



Income Support caseloads, August 2016

Key findings for the Lancashire-14 area

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Contents

1.	OVERVIEW.....	1
2.	KEY FINDINGS.....	1
2.1	Change in Income Support caseload numbers - context	1
2.2	Income Support caseload figures and average weekly payments, August 2016.....	2
2.3	Change in Income Support caseload numbers since August 2006	2
2.4	Yearly change in Income Support caseload numbers	3
3.	BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	3
3.1	Eligibility for Income Support	3
3.2	Income Support benefit groupings and related benefit information.....	4
3.3	Other changes impacting Income Support statistics.....	5
3.4	Income Support payments.....	6
3.5	Data sources	6
4.	DESCRIPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHIES USED IN THIS REPORT. ..	6
5.	ANALYSIS OF THE LANCASHIRE-14 FIGURES	7
5.1	Income Support caseload figures and average weekly payments, August 2016.....	7
5.2	Change in Income Support numbers – historical context	8
5.3	Change to Income Support total caseloads since August 2006 ..	8
5.4	Change to numbers claiming incapacity benefits and receiving Income Support since August 2016.....	10
5.5	Change to numbers claiming Carer's Allowance and receiving Income Support since August 2016.....	10
5.6	Change to the numbers of lone parents receiving Income Support since August 2016	11
5.7	Change to the numbers of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support since August 2016	11
5.8	Yearly change in Income Support total caseloads.....	12
5.9	Yearly changes to numbers claiming incapacity benefits and receiving Income Support.....	12
5.10	Yearly changes to numbers claiming Carer's Allowance and receiving Income Support.....	13
5.11	Yearly changes to the numbers of lone parents claiming Income Support.....	13
5.12	Yearly changes to the numbers of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support.....	13

1. Overview

[Income Support](#) (IS) is intended to help people on low incomes who do not have to be available for employment. Income Support is mainly claimed by lone parents with children under five, carers, those people on other income-related benefits and recipients of various types of incapacity benefits.

This report details Income Support statistics for August 2016 published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and changes since 2006. The focus is on the figures for local authorities in the Lancashire-14 area.

Income Support is one of the benefits which is being replaced by [Universal Credit](#). The number of persons claiming Income Support is therefore projected to decline as the roll out of Universal Credit continues. Currently, it is estimated that most of the roll out of Universal Credit will have been completed by 2021. Persons cannot claim Income Support and [Universal Credit](#) at the same time.

Please note that there may be a discrepancy between sub-national Income Support data for November 2015 downloaded from the National Online Manpower Information System website [Nomisweb](#) and the equivalent statistics sourced via the [DWP statistical summaries](#) on Gov.uk. The differences are small, at most 3% at the regional level.

2. Key findings

Income Support data for August 2016 and yearly change figures may be affected by differing speeds of the roll out of Universal Credit across the country. This should be borne in mind when analysing the figures.

2.1 Change in Income Support caseload numbers - context

Income Support caseload numbers in Great Britain have been in decline since August 2001, when they totalled 2,274,730 persons (excluding 1,723,730 Minimum Income Guarantee cases). The larger decreases since this time reflect changes to the benefit system over the years. These include the introduction of the [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (ESA) on 27 October 2008, which replaced Incapacity Benefit, [Lone Parent Obligations](#), which came into effect from 24 November 2008, and the roll out of [Universal Credit](#) in 2014 and 2015.

The group claiming Carer's Allowance is the only Income Support sub-set to see a rise in numbers between August 2001 and August 2016, more than doubling over the period. The carers sub-group accounted for 26.8% of the total GB Income Support caseload in August 2016, the second largest grouping behind lone parents (63.7%).

The incapacity benefits sub-group, which previously accounted for 52.7% of the Income Support caseload total in August 2001, has seen a sharp decline since October 2008, when the Employment and Support Allowance was introduced. By

August 2016, the incapacity benefits sub-group represented just 4.9% of the total GB Income Support caseload. Claimants of other income related benefits accounted for 4.6% of the Income Support total.

2.2 Income Support caseload figures and average weekly payments, August 2016

The Income Support caseload in Great Britain (GB) was 650,820 in August 2016, of which, 82,580 (12.7%) were in the North West region.

