

8 October 2020		ITEM: 7
Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board		
Economically Vulnerable Task-Force		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: None	
Report of: Cllr Halden, Portfolio Holder for Children and Adult Social Care and Chair, Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board		
Accountable Head of Service: Roger Harris, Corporate Director, Adult's Housing and Health		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director, Adult's Housing and Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

Following the initiative of the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Children Social Care an officer task force was established to ensure that those groups who may be described as economically vulnerable did not get overlooked as Thurrock addresses the problem of the economic downturn caused by COVID.

This group, chaired by Cllr Halden, has met on three occasions and has focussed on care leavers and adults close to the adult social care system (whether through a learning disability or mental health need) who have traditionally found it difficult to access paid employment.

The group has started by looking at the statistics and what support there is out in the community currently and where it could be strengthened. It has worked closely with the Economic Regeneration team and the Department for Work and Pension (DWP) initially.

At the same time, Thurrock has been working on its wider strategy to support the local economy recover and the report attached at Annex A: "**Backing Thurrock A Five Year Strategy for Economic Recovery, Resilience and a Return to Growth**" was agreed at Cabinet on 16th September.

This will also feature as one of the key work streams in the development of our new Health and Well-Being Strategy 2021–26, the work for which has just got underway.

Finally, we have worked closely with the community and voluntary sector – principally "The World of Work Project" run by Thurrock Community Network to ensure we understand the full picture from their perspective.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 It is recommended that Board members note the content of this report and agree to a further progress report in six months' time.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 An officer task force has been established to ensure that those groups who may be described as economically vulnerable did not get overlooked as Thurrock addresses the problem of the economic downturn caused by COVID.

- 2.2 The task force has identified:

Claimant Count for Thurrock

- 2.3 The Claimant Count for Thurrock is provided at Annex B. Headline figures include:
- The claimant count rate (for 16-24 year olds) rose by 0.4% in Thurrock between July and August 2020, compared to a 0.2% national rise.
 - The Thurrock male claimant rate rose by 0.4% between July and August 2020, compared to a 0.2% national rise.
 - The Thurrock female claimant count rate rose by 0.3% between July and August 2020, compared to a 0.2% national rise. The 1.1% gap is the widest over the whole two year period.
 - The Thurrock and national claimant count rates rose by 0.1% between July and August 2020.

Support for Adults

- 2.4 Adult Social Care are acutely aware of the challenges that are facing the wider population and more specifically vulnerable people regarding economic vulnerability. Under the Care Act 2014 we have a duty to offer information and advice together with ensuring that early intervention and prevention support is available. The Economically Vulnerable Taskforce has afforded the opportunity to raise the profile of meaningful occupation for those who receive our services and for those in the wider community.
- 2.5 We have ensured that information and advice is available for those who contact adult social care, we have worked with our Local Area Coordinators who are at the centre of our communities to support vulnerable people before they come to services making sure that information and support is available. Our lead for Micro Enterprise development has actively shared information and will offer support to any vulnerable person considering setting up their own Micro Enterprise business. Our Community Led Support Social Work Teams are now based within their local areas and as such are able to offer more locally focused information and advice.

- 2.6 A great deal of work has been undertaken with unpaid carers who often struggle to maintain employment or return to work. We have developed an App to support both carers and employers to assist with employment, this is just about to be launched. We are also identifying those who access services and are either in paid employment or undertaking volunteering. We have 41 people in paid employment excluding mental health and within mental health services we have 28 people in paid employment and 11 people actively seeking work. Small numbers but when we consider that those who receive adult social care services in the main have high levels of need these are really positive figures.

World of Work

- 2.7 The World of Work is a service provided by Thurrock Centre for Independent Living to support people with learning disabilities and mental health challenges. They provide courses to prepare people for employment or volunteering, individual support with CV writing and interview preparation together with job coaching. The service is very highly valued and has had very positive success. Through the Economically Vulnerable Taskforce we were able to identify additional one off funding for this provider to increase the services available which has been positively received and increased the provision.

