

Statutory Homelessness in Kent: Financial year 2020-2021

This bulletin presents data published on 8 December 2021 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC).

This data will be updated in Autumn 2022

NOTE: *within this bulletin "Kent" refers to the Kent County Council area which excludes Medway*

Further Information

Kent Analytics
Kent County Council
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XQ

Email:
research@kent.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 417444

[Facts and figures about Kent](#)

The statutory homeless data covers the characteristics of assessments and activities for homeless households in all local authorities in England between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021

Summary

- During the financial year 2020/21, ten local authorities in Kent assessed a total of 6,935 households under the statutory homeless duty.
- Of this total, 2,989 were found to be threatened with homelessness within 56 days and, and therefore owed a prevention duty.
- 3,458 were assessed as being owed a relief duty.
- 996 households were assessed as being unintentionally homeless and in priority need and owed a main duty.
- The total number of households for whom a main duty ended was 833. Of this total 493 accepted the offer of social housing.
- The average number of Kent households living in temporary accommodation each quarter since 2019/20 is 1,359.

Impact of Covid-19

On 23 March 2020, England entered a national lockdown in response to the rapidly rising rates of COVID-19 infections. As a result, wider initiatives to support people to retain or access accommodation through this period were introduced by government.

This included requiring landlords to give tenants longer notice periods before starting possession proceedings from 26 March 2020 (initially at 3 months and then later increasing to 6 months, in most cases, from 29 August 2020), a 6-month suspension on housing possession action in the courts between 27 March and 20 September 2020, and a restriction on bailiff enforcement activity from 17 November 2020 until 31 May 2021. These measures contributed to a reduction in the number of households approaching local authorities for help from self-contained private or social rented sector accommodation.

Mortgage payment holidays introduced in March 2020 also contributed to a reduction in approaches for support from owner occupiers.

On 26 March 2020 the Everyone In campaign was also launched, whereby local authorities were asked to provide emergency accommodation to rough sleepers, people who were living in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements, and those at risk of rough sleeping.

What is statutory homelessness?

The term "Homelessness" is often considered to apply only to people "sleeping rough". However, most statistics on homelessness relate to the "**statutory homeless**" i.e., those households which meet specific criteria set out in legislation, and to whom a local authority has accepted a homelessness duty.

A household is considered statutorily homeless if they do not have a legal right to occupy accommodation that is accessible, physically available and which would be reasonable for the household to continue to live in, as well as households who currently have the right to occupy suitable accommodation, but that are threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), formerly The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), requires each local authority in England to submit data for the number of households that are threatened with

homelessness or have become homeless and have approached the authority requesting assistance.

The Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC) data system replaced the aggregated data return (collected using the P1E form) for all new homeless applications. The replacement of the aggregated return coincided with the introduction of new legislation, the 2017 Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) which was implemented on 3 April 2018. This new system collects more detailed data than previously on households, the activities offered to assist them, and their outcomes.

H-CLIC collects and reports data on all homelessness applications whatever the outcome. If, following investigation and assessment, the authority finds the person is not homeless or threatened with homelessness they must issue a 'not homeless' decision and the case is recorded on H-CLIC.

Current HRA legislation represents a significant change in homelessness legislation in England. The 2017 Act places duties on local authorities to intervene earlier under a prevention and / or relief duty. Local authorities must act in cases where the risk of becoming homelessness within the next 56 days as opposed to 28 days in the previous homelessness act 2002.

It also extends the remit of those households who local authorities should help irrespective of 'priority need' or 'unintentional homelessness.' There are additional requirements to identify the circumstances, needs of homeless households, and provide further assistance to help address these needs where identified.

What are the homelessness duties of a local authority?

Prevention duties are any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. This would involve activities to enable an applicant to remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation to prevent them from becoming homeless. The duty lasts for 56 days but may be extended if the local authority is continuing with efforts to prevent homelessness.

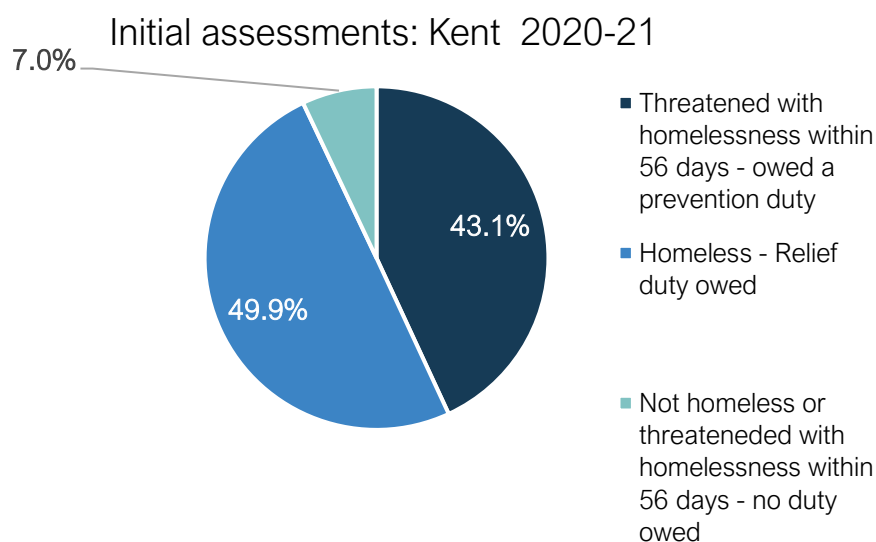
Relief duties are owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation. This would involve activities to find accommodation to relieve their homelessness. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended by a local authority if the households would not be owed the main homelessness duty.

Main duties describe the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need. This definition has not been changed by the 2017 HRA. However, these households are now only owed a main duty if they did not secure accommodation in the prevention or relief stage. This means a household owed a main duty is no longer a household that is threatened with homelessness. In addition, a minimum of 56 days now must have elapsed from a household approaching the local authority to being owed a main duty.

Initial Assessments

During the financial year 2020/21, local authorities in Kent assessed a total of 6,935 households under the statutory homelessness duty. Of this total 2,989 households were found to be threatened with homelessness within 56 days, and therefore owed a prevention duty, and 3,458 were assessed as being owed a relief duty and 488 of all households assessed were found to be not homeless. See chart 1.

Chart 1: Initial homelessness assessments in Kent 2020/21



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table A1 - detailed local authority level
Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Figures for Dartford and Tunbridge Wells were unavailable for 2021. In the remaining ten local authorities in Kent, 2,989 households were threatened with homelessness and owed a prevention duty in 2020-21, down 23.4% from 2019/20. Of these 377 were due to a Section 21 notice, down 47.9% from 2019/20. **A section 21 notice is a formal notification by a landlord which is the start of the process to end an assured shorthold tenancy.**

Three Kent local authorities and Medway Unitary Authority saw an increase in initial assessments between 2019/20 and 2020/21. These are Gravesham (+61), Sevenoaks (+24), Swale (+36) and Medway U.A. (+86). All remaining authorities saw a decrease in assessments.

Within Kent the highest number of initial assessments during 2020/21 was in Thanet with 1,245 which accounts for 18.0% of the total for Kent. This is 110 fewer than the number of initial assessments last year. Of these assessments 610 were owed a prevention duty, down by 13.8% from 2019/20. 625 households were owed a relief duty, down by 1.9% from 2019/20 and 10 were found to be not homeless this remains the same as 2019/20.

The lowest number of initial assessments was in Tonbridge & Malling with 306 which accounts for 4.4% of the Kent total. This is 35 fewer than the number of initial assessments last year.

Of these assessments 97 were owed a prevention duty, down by 26.5% from 2019/20. 208 households were owed a relief duty, down by 62.0% from 2019/20 and 1 household was found to be not homeless which is down by 80.0% since 2019/20.

Despite seeing fewer initial assessments in 2020/21 than seen in 2019/20, Maidstone was the only local authority to see an increase in households owed a prevention duty during 2020/21 with 478 households, up by 12.3% on 2019/20.

Five Kent local authorities and Medway Unitary Authority saw an increase in households owed a relief duty between 2019/20 and 2020/21. These are Ashford (+6), Gravesham (+74), Sevenoaks (+72), Swale (+64), Tonbridge & Malling (+44) and Medway U.A. (+208).