In the Lancashire 14 area, the total Income Support caseload was 14,750 in August 2016. Of this figure, the majority, 8,820 cases (59.8%), were lone parents in receipt of Income Support, followed by 4,500 cases (30.5%) who were carers in receipt of Income Support. Some 670 cases (4.5%) fell within the incapacity benefits grouping, and 770 cases (5.2%) were in receipt of other income-related benefits.

At the local authority level, the two unitary authorities of Blackpool (2,370) and Blackburn with Darwen (1,920) recorded the highest Income Support caseload figures in the Lancashire-14 area, followed by Preston (1,620) and Burnley (1,250). In comparison, Ribble Valley had a caseload of just 160.

Average Income Support payments for all claimants amounted to £71.63 per week in GB, £71.42 in the North West, £71.99 at the Lancashire-14 level and £71.52 for the Lancashire-12 area. At the local authority level within the Lancashire-14 area, average weekly payment figures varied between a high of £73.92 in Wyre to £70.09 in Burnley.

2.3 Change in Income Support caseload numbers since August 2006

At the GB level, Income Support caseload numbers have fallen by 69.6% (1,487,560 persons) since August 2006, and by a slightly higher percentage, 73.2% (40,300 persons), in the Lancashire-14 area. Claimant numbers have fallen by a similar percentage, 73.0% (28,250), in the Lancashire-12 area.

In the Lancashire-14 area, the 40,300 reduction (-73.2%) in the total Income Support caseload since August 2006 was made up by a fall of 33,620 persons (-98.0%) claiming incapacity benefits, a drop of 8,040 lone parents (-47.7%), a decrease of 980 persons (-56.0%) claiming other income related benefits, and a rise of 2,360 people (110.3%) claiming Carer's Allowance. Please note that the Income Support sub-groupings may not sum, owing to rounding.

Eleven of the Lancashire-14 authorities recorded greater percentage reductions to their Income Support total caseloads than the national decrease of 69.6% between August 2006 and August 2016. Ribble Valley (77.1%, 540 persons), Pendle (76.5%, 2,900 persons), Lancaster (75.3%, 3,540 persons) and Hyndburn (74.4%, 2,910 persons) saw the largest percentage reductions.

Blackpool (6,160 persons, 72.2%), Blackburn with Darwen (5,880, 75.4%) and Preston (4,260, 72.4%) have seen the largest decreases in the number of persons on Income Support since August 2006, and Ribble Valley (540 persons, 77.1%) has seen the lowest.

2.4 Yearly change in Income Support caseload numbers

Between August 2015 and August 2016, the Income Support total caseloads have fallen by 9.1% in GB (65,360 cases), by 16.8% in the Lancashire-14 area (2,970 cases), and by 17.1% in the Lancashire-12 area (2,160 cases).

In the Lancashire-14 area, the 2,970 yearly reduction in the total Income Support caseload (-16.8%) was made up by a fall of 1,380 persons (-67.3%) claiming incapacity benefits, a drop of 1,450 lone parents (-14.1%), a decrease of 160 persons (-17.2%) claiming other income related benefits, and a slight rise of 30 people (0.7%) claiming Carer's Allowance. Please note that the Income Support sub-groupings may not sum, owing to rounding.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Blackpool (430), Preston (390) Blackburn with Darwen (380) and Lancaster (270) have seen the greatest decreases in their Income Support caseloads over the previous year, whilst Ribble Valley (50 cases) recorded the lowest yearly fall.

All of the Lancashire-14 authorities saw larger yearly percentage reductions than the GB average fall (9.1%) in relation to their Income Support total caseloads. Ribble Valley (23.8%, 50 persons), South Ribble (21.6%, 190 people), West Lancashire (19.5%, 230 persons) and Preston (19.4%, 390 people) saw the largest percentage falls in the Lancashire-14 area

3. Background information

3.1 Eligibility for Income Support

Income Support (IS) is intended to help people on low incomes who do not have to be available for employment. To be [eligible for Income Support](#), persons have to meet all of the following five criteria:

1. be a lone parent with a child under 5, or a carer, or pregnant, or in some instances, be unable to work because of sickness or disability;
2. be aged between 16 and [Pension Credit qualifying age](#);
3. have no income, or a low income, and no more than £16,000 in savings (a partner's income and savings will be taken into account);
4. work less than 16 hours a week (a partner must also work under 24 hours a week) Persons may still qualify if they do unpaid voluntary work or go on [parental](#) or [paternity leave](#);

5. live in England, Scotland or Wales - there are different rules for [Northern Ireland](#)

Young persons aged 16 to 20 also qualify if they are in full-time education (excluding university) and are a parent, or not living with a parent or someone acting as a parent, or are a refugee learning English.

Persons are not *usually* eligible if they are in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance, or are a young person being looked after by a local authority (unless they are a single parent), or need permission to enter the UK.

3.2 Income Support benefit groupings and related benefit information

Persons in receipt of Income Support are assigned to one of four benefit groupings, depending on which benefits that they receive. The four groupings are incapacity benefits, lone parent, carer, or other (on income related benefits). Box 1 below shows the four benefit groupings used within the Income Support umbrella, and which benefits fall under each of those groupings. Benefits are arranged hierarchically and Income Support claimants are assigned to the topmost benefit which they receive. Thus a person who is a lone parent and receives Incapacity Benefit would be assigned to the 'incapacity benefits' grouping.

Box 1: Benefit type by benefit group

Title of benefit group	Benefit type being claimed
Incapacity benefits	Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
Lone Parent	Income Support with a child under 16 and no partner
Carer	Carer's Allowance
Other on income related benefits	Other Income Support (including IS Disability Premium) or Pension Credit

Source: DWP statistical summaries, [supporting data tables, February 2017](#), guidance sheet.

Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) was paid to those unable to work for 28 weeks in a row or more because of illness or disability. Since April 2001 it has not been possible to make a new SDA claim.

Incapacity Benefit (IB) is paid to people who are incapable of work and who meet certain contribution conditions. Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008 and the subsequent decline impacts on the Income Support figures.

Persons on Incapacity Benefit, or Income Support paid because of illness or disability, or Severe Disablement Allowance, are being transferred automatically onto [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (ESA). Since 31 January 2011, no new

Incapacity Benefit claims have been accepted. However, the data show small number of new claims for Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) following the cessation of new claims for IB in February 2011 and SDA in April 2001. DWP investigations indicate that these are likely to be the result of people returning to incapacity benefits following an appeal and ongoing claims which have been rebuilt on the computer system.

Please note that persons on the income-related ESA will eventually be transferred onto [Universal Credit](#). Further information for those persons on the contribution-based ESA, or the 'New style' ESA, can be found on the [related ESA web pages](#) of Gov.uk web site. Persons can get the 'New style' ESA on its own, or at the same time as Universal Credit. However, those persons who get both at the same time will have their 'New style' ESA payment deducted from their Universal Credit payment. IB claimants who are assessed as being incapable of work and do not meet the contribution conditions can receive IB Credits only. They do not receive any IB payment but their National Insurance account is credited for the duration of the claim. They are referred to as claimants but are not beneficiaries (they are getting no monetary benefit).

For those who do meet the contribution conditions there are three rates of Incapacity Benefit. The short-term lower rate is paid for the first 28 weeks of sickness and the short-term higher rate for weeks 29 to 52. The long-term rate applies to people who have been sick for more than a year.

Discontinuities. Caution is required when analysing the IB time series as figures are affected by the introduction of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003.

3.3 Other changes impacting Income Support statistics

Income Support is one of the benefits that will be replaced by [Universal Credit](#). The number of persons claiming Income Support is therefore projected to decline as the roll out of Universal Credit continues. Currently, it is estimated that most of the roll out of Universal Credit will have been completed by 2021. Persons cannot claim Income Support and [Universal Credit](#) at the same time.

From April 2013 onwards, Income Support is one of the benefits affected by the ['benefit cap'](#).

