K. Deprivation and Poverty

In general, deprivation is defined as 'the proportion of households in a defined small geographical unit with a combination of circumstances indicating low living standards or a high need for services or both'[1].

As is the case across the country there are parts of the Dover district where people tend to be poorer, or less healthy, or more likely to be out of work than people from other parts of the district. Coastal Deprivation is also an issue for the district with the unique challenges this brings relevant to regeneration and health and wellbeing of our residents such as alcohol problems, in-migration of older people and transient populations; houses in multiple occupation and limited opportunities for young people.

1: ENGLISH INDICES OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

The English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the most detailed and frequently used measure of deprivation and should be calculated for every neighbourhood in England every 3 years. The latest index available is the Indices of Deprivation 2010 (IMD 2010), which was published on 24 March 2011. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has confirmed it is updating the indices of deprivation and has recently appointed Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) to carry out the work (May 2014).

Before producing updated indices, the DCLG intends to review existing deprivation indicators and statistical methods, and consider potential new data sources. There will be a final consultation on the full set of proposals in the autumn. The DCLG anticipates new updated indices will be published in **summer 2015**.

Summary of Deprivation in the Dover District

Dover District: Index of Multiple Deprivation	
Kent rank (out of 12)	4
National rank (out of 326)	127
Average Score	20.69
Source: Communities & Local Government (CLG)	

11 of the 67 LSOAs in Dover are within the top 20% most deprived in England.

In the IMD 2010, the Dover district has a national rank of average score of 127 (out of 326 local authorities) and is the 4th deprived area of Kent behind Thanet, Shepway and Swale.

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation are constructed using seven distinct domains, reflecting the broad range of deprivation that people can experience: Income, Employment, Health and Disability, Education, Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Services, Crime and Living Environment. Scores are present at lower super output areas (LSOAs). LSOAs areas are constructed using populations from communities or naturally bounded areas. The number of people in an LSOA is between 1,000 and 1,500 and they are aggregated together to form electoral wards. The number of LSOAs in an electoral ward can vary from one to five depending upon the original size of the electoral ward.

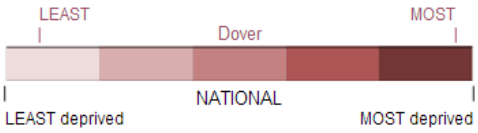
The IMD 2010 show deprivation in the district is concentrated in a small number of wards. The Dover district has eleven LSOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally. The most deprived wards in the district are (total ward or parts of): **St Radigunds, Buckland, Tower Hamlets, Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory, Castle and Aylesham**.

The **most deprived** LSOA in the Dover district is in the St Radigunds ward (with a rank of 1228 out 32,482: 1 being the most deprived). The **least deprived** LSOA in the district is in the River ward (with a rank of 30,069 out of 32,482).

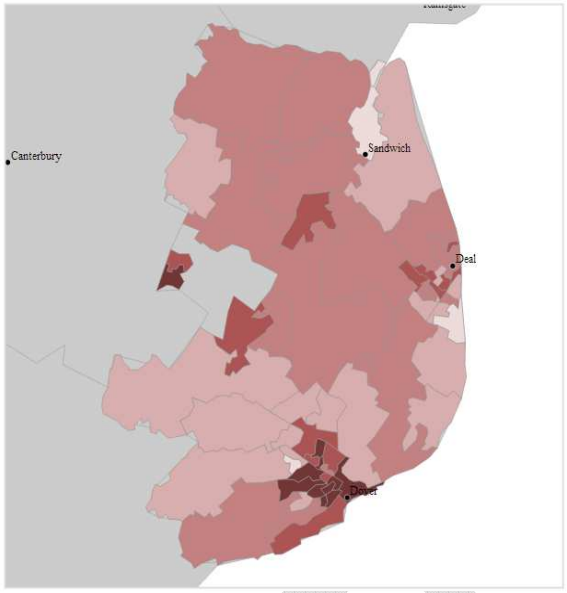
[1] Bartley and Blane, 1994

It should be noted that an area itself is not deprived: it is the circumstances and lifestyles of the people living there that affect its deprivation score. Not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived – and not all deprived people live in deprived areas.

ONS Atlas of the Indices of Deprivation 2010 for England
The map shading uses the values for all 32,482 LSOAs in England. Each area is shaded using its rank in the current map indicator. The colours change at 20%, 40%, 60% and 80% of the distribution.



Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation



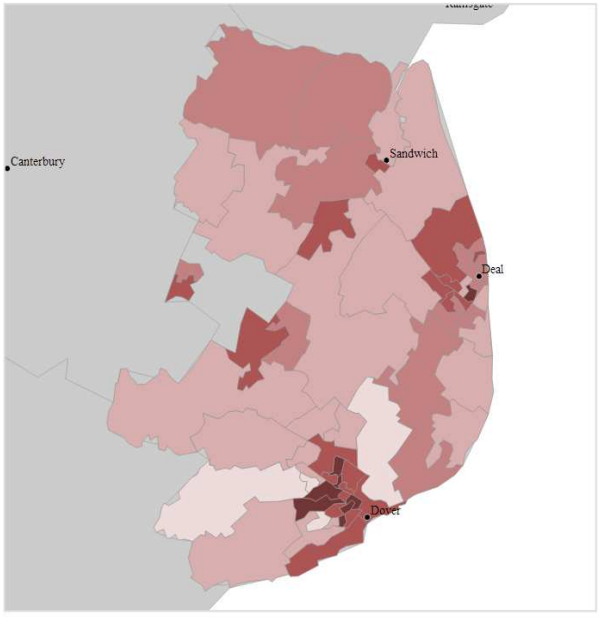
Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010

- The Overall IMD 2010 combines these seven individual domains, using appropriate weights, and can be used to rank each LSOA in England according to the deprivation experienced there.
- St Radigunds is in the top 10% deprived nationally (1 LSOA)
- St Radigunds, Buckland, Tower Hamlets, Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory, Castle and Aylesham are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 11 LSOAs).
- A further 4 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.

Income Domain

- This domain measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation related to low income.
- St Radigunds and Buckland are in the top 10% deprived nationally (2 LSOAs).
- St Radigunds, Buckland, Tower Hamlets, Middle Deal and Sholden, Maxton, Elms Vale & Priory are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 8 LSOAs).
- A further 11 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.
- A further two supplementary indices concerning income deprivation are also produced:

Income



Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) which represents the proportion of children aged 0-15 living in income deprived households:

- St Radigunds is in the top the top 10% deprived nationally (1 LSOAs)
- St Radigunds, Buckland, Tower Hamlets, Middle Deal and Sholden and Whitfield are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 8 LSOAs).
- A further 11 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally

Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) which represents the proportion of older people aged 60 and over living in income deprived households:

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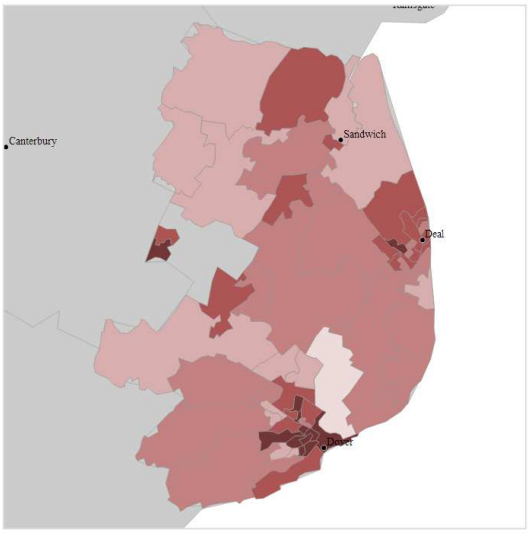
- St Radigunds, Tower Hamlets and Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 3 LSOAs).
- A further 8 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.

Employment



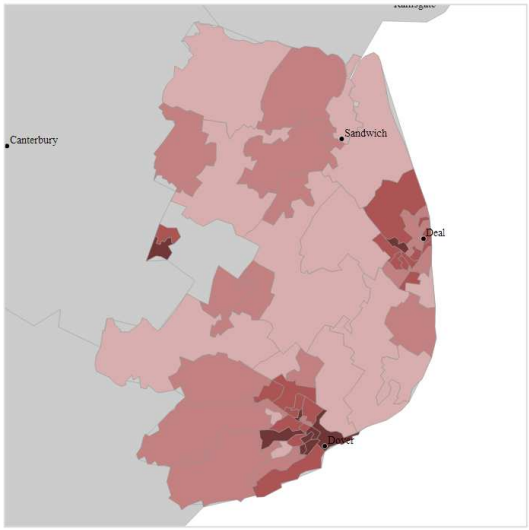
Employment Domain

- This domain measures employment deprivation in an area conceptualised as involuntary exclusion of the working age population from the labour market.
- St Radigunds, Tower Hamlets, Castle, Buckland and Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory are in the top 10% deprived nationally (5 LSOAs)
- St Radigunds, Tower Hamlets, Castle, Buckland, Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory, Aylesham and Middle Deal and Sholden are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 12 LSOAs).
- A further 8 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.

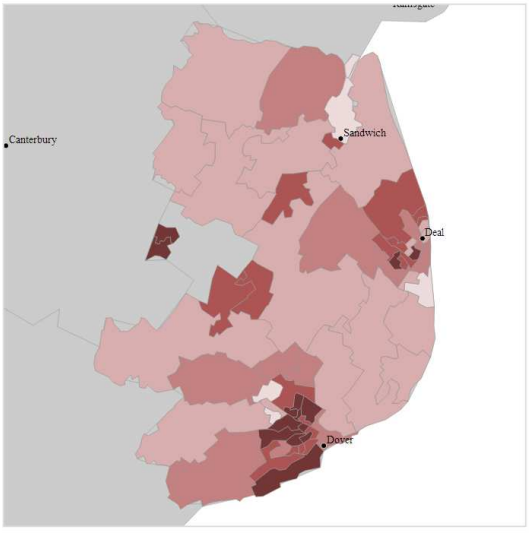
Health & Disability Domain

- This domain measures premature death and the impairment of quality of life by poor health. It considers both physical and mental health.
- Aylesham is in the in the top 10% deprived nationally (3 LSOAs)
- Aylesham, Buckland and Capel-le-Ferne are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 9 LSOAs).
- A further 10 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.