All but two Kent local authorities and Medway Unitary Authority saw an increase in the number of households found to be not homeless between 2019/20 and 2020/21. See Table1 for 2020/21 figures and Table 2 for 2019/20 figures

Table 1: Total assessments on homelessness made during 2020/21

	Total assessments	Owed a prevention duty - threatened with homelessness within 56 days		Owed a prevention duty due to service of valid Section 21 Notice		Owed a relief duty - homeless		Not homeless		Households in area*	Owed a prevention duty per 000s	Owed a relief duty per 000s
Kent	6,935	2,989	43.1%	377	12.6%	3,458	49.9%	488	7.0%	666	4.49	5.19
England	282,240	119,400	42.3%	8,940	7.5%	149,160	52.8%	13,680	4.8%	23,543	5.07	6.34
London	54,890	23,990	43.7%	1,560	6.5%	27,770	50.6%	3,130	5.7%	3,543	6.77	7.84
Rest of England	227,350	95,410	42.0%	7,380	7.7%	121,400	53.4%	10,540	4.6%	20,000	4.77	6.07
South East	40,620	17,350	42.7%	1,880	10.8%	20,460	50.4%	2,810	6.9%	3,807	4.56	5.37
Ashford	569	301	52.9%	37	12.3%	261	45.9%	7	1.2%	55	5.51	4.78
Canterbury	850	247	29.1%	28	11.3%	531	62.5%	72	8.5%	67	3.69	7.93
Dartford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	..	..
Dover	486	209	43.0%	39	18.7%	252	51.9%	25	5.1%	52	3.99	4.81
Folkestone & Hythe	417	122	29.3%	29	23.8%	279	66.9%	16	3.8%	52	2.35	5.37
Gravesham	627	367	58.5%	32	8.7%	254	40.5%	6	1.0%	42	8.64	5.98
Maidstone	1,193	537	45.0%	23	4.3%	334	28.0%	322	27.0%	71	7.55	4.69
Sevenoaks	403	175	43.4%	13	7.4%	217	53.8%	11	2.7%	50	3.52	4.37
Swale	839	324	38.6%	44	13.6%	497	59.2%	18	2.1%	63	5.18	7.94
Thanet	1,245	610	49.0%	113	18.5%	625	50.2%	10	0.8%	64	9.46	9.70
Tonbridge & Malling	306	97	31.7%	19	19.6%	208	68.0%	1	0.3%	54	1.81	3.89
Tunbridge Wells	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	..
Medway U.A.	1,611	721	44.8%	73	10.1%	867	53.8%	23	1.4%	112	6.41	7.71

Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness tables - Detailed local authority level Table A1: Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

*ONS: 2018-based sub-national household projections

.. incomplete or no data received from the local authority

Table 2: Total assessments on homelessness made during 2019/20

	Total assessments	Owed a prevention duty - threatened with homelessness	Owed a prevention duty due to service of valid Section 21	Owed a relief duty - homeless	Not homeless	Households in area*	Owed a prevention duty per 000s	Owed a relief duty per 000s
Kent	8,093	3,904 48.2%	723 18.5%	3,830 47.3%	359 4.4%	666	5.86	5.75
England	304,290	148,670 48.9%	18,130 12.2%	139,800 45.9%	15,820 5.2%	23,543	6.31	5.94
London	57,240	29,440 51.4%	3,560 12.1%	24,630 43.0%	3,170 5.5%	3,543	8.31	6.95
Rest of England	247,060	119,230 48.3%	14,580 12.2%	115,170 46.6%	12,660 5.1%	20,000	5.96	5.76
South East	42,770	21,810 51.0%	3,310 15.2%	18,480 43.2%	2,480 5.8%	3,807	5.73	4.85
Ashford	680	420 61.8%	80 19.0%	255 37.5%	5 0.7%	55	7.69	4.67
Canterbury	934	323 34.6%	52 16.1%	569 60.9%	42 4.5%	67	4.82	8.49
Dartford	...	...	...	...	...	46	..	..
Dover	655	316 48.2%	76 24.1%	320 48.9%	19 2.9%	52	6.03	6.10
Folkestone & Hythe	525	199 37.9%	67 33.7%	295 56.2%	31 5.9%	52	3.83	5.67
Gravesham	566	382 67.5%	78 20.4%	180 31.8%	4 0.7%	42	8.99	4.24
Maidstone	1,261	478 37.9%	55 11.5%	570 45.2%	213 16.9%	71	6.72	8.01
Sevenoaks	379	228 60.2%	19 8.3%	145 38.3%	6 1.6%	50	4.59	2.92
Swale	803	360 44.8%	63 17.5%	433 53.9%	10 1.2%	63	5.75	6.92
Thanet	1,355	708 52.3%	149 21.0%	637 47.0%	10 0.7%	64	10.98	9.88
Tonbridge & Malling	301	132 43.9%	50 37.9%	164 54.5%	5 1.7%	54	2.47	3.06
Tunbridge Wells	634	358 56.5%	34 9.5%	262 41.3%	14 2.2%	50	7.18	5.25
Medway U.A.	1,525	842 55.2%	154 18.3%	659 43.2%	24 1.6%	112	7.49	5.86

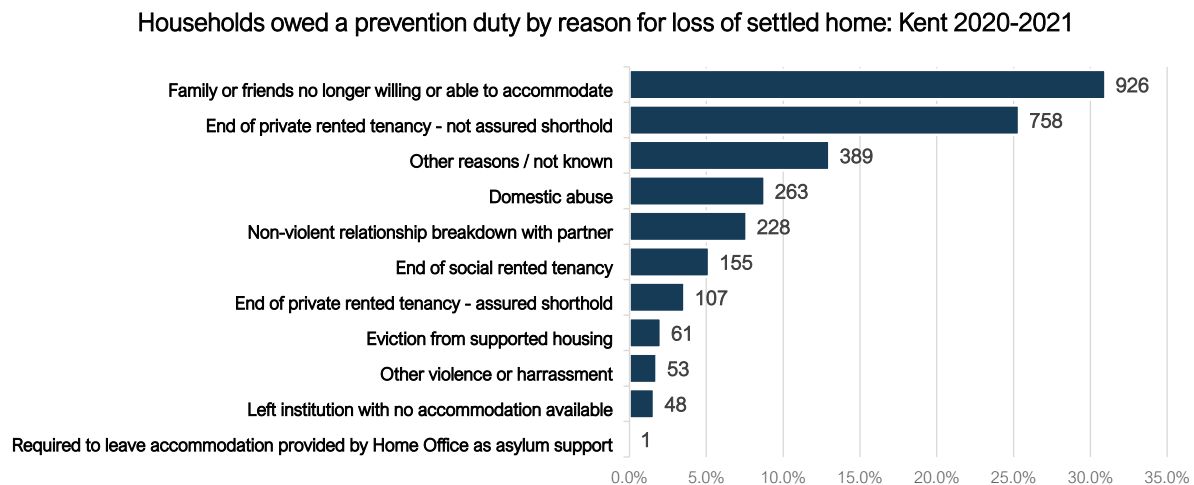
Prevention duty

Prevention duties include any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. This would involve activities to enable an applicant to remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation to prevent them from becoming homeless. The duty lasts for 56 days but may be extended if the local authority is continuing with efforts to prevent homelessness.

Characteristics of households owed a prevention duty.

The total number of households assessed as being owed a prevention duty in Kent was 2,989. Just over a third of these households lost their last settled home due to family or friends no longer being able or willing to accommodate them. This reason accounts for the largest proportion of households assessed. Just over a quarter of applicants lost their last settled home due to the end of a private rented tenancy. See Chart 2.

Chart 2: Households owed a prevention duty by reason of loss of settled home

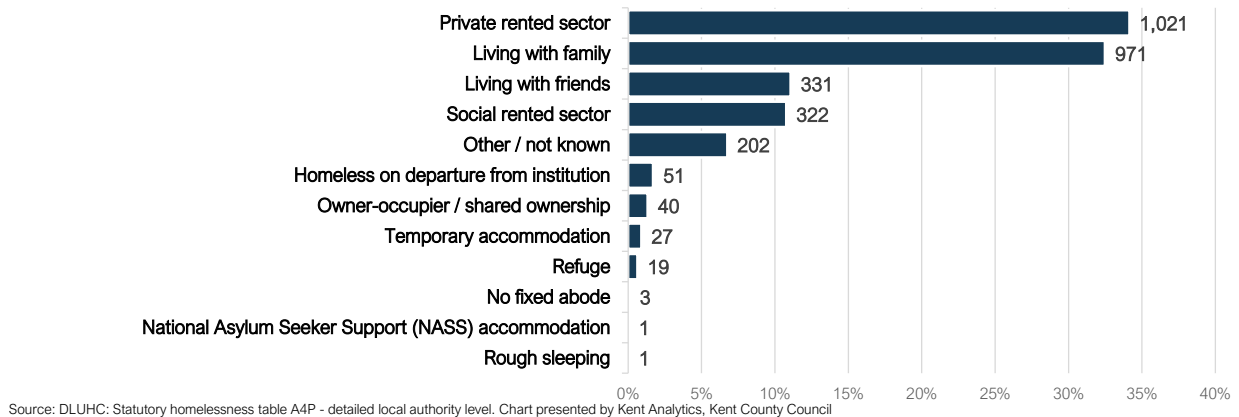


Source: MHCLG: Statutory homelessness table A2P - detailed local authority level Table. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Households from the private rented sector make up the largest proportion of those owed a prevention duty. Households living with friends and family are the second largest category followed by those living with friends. There was one application from a rough sleeper in Kent during 2020-21. See Chart 3 for details.