Support for young people and care leavers. The Inspire Youth Hub - Skills Offer

- 2.8 Inspire is our integrated youth hub that support vulnerable young people including Care Leavers, SEND and the YOS – the offer is outlined below:-
- Provides a drop in careers service for young people in Thurrock aged 16 to 18 and up to 25 with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The service is delivered by Career advisers who additionally provide a traded careers service to 80% of schools in the borough.
 - Houses employability Programme ‘Gaps’ run by TCHC for NEET young people in Thurrock
 - Delivers Functional Skills tuition to NEET and at Risk of NEET Looked after Children and Care Leavers.
 - Offers mentoring and young people focussed activities.
 - Offers outdoor earning programmes at Grangewaters.
- 2.9 In response to current government advice, Inspire Youth Hub will modify its delivery model to provide:
- An alternative careers provision via digital means and telephone one to one interviews. All NEET young people have been contacted to update them on the new method of delivery. During the following weeks all NEET young people have been contacted by a Careers Adviser individually to provide support in seeking employment, education or training, a detailed Career Action Plan will be produced. Career

advisers are responding to new Labour Market Information whereby new employment opportunities are emerging in the logistics, distribution and food retail sectors offering instant employment to young people.

- 2.10 Additionally, Career Advisers have been assisting Preparing for Adulthood obligations. The meetings have been conducted over the phone, health Advisers contacting the 398 16+ Year old young people with an EHCP to ensure we have updated their intended destinations, complete a Preparing for Adulthood Action Plan and produce a review of their Annual Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in line with statutory and social care input will be added – this methodology will ensure all vulnerable young people have had an education setting in place for September 2020 and all necessary support secured.
- 2.11 TCHC 'Gaps' provision has moved to an online offer in response to DfE advice and provision of tuition has moved to digital platforms. Learners without access to computers have been provided with laptops.
- 2.12 Functional Skills Tuition to NEET and at Risk of NEET Looked after Children and Care Leavers will moved to digital platforms. Where possible; home tuition packs have been prepared and self-addressed envelopes obtained to aid the process of homework marking where digital means are not viable.
- 2.13 Headstart Housing has continued to offer high quality accommodation with the additional benefits around the integrated youth offer. The Headstart Housing team have visited young people and provided help and support where required. A key strand of this work relates to skills and young people have been in regular contact with the Personal Advisors who support them with developing the confidence and skills base to Access College or employment.
- 2.14 Employment will be a key challenge and to address this we are looking at the new government scheme Kick Start to ensure that we can offer opportunities to our vulnerable groups.
- 2.15 Emotional wellbeing is a key strand of our integrated approach and we have developed an on line resource this task was undertaken by our school wellbeing service and has been sent to vulnerable young people.
- 2.16 Grangewaters has offered a new Programme for SEND learners – the programme was designed by young people and initial feedback is positive.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Next steps will include:
 - a. Continuing the work of the sub-group.
 - b. Working alongside Economic regeneration team;
 - c. Build stronger links with DWP;
 - d. Reporting progress to the Board in 6 months' time, subject to the Board's approval.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 To ensure Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board members remain sighted on progress and provided with opportunities to influence the work of the Taskforce.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 None at this stage given this is an early report on the work of the Economically Vulnerability Taskforce

7. 7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris, Corporate Director, Adult's Housing and Health**

None at this stage given this is an early report on the work of the Economically Vulnerability Taskforce

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris, Corporate Director, Adult's Housing and Health**

None at this stage given this is an early report on the work of the Economically Vulnerability Taskforce

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris, Corporate Director, Adult's Housing and Health**

None at this stage given this is an early report on the work of the Economically Vulnerability Taskforce

- 7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. Appendices to the report

