SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DATA IN THE COVID-19 PERIOD

March / April 2022

A bi-monthly digest of relevant data to assist in the Recovery Stage

Produced by: Performance, Consultation & Insight Unit,
Stratford-on-Avon District Council in May 2022

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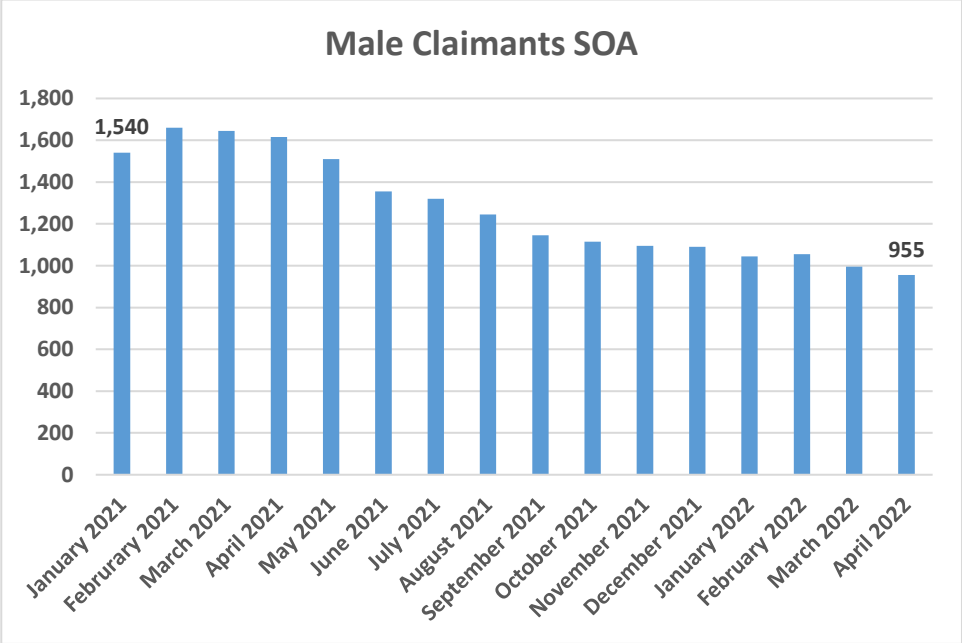
1. Claimant Count Data

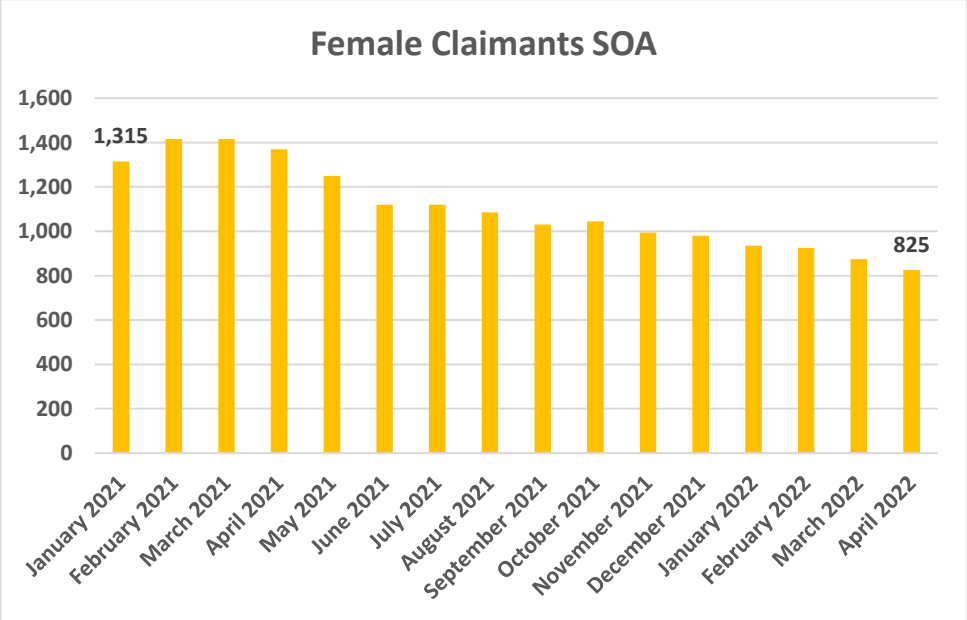
The Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. This is measured by combining the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits with the number of people receiving Universal Credit principally for the reason of being unemployed. Claimants declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which the claim is made. It is of the resident population aged 16 and over.

Source: NOMIS April 2022 for the following four charts.

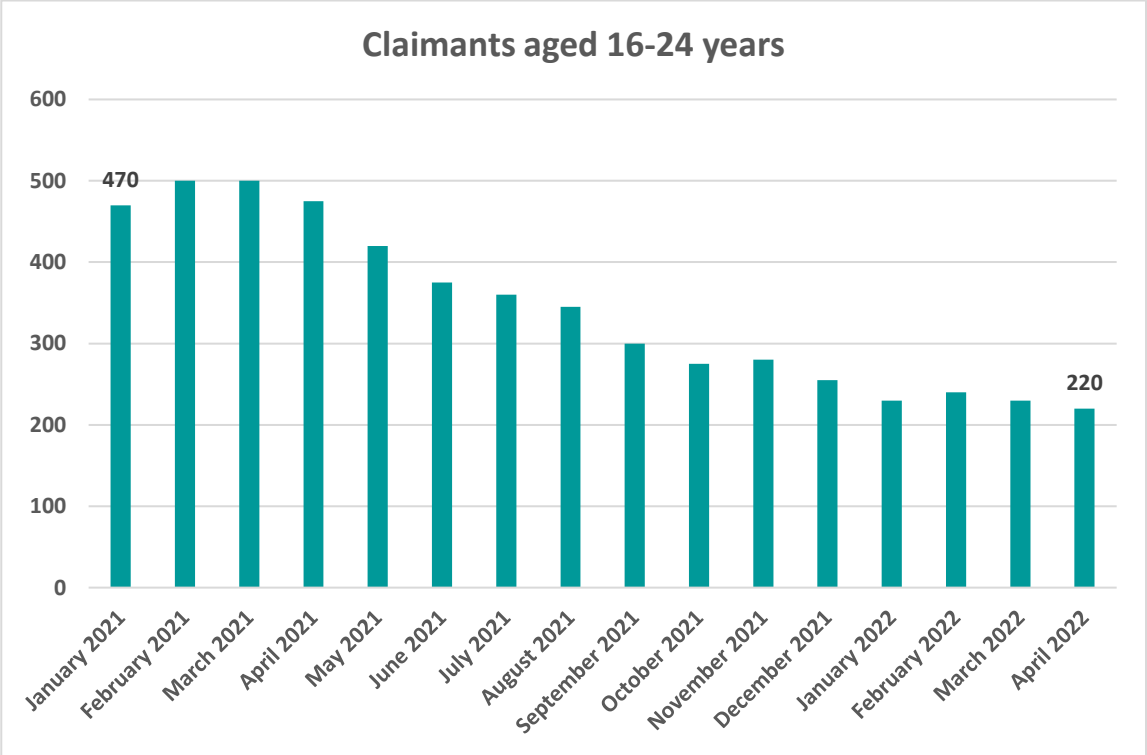
The number of male claimants in April 2022 continued to fall, dropping 60 from February to March then a further 40 to April. This is 385 (68%) higher than the number of male claimants in March 2020 (=570) but 810 lower than the peak of 1,765 in May 2020.