Health Deprivation and Disability



Education, Skills and Training



Education Domain

- This domain measures the extent of deprivation in terms of education, skills and training in an area.
- The indicators are structured into two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills.
- St Radigunds and Aylesham are in the top 10% deprived nationally (2 LSOAs)
- St Radigunds and Aylesham, Buckland, Town and Pier, Tower Hamlets, Middle Deal and Sholden and Mill Hill are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 14 LSOAs).
- A further 10 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.

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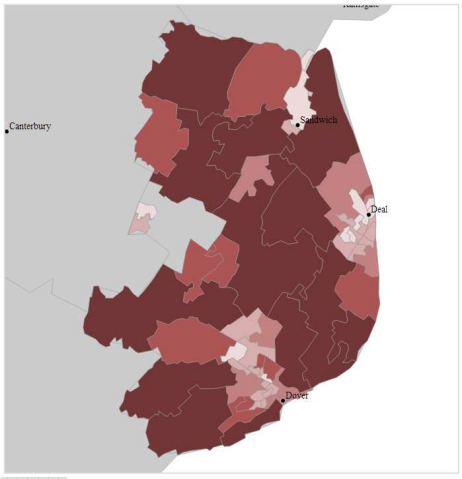
Barriers to Housing & Services Domain

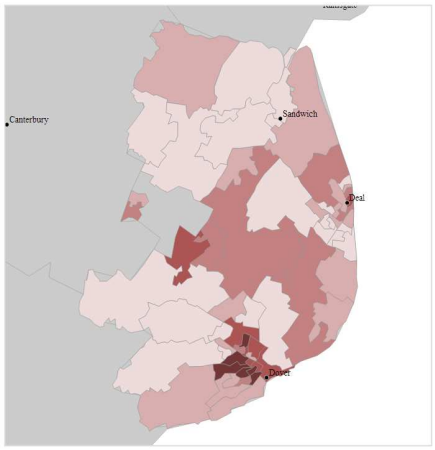
This domain measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and key local services. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: 'geographical barriers', which relate to the physical proximity of local services (such as road distance to GP surgery or a Post Office) and 'wider barriers' (which includes overcrowding and issues relating to access to housing such as affordability).

- Capel-le-Ferne, Little Stour and Ashstone, Eastry, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe and River are in the top 10% deprived nationally (6 LSOAs)
- Capel-le-Ferne, Little Stour and Ashstone, Eastry, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe, River, Aylesham, Town and Pier, Sandwich, Eythorne and Shepherdswell are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 14 LSOAs).
- A further 3 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.

Barriers to Services



Crime



Crime Domain

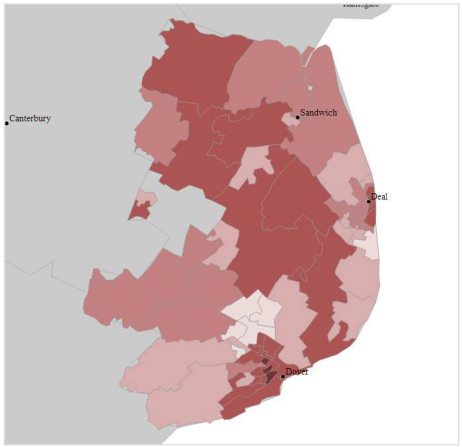
This domain measures the rate of recorded crime in an area for four major crime types representing the risk of personal and material victimisation at a small area level (violence; burglary; theft and criminal damage.

- Buckland is in the top the top 10% deprived nationally (1 LSOAs)
- Buckland, St Radigunds, Tower Hamlets, Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 6 LSOAs).
- A further 5 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.

Living Environment Domain

- This domain measures the quality of individuals' immediate surroundings both within and outside the home.
- The indicators fall into two sub-domains: the 'indoors' living environment, which measures the quality of housing, and the 'outdoors' living environment which contains two measures relating to air quality and road traffic accidents.
- Maxton, Elms Vale & Priory and Tower Hamlets are in the 10% deprived nationally (2 LSOAs)
- Maxton, Elms Vale & Priory, Tower Hamlets and St Radigunds are in the top 20% deprived nationally (a total of 3 LSOAs).
- A further 13 LSOAs are in the top 30% deprived nationally.

Living Environment



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People Experiencing Deprivation

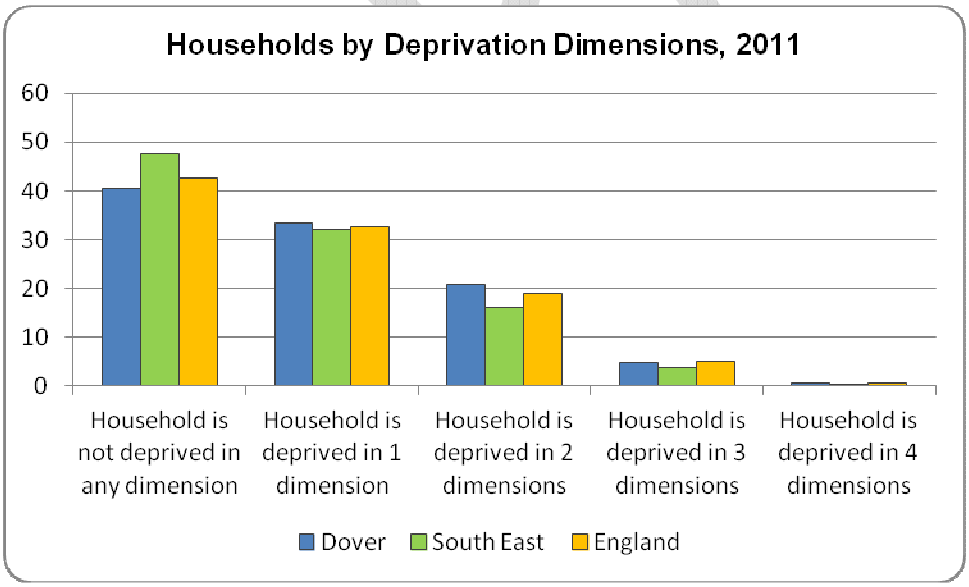
- The IMD 2010 shows that 14,857 people in Dover experienced income deprivation, the equivalent of 14% of the population in Dover. This is below the average for Kent (12.3%) but better than the England average (14.7%)

Index of Deprivation, 2010			
Indicator	**Dover**	**Kent**	**England**
People living in means tested benefits households (No.)	14,904	-	-
Children living in income deprived households (No.)	4,008	-	-
People aged 60+ living in pension credit households (No.)	4,713	-	-
Deprivation (%)	18	10.9	20.3
Income Deprivation (%)	14	12.3	14.7
Child Poverty (%)	20.4	17.8	21.8
Older People in Deprivation (%)	15.8	15	18.1
Better than England average			
Source: Department for Communities and Local Government			

Census 2011: Households by Deprivation Dimensions

The 2011 Census includes dimensions of deprivation to classify households based on the four selected household characteristics:

1. Employment (any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick)
2. Education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student)
3. Health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or very bad' or has a long term health problem), and
4. Housing (Household's accommodation is ether overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.



Source: ONS, Census 2011 Households by Deprivation Dimensions (QS119EW)

At the time of the Census , there were 48,310 households in the Dover district:

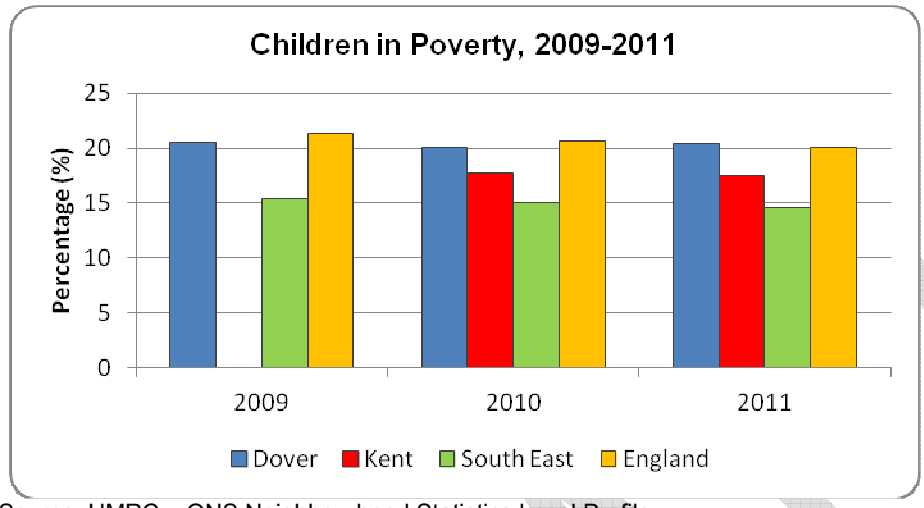
- 40.4% of households (19,504) in the district were not deprived in any of the dimensions. This is lower than the average for the South East (47.7%) and England (42.5%).
- 0.5% of households (239) in the district were found to be deprived in all 4 dimensions, which is the close to / same as the regional (0.4%) and national (0.5%) figures.
- 33.5% of households (16,204) were deprived in 1 dimension (higher than the South East with 32.2% and England with 32.7%).
- 20.7% of households (9,988) were deprived in 2 dimensions (higher than the South East with 16.0% and England with 19.1%).
- 4.9% of households (2,375) were deprived in 3 dimensions (higher than the South East with 3.7% and

England with 5.1%).

