

BBC SCHOOL REPORT



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By Tom

Ramsgate Couple Were Left With Just 70p To Survive On

The CHANNEL 5 documentary, Benefits Britain: Life On The Dole, has sparked a debate over its portrayal of unemployment. The episode broadcasted on Monday 9th March at 9.00pm. The programme featured Terry Furniss-Roe, a 39 year old man who was previously a maintenance worker but has been unemployed for the past four years. When Terry's partner, Sandi Sowerby, who works as a carer, was working an extra 15 minutes than permitted in her zero-hours contract resulting in being left with just 70p. Terry Furniss-Roe, father of two, agreed to take part in the show to prove that he had been unfairly sanctioned. He said, "The

whole reason I was on the programme was to show it was their mistake, but it was only mentioned about once about three minutes from the end." However, Mr Furniss-Roe is now taking courses to renew his Construction Skills Certification Scheme and health and safety qualifications. Hopefully for Mr Furniss-Roe and his family he will find a job soon. Terry Furniss-Roe also mentioned, "I will not have to worry where the money comes from. Not everybody is comfortable sat on the dole, I am not comfortable.

I want to be up and doing stuff and four years on the dole is not good for me." The table at the bottom left, from www.kent.gov.uk, presents the jobless benefits in numbers.

As seen, in the past month the vast majority of districts have had an increase of unemployment.

In Thanet, where Mr Furniss-Roe and his partner live, there has been an increase of 0.9%, 27 people, in the past month. In the whole of Kent there has been an increase of 2.0%, 317 people. In the whole of Great Britain it was a 0.9% increase which was equivalent to 7,250 people. However, there is a 31.5% decrease in Great Britain in the past year. Recording to the government website, in Kent, Thanet contains the highest number of unemployed people.

To conclude, it appears that as times goes on, many people in the South-East are becoming unemployed. If this is to contin-



Monthly Summary of Unemployment in Kent Districts								February 2015	
Districts	Number Unemployed February 2015	Unemployment rate %	Change Since Last Month Number	%	Change Since Last Year Number	%			
Ashford	1,122	1.5%	82	7.9%	-391	-25.8%			
Canterbury	1,224	1.2%	85	7.5%	-604	-33.0%			
Dartford	900	1.4%	36	4.2%	-501	-35.8%			
Dover	1,553	2.3%	10	0.6%	-630	-28.9%			
Gravesham	1,430	2.2%	33	2.4%	-622	-30.3%			
Maidstone	1,316	1.3%	62	4.9%	-609	-31.6%			
Sevenoaks	625	0.9%	-11	-1.7%	-255	-29.0%			
Shepway	1,584	2.4%	-9	-0.6%	-560	-26.1%			
Swale	1,857	2.2%	-45	-2.4%	-879	-32.1%			
Thanet	2,920	3.6%	27	0.9%	-1,355	-31.7%			
Tonbridge & Malling	809	1.1%	33	4.3%	-316	-28.1%			
Tunbridge Wells	530	0.7%	14	2.7%	-232	-30.4%			
Kent	15,870	1.7%	317	2.0%	-6,954	-30.5%			
Medway Council	3,966	2.3%	34	0.9%	-1,528	-27.8%			
Kent + Medway	19,836	1.8%	351	1.8%	-8,482	-30.0%			
National/Regional									
GoSE	69,349	1.3%	1,250	1.8%	-32,802	-32.1%			
Great Britain	810,607	2.0%	7,250	0.9%	-373,550	-31.5%			
Seasonally Adjusted	GOSE 61,500	1.1%	-3,100	-4.8%	-32,400	-34.5%			
	G.B. 745,000	1.9%	-29,800	-3.8%	-372,000	-33.3%			

Figures coloured red show an increase in claimants.
Source: NOMIS Claimant Count
Table prepared by: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council