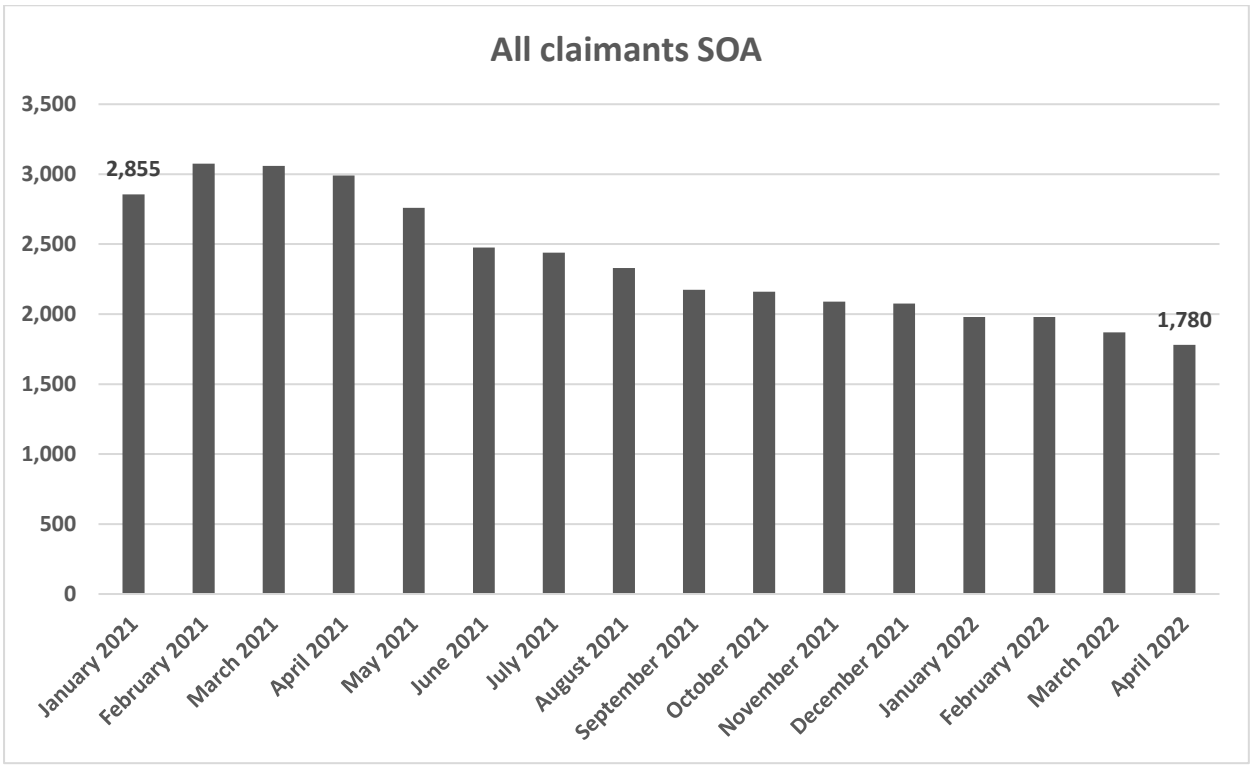
The number of female claimants in April 2022 saw a fall to 825. This is 345 higher (72%) than the number of female claimants in March 2020 (480), but 590 lower than the peak of 1,415 in March 2021.



The number of claimants aged 16 to 24 years in April 2022 fell to 220. This is 60 (36%) higher than March 2020 (165), but 345 lower than the peak of 565 in July 2020.



The overall number of claimants in Stratford District in April 2022 fell to 1,780. This is 730 (70%) higher than in March 2020 (1,050); however, this month is 1,380 lower than the peak of 3,160 in August 2020.



% Claimant count (unadjusted) by West Midlands Local Authorities April 2022 (16 and over)

The following table compares the claimant count across all West Midlands local authorities in April 2022.

At local authority level, the number of claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16 to 64 years old varies from 8.9% in Birmingham and 7.7% in Wolverhampton, to 2.0% in Staffordshire Moorlands and 2.3% in **Stratford-on-Avon.**

LOCAL AUTHORITY	%
Birmingham	**8.9**
Wolverhampton	**7.7**
Sandwell	**6.9**
Walsall	**6.0**
Stoke-on-Trent	**5.8**
Dudley	**5.2**
Coventry	**4.8**
Nuneaton and Bedworth	**4.3**
Redditch	**4.0**
Telford and Wrekin	**3.9**
Worcester	**3.9**
Tamworth	**3.8**
Solihull	**3.7**
Wyre Forest	**3.5**
East Staffordshire	**3.3**
Cannock Chase	**3.3**
Bromsgrove	**2.9**
Rugby	**2.9**
Newcastle-under-Lyme	**2.9**
South Staffordshire	**2.9**
Malvern Hills	**2.8**
Wychavon	**2.8**
North Warwickshire	**2.7**
Lichfield	**2.6**
Shropshire	**2.5**
Stafford	**2.5**
Herefordshire	**2.4**
Warwick	**2.4**
Stratford-on-Avon	**2.3**
Staffordshire Moorlands	**2.0**

Source: ONS claimant count [April 2022] via NOMIS

Note: % is number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64.

Local Authority Claimant Count Levels (unadjusted) by West Midlands Local Authorities Comparing March 2020 against March 2022 (16 and over)

The geographical variations at local authority level across the West Midlands is large, where the change in claimant count between March 2020 and March 2022 range from 21.1% in Dudley, to a rise of 81.5% in **Stratford-on-Avon district,** the largest increase of any authority.

Local Authority: district / unitary	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	change in year		change since March 2020	
	number	number	number	change	% change	change	% change
Stratford-on-Avon	1,050	3,050	1,905	-1,145	-37.6	855	81.5
Wychavon	1,320	3,355	2,335	-1,025	-30.5	1,015	77.1
Bromsgrove	1,165	2,655	1,820	-835	-31.4	660	56.6
Coventry	8,000	17,245	12,445	-4,800	-27.8	4,445	55.6
Warwick	1,570	3,680	2,340	-1,340	-36.4	770	49.2
Worcester	1,780	3,770	2,630	-1,140	-30.3	845	47.5
North Warwickshire	845	2,020	1,205	-815	-40.4	360	42.7
Redditch	1,535	3,215	2,185	-1,025	-32.0	650	42.4
Wyre Forest	1,580	3,480	2,230	-1,250	-35.9	650	41.1
Malvern Hills	925	2,085	1,300	-790	-37.8	370	40.2
Herefordshire, County of	2,110	4,760	2,940	-1,825	-38.3	825	39.2
Rugby	1,535	3,120	2,115	-1,005	-32.2	580	37.7
Telford and Wrekin	3,430	6,605	4,690	-1,915	-29.0	1,265	36.8
Sandwell	10,780	19,875	14,680	-5,195	-26.1	3,905	36.2
Birmingham	49,370	83,920	67,085	-16,835	-20.1	17,710	35.9
Solihull	3,650	7,580	4,930	-2,645	-34.9	1,280	35.0
Shropshire	4,010	8,570	5,265	-3,310	-38.6	1,255	31.3
Walsall	8,605	15,310	10,910	-4,400	-28.7	2,310	26.8
Wolverhampton	10,380	17,435	13,065	-4,370	-25.1	2,685	25.9
Nuneaton and Bedworth	2,830	5,105	3,555	-1,550	-30.3	725	25.7
Dudley	8,515	14,400	10,315	-4,085	-28.4	1,800	21.1

Source: DWP State of the (West Midlands) Group Report April 2022

Stratford District Council JSA + partial Universal Credit Claimant Count Levels (unadjusted) by Ward Comparing Last Two Months (16 and over)

See page 2 for the definition in detail.

Nine wards in Stratford-on-Avon District saw a rise in the number of people claiming benefits between February and March 2022; eight remained static while 18 saw a small decrease. The highest claimant count levels in Stratford District Council wards are in Avenue (5.6%), Hathaway (4.8%) and Wellesbourne East (4.3%). The lowest levels are in Wellesbourne West (0.9%) and Napton & Fenny Compton (0.9%).