CHILD POVERTY

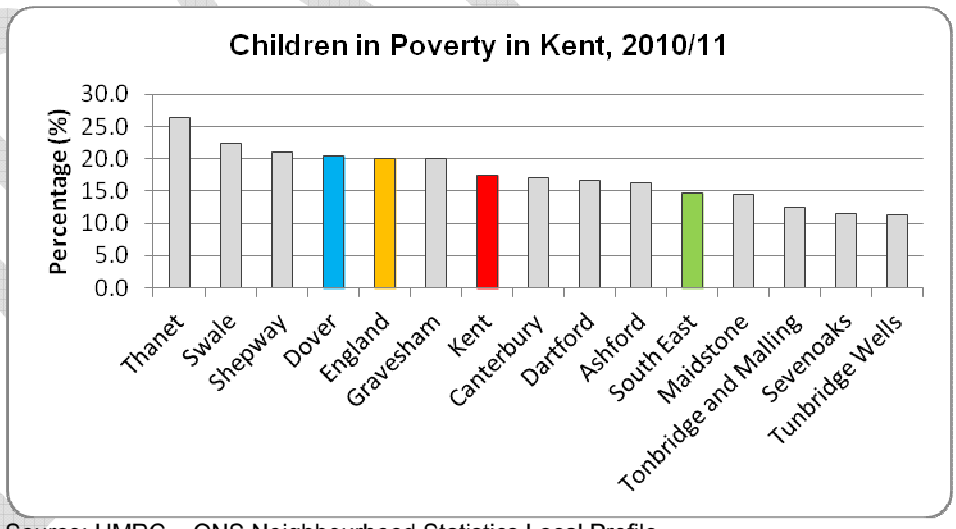
Child poverty is calculated as the number of children living in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit whose reported income is less than 60% of the median income or in receipt of Income Support or (Income-Based) Jobseekers Allowance, divided by the total number of children in the area.

Figures are produced by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and represent a snap shot in time. The latest data available is for August 2011.



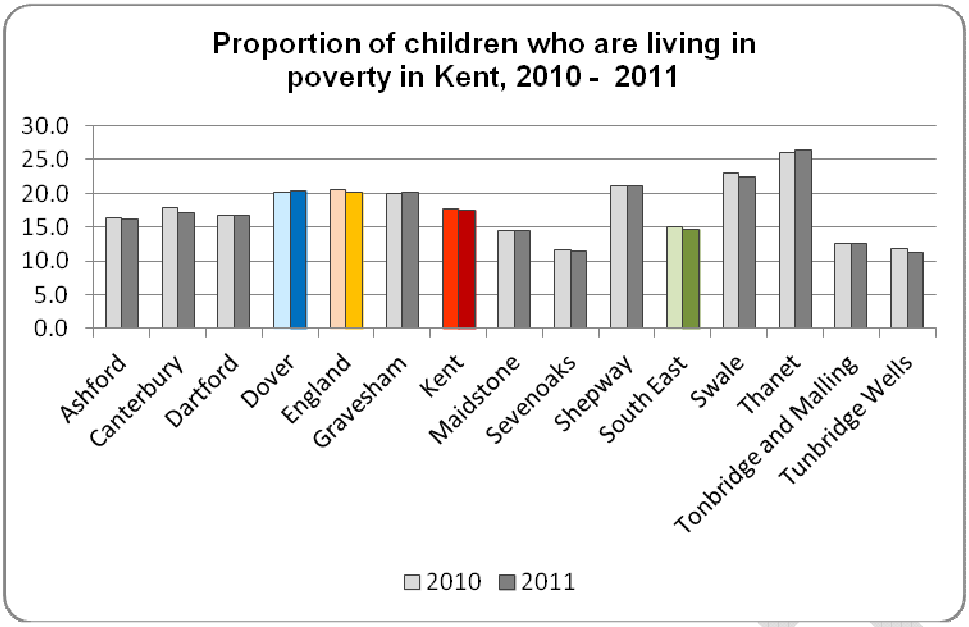
Source: HMRC – ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Local Profile

- HMRC figures suggest that 20.4% of all children in the Dover district are living in poverty, up from 20.1% in 2010. This is above the average for Kent (17.5%), South East (14.6%) and England (20.1%).
- The figures show that there are wide variations across Kent.



Source: HMRC – ONS Neighbourhood Statistics Local Profile

- Dover has the fourth highest rate of child poverty at 20.4 (4,625 children).
- Thanet has the highest child poverty rate in the county at 26.4% 7,695 children) and Tunbridge Wells has the lowest child poverty rate 11.3% (2,990 children).
- Four districts in Kent (Dover, Shepway, Swale and Thanet) are within the 20% in the South East with the highest levels of child poverty.

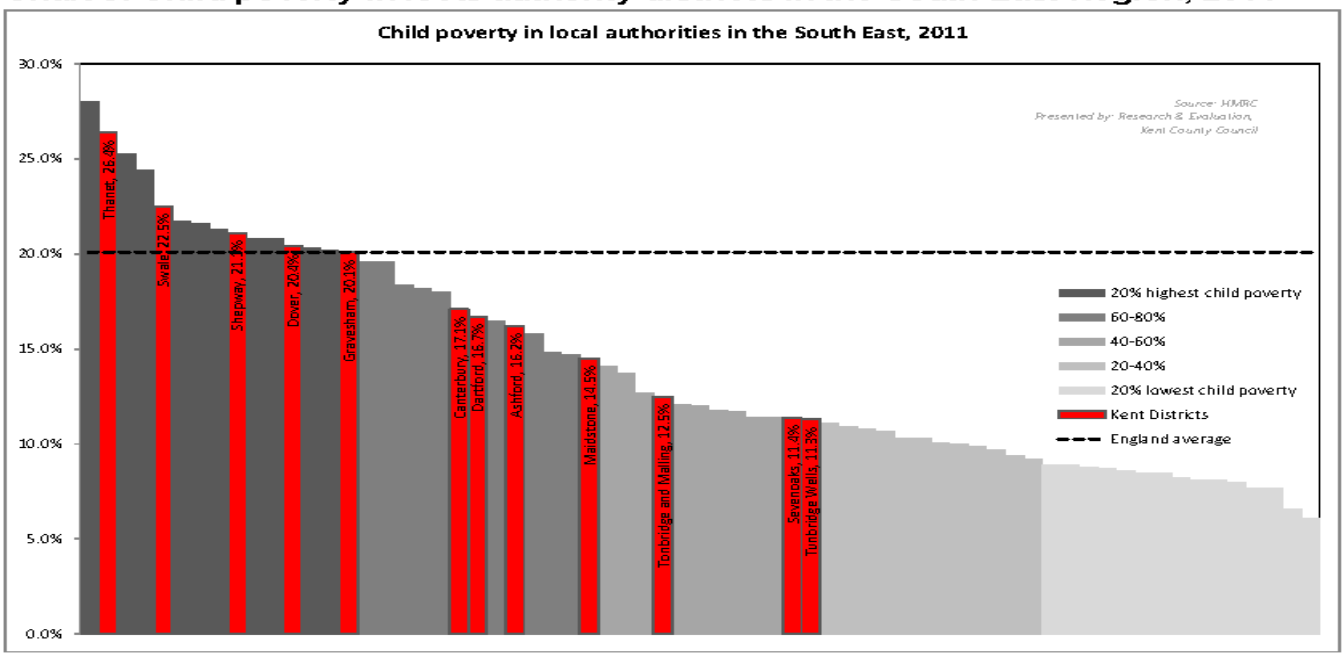


- Overall in Kent there has been a slight fall in child poverty of -0.5% between 2010 and 2011. Compared to a decrease of -1.8% in the South East and -2.0% nationally.
- However, three districts (Dover, Gravesham and Thanet) have seen increases.
- The proportion of all children in poverty has risen by 0.3% over the year in the Dover district.

Source: ONS Child Poverty Local Profile

Change in the number of children in poverty in the Dover District, 2010-2011							
Children in Poverty 2010		Children in Poverty 2011		Change		Percentage Change	
Under 16	All Children	Under 16	All Children	Under 16	All Children	Under 16	All Children
4,105	4,625	4,100	4,640	-5	15	-0.1%	0.3%
Source: HMRC – Child Poverty Statistics							

Chart 3: Child poverty in local authority districts in the South East Region, 2011



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

Children in poverty by family type

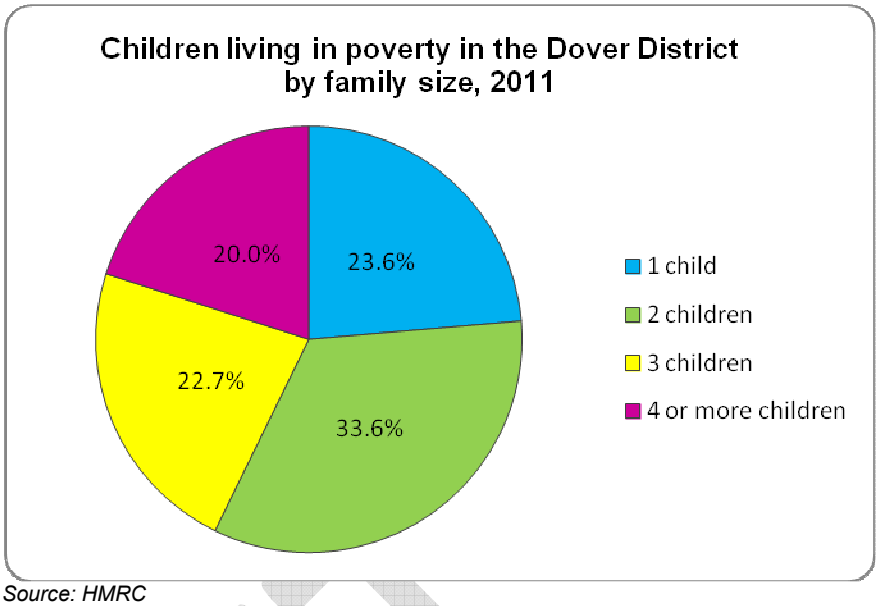
	Couple	Lone Parent
Dover (No)	1,640	3,000
Dover (%)	35.3	64.7
Kent (%)	31.0	69.0
South East (%)	28.9	71.1
England (%)	31.7	68.3

Source: HMRC;

- Children who are living in poverty are more likely to be living in lone parent households where the potential income is likely to be lower.
- 35.3% of children live in a couple household; this is above the average for Kent, South East and England.