Lone parent obligations were introduced on the 24th November 2008 and there were a number of subsequent changes in 2009 and 2010. The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced further changes and from 21 May 2012 lone parents have only been eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old. They may be able to claim [Jobseeker's Allowance \(for lone parents\)](#) instead, which means there is a requirement to look for paid work. However, there are exceptions, where the youngest child can legitimately be older. Similarly, some former lone parents remain on Income Support for other reasons (eg they have a long term caring responsibility and claim Carer's Allowance). For the moment, the Income Support

lone parent statistical series will continue to be defined as 'single Income Support claimants with a child under 16'.

Pension Credit replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (Income Support for people aged 60 or over) on 6 October 2003. After August 2003, there was a sharp decline of 1.8 million in the numbers on Minimum Income Guarantee. Some residual cases remain after this date.

3.4 Income Support payments

The amount of Income Support payments received depends on the circumstances of the person, or persons, claiming. At the time of writing, the minimum amount that a qualifying claimant (with no income and savings less than £6,000), will receive is £57.90. For further information on payment amounts for single people, lone parents and couples (for different age groups), and the Income Support 'premium', see the Income Support '[Overview](#)' web page and the Income Support '[What you'll get](#)' web page on the Gov.uk website.

3.5 Data sources

The Income Support figures in this report have been downloaded from the National Online Manpower Information System website ([Nomisweb](#)). This allows the data to be selected by the four benefit groupings that fall under the Income Support umbrella. Alternatively, data can be downloaded from the [DWP statistical summaries](#) web page on the Gov.uk website. Select the year, then choose the required quarterly statistical summary and/or the associated supporting data tables. The August 2016 data is contained in the February 2017 Quarterly Statistical Summary.

Please note that there may be a discrepancy between any sub-national Income Support data for November 2015 downloaded from the National Online Manpower Information System website [Nomisweb](#) and the equivalent statistics sourced via the [DWP statistical summaries](#) on Gov.uk. The differences are small, at most 3% at the regional level.

4. Description of the geographies used in this report.

The Lancashire-12 area is comprised of the 12 local authorities that fall within the Lancashire County Council administrative boundary. The Lancashire-14 area incorporates the two additional unitary authorities of [Blackburn with Darwen](#) and [Blackpool](#) and has the same geographic footprint as the [Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership](#) (LEP) area.

The 12 local authorities within the LCC boundary are [Burnley Borough Council](#), [Chorley Borough Council](#), [Fylde Borough Council](#), [Hyndburn Borough Council](#), [Lancaster City Council](#), [Pendle Borough Council](#), [Preston City Council](#), [Ribble Valley](#)

[Borough Council](#), [Rossendale Borough Council](#), [South Ribble Borough Council](#), [West Lancashire Borough Council](#) and [Wyre Borough Council](#).

5. Analysis of the Lancashire-14 figures

5.1 Income Support caseloads and average weekly payments, August 2016

Table 1 shows the Income Support caseload in Great Britain (GB) was 650,820 in August 2016, of which, 82,580 (12.7%) were in the North West region.

Table 1: Income Support caseloads and total average weekly payments at August 2016 and yearly change

	Total average weekly payment, all claimants (£) August 2016	Total caseload, August 2016	Yearly change in total caseload, August 2015 to August 2016	% Change, Aug 2015 to Aug 2016	Statistical group – August 2016			
					Incapacity benefits	Lone parents	Carers	Others on income-related benefit
Burnley	70.09	1,250	-230	-15.5%	30	820	320	80
Chorley	73.80	770	-180	-18.9%	70	450	210	40
Fylde	71.31	430	-100	-18.9%	20	230	140	30
Hyndburn	71.76	1,000	-150	-13.0%	30	650	260	70
Lancaster	73.17	1,160	-270	-18.9%	40	770	300	50
Pendle	70.31	890	-100	-10.1%	30	500	320	50
Preston	70.60	1,620	-390	-19.4%	100	970	480	70
Ribble Valley	70.86	160	-50	-23.8%	10	100	50	10
Rossendale	72.15	660	-140	-17.5%	20	440	170	30
South Ribble	71.56	690	-190	-21.6%	60	410	180	50
West Lancashire	72.00	950	-230	-19.5%	40	540	330	40
Wyre	73.93	860	-150	-14.9%	40	450	320	50
Lancashire-12 area	71.74	10,460	-2,160	-17.1%	490	6,330	3,080	560
Blackburn with Darwen	71.74	1,920	-380	-16.5%	100	1,120	620	90
Blackpool	73.26	2,370	-430	-15.4%	80	1,380	790	110
Lancashire-14 area	71.99	14,750	-2,970	-16.8%	670	8,820	4,500	770
North West	71.42	82,580	-14,260	-14.7%	3,680	49,260	25,900	3,750
Great Britain (and abroad or unknown)	71.63	650,840	-65,370	-9.1%	32,170	414,700	174,270	29,700

Source: National Online Manpower Information System (Nomisweb).