Chart 3: Households owed a prevention duty by accommodation at time of application

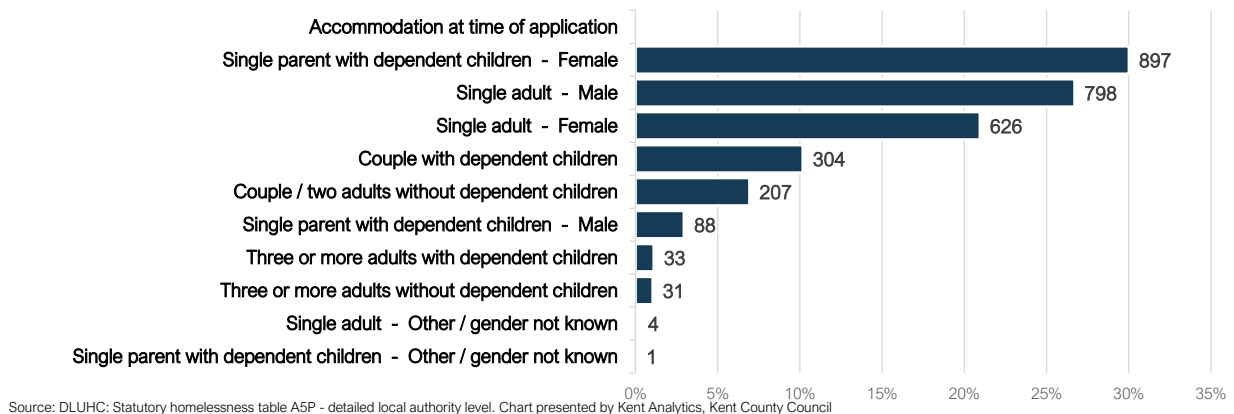
Households owed a prevention duty by accommodation at time of application: Kent 2020-2021



A third of households owed a prevention duty were single females with dependent children. The second largest proportion was single males which accounted for just over a quarter of the total. See Chart 4 for details.

Chart 4: Households owed a prevention duty by household composition

Households owed a prevention duty by household composition: Kent 2020-2021

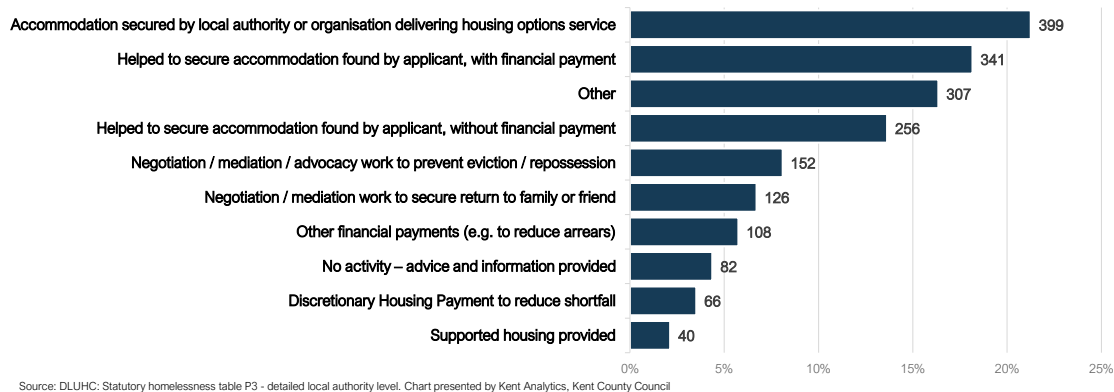


Households no longer owed a Prevention duty.

During the financial year 2020/21, the total number of households for whom prevention duty ended in Kent was 3,278. Just over 20% of households were secured accommodation by the local authority or an organisation delivering a housing options service. Just under 20% were helped financially to secure accommodation that they had found. See Chart 5 for details

Chart 5: Main activity that resulted in end of prevention duty

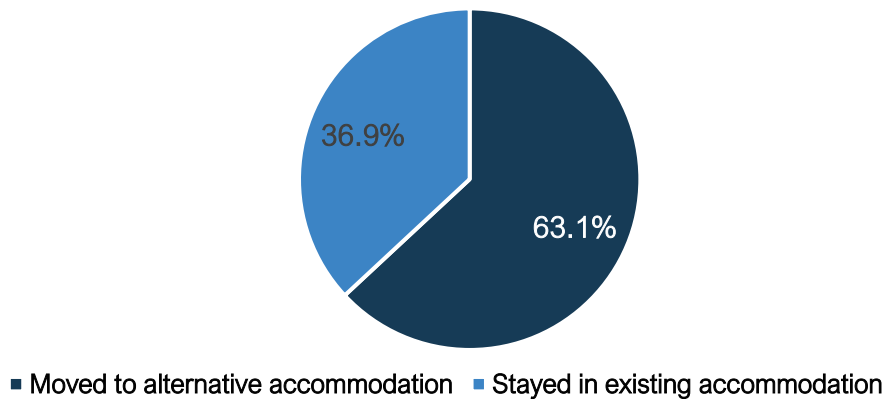
Main activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households owed a prevention duty: Kent 2020-2021



More than half of households for whom prevention duty ended secured accommodation for 6 months or more. Of those households who secured accommodation for 6 months or more, 1,184 (63.1%) moved to alternative accommodation and 693 (36.9%) stayed in existing accommodation. See chart 6 and Table 3 for details.

Chart 6: Existing or alternative accommodation secured at end of prevention duty

Existing or alternative accommodation secured at prevention duty end: Kent 2020-2021



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table P1 - detailed local authority level
Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 3: Total households by reason for end of prevention duty 2020/21

	Total households	Secured accommodation for 6+ months	Homeless (including intentionally homeless)	Contact lost	56 days elapsed and no further action	Withdrew application / applicant deceased	No longer eligible	Refused suitable accommodation	Refused to co-operate	Not known
Kent	3,278	1,877 57.3%	415 12.7%	244 7.4%	579 17.7%	141 4.3%	8 0.2%	11 0.3%	3 0.1%	0 0.0%
England	116,460	69,120 59.4%	18,660 16.0%	11,220 9.6%	10,070 8.6%	5,380 4.6%	690 0.6%	890 0.8%	390 0.3%	0.0%
London	23,820	13,670 57.4%	4,130 17.3%	2,270 9.5%	2,110 8.9%	1,150 4.8%	260 1.1%	100 0.4%	80 0.3%	0.0%
Rest of England	92,640	55,450 59.9%	14,530 15.7%	8,950 9.7%	7,970 8.6%	4,230 4.6%	430 0.5%	790 0.9%	310 0.3%	0.0%
South East	16,110	8,960 55.6%	2,790 17.3%	1,530 9.5%	1,870 11.6%	740 4.6%	70 0.4%	90 0.6%	50 0.3%	0.0%
Ashford	323	147 45.5%	58 18.0%	4 1.2%	97 30.0%	17 5.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0.0%
Canterbury	220	116 52.7%	40 18.2%	12 5.5%	24 10.9%	25 11.4%	0 0.0%	3 1.4%	0 0.0%	0.0%
Dartford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dover	201	108 53.7%	22 10.9%	8 4.0%	52 25.9%	7 3.5%	0 0.0%	4 2.0%	0 0.0%	0.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	138	49 35.5%	32 23.2%	20 14.5%	18 13.0%	18 13.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.7%	0 0.0%	0.0%
Gravesham	313	179 57.2%	42 13.4%	34 10.9%	50 16.0%	5 1.6%	0 0.0%	2 0.6%	1 0.3%	0.0%
Maidstone	588	419 71.3%	58 9.9%	29 4.9%	54 9.2%	28 4.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0.0%
Sevenoaks	135	75 55.6%	23 17.0%	14 10.4%	17 12.6%	1 0.7%	4 3.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.7%	0.0%
Swale	326	190 58.3%	39 12.0%	9 2.8%	84 25.8%	4 1.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0.0%
Thanet	585	434 74.2%	36 6.2%	53 9.1%	46 7.9%	13 2.2%	3 0.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	92	38 41.3%	28 30.4%	3 3.3%	14 15.2%	8 8.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 1.1%	0.0%
Tunbridge Wells	357	122 34.2%	37 10.4%	58 16.2%	123 34.5%	15 4.2%	1 0.3%	1 0.3%	0 0.0%	0.0%
Medway U.A.	668	450 67.4%	123 18.4%	22 3.3%	39 5.8%	27 4.0%	3 0.4%	0 0.0%	4 0.6%	0.0%