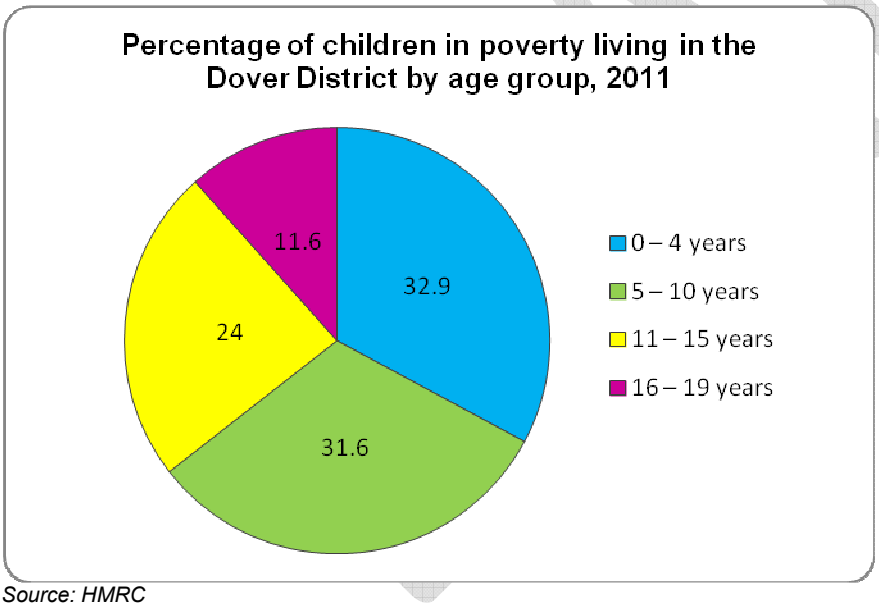
Percentage of children in poverty by family size

- The largest proportion of children living in poverty in the Dover district live in families with 2 children (33.6%)
- 20% have 4 or more children.



Source: HMRC

	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 or more children
Dover (No)	1,095	1,560	1,055	930
Dover (%)	23.6	33.6	22.7	20.0
Kent (%)	23.7	33.7	23.3	19.3
South East (%)	24.0	34.0	23.0	19.0
England (%)	23.6	32.4	23.1	20.9



Source: HMRC

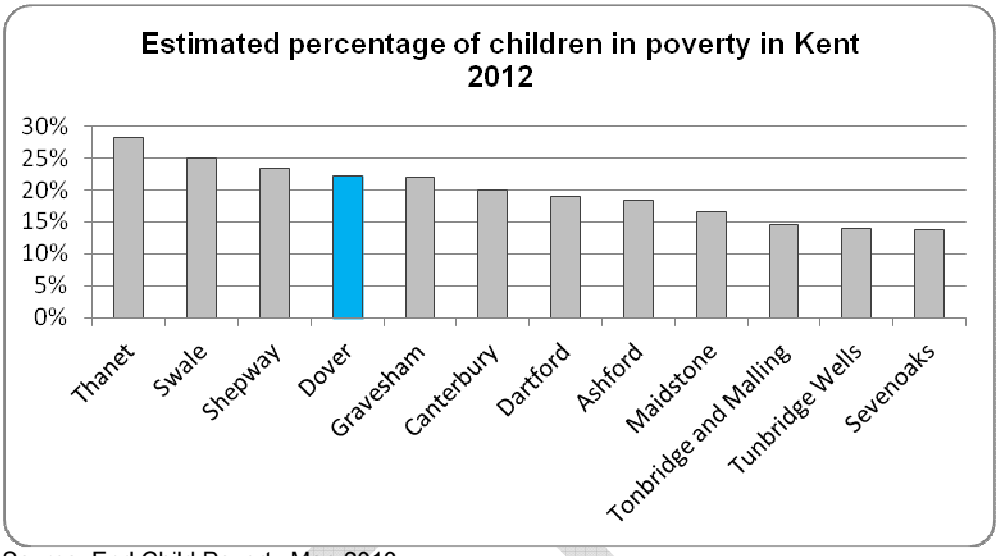
Children in poverty by age group

- Child poverty in the Dover district is highest among those aged 0 to 4 than any of the other age groups.
- Nearly two-thirds of the children living in poverty in the district are aged 10 and under (64.5% or 2,990 children).
- As a proportion of all children living in the Dover district, in each age group, 25.3% are aged 0-4 years; 21.3% are aged 5-10 years; 17.7% are aged 11-15 years and 15.3% are aged 16-19 years.

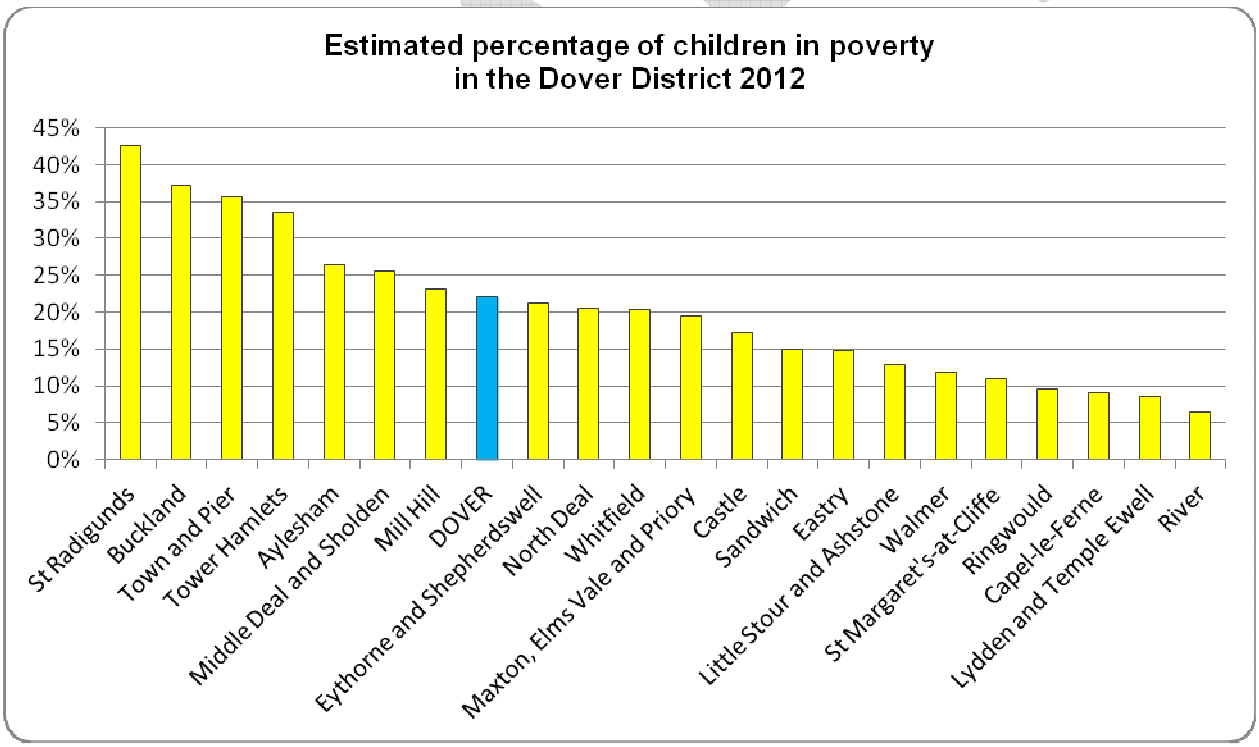
	0 – 4 years	5 – 10 years	11 – 15 years	16 – 19 years
Dover (No)	1,525	1,465	1,115	540
Dover (%)	32.9	31.6	24.0	11.6
Kent (%)	32.6	31.8	24.2	11.3
South East (%)	32.7	32.0	23.7	11.5
England (%)	31.7	31.7	24.0	12.6

End Child Poverty map 2013

- Statistics from the Campaign to End Poverty show the wide disparity in poverty levels across the country and county.
- Dover has equal fourth highest estimated percentage of children in poverty in Kent with 22% (5,108 children).
- Thanet has the highest (28% or 5,125 children) and Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells they had the lowest with 14% each (3,506 and 4,041 children respectively).



Source: End Child Poverty Map 2013



Source: End Child Poverty Map 2013

- Seven wards in the Dover District have above the Dover district average for estimated percentage of children in poverty: St. Radigunds (43%); Buckland (37%); Town & Pier (36%); Tower Hamlets (34%); Aylesham (27%); Middle Deal and Sholden (26%) and Mill Hill (23%).
- The wards with the lowest estimated percentage of children in poverty are: River (7%); Lydden and Temple Ewell (9%); Capel-le-Ferne (9%); Ringwould (10%) and St. Margarets-at-cliffe (11%).
- Buckland ward has the highest number (737) of children in poverty in the Dover district, followed by St. Radigunds (626) and Tower Hamlets (469) whilst Ringwould has the lowest number (26), Capel-le-Ferne (33) and Lydden and Temple Ewell (40) .