In the Lancashire 14 area, the total Income Support caseload was 14,750 in August 2016. Of this figure, the majority, 8,820 cases (59.8%), were lone parents in receipt of Income Support, followed by 4,500 cases (30.5%) who were carers in receipt of

Income Support. Some 670 cases (4.5%) fell within the incapacity benefits grouping, and 770 cases (5.2%) were in receipt of other income-related benefits.

At the local authority level, the two unitary authorities of Blackpool (2,370) and Blackburn with Darwen (1,920) recorded the highest Income Support caseload figures in the Lancashire-14 area, followed by Preston (1,620) and Burnley (1,250). In comparison, Ribble Valley had a caseload of just 160.

Table 1 also presents details of average weekly Income Support payments to claimants at the GB, regional, Lancashire-14, Lancashire-12 and district levels for August 2016. Average payments for all claimants amounted to £71.63 per week in GB, £71.42 in the North West, £71.99 at the Lancashire-14 level and £71.52 for the Lancashire-12 area. At the local authority level within the Lancashire-14 area, average weekly payment figures varied between a high of £73.92 in Wyre to £70.09 in Burnley.

5.2 Change in Income Support numbers – historical context

Income Support caseload numbers in Great Britain have been in decline since August 2001, when they totalled 2,274,730 persons (excluding 1,723,730 Minimum Income Guarantee cases). The larger decreases since this time reflect changes to the benefit system over the years. These include the introduction of the [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (ESA) on 27 October 2008, which replaced Incapacity Benefit, [Lone Parent Obligations](#), which came into effect from 24 November 2008, and the roll out of [Universal Credit](#) in 2014 and 2015.

The group claiming Carer's Allowance is the only Income Support sub-set to see a rise in numbers between August 2001 and August 2016, more than doubling over the period. The carers sub-group accounted for 26.8% of the total GB Income Support caseload in August 2016, the second largest grouping behind lone parents (63.7%).

The incapacity benefits sub-group, which previously accounted for 52.7% of the Income Support caseload total in August 2001, has seen a sharp decline since October 2008, when the Employment and Support Allowance was introduced. By August 2016, the incapacity benefits sub-group represented just 4.9% of the total GB Income Support caseload. Claimants of other income related benefits accounted for 4.6% of the Income Support total.

5.3 Change to Income Support total caseloads since August 2006

Since August 2006, the Income Support total caseload has fallen by 69.6% (1,487,560 persons) at the GB level, and by a slightly higher percentage, 73.2% (40,300 persons), in the Lancashire-14 area. Numbers have fallen by a similar percentage, 73.0% (28,250), in the Lancashire-12 area over the period.

In the Lancashire-14 area, the 40,300 reduction (73.2%) in the total Income Support caseload since August 2006 was made up by a fall of 33,620 persons (-98.0%)

claiming incapacity benefits, a drop of 8,040 lone parents (-47.7%), a decrease of 980 persons (-56.0%) claiming other income related benefits, and a rise of 2,360 people (110.3%) claiming Carer's Allowance. Please note that the Income Support sub-groupings may not sum, owing to rounding.