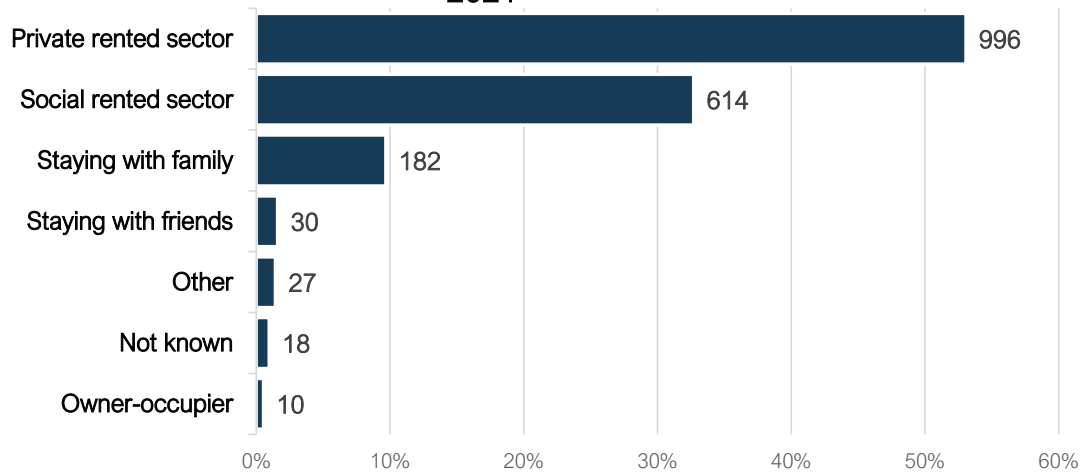
Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness tables - Detailed local authority level Table P1: Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
 .. incomplete or no data received from the local authority

Outcomes of households where prevention duty ended

In Kent, more than half of households who secured accommodation for 6 months or more, moved into private rented accommodation and just under a third moved into social rented accommodation. See Chart 7 for details.

Chart 7: Type of accommodation secured at end of prevention duty

Type of accommodation secured at end of prevention duty: Kent 2020-2021

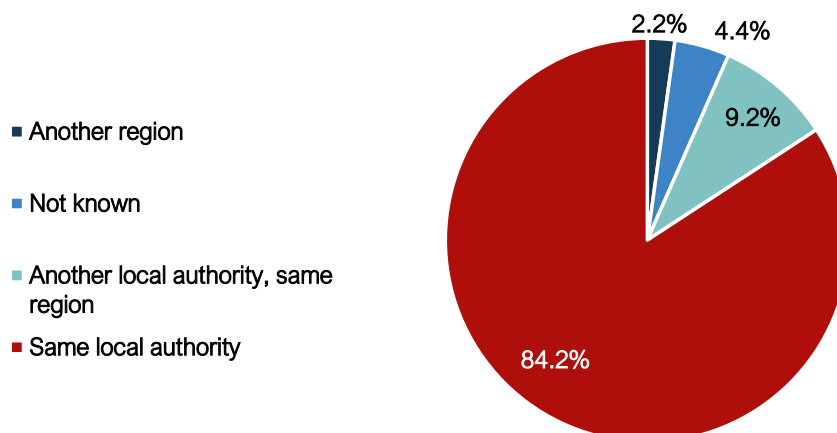


Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table P2 - detailed local authority level. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Most households secured accommodation within the same local authority. See Chart 8 for details

Chart 8: Destination of households with alternative accommodation secured

Destination of households with alternative accommodation secured: Kent 2020-2021

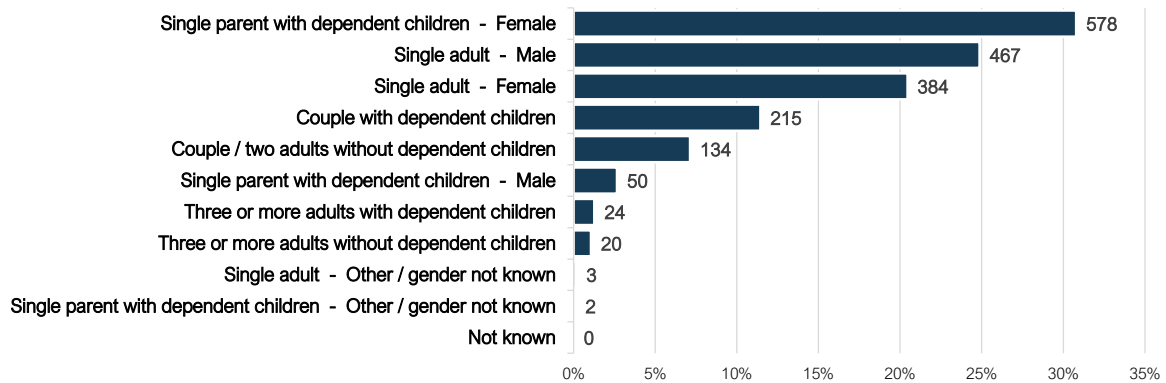


Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table P4 - detailed local authority level
Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Just under a third of households were female single parents with dependent children. See Chart 9 for details.

Chart 9: Household composition of those with accommodation secured at duty end.

Household composition of those with accommodation secured at duty end: Kent 2020-2021



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table P5 - detailed local authority level. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Relief duty

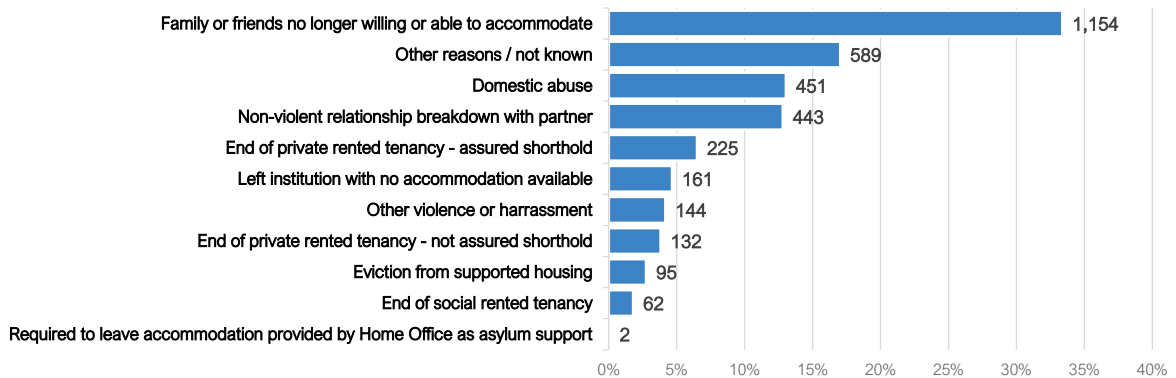
Relief duties are owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation. This would involve activities to find accommodation to relieve their homelessness. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended by a local authority if the households would not be owed the main homelessness duty.

Characteristics of households owed a relief duty.

The total number of households assessed as being owed a relief duty in Kent was 3,458. Over a third of these households lost their last settled home because family or friends were no longer willing or able to accommodate them. See Chart 10 for details.

Chart 10: Households owed a relief duty by reason for loss of settled home

Households owed a relief duty by reason for loss of settled home: Kent 2020-2021

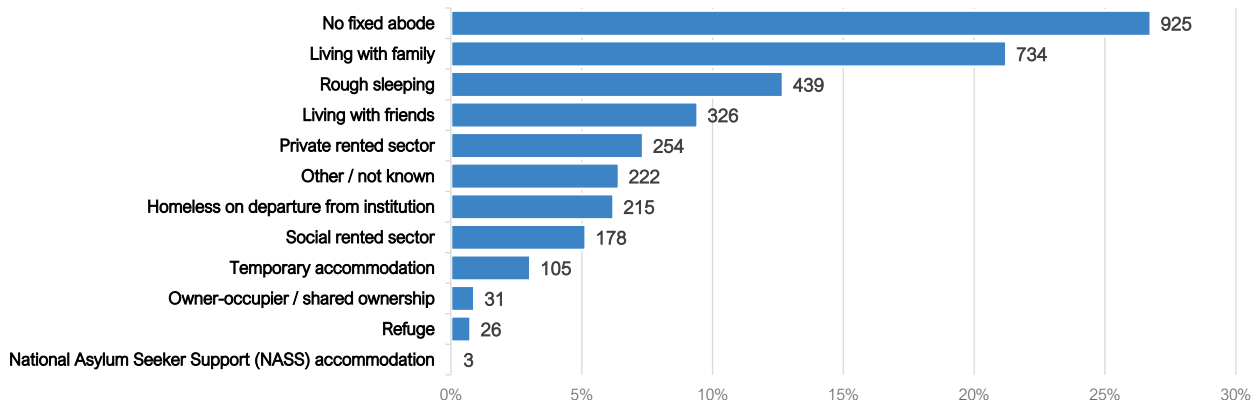


Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table A2R - detailed local authority level. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Households that previously had no fixed abode make up the largest proportion of those owed a prevention or relief duty. Households living with family are the second largest category followed by those who were rough sleeping. See Chart 11 for details.