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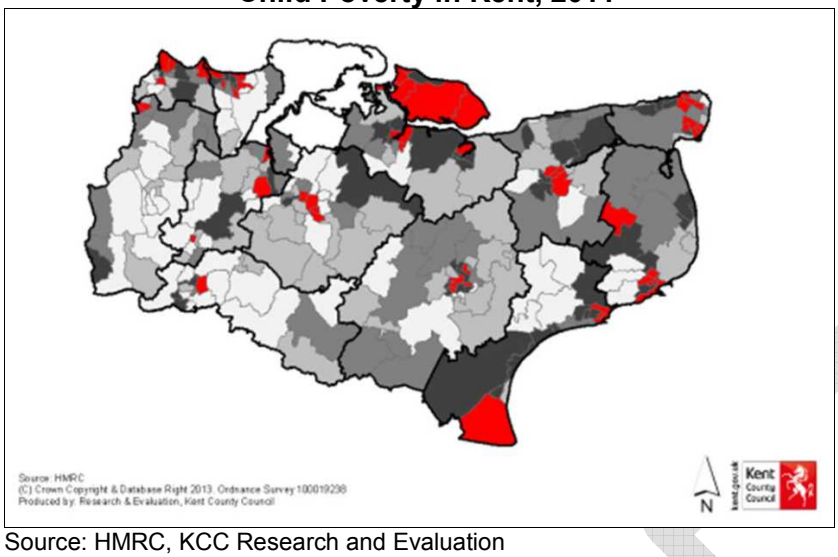
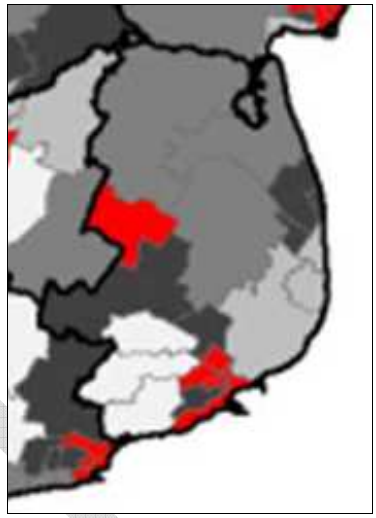
The map bellows shows the distribution of child poverty across Kent and the Dover district:

Child Poverty in Kent, 2011



Dover District, 2011



Source: HMRC, KCC Research and Evaluation

- The 20% of Kent wards with the highest percentage of children living in poverty are shown in red.
- Six out of the 21 wards in the district are within the 20% in Kent with the highest levels of child poverty.

Number of wards within Kent quintiles in the Dover district, 2011				
20% lowest child poverty	**20 - 40%**	**40 - 60%**	**60 - 80%**	**20% highest child poverty**
3	3	3	6	6

FUEL POVERTY

In 2013, the Government announced its intention to adopt a new definition of fuel poverty based on the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) framework. Under the new measure of fuel poverty, fuel costs are equivalised according to the number of people in a household, rather than the household composition.

The key elements in determining whether a household is fuel poor or not are: Income; Fuel prices and Fuel consumption (which is dependent on the dwelling characteristics and the lifestyle of the household)

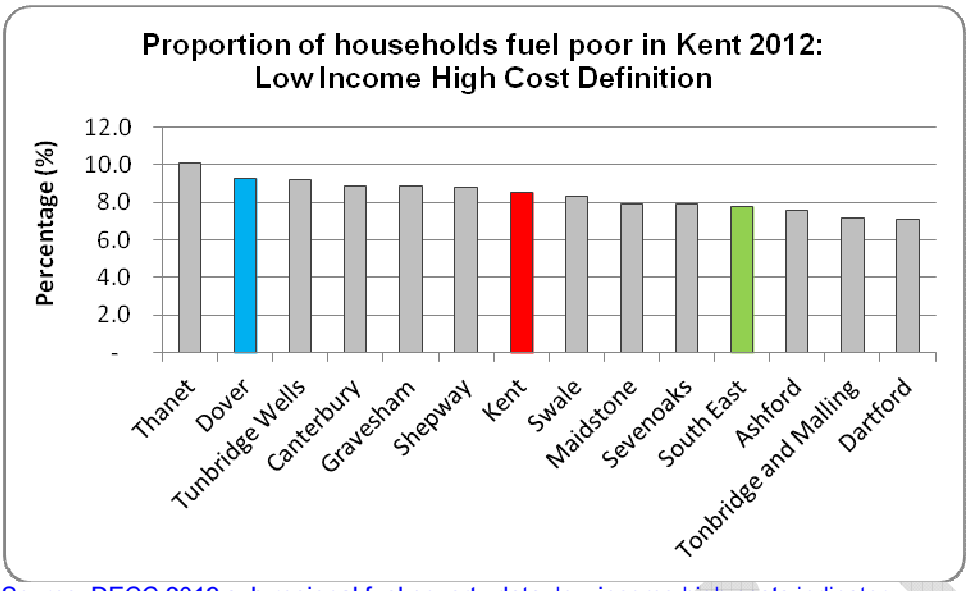
Low Income High Cost Indicator

- Under the new Low Income High Cost definition a household is considered to be fuel poor where:
  - they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level)
  - were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.
- The low income high cost indicator consists of two parts:
  - The number of households that have both low incomes and high fuel costs
  - The depth of fuel poverty amongst these households. This is measured in terms of a fuel poverty gap, which represents the difference between the modelled fuel bill for each household, and the reasonable cost threshold for the household. This is summed for all households that have both low income and high costs to give an aggregate fuel poverty gap.

Fuel poverty is linked to other measures of inequality such as deprivation, income and health.

Dover District		
Estimated number of households	**Estimated number of Fuel Poor Households**	**Percentage of households fuel poor**

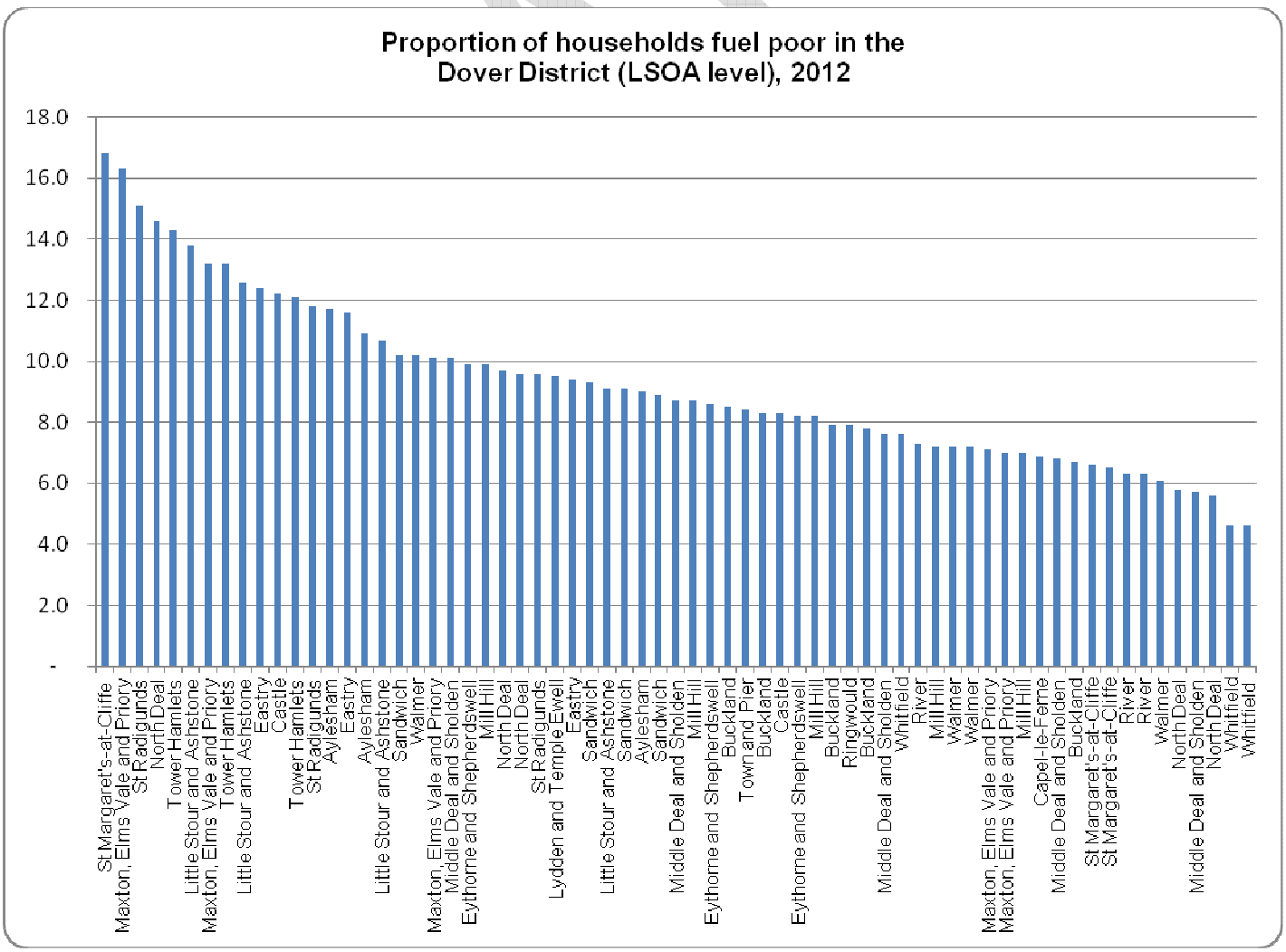
60,729	5,378	9.3%



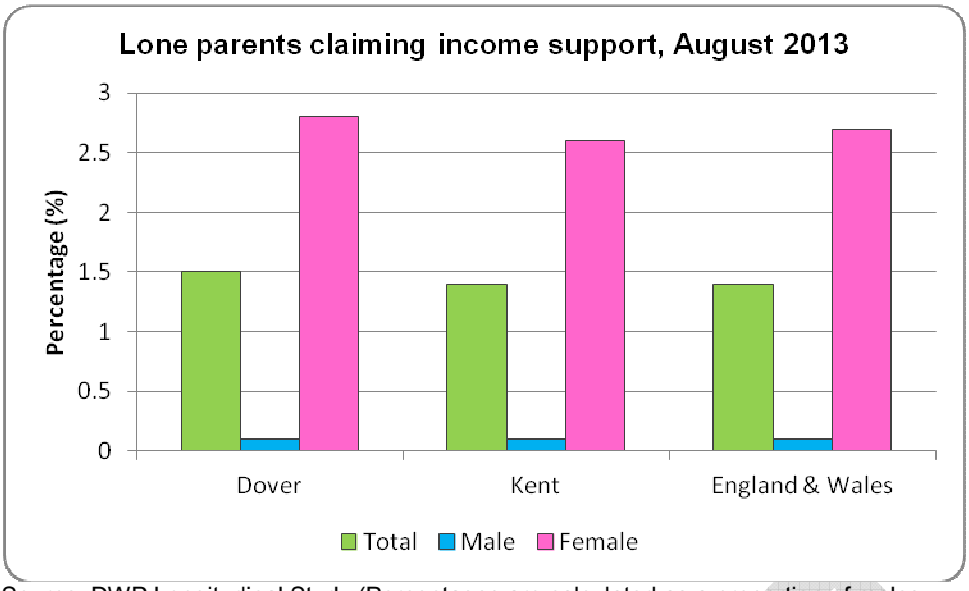
Source: DECC 2012 sub-regional fuel poverty data: low income high costs indicator – published June 2014