Table 2: Income Support caseloads for August 2006 and August 2016 and changes

	Total caseload, August 2006	Total caseload, August 2016	Change in total caseload, August 2006 to August 2016	% Change, Aug 2006 to Aug 2016	Statistical group – change in numbers August 2006 to August 2016			
					Incapacity benefits	Lone parents	Carers	Others on income-related benefit
Burnley	4,720	1,250	-3,470	-73.5%	-2,860	-720	180	-90
Chorley	2,520	770	-1,750	-69.4%	-1,530	-320	130	-60
Fylde	1,620	430	-1,190	-73.5%	-1,080	-200	90	-30
Hyndburn	3,910	1,000	-2,910	-74.4%	-2,440	-510	130	-80
Lancaster	4,700	1,160	-3,540	-75.3%	-2,850	-730	120	-120
Pendle	3,790	890	-2,900	-76.5%	-2,430	-590	180	-60
Preston	5,880	1,620	-4,260	-72.4%	-3,560	-860	270	-140
Ribble Valley	700	160	-540	-77.1%	-480	-50	40	-20
Rossendale	2,380	660	-1,720	-72.3%	-1,510	-250	80	-70
South Ribble	2,110	690	-1,420	-67.3%	-1,190	-310	110	-60
West Lancashire	3,630	950	-2,680	-73.8%	-1,950	-790	130	-100
Wyre	2,760	860	-1,900	-68.8%	-1,630	-390	180	-70
Lancashire-12 area	38,710	10,460	-28,250	-73.0%	-23,500	-5,720	1,600	-920
Blackburn with Darwen	7,800	1,920	-5,880	-75.4%	-4,700	-1,220	240	-170
Blackpool	8,530	2,370	-6,160	-72.2%	-5,420	-1,100	500	-280
Lancashire-14 area	55,050	14,750	-40,300	-73.2%	-33,620	-8,040	2,360	-1,350
North West	308,320	82,580	-225,740	-73.2%	-182,310	-50,670	13,170	-7,670
Great Britain (and abroad or unknown)	2,138,400	650,840	-1,487,560	-69.6%	-1,164,520	-368,490	91,840	-56,430

Source: National Online Manpower Information System (Nomisweb).

Eleven of the Lancashire-14 authorities recorded greater percentage reductions to their Income Support total caseloads than the national decrease of 69.6% between August 2006 and August 2016. Ribble Valley (77.1%, 540 persons), Pendle (76.5%, 2,900 persons), Lancaster (75.3%, 3,540 persons) and Hyndburn (74.4%, 2,910 persons) saw the largest percentage reductions. Chorley (69.4%, 1,750 persons), Wyre (68.8%, 1,900 persons) and South Ribble (67.3%, 1,420 persons) recorded the lowest percentage falls, just below the GB percentage decrease.

Blackpool (6,160 persons, 72.2%), Blackburn with Darwen (5,880, 75.4%) and Preston (4,260, 72.4%) have seen the largest decreases in the number of persons on Income Support since August 2006, and Ribble Valley (540 persons, 77.1%) has seen the lowest.

5.4 Change to numbers claiming incapacity benefits and receiving Income Support since August 2016

Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity were replaced by the [Employment and Support Allowance](#) (ESA) on 27th October 2008 and no new claims for Incapacity Benefit have been allowed since the 31 January 2011. The subsequent reductions to the Income Support incapacity benefits groupings have resulted in the largest reductions within the Income Support umbrella. Please see the separate article that includes [Employment and Support Allowance caseload numbers](#) in the Lancashire-14 area.

Since August 2006, the numbers of persons claiming incapacity benefits and in receipt of Income Support have declined by over 95% at all geographical levels analysed in this report. Incapacity benefits now account for less than 5% of the total Income Support figures.

The number of claimants in this grouping have therefore now almost disappeared, falling by 97.3% within Great Britain (1,164,520 persons), reducing by 98.0% in the Lancashire-14 area (33,620 persons) and by 98.0% (23,500 persons) in the Lancashire-12 area. Burnley (99.0%, 2,860 persons) recorded the largest percentage reduction since August 2006, whilst South Ribble (95.2%, 1,190 persons) saw the lowest percentage fall.

As at August 2016, the number of persons claiming incapacity benefits and in receipt of Income Support ranged from 100 in Blackburn with Darwen, 100 in Preston, to just 10 persons in Ribble Valley. Incapacity benefits now account for less than 5% of the total Income Support figures.

