices compared to average earnings can help to show how affordable an area is.

When compared to the average annual earnings of someone who lives in Kent (but may or may not work in Kent) house prices are 9.1 times the annual average earnings. For people who work in Kent (but may live elsewhere) house prices are 10 times annual earnings.

Chart 42: Housing affordability



Section 5: Other Indicators of Social Distress

This section looks briefly at other indicators of social distress. While not necessarily an impact of welfare reform they do help to give an indication of where some people may turn to seek advice, guidance or assistance.

5.1 Foodbanks

Only a partial view of foodbank usage is available. Data used in this report comes from foodbanks operated by Trussell Trust. It does not include information from other independent foodbanks operating in the county.

Trussell Trust foodbank usage has increased overall in Kent. The trust now operates more foodbanks in Kent than in previous years, although no longer operate in Ashford which saw significant usage in 2013/14. Foodbanks in Deal and Gravesham, which saw some of the highest visits in 2013/14 saw a reduction in visits over the last year.

The largest group of users in 2014/15, accounting for 62% of visits, were adults without dependent children.

Table 53: Foodbank usage in Kent – 2012/13 – 2014/15

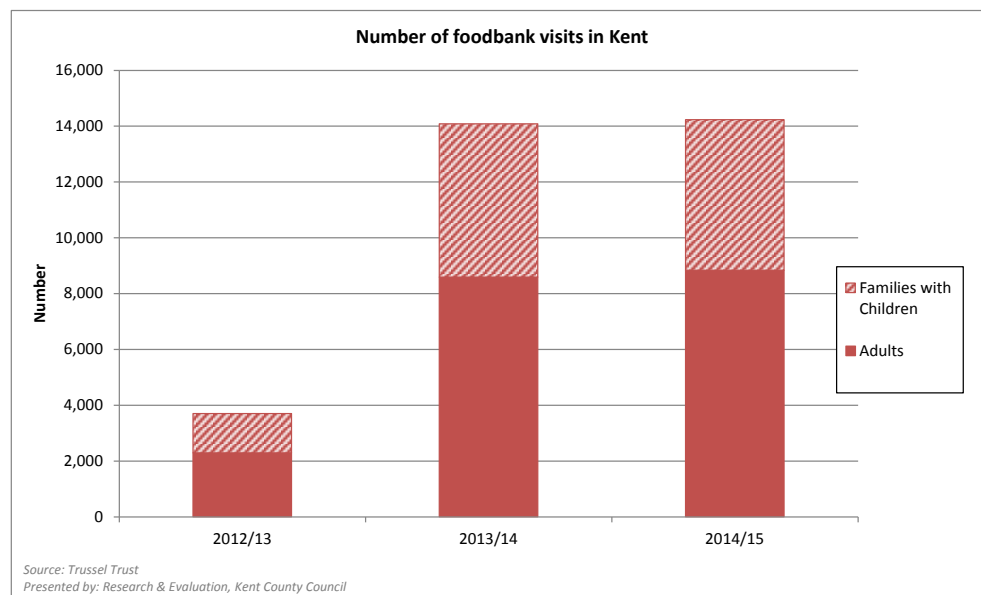
Foodbank	2012-13			2013-14			2014-2015		
	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total	Adults	Children	Total
Ashford	489	354	843	1,761	1,409	3,170	X	X	X
Deal Area	133	89	222	1,837	1,222	3,059	1,803	1,073	2,876
Gravesham	358	262	620	1,718	1,266	2,984	1,484	1,165	2,649
Medway	1,310	699	2,009	2,671	1,350	4,021	2,823	1,759	4,582
Faversham				0	0	0	291	164	455
Swanley & District				14	15	29	791	378	1,169
Dover				585	230	815	1,356	595	1,951
Shepway (Folkstone)							220	244	464
Sittingbourne							62	23	85
Total	2,290	1,404	3,694	8,586	5,492	14,078	8,830	5,401	14,231

Source: The Trussell Trust

Note: Ashford foodbanks has now left the Trussell Trust foodbank Network

Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 43: Foodbank visits



5.2 Citizens Advice Bureau visits

The Citizens Advice Bureau works from offices across Kent. In 2014/15 they saw a total of 39,215 people and dealt with 138,306 problems. Clients generally sought help for more than one problem.

Just over a quarter of the problems that people sought advice with were problems regarding benefits and tax credits, the largest of all being housing benefit. 12,804 people contact a CAB office with benefit related problems

Debt was also a significant problem with just under a quarter of all problems being debt related.