Chart 11: Households owed a relief duty by accommodation at time of application

Households owed a relief duty by accommodation at time of application: Kent 2020-2021

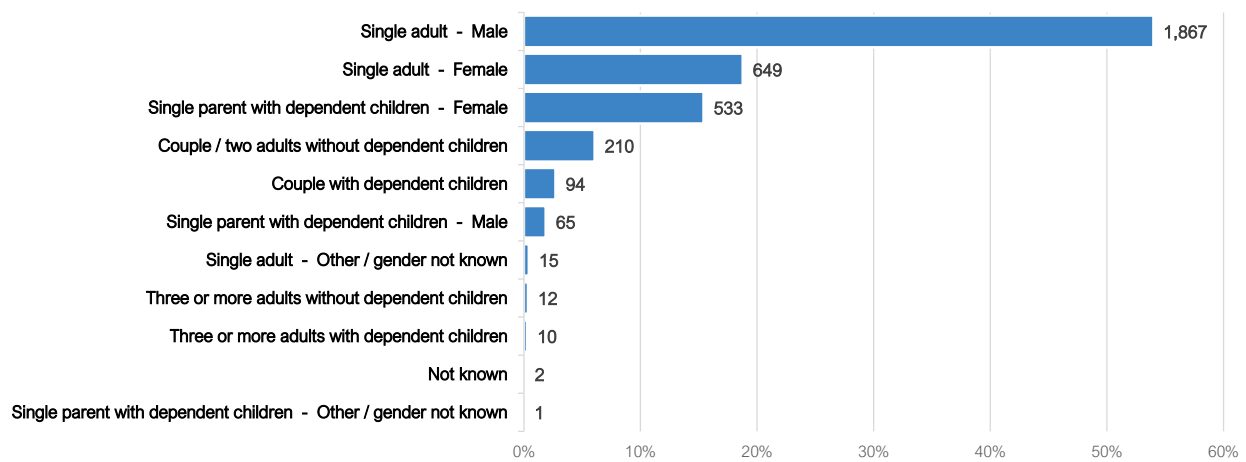


Source: MHCLG: Statutory homelessness table A4R - detailed local authority level. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Over half of households owed a relief duty were single adult males. Just under a fifth of households were single females and just over 15% were single female parents with dependent children. See Chart 12 for details.

Chart 12: Households owed a relief duty by household composition.

Households owed a relief duty by household composition: Kent 2020-2021



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table A5R - detailed local authority level. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

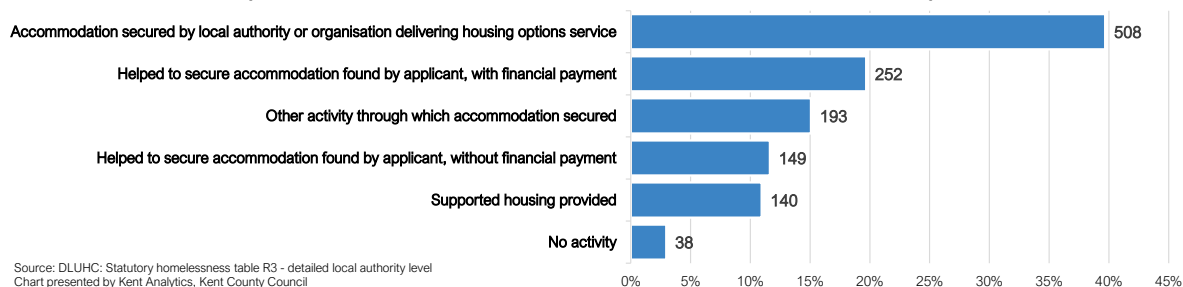
Households no longer owed a relief duty.

The total number of households for whom a relief duty ended in Kent was 3,988. For most of these households 56 days elapsed and no further action was taken. Just over a third of households secured accommodation for 6 months or more.

Most households were secured accommodation by the local authority or an organisation delivering a housing options service. Just under 20% of households were helped financially to secure accommodation that they had found themselves. See Chart 13 for details

Chart 13: Main activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households owed a relief duty.

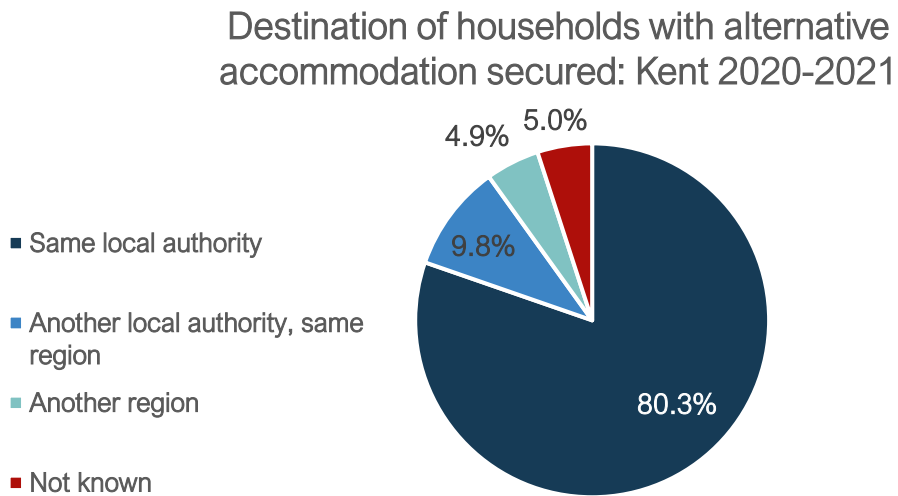
Main activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households owed a relief duty: Kent 2020-2021



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table R3 - detailed local authority level
Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Most households secured accommodation within the same local authority area. See Chart 14 and Table 4 for details.

Chart 14: destination of households at end of relief duty.



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table R4 - detailed local authority level
Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 4: Total households no longer in need of relief duty by reason.

	Total households	Secured accommodation for 6+ months		56 days elapsed and no further action		Contact lost		Withdrew application / applicant deceased		Refused final accommodation		Intentionally homeless from accommodation provided		Local connection referral accepted by another LA		No longer eligible		Notice served due to refusal to co-operate		Not known	
Kent	3,988	1,280	32.1%	1,767	44.3%	391	9.8%	374	9.4%	35	0.9%	32	0.8%	77	1.9%	24	0.6%	8	0.2%	0	0.0%
England	166,300	66,240	39.8%	63,980	38.5%	18,780	11.3%	10,770	6.5%	2,060	1.2%	1,060	0.6%	1,290	0.8%	1,220	0.7%	620	0.4%	260	0.2%
London	33,860	11,190	33.0%	17,180	50.7%	2,360	7.0%	1,570	4.6%	310	0.9%	140	0.4%	220	0.6%	320	0.9%	320	0.9%	240	0.7%
Rest of England	132,430	55,060	41.6%	46,800	35.3%	16,420	12.4%	9,200	6.9%	1,760	1.3%	920	0.7%	1,070	0.8%	910	0.7%	300	0.2%	20	0.0%
South East	20,990	7,440	35.4%	8,760	41.7%	2,330	11.1%	1,630	7.8%	170	0.8%	160	0.8%	270	1.3%	180	0.9%	50	0.2%	20	0.1%
Ashford	321	79	24.6%	201	62.6%	3	0.9%	23	7.2%	1	0.3%	3	0.9%	8	2.5%	3	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Canterbury	560	177	31.6%	222	39.6%	74	13.2%	55	9.8%	6	1.1%	7	1.3%	15	2.7%	4	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dartford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dover	298	72	24.2%	189	63.4%	10	3.4%	21	7.0%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	3	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	335	156	46.6%	79	23.6%	47	14.0%	28	8.4%	10	3.0%	9	2.7%	2	0.6%	3	0.9%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Gravesham	245	66	26.9%	124	50.6%	29	11.8%	12	4.9%	2	0.8%	3	1.2%	5	2.0%	3	1.2%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Maidstone	495	229	46.3%	141	28.5%	33	6.7%	53	10.7%	8	1.6%	3	0.6%	28	5.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sevenoaks	186	76	40.9%	75	40.3%	20	10.8%	8	4.3%	3	1.6%	0	0.0%	2	1.1%	2	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Swale	485	130	26.8%	237	48.9%	30	6.2%	78	16.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	9	1.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Thanet	548	161	29.4%	245	44.7%	94	17.2%	36	6.6%	2	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.4%	3	0.5%	5	0.9%	0	0.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	213	51	23.9%	117	54.9%	14	6.6%	29	13.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Tunbridge Wells	302	83	27.5%	137	45.4%	37	12.3%	31	10.3%	1	0.3%	5	1.7%	4	1.3%	3	1.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Medway U.A.	944	355	37.6%	477	50.5%	14	1.5%	73	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	2.0%	4	0.4%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%