Ward Name	Claimant Count Feb 22	Claimant % Feb 22	Claimant Count Mar 22	Claimant % Mar 22
Alcester & Rural	25	1.2	25	1.2
Alcester Town	80	3.6	75	3.4
Avenue	135	5.4	140	5.6
Bidford East	85	3.4	95	3.8
Bidford West & Salford	50	2.1	45	1.9
Bishop's Itchington	50	1.9	55	2.1
Bishopton	60	2.9	60	2.9
Brailes & Compton	50	2.8	45	2.5
Bridgetown	70	2.3	65	2.1
Ettington	25	1.2	20	0.9
Guildhall	40	2.0	35	1.7
Harbury	80	3.8	70	3.3
Hathaway	75	4.5	80	4.8
Henley-in-Arden	40	1.9	45	2.1
Kineton	50	2.5	45	2.3
Kinwarton	25	1.6	25	1.6
Long Itchington & Stockton	70	2.7	80	3.1
Napton & Fenny Compton	25	1.2	20	0.9
Quinton	75	3.6	75	3.6
Red Horse	25	1.3	25	1.3
Shipston North	60	2.6	55	2.4
Shipston South	50	2.6	40	2.1
Shottery	40	2.0	45	2.3
Snitterfield	40	2.0	40	2.0
Southam North	55	2.4	50	2.2
Southam South	65	2.9	65	2.9
Studley with Mappleborough Green	45	2.0	45	2.0
Studley with Sambourne	85	4.0	75	3.5
Tanworth-in-Arden	35	2.0	25	1.5
Tiddington	45	2.5	40	2.2
Welcombe	90	4.2	85	4.0
Welford-on-Avon	60	2.5	50	2.1
Wellesbourne East	110	5.0	95	4.3
Wellesbourne West	20	0.9	25	1.1
Wotton Wawen	30	1.7	35	1.9

Source: DWP via LG Inform Plus (April 2022)

Youth Claimant Count Levels
Number of Youth Claimants and Change by Selected Months across the WMCA (16-24)

This month saw mixed outcomes, with 13 authorities across the West Midlands seeing a rise in the number of people aged 16-24 years claiming benefits, five saw no change, and 12 saw a drop. 2.1% of those aged 16-24 years are claiming in Stratford-on-Avon District. Only Warwick and Staffordshire Moorlands had a smaller percentage of their youth population claiming benefits, at 1.7% and 2.0% respectively.

Source: ONS/DWP via LGInform Plus, April 2022

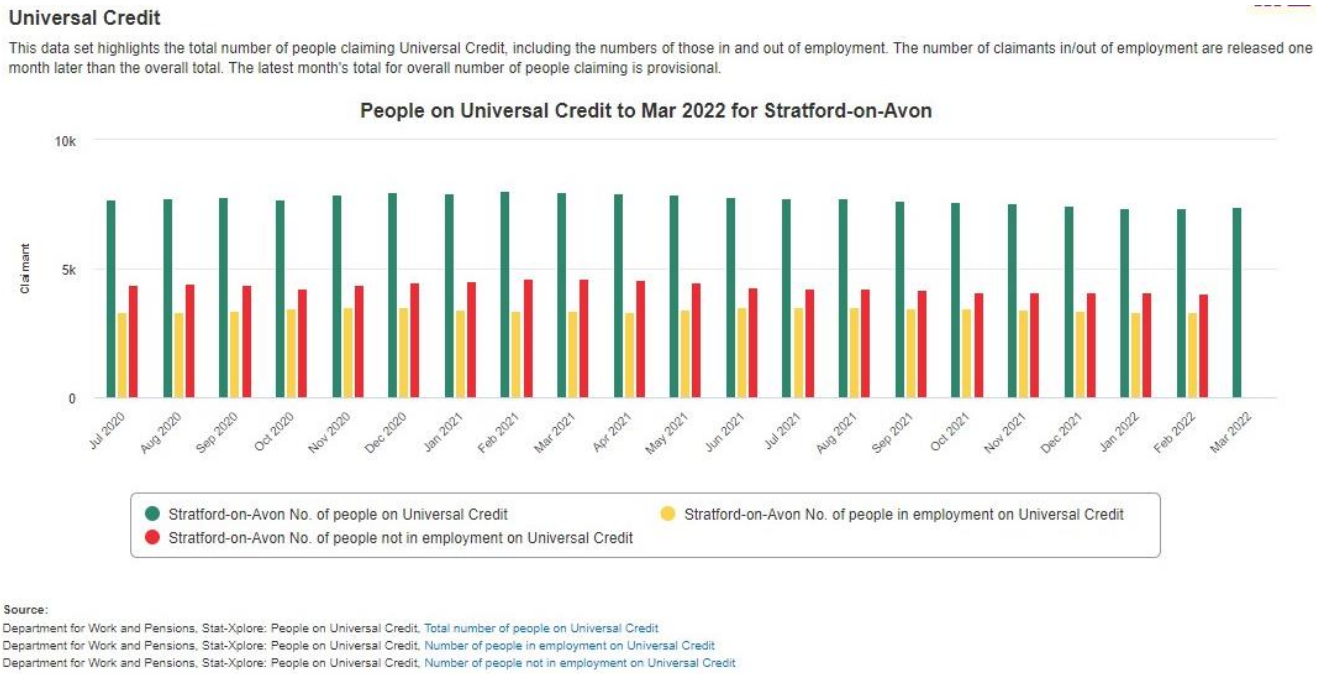
Local Authority	Dec 2019	March 2020	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Mar 2022 %	Change in claimant no's Feb - Mar 2022
Birmingham	8,740	9,220	11,415	11,290	6.7	75
Bromsgrove	210	220	285	280	3.4	0
Cannock Chase	325	370	425	420	4.5	5
Coventry	1,445	1,550	2,010	2,060	3.3	75
Dudley	1,720	1,755	1,870	1,825	5.9	-20
East Staffordshire	275	320	385	395	3.5	20
Herefordshire, County of	390	415	455	445	2.8	0
Lichfield	245	275	280	270	2.9	-5
Malvern Hills	180	185	220	215	3.5	0
Newcastle-under-Lyme	405	430	450	440	2.7	-5
North Warwickshire	165	165	225	215	3.7	0
Nuneaton and Bedworth	540	570	680	655	5.4	-10
Redditch	310	310	375	365	4.7	-5
Rugby	250	245	360	330	3.3	-25
Sandwell	1,995	2,130	2,550	2,525	7.3	25
Shropshire	795	830	830	780	2.8	-30
Solihull	820	830	915	925	4.5	30
South Staffordshire	230	250	365	355	3.5	0
Stafford	280	320	375	380	3.3	15
Staffordshire Moorlands	180	180	185	170	2.0	-10
Stoke-on-Trent	1,275	1,415	1705	1,690	5.9	20
Stratford-on-Avon	150	160	240	235	2.1	10
Tamworth	275	305	385	390	5.3	15
Telford and Wrekin	740	780	985	925	4.9	-40
Walsall	1,790	1,940	2,100	2,065	6.9	-5
Warwick	235	230	335	340	1.7	15
Wolverhampton	1,840	1,925	2,115	2,105	7.9	10
Worcester	315	325	445	425	3.5	-15
Wychavon	250	265	365	345	3.3	-10
Wyre Forest	310	315	340	345	4	15

2. Universal Credit Claimants in Stratford District

Number of people claiming Universal Credit. This total includes both claimants who are not in employment and those eligible who are in employment. Figures are a count of the number of people on Universal Credit on the second Thursday of each month (completed the Universal Credit claim process and accepted their Claimant Commitment) and have not had a closure of their claim recorded for this spell.

Source: Dept for Work and Pensions

7,411 people were claiming Universal Credit in Stratford-on-Avon district in March 2022. For the latest month available with a breakdown February 2022), 4,044 of these claimants were not in employment, whilst 3,308 were in employment. The total number of claims has changed by -7% when compared to March 2021.



Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Stat-Xplore: People on Universal Credit, Total number of people on Universal Credit
Department for Work and Pensions, Stat-Xplore: People on Universal Credit, Number of people in employment on Universal Credit
Department for Work and Pensions, Stat-Xplore: People on Universal Credit, Number of people not in employment on Universal Credit

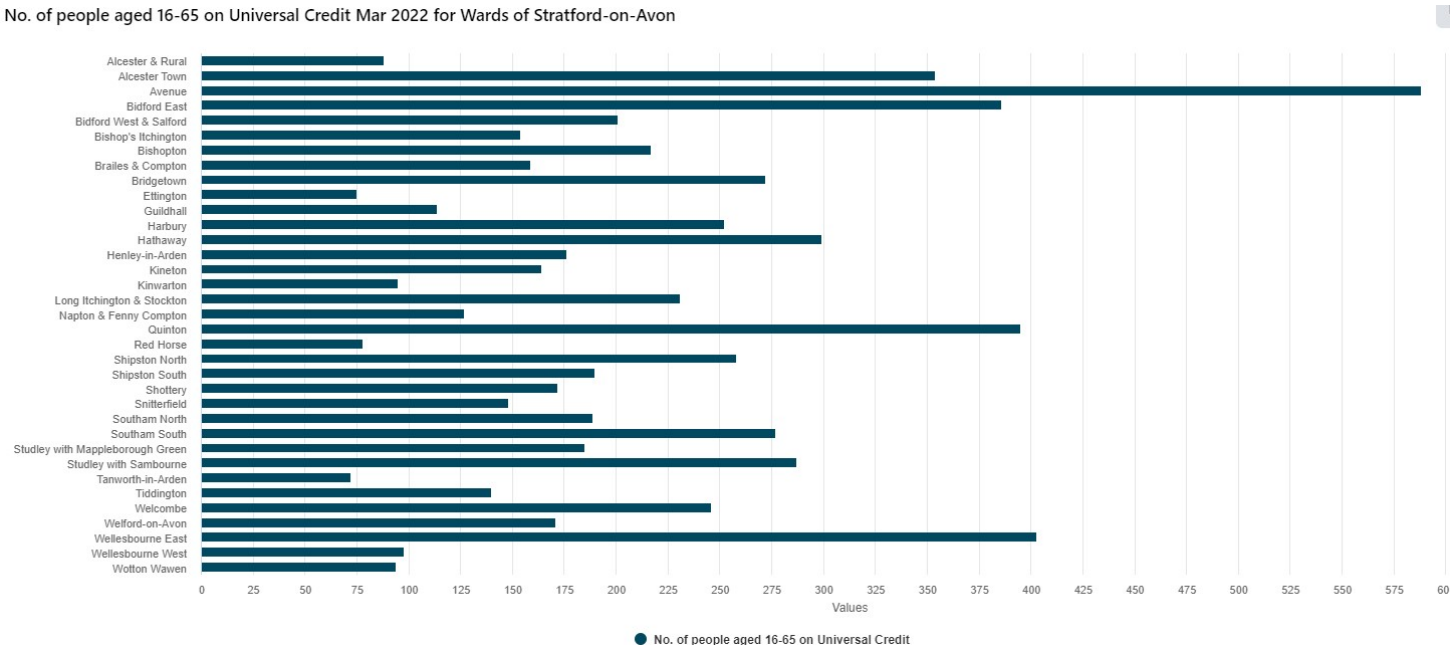
9.5% of people are on universal credit compared with the working age population in Stratford district.

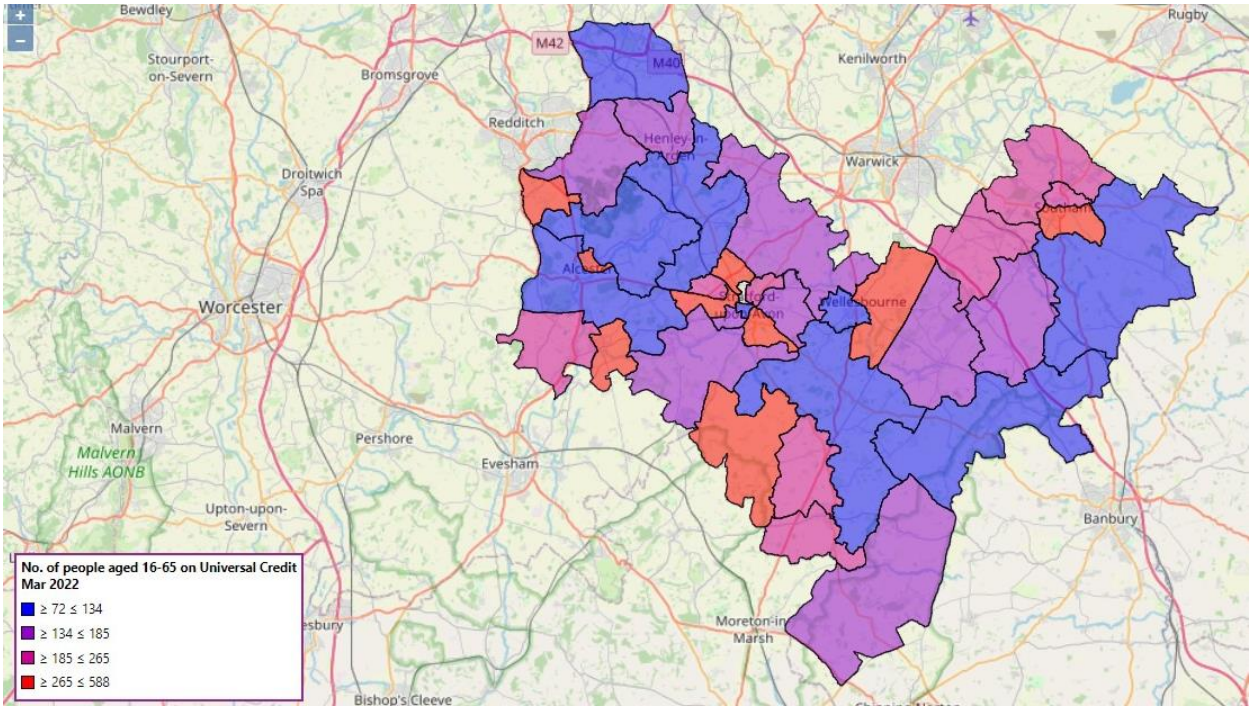
Percentage of Working Age Population Compared with Universal Credit Claimants for Selected Authorites – March 2022

Local Authority	Number of people on Universal Credit Working Age Population	Working Age Population (16-64)	The % of People on Universal Credit compared with Working Age Population
Stratford-on-Avon	7,297	76,600	9.5
North Warwickshire	4,606	39,700	11.6
Nuneaton	12,352	79,500	15.5
Rugby	8,383	67,300	12.5
Warwick	7,542	92,700	8.1
Coventry	35,182	255,900	13.8

The chart below shows the total number of people claiming Universal Credit across the wards of Stratford District. Clopton is the only ward not listed, due to the population level not being high enough. Stratford Avenue ward has by far the most number of people claiming Universal Credit. Data is available to LSOA level if required.

