

Shepway – Draft Summary

This ‘all on one page summary’ seeks to draw out some of the key points in the Thanet District Profile prepared by KCC (*level (1) as referred to below.*) This is a first step in what will be an iterative process with District colleagues and Locality Board members to develop joint information, planning and performance resources for localities at three levels:

- 1) General background data to include performance data with a quick one page summary “capturing” key information.
- (2) A district dashboard to track the performance of key priority areas agreed by Locality Board members.
- (3) Bespoke analysis/in-depth reports commissioned by Locality Board members to inform planning and decisions in specific activity or performance areas.

POPULATION – *A population that will grow older than the Kent average and will see its working age population fall.*

The overall **population** of Shepway shows that there are a much higher number of the older generations than is the case for Kent (in all age groups above 55 years old). On the other hand, for all age bands below 49 years old, the Shepway figure is lower than the Kent average. The actual number of people exceeding the ‘classic’ retirement age of 65 will grow from 22,100 to 31,100 by 2026. Those of ‘working age’ will decrease from 60,300 in total to 58,900 by 2026.

HEALTH– *Distinct variations within the District on many health indicators and some evidence that the District performs at a lower than national average for a number of indicators relating to young people.*

Life expectancy in Shepway is broadly consistent with the Kent average and is generally higher than the UK average. The priorities in Shepway include work to increase the number of physically active children and adults, smoking in pregnancy and teenage pregnancy.

DEPRIVATION - *the second most relatively deprived District in Kent*

In the 2010 **Index of Multiple Deprivation** Shepway was the second most relatively deprived District in Kent and ranked 97 out of 326 local authority areas in England (the lower the rank the more relatively deprived). Previously Shepway was ranked 114th so has declined relatively 17 positions from 2007. Unsurprising, therefore, the number of **children living in poverty** is well above the Kent average and much closer to the average for Great Britain whilst the number of **lone parents claiming income support** (1.7%) is actually above the average for Great Britain (1.5%).

Many children in Shepway start out learning behind others in the county (ranking 10th for **early years** development score); this has been improving, but slower than other districts as its rank has fallen from 5th only two years ago.

Shepway has a higher percentage of people on **disability benefits** than the Kent average, about 10% of the population. This is the case for all age groups. Of these, by far the highest group is due to a physical disability, but within Shepway the percentage of those claiming due to a learning difficulty is higher than the Kent average.

HOUSING – *the lowest proportion of social sector housing stock in the County with some of the lowest private and social sector rents at £75 per week*
90% of Shepway's 49,322 houses is private sector stock with 10% social sector housing. 1% of Shepway's housing stock has been vacant for over 6 months. The average house price in Shepway is £195,348 which is 25% lower than the County average.

SAFETY – *generally a relatively safe District but with issues relating to safeguarding children*

Recorded crime per 1,000 of the population is lower than the Kent proportion in virtually all categories although violence against the person is a little higher than the Kent figure.

For young people there is a **high rate of referrals to Children Social Services** (768.4 per 10,000) and amongst Districts in Kent who are above target, but lower than the position last year. It is also above target for re-referrals (at 30.2%). It has the **second highest rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 in Kent** at 62.1 (128 children where KCC is the corporate parents), with 71.1% in KCC foster care.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS – *broadly average outcomes for young people and a lack of more highly qualified workers*

Shepway ranks 9th amongst Districts for pupils achieving a good standard by the end of **Primary** school (70.4%) but has improved since last year, and is 8th for pupils making expected levels of progress in English and in Maths. Although the percentage of pupils achieving **5+ A*- C grades at GCSE level** was higher than the Kent average, those achieving 5+ A*- C grades including English and Maths (56.4%) was lower than the Kent average.

The proportion of the Shepway working age population with **no qualifications** is lower in all age bands than the Kent average. However, the percentage with the highest **NVQ4/5** qualification is lower in all age groups (significantly in the 25-49 years group) except for the 50-64 years group.

ECONOMY – *A relatively small economy experiencing higher than average rates of unemployment with a noticeable rise in youth unemployment*

The Shepway **economy** has broadly a similar structure as the rest of Kent with the most important sectors being construction, professional, scientific and technical services and retail. Unsurprisingly, the importance of accommodation and food services is much higher than in the Kent and

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Great Britain averages.

Not unexpectedly the number of those **unemployed** has risen over the last few years and, as is historically the case, local unemployment rates are above the Kent average. The average age and gender profile for those unemployed is broadly consistent with the overall picture for Kent. Claimant count unemployment is 4.3% with **youth unemployment** showing a sharp rise; young people make up a larger proportion of the unemployed than in Kent generally.