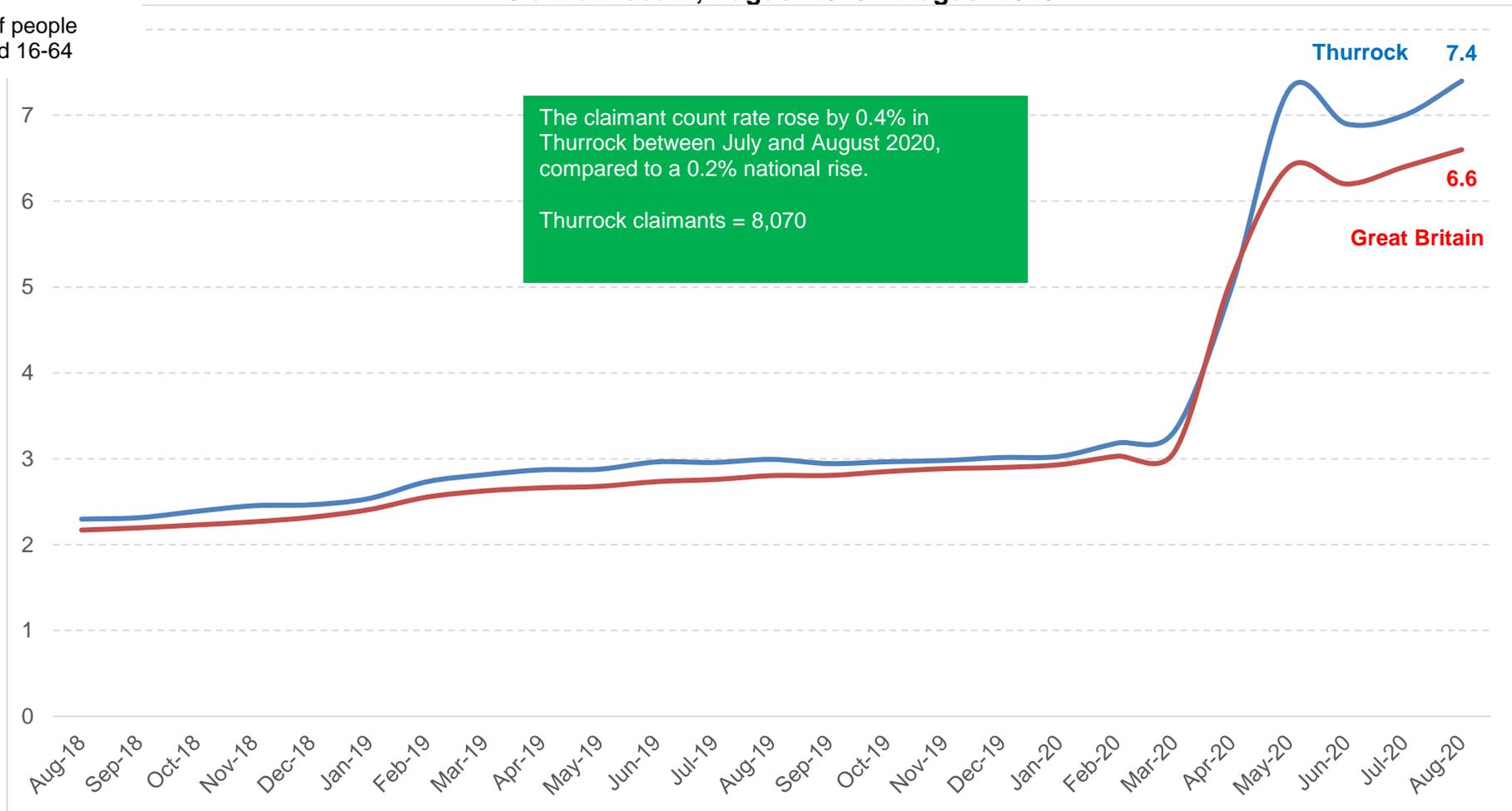
- **Annex A** – Thurrock Claimant Count
- **Annex B** - Backing Thurrock A Five Year Strategy for Economic Recovery Resilience and a Return to Growth (attached separately)

Report Author/Coordinator:

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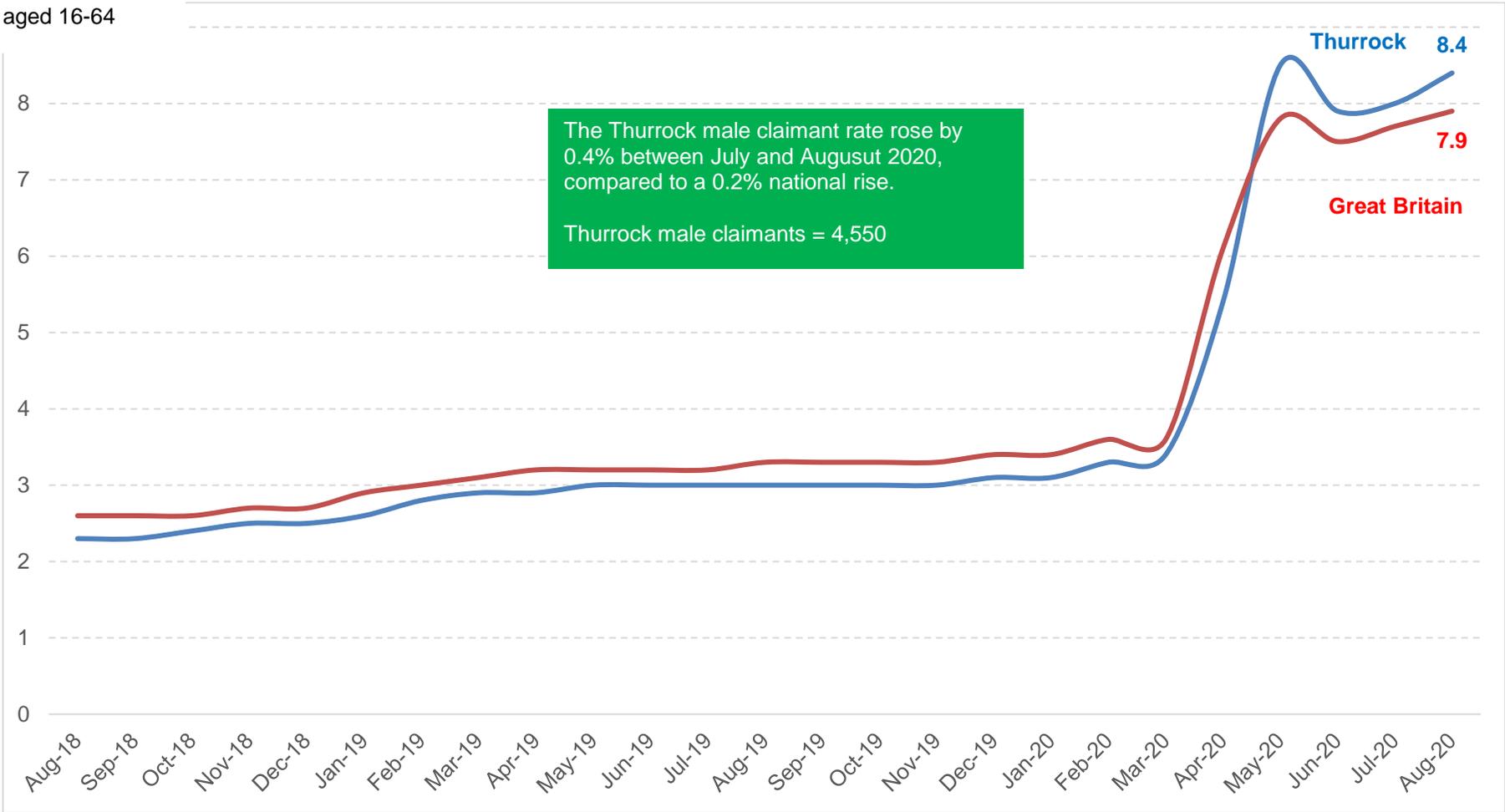
Claimant count, August 2018 – August 2020