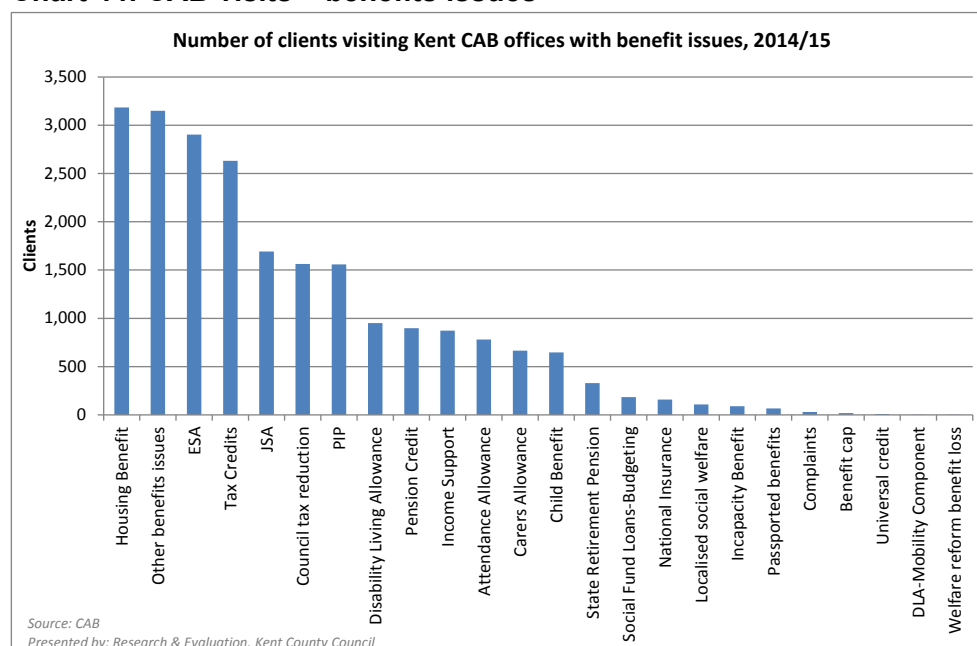
Housing advice was sought by 7,239 individuals.

Table 54: Number of visits to Citizen Advice Bureaus in Kent, 2014/15

	Number of Advice Events	% of all CAB Issues	Unique Client Count	Ratio of issues per client
Benefits & tax credits	36,790	26.6%	12,804	2.9
Debt	34,036	24.6%	8,066	4.2
Housing	14,163	10.2%	7,239	2.0
CAB Total	138,306	100.0%	39,215	3.5

Source: Citizens Advice Bureau
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

Chart 44: CAB visits – benefits issues



5.3 Kent Support and Assistance Service

Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS) were set up to help support households in times of financial crisis. The service does not give money but can help by providing things like a weeks worth of groceries, clothing, baby food and milk, furniture, bedding and essential electrical appliances. The service can also provide help with gas or electricity or emergency travel.

The number of applications to KSAS increased from the previous year to 11,664 in 2014/15. These resulted in 18,454 awards to the value of £1,773,358.

The increased use of the service may not necessarily be because of an increased need, but an increased awareness of the service may be contributory.

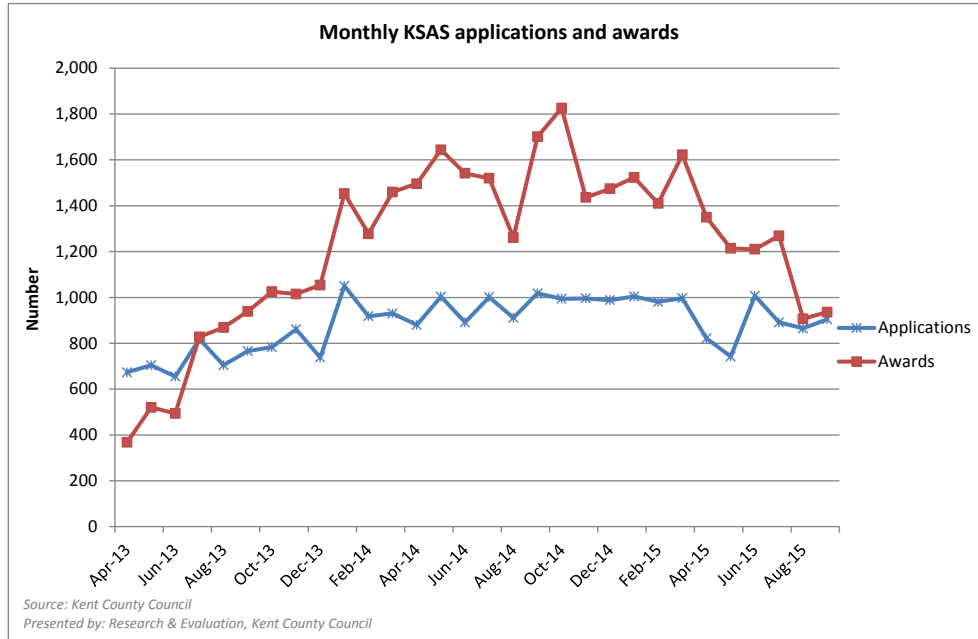
Table 55: Kent Support and Assistance Service

	Applications	Awards	Payment value (£s)
2013/14	9,600	11,303	1,410,231
2014/15	11,664	18,454	1,773,358

Source: Kent County Council
Presented by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

The monthly count of KSAS applications and awards shows an increase in awards throughout 2014 which began to fall through the early part of 2015.

Chart 45: Monthly KSAS applications and awards



The following chart shows how the payment values reflect the number of awards made each month.

Chart 46: Monthly KSAS payment value