- Under the LIHC indicator, 9.3% (5,378) of households were fuel poor in the Dover district; this is the second highest in Kent (behind Thanet with 10.1%) and is higher than the county and regional average.
- Under the old 10% definition, 11.2% (5,421) of households would be classed as fuel poor.
- Pre-war properties generally have lower energy efficiency standards and so higher fuel costs.

- Therefore, the proportion of households living in fuel poverty increases with the age of the property.
- The Dover district has a high proportion of properties built before 1900 (See Housing Chapter).



Source: DECC 2012 sub-regional fuel poverty data: low income high costs indicator – published June 2014



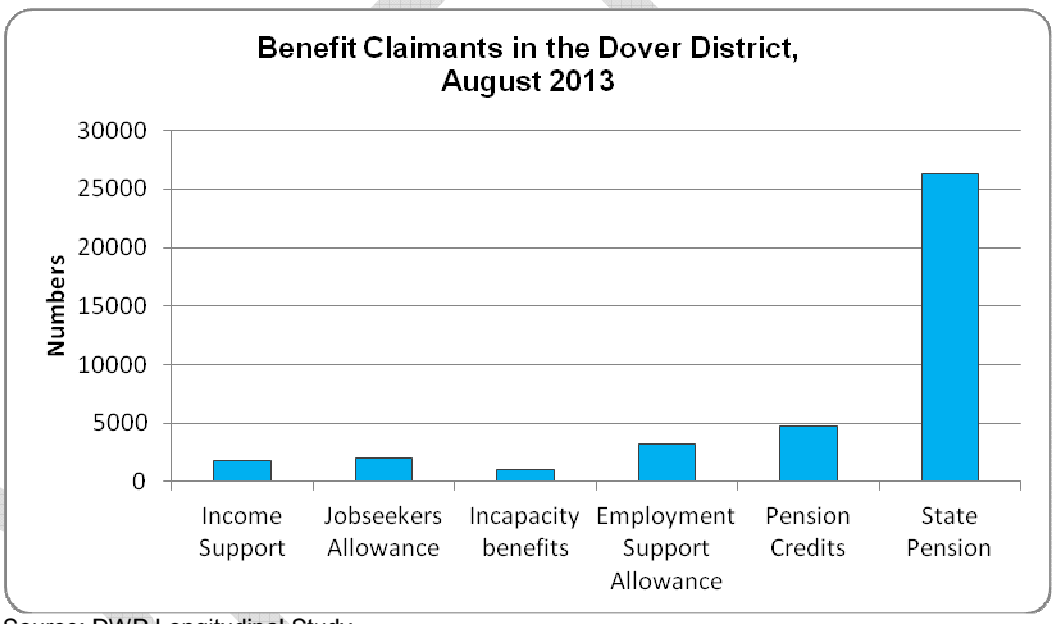
Source: DWP Longitudinal Study (Percentages are calculated as a proportion of males, females or total population aged 16-59)

Lone Parents

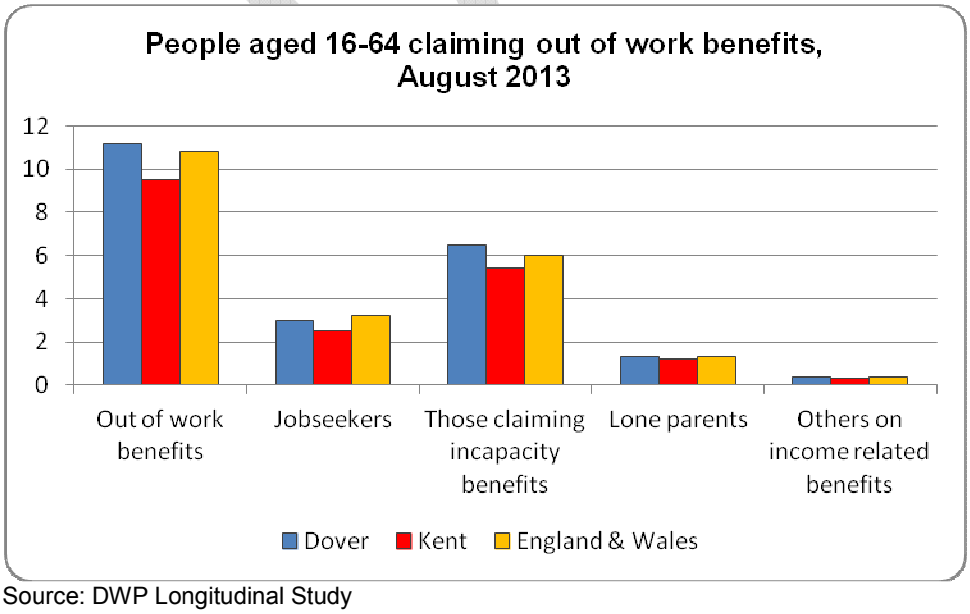
- In August 2013, Dover had a slightly higher percentage of lone parents (900 or 1.5%) claiming income support than the Kent (1.4%) and Great Britain (1.4%) averages. The majority of lone parents are female.
- In the Dover district there were 860 female claimants and 30 male claimants.

Benefit Claimants

- In August 2013, the majority of benefit claimants in the Dover district were receiving the state pension (26,330 people).



Source: DWP Longitudinal Study



Source: DWP Longitudinal Study

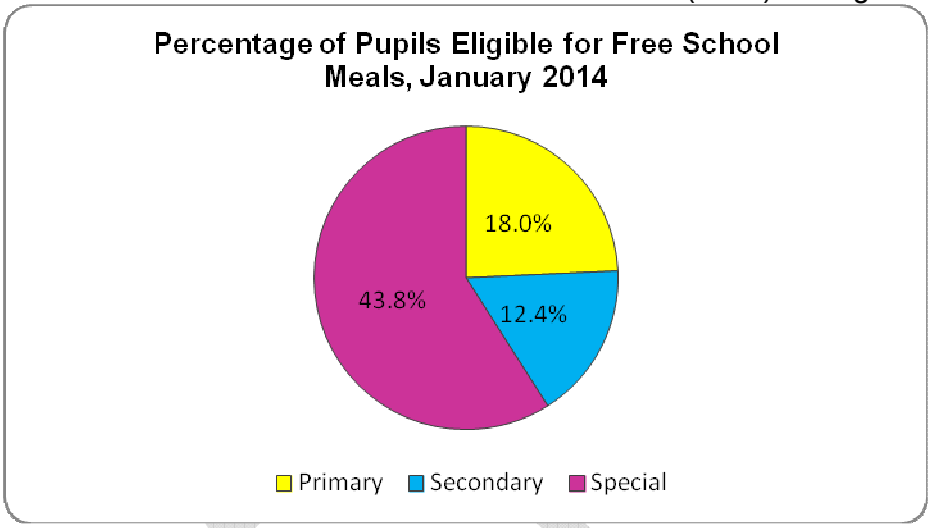
Worklessness

- In August 2013, the percentage of people claiming out-of-work benefits in the Dover District (11.2% or 7,610 people) is higher than county (9.5%) and national (10.8%) averages.
- The proportion claiming incapacity

benefits in the district (6.5%) is also higher than Kent (5.4%) and England & Wales (6.0%) averages.

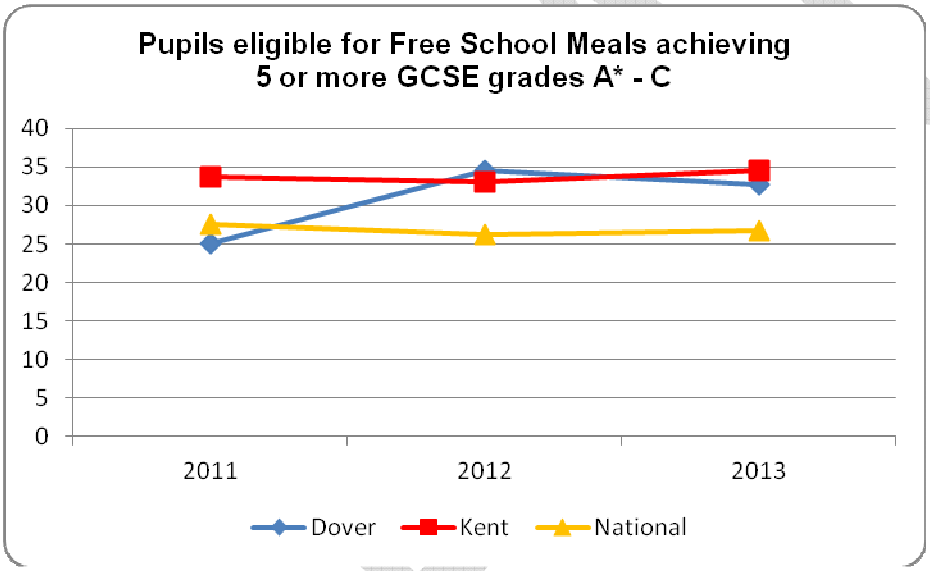
Free School Meals

- The provision of free school meals has traditionally been a reliable indicator of the extent and degree of child poverty in the UK.
- In January 2014, overall 15.7% (down from 17.8% in 2012) of pupils were eligible for free school meals. This compares to 13.8% across Kent and 16.7% nationally.