5.5 Change to numbers claiming Carer's Allowance and receiving Income Support since August 2016

By contrast, the number of persons claiming Carer's Allowance and in receipt of Income Support is the only Income Support grouping that has seen any significant increase over recent years. The numbers in this grouping have reached their highest levels in the last three quarters (February 2016 to August 2016) for the majority of areas analysed in this report.

For Great Britain, the number of persons claiming Carer's Allowance and in receipt of Income Support has more than doubled, rising by 111.4% (91,840 persons) between August 2006 and August 2016. Numbers have also more than doubled in the Lancashire-14 area, increasing by 110.3% (2,360 persons) and in the Lancashire-12 area, rising by 108.1% (1,600 persons).

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Blackpool (+500), Preston (+270), Blackburn with Darwen (+240), Burnley (+180), Pendle (+180) and Wyre (+180) have seen the greatest increases in numbers claiming Carer's Allowance and receiving Income

Support since August 2006. Most of these six areas have seen the numbers more than double since August 2006. Of these, Blackpool (172.4%) recorded the greatest percentage increase, whilst the percentage rise in Blackburn with Darwen (63.2%) was the lowest. This lower percentage rise is partly explained by the number in Blackburn with Darwen (380) being the highest in the Lancashire-14 area in the base year of August 2006.

5.6 Change to the numbers of lone parents receiving Income Support since August 2016

The number of lone parents receiving Income Support has fallen by 47.0% in Great Britain (-368,400) between August 2006 and August 2016, by 47.7% (-8,040) in the Lancashire-14 area, and by 47.5% (-5,720) in the Lancashire-12 area.

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Blackburn with Darwen (-1,220), Blackpool (-1,100), Preston (-860) and West Lancashire (-790) have seen the greatest reductions in the number of lone parents receiving Income Support since August 2006. Ribble Valley (-50) recorded the lowest decrease in the area.

The four Lancashire-14 authorities of West Lancashire (-59.4%, -790 persons), Pendle (-54.1%, -590 people), Blackburn with Darwen (-52.1%, -1,220 people) and Lancaster (-48.7%, -730 persons) have seen the number of lone parents receiving Income Support fall by greater percentages than the GB percentage decrease of 47.0% since August 2006.

5.7 Change to the numbers of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support since August 2016

The number of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support has fallen by -61.0% in Great Britain (-46,400 people) between August 2006 and August 2016, by -56.0% in the Lancashire-14 area (-980 persons), and by -53.3% in the Lancashire-12 area (-640 people).

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Blackburn with Darwen (-200 persons), Blackpool (-150 persons) and Preston (-100 persons) have seen the greatest reductions in the number of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support since August 2006. Fylde (-10) recorded the lowest decrease in the area over the period.

The four Lancashire-14 authorities of Ribble Valley (-75.0%, -30 persons), Blackburn with Darwen (-69.0%, -200 people), West Lancashire (-66.7%, -80 persons) and Lancaster (-61.5%, -80 persons) have seen the number of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support reduce by greater percentages than the GB average percentage fall of 61.0% since August 2006.

Please note that the number of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support peaked in August 2008 in Great Britain, the Lancashire-14 area, the Lancashire-12 area and five of the Lancashire-14 authorities. For nine of the Lancashire-14 authorities, numbers for this Income Support grouping peaked over a wide period of time, ranging from August 2006 for Blackburn with Darwen and Ribble Valley, to February 2011 for Burnley.

5.8 Yearly change in Income Support total caseloads

In comparison to the figures for August 2015, a year earlier, the Income Support total caseloads have fallen by 9.1% in GB (65,370 cases), by 16.8% in the Lancashire-14 area (2,970 cases), and by 17.1% in the Lancashire-12 area (2,160 cases).

In the Lancashire-14 area, the 2,970 yearly reduction in the total Income Support caseload (-16.8%) was made up by a fall of 1,380 persons (-67.3%) claiming incapacity benefits, a drop of 1,450 lone parents (-14.1%), a decrease of 160 persons (-17.2%) claiming other income related benefits, and a slight rise of 30 people (0.7%) claiming Carer's Allowance. Please note that the Income Support sub-groupings may not sum, owing to rounding.

Blackpool (430), Preston (390) Blackburn with Darwen (380) and Lancaster (270) have seen the greatest decreases to their Income Support caseloads over the previous year in the Lancashire-14 area, whilst Ribble Valley (50 cases) recorded the lowest yearly fall.