Source: DWP Stat-Explore: People on Universal Credit via LG Inform





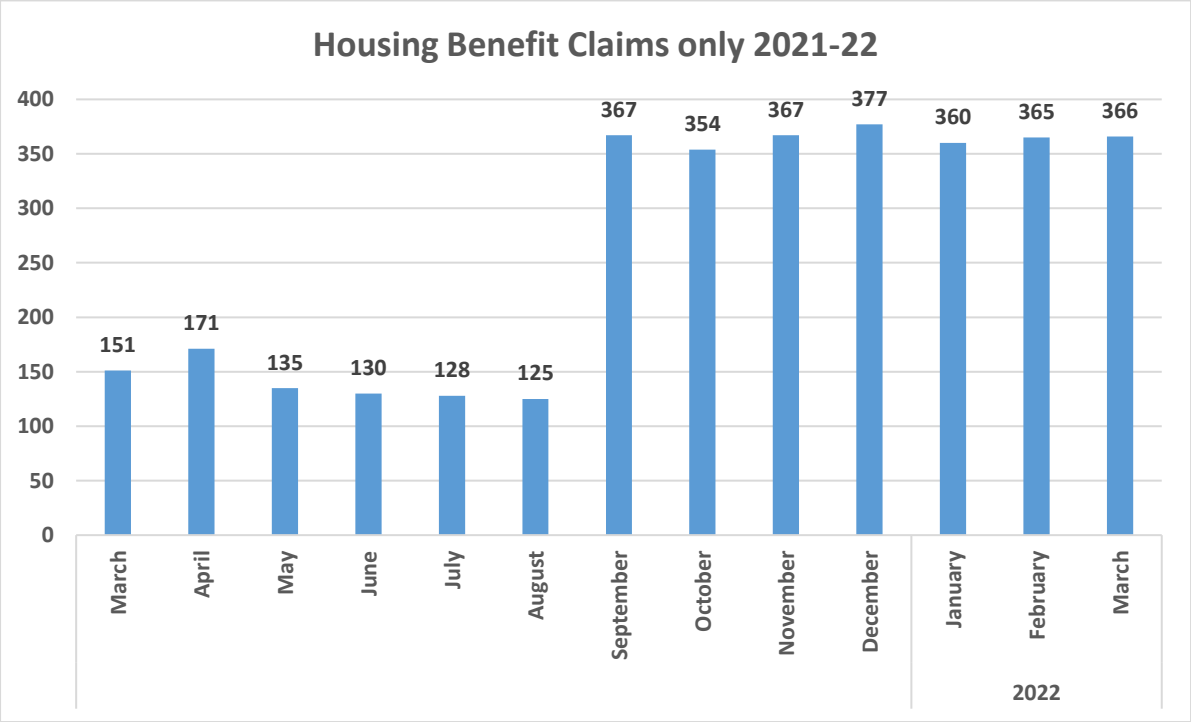
3. Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction Claims

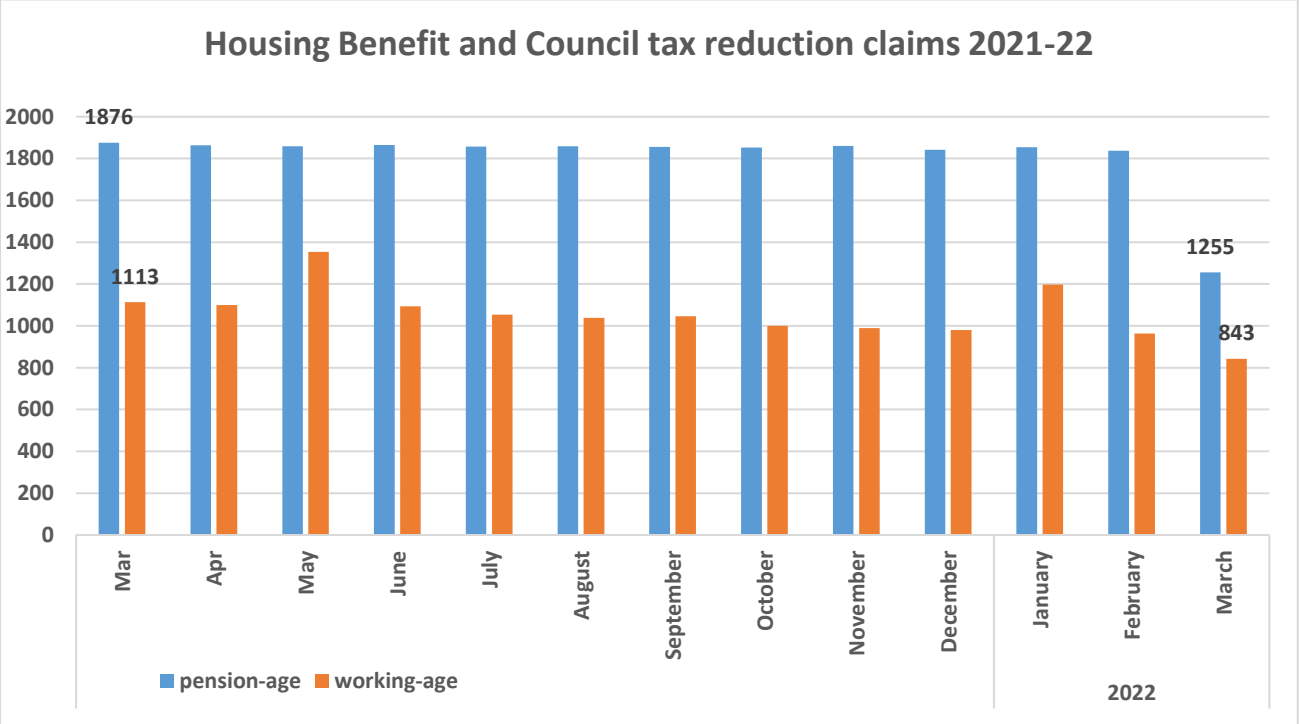
Source: Stratford-on-Avon District Council

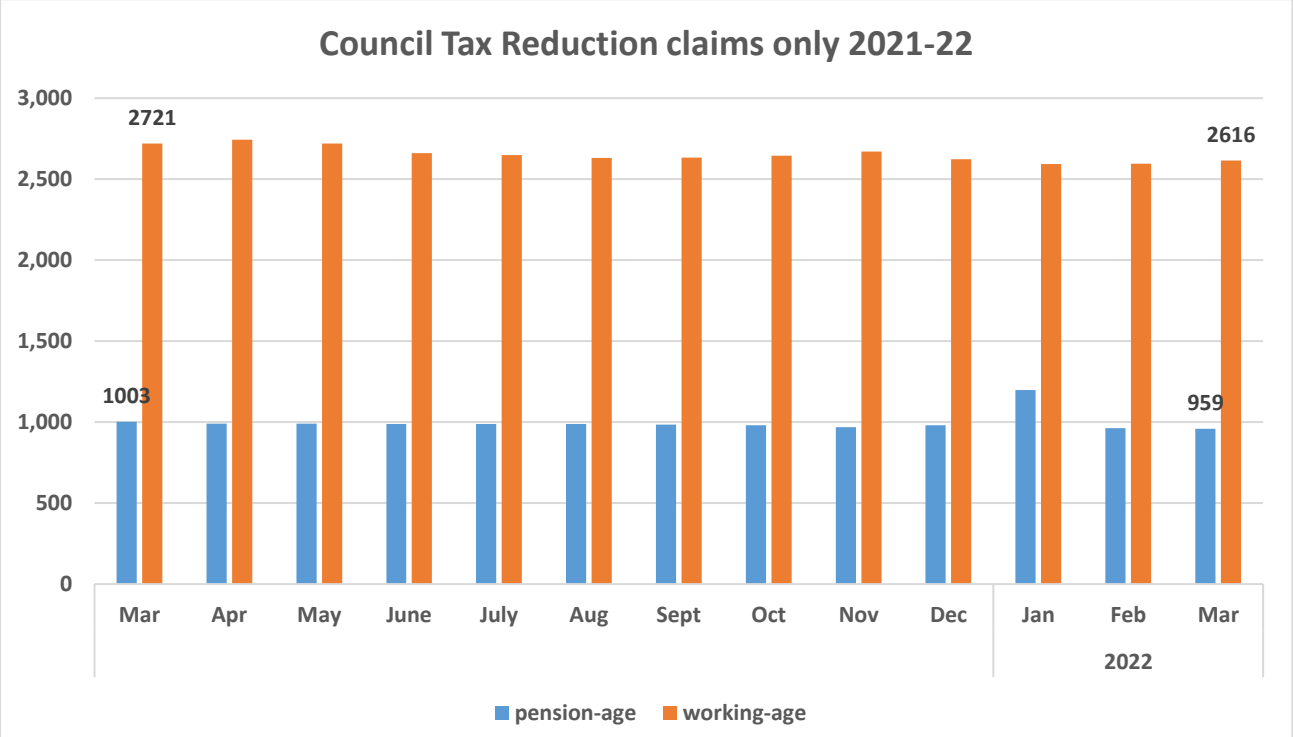
The method for recording Housing benefit only claims changed in September, and therefore claims appear much higher than previous months. Numbers have continued to fluctuate between 354 and 377 over the past six months.