Source: KCC - KELSI, Management Information

Attainment Gap between pupils eligible for Free School Meals and their peers



- In 2013, the percentage of 15-year-old pupils, eligible for free school meals, achieving 5 or more A* to C grades GCSEs was 32.7% - a fall from 34.5% in 2012.
- This is below the average for Kent (34.5%) but higher than the national average (26.7%).

Source: KCC - KELSI, Management Information

Vulnerable Children in the Dover district

- As at December 2012, there was 107 Looked After Children in the Dover district. There was also 61 children subject to a Child Protection Plan, which equates to 26.3 per 10,000 aged 0-17 (falling from a rate of 31.5 per 10,000 in March 2012 or 73 children).

IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM

- The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contains measures for the most comprehensive reform of the welfare state in a generation. Underlying the reforms is the Coalition Government's aim to make significant

savings to the welfare budget, reduce dependency on the state, make work pay for the majority of claimants, whilst at the same time supporting those who cannot work.

- In addition to the measures contained in the Act, there are other important changes either started under the previous Government or introduced outside the Welfare Reform Act itself. These generally involve a reduction in support for benefit claimants of working age, increased conditionality with regard to job seeking and an increase in the power to sanction benefit claimants who do not comply with these conditions.

- The welfare reforms are extensive and complex, with the measures primarily aimed at claimants of working age, and pensioners largely protected from the changes. Please see the Budget, Funding and Investment Chapter for the key points of the welfare reform.

- The impact of welfare reform is difficult to assess because the reforms are relatively recent and are not yet fully implemented. It is also not always possible to establish whether the outcomes are due to the changes or other factors (such as the economic recession) and there are time-lags in data being published.

- Research by the Institute of Fiscal Studies[2] suggests that families will be disproportionately affected. It is estimated that beyond 2016-17 relative and absolute poverty for children and working-age claimants in the country will increase because the poverty-reducing effects of Universal Credit is outweighed by the impact of other welfare reforms. By 2021-21, child poverty is projected to reach 23.5% (relative poverty) and 27.2% (absolute poverty), against targets of 10% and 5% respectively.

- Anecdotal evidence indicates that debt and debt management are emerging as issues as a result of the welfare reforms.

Projected numbers of people affected in the Dover District

In June 2013, KCC published a Welfare Reform Research report and the following table summarises the estimated number of households impacted by each of the reforms (excluding Universal Credit).

Estimated numbers of people affected by benefit changes in the Dover District

Housing Benefit: Local Housing Allowance	Housing Benefit: Under-occupation	Non-dependant deductions	Household benefit cap	Council Tax Benefit	Disability Living Allowance	Incapacity benefits	Child Benefit	Tax Credits
3,500	600	600	70	6,100	1,000	2,100	13,100	8,200

Source: KCC Business Strategy Welfare Reform Research June 2013

- This shows that significant numbers of people are likely to be affected by more than one of the reforms, but there is no way of measuring this. The overall impact of the Welfare Reforms are likely to be felt across the district, but more concentrated in those areas with high numbers of current benefit claimants and low income areas – such as social housing estates.

Unemployment and Economic Development

Unemployment

- It is difficult to predict whether or not the changes to the benefit system and incentives to work will lead to a fall in unemployment in the district as this is dependent upon the state of the economy and the skills set of claimants and how 'work ready' they are. The Government has estimated[3] that within

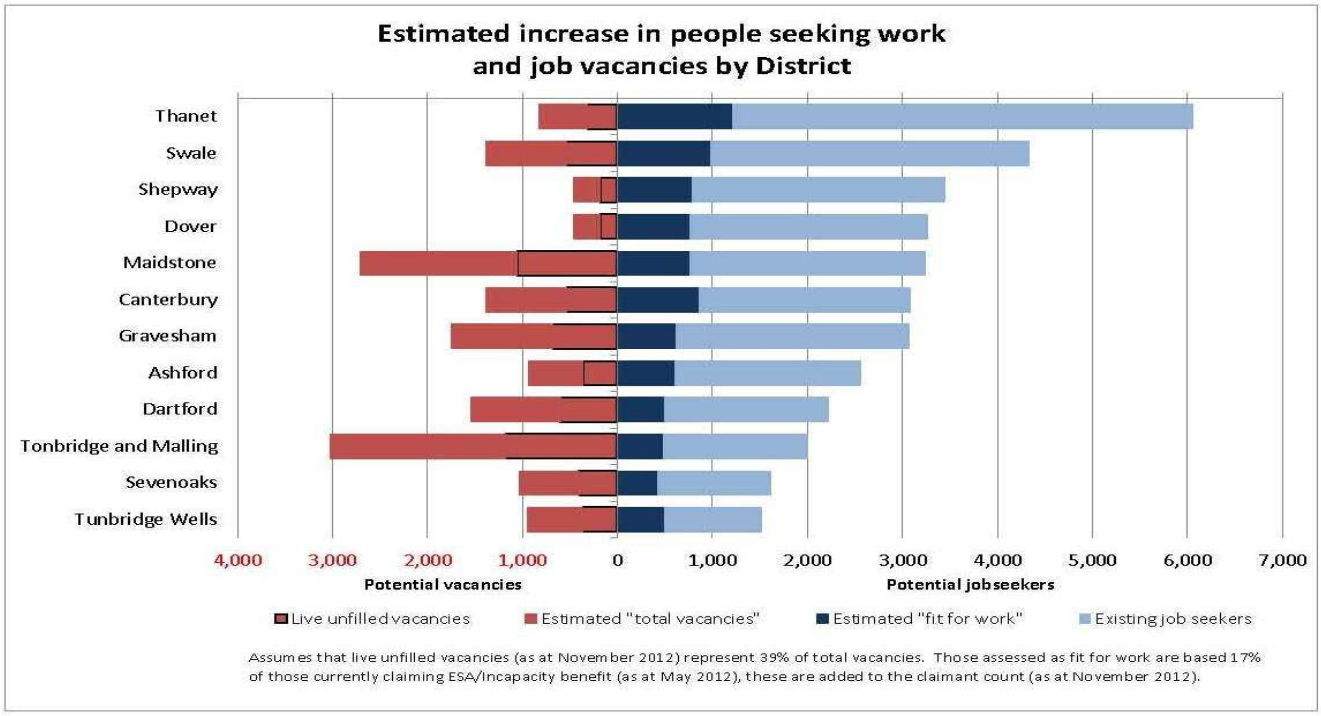
[2] Institute of Fiscal Studies (2013) "Child and Working-Age Poverty in Northern Ireland from 2010 to 2020", IFS Report R78. This report considers the whole of the UK.
[3] 2011 Universal Credit Impact Assessment

2-3 years of Universal Credit being introduced, unemployment will reduce nationally by 300,000, although not all the new jobs will be full-time.

DRAFT

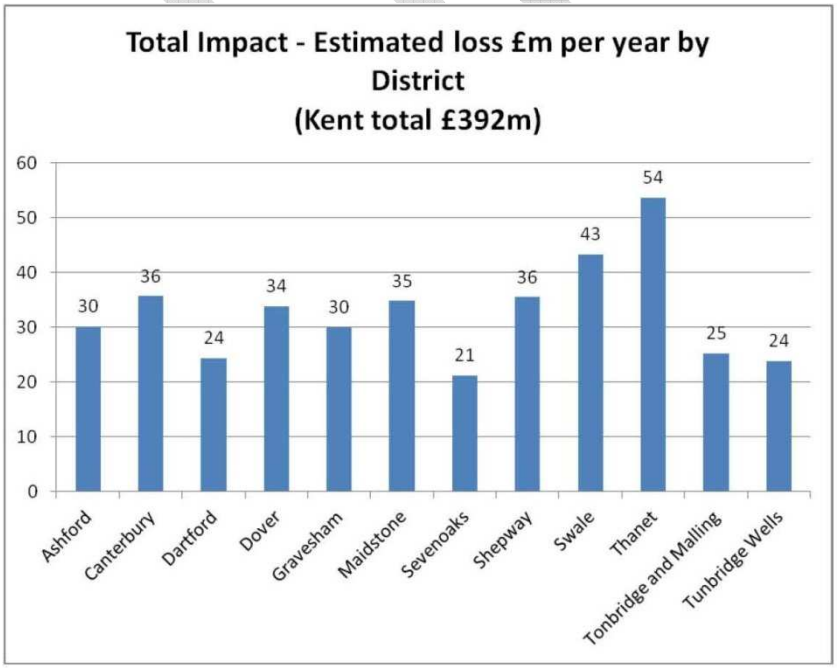
Estimated balance of job seekers and vacancies in Kent

- As a result of the range of welfare reforms, including the reassessment of claimants currently on incapacity-related benefits (with many being declared “fit for work”), there will be a shift in the balance of jobseekers and vacancies within the local labour markets. Demand for jobs (and numbers of people on Jobseekers Allowance) is likely to increase significantly.
- The creation and availability of entry-level jobs is the key to communities being able to adapt to the reforms, but within Dover (and Kent as a whole) the level of those seeking work already exceeds that of the available vacancies.