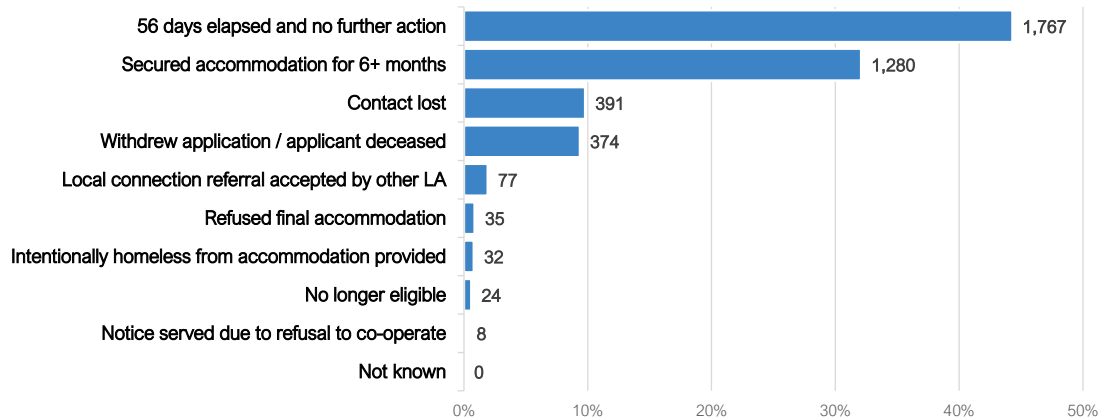
Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness tables - Detailed local authority level Table R1: Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
 ... incomplete or no data received from the local authority

Outcomes of households where relief duty ended

For most households, the duty requirement of 56 days elapsed, and no further action was taken. See Chart 15 for details

Chart 15: Reasons for end of relief duty

Reasons for end of relief duty: Kent 2020-2021

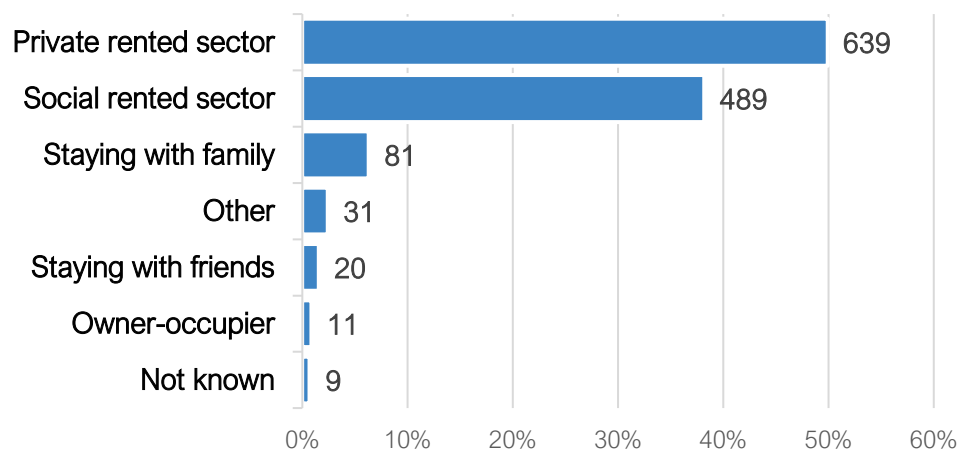


Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table R1 - detailed local authority level. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

For those household who secured accommodation, just under half of households did so from the private rented sector. See Chart 16 for details.

Chart 16 Type of accommodation secured for households at end of relief duty

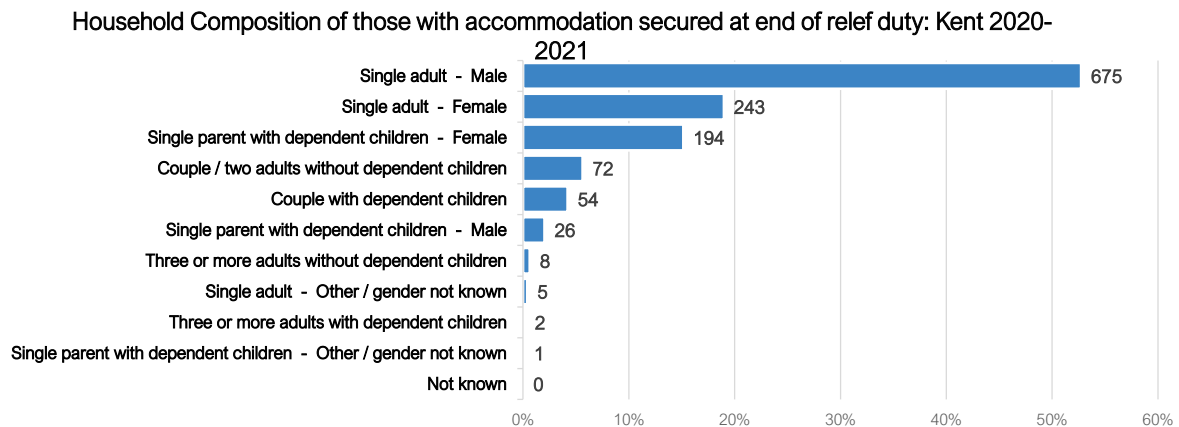
Type of accommodation secured for households at end of relief duty: Kent 2020-2021



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table R2 - detailed local authority level

Just over half of households to secure accommodation at the end of relief duty were male single adult households. Just under a fifth of households at the end of relief duty were households with female single adult households. See Chart 17 for details.

Chart 17: Household composition of those with accommodation secured at end of relief duty



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table R5 - detailed local authority level. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Main Duty

Main homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need. This definition has not been changed by the 2017 HRA. However, these households are now only owed a main duty if they did not secure accommodation in the prevention or relief stage. This means a household owed a main duty is no longer a household that is threatened with homelessness. In addition, a minimum of 56 days now must have elapsed from a household approaching the local authority to being owed a main duty.

Main duty does not have a limit on the number of days. Households eligible for main duty homelessness are usually put into temporary accommodation and continue to be helped by the local authority until the duty ends for a specific reason, such as securing accommodation, or withdrawing.

There were 1,770 main duty decisions taken in Kent during the financial year 2020/21. This equates to a rate of 2.66 households per 1,000 households. This rate is equal to the overall England rate, lower than London (4.54) but higher than the South East and the rest of England.

More than half of all main duty decisions in Kent were classed as being homeless and in priority need and unintentionally homeless. This is a lower proportion than that seen in the South East, London, and the rest of England. However, the proportion of households in priority and intentionally homeless is higher in Kent. See table 5 and Chart 18 for Details

Table 5: Total Main duty decisions made in 2020/21

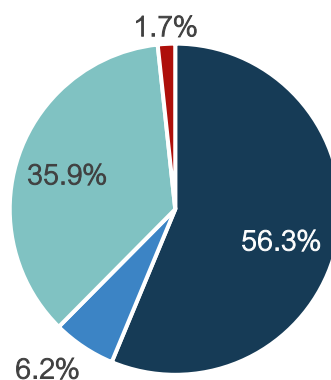
	Total assessments		Homeless & priority need & unintentionally homeless		Homeless & priority need & intentionally homeless		Homeless & no priority need		Not homeless	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 households								
Kent	1,770	2.66	996	56.3%	109	6.2%	635	35.9%	30	1.7%
England	62,640	2.66	39,210	62.6%	3,400	5.4%	18,580	29.7%	1,450	2.3%
London	16,070	4.54	11,530	71.7%	680	4.2%	3,490	21.7%	370	2.3%
Rest of England	46,560	2.33	27,680	59.5%	2,730	5.9%	15,090	32.4%	1,060	2.3%
South East	8,220	2.16	4,920	59.9%	430	5.2%	2,610	31.8%	260	3.2%
Ashford	203	3.72	151	74.4%	1	0.5%	45	22.2%	6	3.0%
Canterbury	234	3.49	83	35.5%	30	12.8%	119	50.9%	2	0.9%
Dartford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dover	190	3.62	136	71.6%	5	2.6%	48	25.3%	1	0.5%
Folkestone & Hythe	76	1.46	4	5.3%	12	15.8%	60	78.9%	0	0.0%
Gravesham	122	2.87	33	27.0%	10	8.2%	75	61.5%	4	3.3%
Maidstone	145	2.04	96	66.2%	10	6.9%	39	26.9%	0	0.0%
Sevenoaks	73	1.47	60	82.2%	1	1.4%	11	15.1%	1	1.4%
Swale	241	3.85	179	74.3%	16	6.6%	46	19.1%	0	0.0%
Thanet	238	3.69	108	45.4%	14	5.9%	110	46.2%	6	2.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	109	2.04	71	65.1%	3	2.8%	30	27.5%	5	4.6%
Tunbridge Wells	139	2.79	75	54.0%	7	5.0%	52	37.4%	5	3.6%
Medway U.A.	502	4.46	202	40.2%	32	6.4%	217	43.2%	51	10.2%

Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness tables - Detailed local authority level Table MD1: Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
 ... incomplete or no data received from the local authority

Chart 18: Total Main duty decision made in 2020/21

Outcome of main duty decision for eligible households:
 Kent 2020-2021

- Homeless + priority need + unintentionally homeless (acceptance)
- Homeless + priority need + intentionally homeless
- Homeless + no priority need
- Not homeless

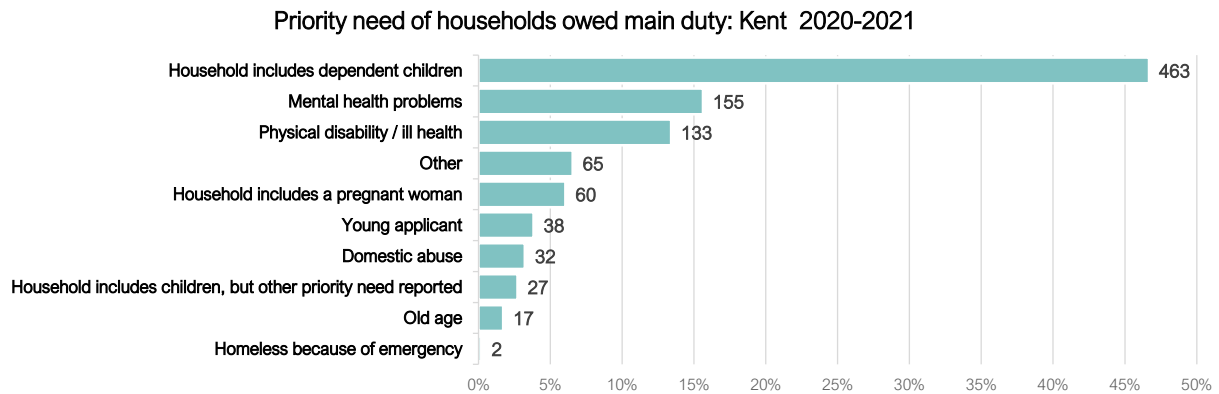


Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table MD1 - detailed local authority level

Priority need of households owed a main duty

Of the 1,770 main duty decisions, there was 996 households who were homeless with priority need and unintentionally homeless. Just under half of this total, 463 households, included dependent children. Just over 15% had mental health problems and a further 13.4% had physical disabilities or suffered ill health. See chart 19 for details

Chart 19: Priority need of households owed a main duty

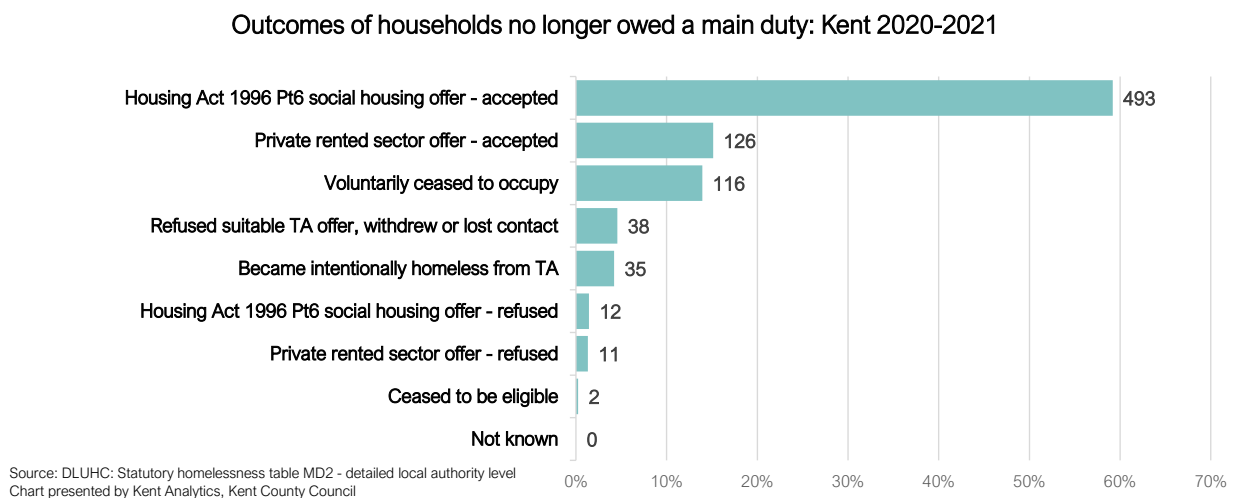


Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table MD3 - detailed local authority level. Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Outcomes of households no longer owed a main duty

During the financial year 2020/21, the total number of households for whom a main duty ended in Kent was 833. Of this total, 59.2% accepted the offer of social housing and 15.1% accepted the offer of private rented sector housing, and 13.9% voluntarily left their temporary accommodation. See chart 20 and table 6 for details.

Chart 20: Outcomes of households no longer owed a main duty



Source: DLUHC: Statutory homelessness table MD2 - detailed local authority level
Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 6: Outcomes of households no longer owed a main duty

	Total households whose main duty ended	Housing Act 1996 Pt6 social				Private rented sector officer				Refused suitable TA offer, withdrew or lost contract	Ceased to be eligible	Became intentionally homeless from TA	Voluntarily ceased to occupy TA	Not known
		Accepted	Refused	Accepted	Refused	Accepted	Refused							
Kent	833	493 59.2%	12 1.4%	126 15.1%	11 1.3%	38 4.6%	2 0.2%	35 4.2%	116 13.9%	0 0.0%				
England	26,950	18,280 67.8%	880 3.3%	2,610 9.7%	220 0.8%	1,600 5.9%	190 0.7%	950 3.5%	2,030 7.5%	220 0.8%				
London	6,230	3,260 52.3%	110 1.8%	1,110 17.8%	140 2.2%	360 5.8%	80 1.3%	220 3.5%	780 12.5%	210 3.4%				
Rest of England	20,720	15,030 72.5%	780 3.8%	1,500 7.2%	80 0.4%	1,250 6.0%	110 0.5%	730 3.5%	1,250 6.0%	10 0.0%				
South East	3,770	2,640 70.0%	60 1.6%	390 10.3%	20 0.5%	170 4.5%	10 0.3%	130 3.4%	340 9.0%	0 0.0%				
Ashford	173	112 64.7%	3 1.7%	26 15.0%	1 0.6%	4 2.3%	0 0.0%	14 8.1%	13 7.5%	0 0.0%				
Canterbury	6	4 66.7%	1 16.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 16.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%				
Dartford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dover	124	68 54.8%	1 0.8%	24 19.4%	1 0.8%	6 4.8%	0 0.0%	2 1.6%	22 17.7%	0 0.0%				
Folkestone & Hythe	3	1 33.3%	1 33.3%	1 33.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%				
Gravesham	25	15 60.0%	0 0.0%	7 28.0%	0 0.0%	2 8.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 4.0%	0 0.0%				
Maidstone	84	41 48.8%	1 1.2%	14 16.7%	3 3.6%	4 4.8%	0 0.0%	7 8.3%	14 16.7%	0 0.0%				
Sevenoaks	35	23 65.7%	0 0.0%	5 14.3%	0 0.0%	5 14.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 5.7%	0 0.0%				
Swale	156	103 66.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.6%	0 0.0%	5 3.2%	47 30.1%	0 0.0%				
Thanet	103	42 40.8%	4 3.9%	38 36.9%	5 4.9%	8 7.8%	2 1.9%	2 1.9%	2 1.9%	0 0.0%				
Tonbridge & Malling	69	56 81.2%	0 0.0%	2 2.9%	0 0.0%	3 4.3%	0 0.0%	2 2.9%	6 8.7%	0 0.0%				
Tunbridge Wells	55	28 50.9%	1 1.8%	9 16.4%	1 1.8%	4 7.3%	0 0.0%	3 5.5%	9 16.4%	0 0.0%				
Medway U.A.	225	180 80.0%	6 2.7%	2 0.9%	0 0.0%	4 1.8%	0 0.0%	1 0.4%	32 14.2%	0 0.0%				

Source: MHCLG: Statutory homelessness tables - Detailed local authority level table MD2: Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
 .. incomplete or no data received from the local authority

Households in temporary accommodation

The number of households in temporary accommodation (TA) is a snapshot at the end of each quarter. It is not a cumulative total of all placements across a quarter. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter includes households who are:

- awaiting a decision on whether a main duty is owed under a new application or reapplication.
- awaiting a decision on whether a referral has been accepted under local connection arrangements.
- undergoing a local authority review or county court appeal
- under a relief duty and have or may have priority need so eligible for temporary accommodation
- homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need and owed the main homelessness duty.
- intentionally homeless and have priority need and are being accommodated for a limited period.