All of the Lancashire-14 authorities saw larger yearly percentage reductions than the GB average fall (9.1%) in relation to their Income Support total caseloads. Ribble Valley (23.8%, 50 persons), South Ribble (21.6%, 190 people), West Lancashire (19.5%, 230 persons) and Preston (19.4%, 390 people) saw the largest percentage falls in the Lancashire-14 area

5.9 Yearly changes to numbers claiming incapacity benefits and receiving Income Support

Between August 2015 and August 2016, the numbers of persons claiming incapacity benefits and in receipt of Income Support has fallen by 58.7% within Great Britain (-45,750 cases), by 67.3% in the Lancashire-14 area (-1,380) and by 66.4% in the Lancashire-12 area (-970 cases).

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Blackpool (-250) and Blackburn with Darwen (-170) recorded the largest reductions within the incapacity benefits grouping of Income Support over the year, whilst Ribble Valley saw the smallest decrease (-20).

Seven of the Lancashire-14 authorities saw yearly percentage reductions that were greater than the GB fall of 58.7%. Fylde (81.8%, 90 persons), Blackpool (75.8%, 250 people), Hyndburn (75.0%, 90 persons) and West Lancashire (75.0%, 120 people) recorded the largest percentage falls in the Lancashire-14 area over the past year.

5.10 Yearly changes to numbers claiming Carer's Allowance and receiving Income Support

The numbers claiming Carer's Allowance and receiving Income Support have reached their highest levels in the last three quarters (February 2016 to August 2016) for the majority of areas analysed in this report, although the pace of increase may be slowing.

Between August 2015 and August 2016, numbers rose by 3.7% in GB (6,150), and by 0.7% in the Lancashire-14 area (30), but reduced marginally, by 0.3% in the Lancashire-12 area (10 cases).

Blackburn with Darwen (30) saw the greatest rise in the Lancashire-14 area over the year, with Chorley, Hyndburn, Pendle and South Ribble all recording marginal increases of 10 cases in each area. Three of the Lancashire-14 authorities saw reductions in the number of carers receiving Income Support over the year. These were Lancaster (-20), Preston (-20) and West Lancashire (-20). The remaining six authorities recorded no change.

5.11 Yearly changes to the numbers of lone parents claiming Income Support

The number of lone parents claiming Income Support has fallen by 5.2% in GB (22,680 persons) between August 2015 and August 2016, by 14.1% in the Lancashire-14 area (1,450 people), and by 14.6% in the Lancashire-12 area (1,080 persons).

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Preston (210 persons, 17.8%), Blackburn with Darwen (190 people, 14.5%), Blackpool (170 persons, 11.0%) and Burnley (150 people, 15.5%) saw the largest yearly falls in the number of lone parents claiming Income Support, whilst Ribble Valley (20 persons, 16.7%) recorded the smallest decrease.

All of the Lancashire-14 authorities recorded greater yearly percentage reductions than the GB average (5.2%) in relation to the number of lone parents claiming Income Support. South Ribble (21.2%, 110 persons), Preston (17.8%, 210 people) and Rossendale (17.0%, 90 persons) saw the largest percentage falls in the Lancashire-14 area

5.12 Yearly changes to the numbers of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support

Between August 2015 and August 2016, the number of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support has decreased by 9.4% in GB (3,080 persons), by 17.2% in the Lancashire-14 area (160 people) and by 15.2% in the Lancashire-12 area (100 persons).

Within the Lancashire-14 area, Blackburn with Darwen (40 persons), Blackpool (30 people), Lancaster (20 persons) and Preston (20 people) recorded the largest yearly decrease in the number of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support, whilst Fylde (10) and Wyre (10) saw marginal increases. The remaining four Lancashire-14 authorities recorded no change over the year.

Seven of the Lancashire-14 authorities saw yearly percentage reductions that were greater than the GB fall of 9.4% in relation to the number of persons claiming other income related benefits and in receipt of Income Support. Of these, Blackburn with Darwen (30.8%, 40 persons) recorded the largest percentage decrease.