The joint Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Reduction claims for pension-age residents have continued their decline, from a high of 1,947 in January 2020 to 1,255 in March 2022. Those from working-age residents have fluctuated more over the year, with a peak in November 2020, and another sharp climb in May 2021 and then January 2022. Since then, numbers have fallen back to 843 in March 2022.

Council Tax Reduction only claims again have fallen gradually over the past year for those of pension-age from 1,068 in January 2020 to 959 in March 2022. However, those for working-age residents rose consistently over 2020 from a starting figure of 1,724 in January 2020, up to a peak of 2,743 in April 2021, and thereafter fluctuating around the 2,700 mark.




Housing Benefit and Council tax reduction claims 2021-22
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
1876
1113
1255
843
Mar
Apr
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
2022
pension-age
working-age


Council Tax Reduction claims only 2021-22
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
2721
2616
1003
959
Mar
Apr
May
June
July
Aug
Sept
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
2022
pension-age
working-age

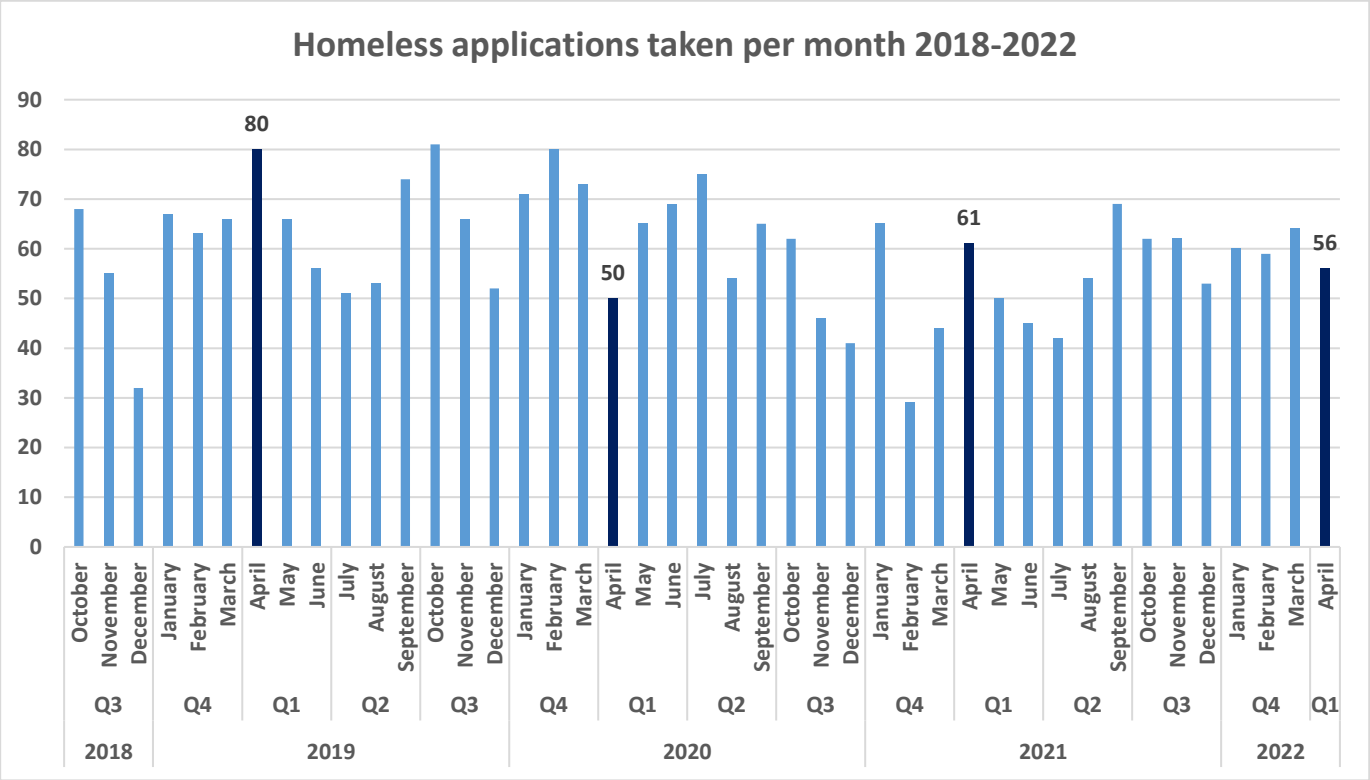
4. Homeless Applications

Homeless Applications Since October 2018

Source: Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Homeless applications have fluctuated over the past four years. April saw applications fall to 56.

The mean average number of applications per month for the financial year 2021-22 stood at 56.75, lower than the average for 2019-20 (66.9), but higher than 2020-21 (55.4) and 2018-19 (55.6).



5. Covid-19 in Stratford District

Source: Coventry City Council
https://coventry-city-council.github.io/covid-19/dashboard/

The number of Covid-19 cases for the month of April 2022 fell to 1,897 after a period of sharp rises and falls into 2022. The rate per 100,000 at the end of the month saw a substantial fall to 122.22.

Covid-19 Cases and Rate per 100,000 by Month for Stratford District

Month	Lab-confirmed cases for the month	Rate per 100,000 population as at end of the month
March 2020	73	33.82
April 2020	311	66.87
May 2020	116	9.99
June 2020	18	4.61
July 2020	14	3.07
August 2020	26	6.92
September 2020	125	35.36
October 2020	646	157.57
November 2020	674	58.42
December 2020	974	312
January 2021	1,356	149.89
February 2021	444	69.95
March 2021	307	32.28
April 2021	75	8.46
May 2021	57	10.76
June 2021	485	205.23
July 2021	1,609	222.14
August 2021	1,491	242.13
September 2021	2,142	566.50
October 2021	3,137	459.65
November 2021	2,737	569.57
December 2021	5,571	1,590.34
January 2022	7,363	1,252.13
February 2022	3,382	413.53
March 2022	5,051	930.07
April 2022	1,897	122.22

Covid-19 Cases and Rate per 100,000 by Month for Warwickshire Districts

District/Borough Council	Lab-confirmed Cases for April 2022	Rate per 100,000 population as at end of the month
North Warwickshire	789	133.30
Warwick	2,101	144.69
Nuneaton & Bedworth	1,597	123.19
Stratford-on-Avon	1,897	122.22
Rugby	1,596	164.32