% of people aged 16-64



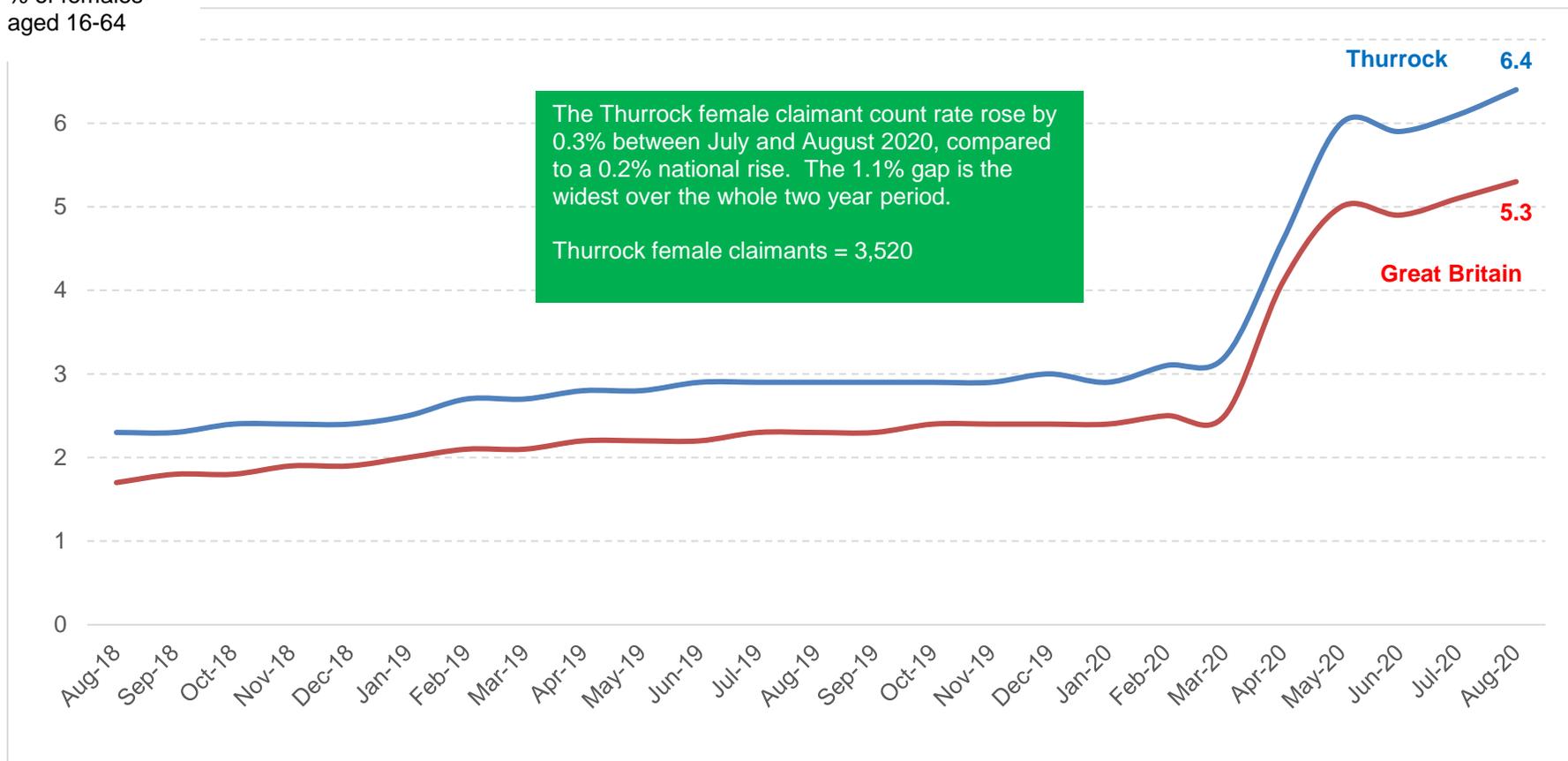
Claimant count - male, August 2018 – August 2020