The average number of households living in temporary accommodation in Kent at the end of each quarter between April-June 2019 to January-March 2021 is 1,359.

Most of these households were placed in either in local authority or housing association stock or in nightly paid, privately managed self-contained accommodation. Hostels account for the smallest proportion of households placed in temporary accommodation. See table 7 for details.

Table 7: Households in temporary accommodation by type at end of each quarter - Kent

	April-June 2019 q1	Jul - Sep 2019 q2	Oct - Dec 2019 q3	Jan-March 2020 q4	April-June 2020 q1	Jul - Sep 2020 q2	Jul - Sep 2021 q3	Jan-March 2021 q4
All Households in temporary accommodation	1,297	1,272	1,280	1,320	1,394	1,162	1,450	1,693
Private sector accommodation leased by authority or by a registered provider	198	192	185	33	31	29	28	46
Nightly paid, privately managed accommodation, self-contained	463	485	511	498	530	447	568	609
Local authority or Housing association (LA/HA) stock	268	249	273	344	373	305	371	363
Bed and breakfast hotels (including shared annexes)	117	99	108	201	227	156	221	217
Hostels (including reception centres, emergency units and refuges)	14	12	13	28	35	30	34	35
Any other type of temporary accommodation (including private landlord and not known)	237	235	190	216	198	195	228	423
In TA in another local authority district	277	291	303	325	364	378	478	579
Duty owed, no accommodation secured	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Private sector accommodation leased by authority or by a registered provider</i>	15.3%	15.1%	14.5%	2.5%	2.2%	2.5%	1.9%	2.7%
<i>Nightly paid, privately managed accommodation, self-contained</i>	35.7%	38.1%	39.9%	37.7%	38.0%	38.5%	39.2%	36.0%
<i>Local authority or Housing association (LA/HA) stock</i>	20.7%	19.6%	21.3%	26.1%	26.8%	26.2%	25.6%	21.4%
<i>Bed and breakfast hotels (including shared annexes)</i>	9.0%	7.8%	8.4%	15.2%	16.3%	13.4%	15.2%	12.8%
<i>Hostels (including reception centres, emergency units and refuges)</i>	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%	2.1%	2.5%	2.6%	2.3%	2.1%
<i>Any other type of temporary accommodation (including private landlord and not known)</i>	18.3%	18.5%	14.8%	16.4%	14.2%	16.8%	15.7%	25.0%
<i>In TA in another local authority district</i>	21.4%	22.9%	23.7%	24.6%	26.1%	32.5%	33.0%	34.2%

Source: DLUHC H-CLIC Homelessness returns (quarterly) Table TA1: Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Households with children in temporary accommodation

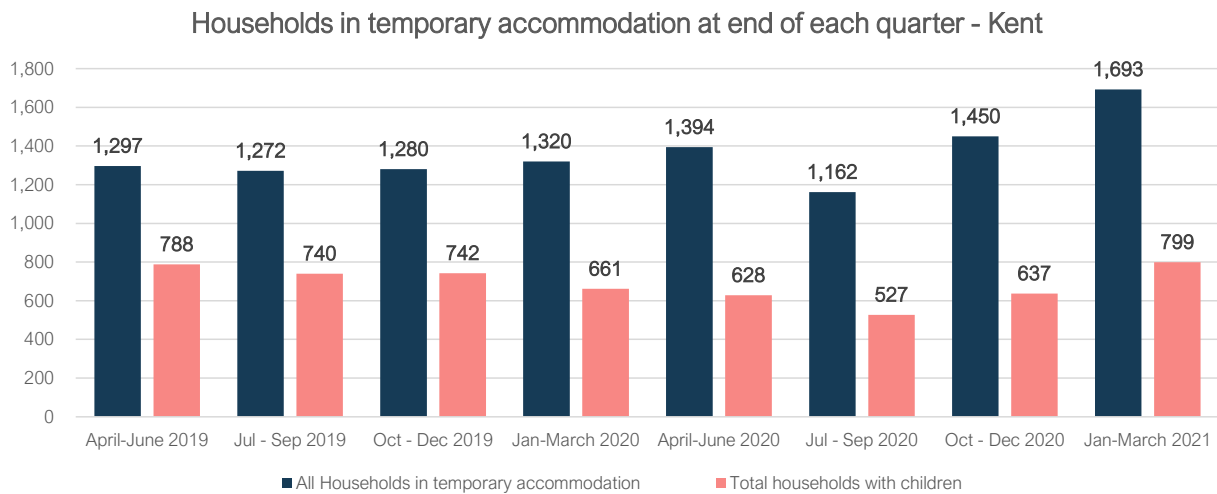
The average number of households with children living in temporary accommodation in Kent at the end of each quarter between April-June 2018 to January-March 2020 is 739. Each quarterly figure accounts for more than half of all households placed in temporary accommodation. However, the proportion of households with children in temporary accommodation was the lowest at the end of the 4th quarter 2020 than it has been for the past eight quarters.

The average number of children living in temporary accommodation in Kent at the end of each quarter between April-June 2019 to January-March 2021 is 690. See Table 8 and Chart 21 for details.

Table 8: Households with children in temporary accommodation at end of each quarter – Kent

	April-June 2019 q1	Jul - Sep 2019 q2	Oct - Dec 2019 q3	Jan-March 2020 q4	April-June 2020 q1	Jul - Sep 2020 q2	Jul - Sep 2021 q3	Jan-March 2021 q4
Total households with children	788	740	742	661	628	527	637	799
<i>% with children in temporary accommodation</i>	60.8%	58.2%	58.0%	50.1%	45.1%	45.4%	43.9%	47.2%
Total number of children	1,535	1,481	1,481	1,310	1,223	1,005	1,221	1,586

Source: DLUHC H-CLIC Homelessness returns (quarterly) Table TA1: Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 21: Households in temporary accommodation at end of each quarter – Kent


Source: DLUHC: H-CLIC Homelessness returns (quarterly) Table TA1 - detailed local authority level
 Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Most households with children requiring temporary accommodation were placed in either nightly paid, privately managed self-contained accommodation or within local authority or housing association stock.

The proportion of households placed in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation has dropped considerably over the past eight quarters. See table 9 for details.

Table 9: Households with children in temporary accommodation by type at end of each quarter – Kent

	April-June 2019 q1	Jul - Sep 2019 q2	Oct - Dec 2019 q3	Jan-March 2020 q4	April-June 2020 q1	Jul - Sep 2020 q2	Jul - Sep 2021 q3	Jan-March 2021 q4
Total households with children	788	740	742	661	628	527	637	799
Private sector accommodation leased by authority or by a registered provider	143	129	122	29	27	22	20	30
Nightly paid, privately managed accommodation, self-contained	297	307	319	285	273	231	278	315
Local authority or Housing association (LA/HA) stock	188	169	188	233	232	183	227	219
Bed and breakfast hotels (including shared annexes)	9	7	7	6	1	4	6	4
Hostels (including reception centres, emergency units and refuges)	9	10	11	10	10	6	6	8
Any other type of temporary accommodation (including private landlord and not known)	132	116	93	98	85	81	100	223
Duty owed, no accommodation secured	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Private sector accommodation leased by authority or by a registered provider</i>	18.1%	17.4%	16.4%	4.4%	4.3%	4.2%	3.1%	3.8%
<i>Nightly paid, privately managed accommodation, self-contained</i>	37.7%	41.5%	43.0%	43.1%	43.5%	43.8%	43.6%	39.4%
<i>Local authority or Housing association (LA/HA) stock</i>	23.9%	22.8%	25.3%	35.2%	36.9%	34.7%	35.6%	27.4%
<i>Bed and breakfast hotels (including shared annexes)</i>	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.2%	0.8%	0.9%	0.5%
<i>Hostels (including reception centres, emergency units and refuges)</i>	1.1%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%
<i>Any other type of temporary accommodation (including private landlord and not known)</i>	16.8%	15.7%	12.5%	14.8%	13.5%	15.4%	15.7%	27.9%

Source: DLUHC H-CLIC Homelessness returns (quarterly) Table TA1: Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Related documents

Further information related to homelessness can be found via the following links.

The [Deprivation & Poverty](#) webpage contains further information on homelessness.

Topics include: -

- Indices of Deprivation
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Unemployment and benefits

The [Housing Statistics](#) webpage contains more information on housing.

Topics include: -

- New housing
- House and land prices
- Housing stock