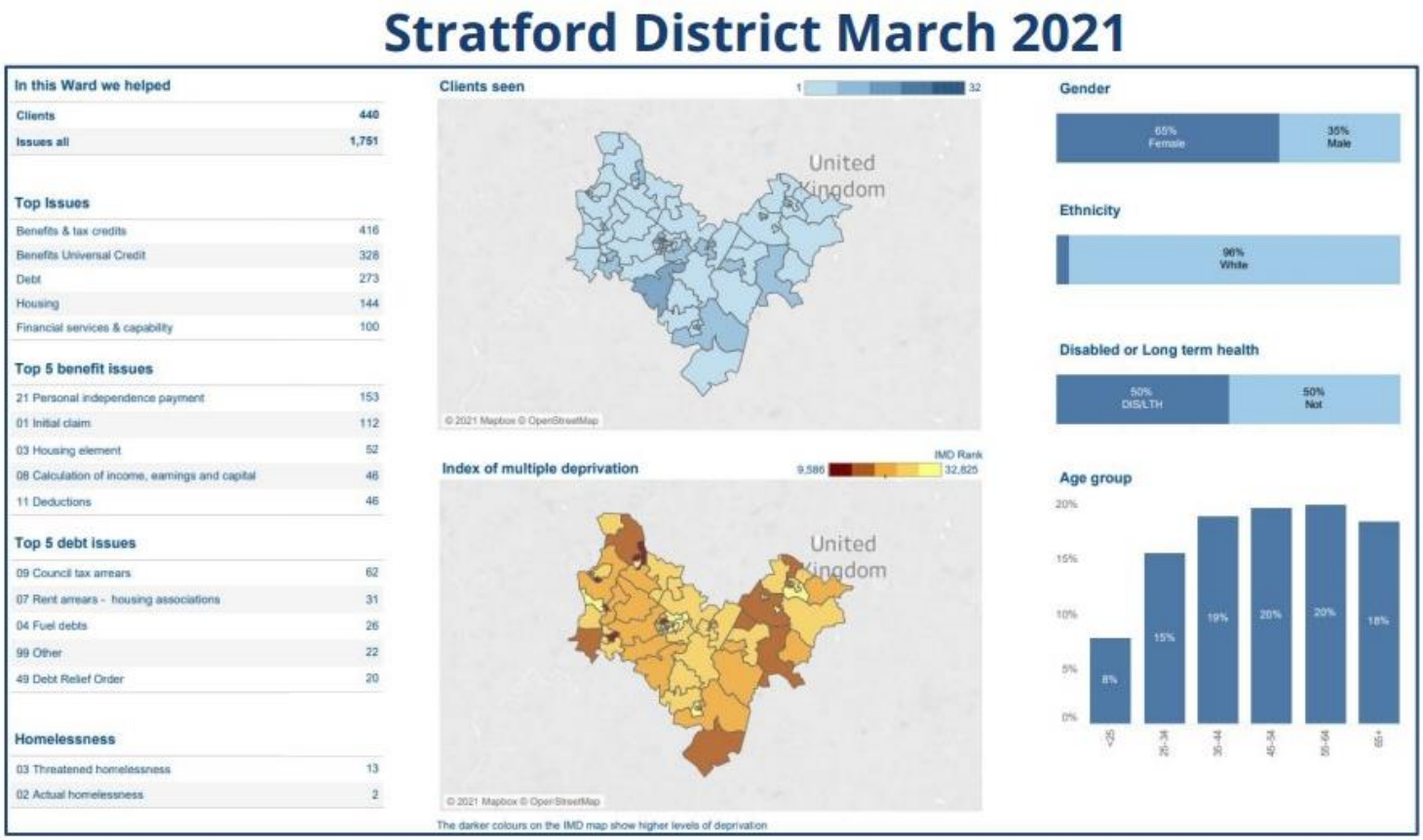
Total cases in Stratford District March 10th 2020 to May 23rd 2022 = 40,814

Number of people with at least one lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, by specimen date. Individuals tested positive more than once are only counted once, on the date of their first positive test.

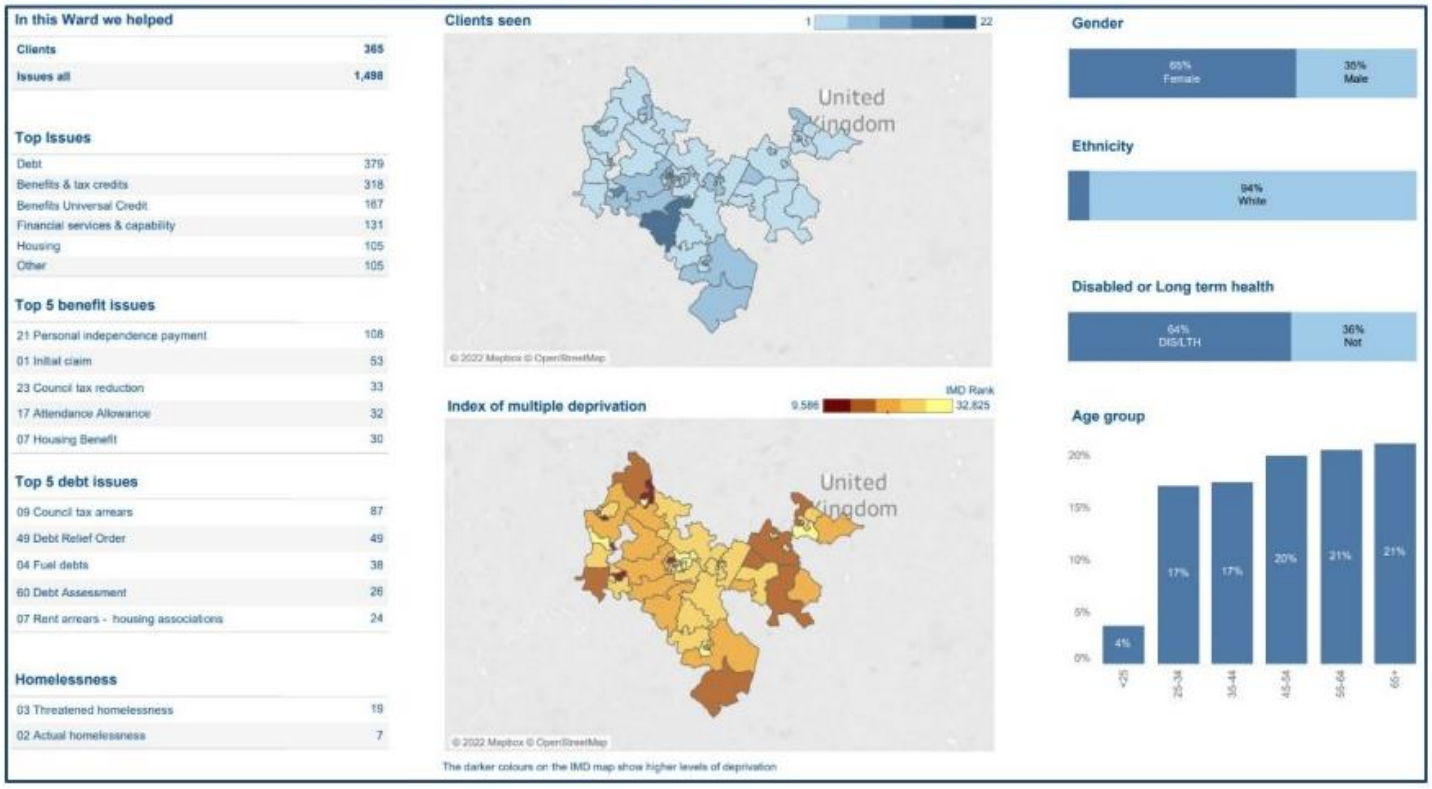
Total number of deaths in Stratford District since pandemic started up until May 23rd 2022 = 369

Total number of deaths since the start of the pandemic of people who had had a positive test result for COVID-19 and died within 28 days of the first positive test, with COVID-19 named on the death certificate. People who died from COVID-19 but had not tested positive are not included and people who died from COVID-19 more than 28 days after their first positive test are not included.

6. Citizens Advice Bureau



Stratford District March 2022



Stratford District March 2022

The diagrams on the previous page show some information about our clients in Stratford District and how we assisted them in March 2022 in comparison to March 2021. This is comparing a month on month of COVID-19.

Our advisers helped 365 clients (down by 75) with 1498 issues (up by 253).

- Debt increased by 38.8% (from 273 to 379 issues)
- Financial Services and Capability rose from 100 to 131 issues (up by 31%)
- UC initial claim enquiries decreased from 112 to 53 issues (down by 52.6%), and UC as a whole decreased by 49% (from 328 to 137 issues)
- Benefits and Tax Credits decreased by 23.6% (from 416 to 318 issues)
- PIP enquiries decreased by 29.4% (from 153 to 108 issues)
- Housing decreased by 27% (from 144 to 105 issues)

Council Tax Arrears (up from 62 to 87), and Fuel Debts (up from 26 to 38), Debt Relief Orders (up from 20 to 49) and Rent Arrears to Housing Associations (down from 31 to 24) featured in March 2022. However, Debt Assessments (26) also featured. Our advisers also assisted clients with Threatened (up from 13 to 19) and Actual (up from 2 to 7) Homelessness compared to March 2021.

The blue shaded 'Clients Seen' diagram shows regions shaded darker, where we saw more clients.
The brown shaded 'Index of Multiple Deprivation' diagram shows more deprived regions shaded more darkly.