% of males aged 16-64

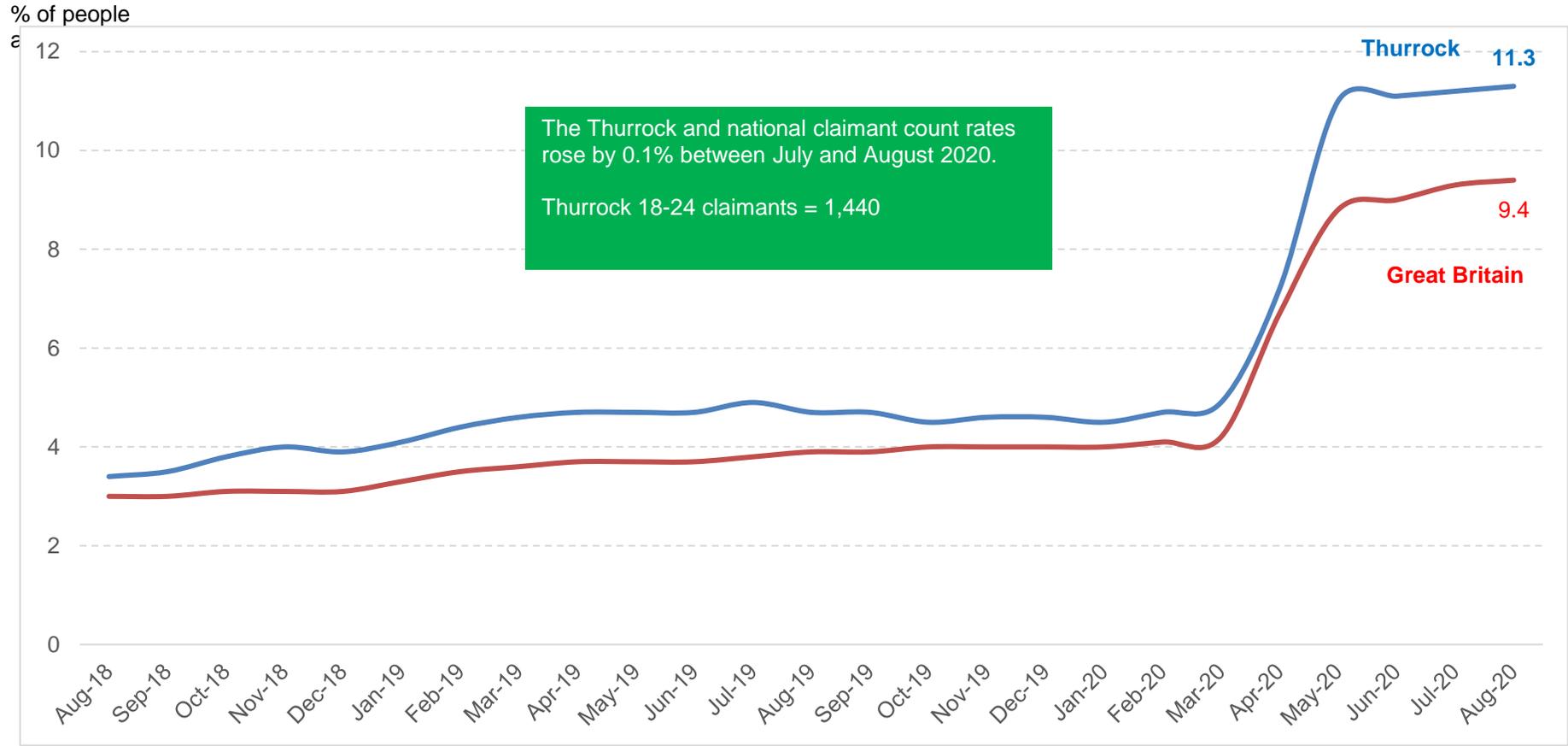


Claimant count - female, August 2018 – August 2020

% of females aged 16-64

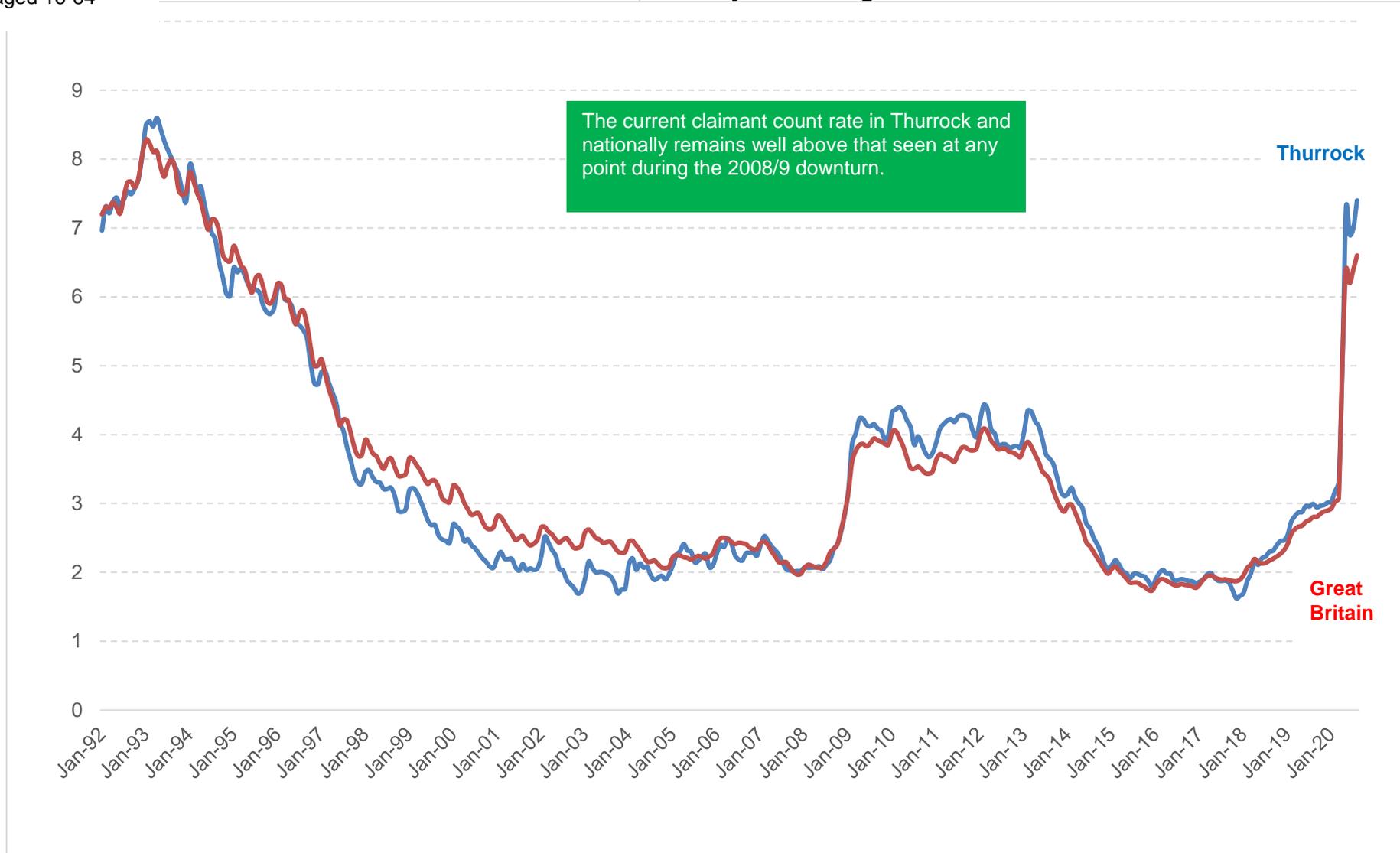


Claimant count – 18-24 year olds, August 2018 - August 2020



% of people aged 16-64

Claimant count, January 1992 - August 2020



Claimant count numbers, Thurrock (Aug 2018–Aug 2020)

Month/year	N	%
August 2018	2,500	2.3
September 2018	2,520	2.3
October 2018	2,600	2.4
November 2018	2,670	2.5
December 2018	2,685	2.5
January 2019	2,760	2.5
February 2019	2,975	2.7
March 2019	3,065	2.8
April 2019	3,125	2.9
May 2019	3,135	2.9
June 2019	3,225	3.0
July 2019	3,220	3.0
August 2019	3,260	3.0
September 2019	3,205	2.9
October 2019	3,230	3.0
November 2019	3,245	3.0
December 2019	3,280	3.0
January 2020	3,295	3.0
February 2020	3,465	3.2
March 2020	3,585	3.3
April 2020	5,470	5.0
May 2020	7,975	7.3
June 2020	7,565	6.9
July 2020	7,685	7.0
August 2020	8,070	7.4

Note: Figures for the last month are provisional and subject to revision. The July Thurrock claimant figure was revised down by 90, with the rate revised down by 0.1%. along with the August release.

There was a provisional rise of 385 claimants between July and August 2020.

Claimant count by ward, August 2020

Rank by rate	Ward	Claimant count - N	Claimant count - % 16-64 year olds
=1	Belhus	790	11.5
=1	Tilbury St Chads	480	11.5
3	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park	525	11.2
4	Chadwell St Mary	525	8.7
5	Grays Riverside	790	8.6
6	West Thurrock and South Stifford	740	8.0
7	Ockendon	545	7.4
=8	East Tilbury	330	7.3
=8	Grays Thurrock	455	7.3
=10	Aveley and Uplands	470	7.2
=10	Stanford East and Corringham Town	355	7.2
12	Little Thurrock Blackshots	245	6.4
13	Stifford Clays	240	6.1
14	Stanford-le-Hope West	265	5.9
15	Chafford and North Stifford	300	5.3