

1. Rothercard Applications (1st September 2020 to 31st March 2022)

Since the new digital application process was implemented, there has been 2,979 Rothercard application forms received (1st September 2020 to 31st March 2022). Of these:

- 2,245 were successful applications
- 283 were declined as the applicants was unable to provide the required evidence of eligibility
- The remaining 451 applications include people who made an initial application but have since either decided not to pursue the application or still need to provide corroborating information/evidence.

Data from the 2,979 applications provides the following breakdown of eligibility criteria as indicated by residents:

Reason for applying:	Number	%
Aged over 60	1,379	46.30%
Adult on low income	1,528	51.30%
Young person aged 16 to 19 years in full time education	30	1.00%
Looked after children/young people	30	1.00%
Refugees/asylum seekers dependent on asylum seeker support payments	12	0.40%
Total	2,979	100.0%

Applicants who described themselves as ‘adults on low income’ indicated that they are in receipt of the following benefits:

Benefit	Number of Applicants	% of total applications
Universal Credit	665	43.5%
Personal Independence Payment	239	15.6%
Working Tax Credit	149	9.7%
Council Tax Reduction	136	8.9%
Employment and Support Allowance	114	7.5%
Disability Living Allowance	85	5.6%
Housing Benefit	59	3.9%
Income Support	43	2.8%
Jobseekers Allowance	15	1.0%
Attendance Allowance	10	0.7%
HC 2/3 Certificate	10	0.7%
Incapacity Benefit	3	0.2%
Totals	1528	100%

2. Borough demographics

It is estimated that there are 143,671 residents across the borough eligible for a Rothercard under the current scheme. This is made up of the following demographic groups:

i) Aged over 60

Mid-year (2021) population estimates:

Age	Total
Aged 65+	52,388
Aged 60-64	16,372
Total	68,760

ii) Adults on a low income - defined as anyone in receipt of one of the following benefits:

The data collated below (Jan 22) is from a variety of sources. Exact numbers are continuously changing.

Many adults on low income are in receipt of more than one benefit type. This means that the total number of benefit awards identified in the table below (116k) is not the same as the number of people currently eligible for a Rothercard.

It is considered that 63k wpi;d be a more realistic estimate of 'Adults on Low' income in Rotherham

Benefit	Number of estimated benefit awards across the borough	Comments
Universal Credit	26,395	
Employment & Support Allowance	9,794	
Income Support	1,470	
Job Seekers	952	
Attendance Allowance	7,282	These residents are already included in the over 60 age category
Disability Living Allowance/ Personal Independence Payment	24,174	Only 2,969 exclusively claim DLA/PIPS. Some people in receipt of these benefits are included in the over 60 group
Incapacity Benefit & severe disablement allowance	197	
Working Tax Credit	11,200	
Housing Benefit	12,832	Most people in receipt of Housing Benefit will be receiving Council Tax support, or on one of the other primary benefits such as IS, JSA other benefits already listed

Council Tax Support	23,437	Some people in receipt of CTax support will also be included int the totals for ESA,JSA,IS & UC
HC 2/3 Certificate - (help with cost of prescriptions, dentist/optician charges)	unknown	

iii) Young people aged 16 to 19 years in full time education

Data provided by the Office For National Statistics (ONS) according to 2020 (most recent) mid-year population estimates:

Age 16	2,997
Age 17	3,022
Age 18	2,833
Age 19	2,387
Age 16-19	11,239

iv) Looked after children/young people

Data provided by CYPS:

Age group	Number
1 to 4 years	93
10 to 15 years	255
16 years and over	96
5 to 9 years	113
Total children	557

v) Refugees/asylum seekers dependent on asylum seeker support payments

Data found in Home Office's Immigration statistical release:

Section 95 support by Local Authority					
Date (as at...)	UK Region	Local Authority	LAD Code	Support sub-type	People
31 Mar 2021	Yorkshire and The Humber	Rotherham	E08000018	Dispersed Accommodation	371
31 Mar 2021	Yorkshire and The Humber	Rotherham	E08000018	Subsistence Only	12