Generally, there were minor changes to the ratio of clients by gender and ethnicity, but there was an increase in the number of disability / long term health issues by 28% whilst the under 25 (down 4%) and the 65+ (up 3%) age groups changed.

7. Social Studies

Covid-19 Social Study – Results Release 44

This report provides data from the last 105 weeks of the UK COVID-19 Social Study run by University College London: a panel study of over 70,000 respondents focusing on the psychological and social experiences of adults living in the UK during the Covid-19 pandemic (21/03/20 to 27/03/22).

Routine data collection for the study ceased in November 2021 as the study moved to less frequent modules. The data in this summary provides an update on previous findings with data collected from 28,495 study participants from 21 March 2022 to capture experiences two years on from the start of the study and from the beginning of the first UK lockdown.

The full report can be found via this link https://www.covidsocialstudy.org/results and clicking Week 105.

Findings

Worries about Covid-19 and personal precautionary measures have all decreased since January 2022 despite cases, hospitalisations and deaths remaining equivalent or higher than in January

• Just 1 in 3 people are now concerned about catching Covid-19. These figures are lower than in January 2022 (32% in March vs 43% in January) despite cases being higher than they were in January. Similarly, people are less concerned now about becoming seriously ill from Covid-19 (37% in March vs 46% in January) despite hospitalisation rates and death rates being comparable to January.

• People have sharply curtailed their personal measures to avoid catching and spreading Covid-19. Mask wearing is now only routinely done in public indoor spaces by 28% of adults, compared with 67% over Christmas. Lateral flow tests have become much less popular, with only 12% always taking one before meeting others and 4% asking others to do so; down from 34% and 18% respectively before Christmas (NB data were collected in March 2022 whilst lateral flow tests were still free in England).

• 32% of younger adults said they now never social distance, compared to just 7% of adults over the age of 60. Only 3% of young adults (aged 18-29) report always social distancing when meeting others, compared with 20% of adults over the age of 60. All figures for social distancing are down since Christmas.

• Despite many people following the new relaxed guidelines, levels of confidence in government to handle the pandemic well remain relatively low, especially in England, with levels similar to when first lockdown eased in 2020. There has been no return in England to higher confidence levels seen at the start of the pandemic or when the third lockdown eased in 2021, with levels decreasing month on month since then. Levels of confidence remain lowest in young adults.

People have increased their range of behaviours outside the home, but happiness hasn't improved

• Since Christmas has passed and as the last social restrictions have eased, people have increased their reasons for leaving their home. Shopping remains the most common reason to leave one's home (as it has been across the pandemic) and is now at an all-time high with over 9 in 10 people saying they went out to shop in the past week.

• The proportion of people meeting up with friends or family (not in a support bubble) rose sharply after the new year, with 7 in 10 (70%) currently saying they did this in the past week. Over 60% of people had left home for entertainment purposes, with levels again at an all-time high.

• Leaving home to go to work was the least common reason for leaving the house, despite participants being asked specifically to report their behaviours on the last weekday. Nonetheless, leaving home to go to work was at an all-time high for the pandemic, with 1 in 2 people reporting doing this.

• However, happiness and life satisfaction levels have decreased since the summer of 2021, especially amongst adults under the age of 60, who have increased their activities outside the home.

• Depression and anxiety symptoms remain on a par with levels when first lockdown was eased in 2020; higher than over the past 11 months. Levels remain higher amongst younger adults, with older adults showing the smallest changes over time and lowest levels by age group.

• Just 1 in 3 adults aged 18-29 feels in control of their mental health (35%), compared to 47% of adults ages 30-59 and 61% of older adults. These figures are worse than six months ago, when on average 54% of all adults said they felt in control of their mental health, compared to just 49% now.

The cost-of-living crisis is causing people concern and affecting future plans

• Concerns about finance have been increasing since summer of 2021, now reaching levels on a par with when the pandemic first started. Working-age adults were twice as likely to report concerns as older adults (2 in 5 vs 1 in 5).

• Compared to six months ago, fewer people feel in control of their finances (currently 56% vs 63% in October 2021), with younger adults feeling least in control (46% of those aged 18-29 vs 52% of adults ages 30-59 and 70% of older adults aged 60+).

• Only slightly more people now say that they feel in control of their future plans than six months ago (38% vs 35% in October 2021). Younger adults (aged 18-29) report feeling least in control of their future plans (29% vs 36% of adults ages 30-59 and 47% of older adults).

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 1 April 2022 (No release since this date)

This contains data and indicators from the Office for National Statistics' (ONS's) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on British society.

The statistics below are based on a survey of 3,100 adults aged 16 years and over in Great Britain, conducted between 16 to 27 March 2022 (inclusive). 69% response rate.

Source: ONS
Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Main Points

- Around 6 in 10 (57%) working adults exclusively travelled to work, although slightly lower than the previous period (60%) this remained higher compared with the trend over the past two years.

- Around 7 in 10 (68%) adults reported they wore a face covering when outside their home in the past seven days; this is the lowest proportion since the removal of "Plan B" measures in England (95% between 19 and 30 January 2022).

- Around 1 in 3 (29%) adults reported always or often maintaining social distancing; a similar percentage to the previous period (28%), which was the lowest since this measure was first recorded in September 2020 (76% over the period 16 to 20 September 2020).

- 4 in 10 (40%) adults reported they had taken a rapid lateral flow test in the past seven days; this follows a decline from a high of 61% over the period 6 to 16 January 2022.

- Over one-third (35%) of adults reported they were very or somewhat worried about the effect of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on their lives right now; this follows a decline from 66% during the "Plan B" measures (15 December 2021 to 3 January 2022).

In this period, we continued to find increased concerns about the cost of living. For example:

- Nearly 9 in 10 (87%) reported that their cost of living had increased; this is an increase compared with 83% in the previous period and 62% when this measure was first recorded (over the period 3 to 14 November 2021).

- Among these adults, the most common reasons reported were an increase in the price of food (88%), an increase in gas or electricity bills (83%) and an increase in the price of fuel (77%).

- Among those who pay energy bills, 4 in 10 (43%) said they found it very or somewhat difficult to pay their bills.

- Among those who said they have gas or electricity supplied to their home, 6% reported they were behind on their gas or electricity bills.

8. Other Studies – Business Impact of Coronavirus

Office for National Statistics – Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey: 5 May 2022

Source: ONS
Business insights and impacts on the UK economy - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

The business indicators are based on responses from the voluntary, fortnightly BICS, which captures businesses' views on the impact on turnover, workforce, prices, trade and business resilience. The Wave 55 survey was live for the period 19 April to 1 May 2022.

Wave 55 of BICS saw a sample of 38,100, with 8,813 businesses responding, a response rate of 23.1%.

Main Points

- Of currently trading businesses, 20% reported that their turnover decreased in March 2022 compared with February 2022, in contrast 14% reported turnover had increased.

- Half (50%) of businesses currently trading reported an increase in the prices of materials, goods or services bought in March 2022, up from 39% in February 2022; in comparison, the percentage of businesses who reported an increase in the prices of materials, goods or services sold increased from 17% to 24% over the same period.

- Almost a third of currently trading businesses (31%) reported they expected the price of goods or services sold in April 2022 to increase (excluding seasonal changes), with energy prices (41%) reported as the main factor for businesses considering raising their prices.

- In late April 2022, having to absorb costs (38%) and having to pass on price increases to customers (27%) were reported as the biggest impacts on businesses because of general price rises; these percentages have increased slightly since early March 2022 from 35% and 24%, respectively.

- In late April 2022, 31% of businesses reported their production and/or suppliers had been affected by recent increases in energy prices, with the accommodation and food service activities industry reporting the highest percentage, at 64%.

- Among businesses not permanently stopped trading, 7% of businesses reported their stock levels of raw materials in March 2022 were lower than in February 2022, whereas 4% reported stock levels were higher; across the same period, 6% of businesses reported their stock levels of finished goods were also lower.