Source: KCC Business Strategy Welfare Reform Research June 2013

Cumulative financial impact across the Kent districts



Source: KCC Business Strategy Welfare Reform Research June 2013

- The financial total impact of welfare reforms in Kent can be estimated at £392 million. Each District area can expect to lose several millions of pounds in current benefits with Dover losing £34m, which is equivalent to a financial loss of £491 per year per working age adult. Nationally, the Dover district is ranked 131 (out of 379 local authorities) with 1 being the hardest hit.

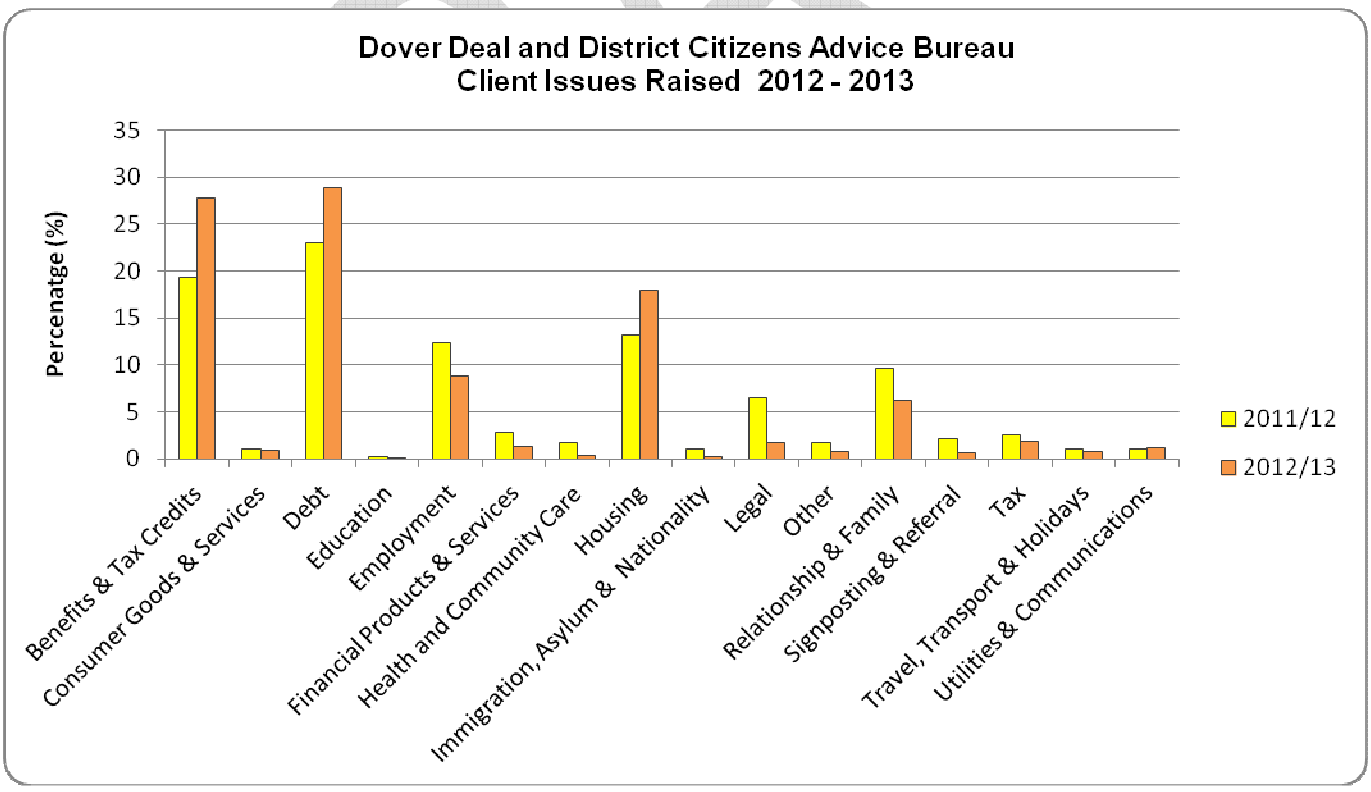
- Thanet is the worst effected in Kent (ranked 18), followed by Shepway (ranked 95) and Swale (ranked 123) and then Dover (ranked 131).

Universal Credit

- Universal Credit (UC) is the bedrock of the government's welfare reform agenda, merging 6 of the most commonly-claimed welfare benefits into one single household payment – including Housing Benefit and Income Support. Such is the scale of the change the government is seeking to make that the national roll-out timetable for UC has changed multiple times. There is still uncertainty around the speed of the national roll-out. Official statistics released on 19 March 2014 revealed that just 3,780 people were receiving UC. To put this into perspective, at full roll-out 8 million household UC accounts are expected.
- UC will be delivered 'digital by design', and paid direct to the claimant, monthly in arrears. This could present a budgeting challenge for families not used to receiving monthly payments, not being responsible for paying rent directly to their landlords. This may also negatively affect landlord behaviour.
- EK Services, who manage the benefit service on behalf of Canterbury, Dover and Thanet Councils' are working with Jobcentre Plus' locally to support customers, via the Local Support Services Framework and are currently mapping out local service provision. It is recognised that support will be needed to help people with digital and financial inclusion.

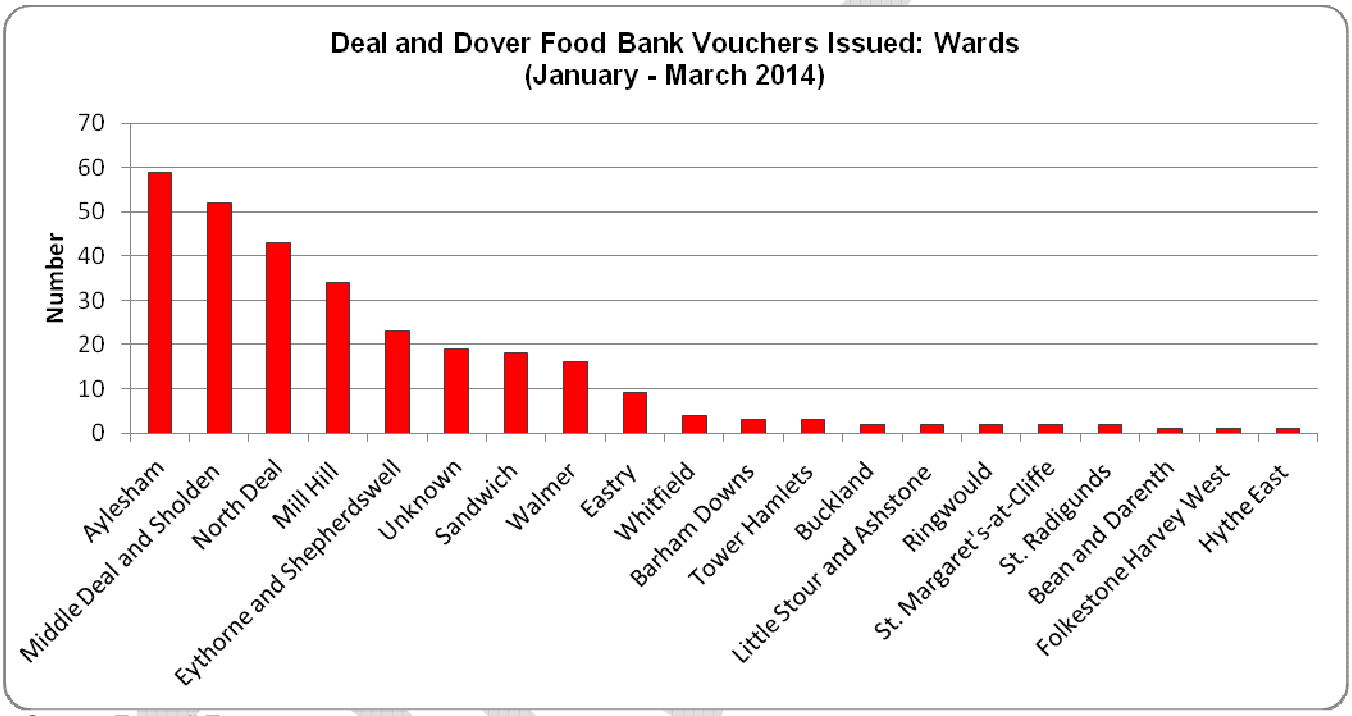
Citizens Advice Bureau

- Dover District Council has maintained the level of its grant to the Dover Deal and District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for the last three years.
- During 2012/13, the CAB dealt with 11,050 client issues. The highest numbers were for Debt (3,194 or 28.9%); Benefit & Tax Credits (3,073 or 27.8%) and Housing (1,989 or 18%) – all of which saw an increase on the previous year.



Food Banks

- The Trussell Trust foodbank network works in partnership with local churches and organisations to bring foodbanks to communities across the UK. There are now over 275 foodbanks in the network, two of which are in the Dover district, one in Deal[4] and one in Dover[5].
- The Trussell Trust reports that, in the South East, it supported over 91,000 adults and children in 2013/14 up 105% from the previous years. It says drivers of the increased demand are static incomes, rising living costs, low pay, underemployment and problems with welfare, especially sanctioning. Half of all referrals to Trussell Trust foodbanks in 2013-14 were a result of benefit delays or changes.
- Locally, DAEF reports that it is averaging 250 people per month (from approx. 100 vouchers) with about 2,000 kgs of food, 40% are under 16 years old.



Source: Trussell Trust

- Figures for Q1 January to March 2014 show that that the Trussell Trust fed 970 people (624 adults and 346 children), living in wards across the district – and beyond.
- The highest numbers of vouchers were issued to those living in Aylesham (59), followed by Middle Deal and Sholden (52), North Deal (43), Mill Hill (34) and Eythorne and Shepherdswell (23).
- Referrals to the food banks were for a range of crisis types, with customers most frequently stating the reasons to be low income (33%), benefit delays (26%) and benefit changes (16%).
- No further data is available as to the reason why benefit payments have been delayed and further investigations will be made to understand the data regarding the delays.

[4] http://dealarea.foodbank.org.uk/
[5] http://dover.foodbank.org.uk/