

St Helens South and Whiston Parliamentary Constituency

This is the first bulletin of 2013 produced by Northern Housing Consortium (NHC) providing analysis of housing-related data for the Parliamentary Constituencies in the North of England. The report provides analysis of housing supply and the economy and welfare reforms in the constituency.

We have used the following symbols to indicate your performance against the relevant regional or national statistics.



Above average



Reference point



Below average

Housing Supply and the Economy



In the final quarter of 2012, there were 40 new dwelling starts and 70 dwelling completions in St Helens. All starts and all by 10 completions were in the private sector. Dwelling starts have fallen from 80 in the previous quarter and from 70 in the corresponding quarter in 2011.



Research by Northern Housing Consortium and Sheffield Hallam University into the contribution housing makes to the [economy in the north](#) shows that £10.3bn worth of output expenditure was made in the North in 2011/12. It is estimated that Helena Partnerships supported £88.360 million worth of expenditure and supported 954 FTE jobs in the North West.



Recently released figures show that there are a total of 3,503 unemployed in the constituency (5.3% of the working aged population). This represents a 5.9% reduction on the same point in 2012. Some 7.3% of working-aged males and 3.4% of their female counterparts were claiming unemployment benefits in March 2013 and while male figures fell by 6.8% on the previous year, figures for females rose by a similar proportion in the same period.



ONS data shows a higher proportion of smaller households with almost two-thirds of households (64.5%) having either one or two people living in them. Three-person households make up 17.1% of households. Figure 1 below shows the proportions of all households in the constituency and how this compares with regional figures.

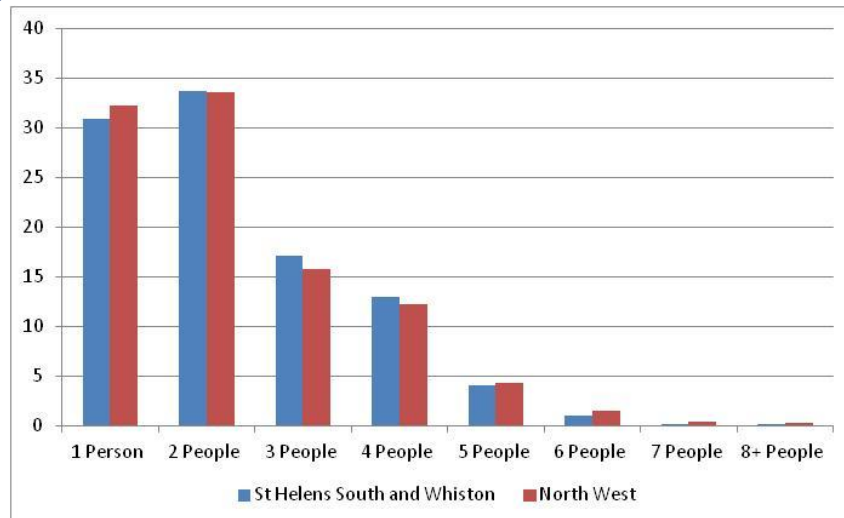


Figure 1: People per household

Welfare



The 2011 Census reports that 31,878 households (73.6%) now under-occupy their home in the constituency. A study by Sheffield Hallam University reported in the [Financial Times](#) shows that 3,500 households in St Helens will be affected by the 'bedroom tax' with an estimated £2.5m loss per year.



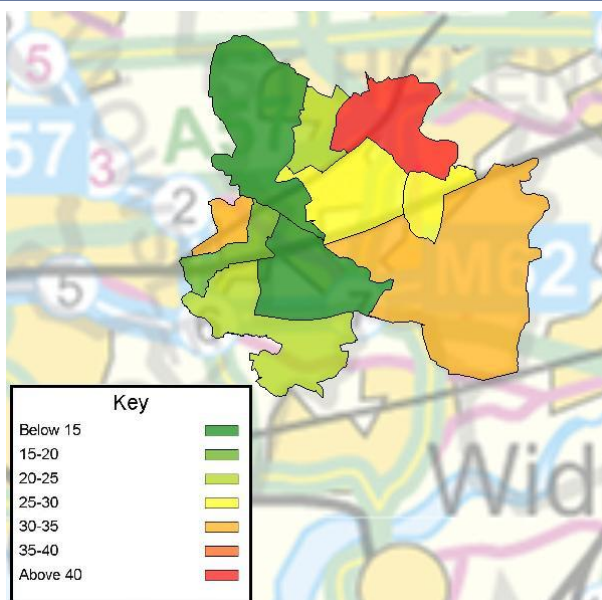
In last year's first edition of the constituency profiles we reported that 10,270 households receiving Housing Benefit in the constituency. In November 2012, there were 10,660 such claimants. This is 24.6% of all households in the constituency and a 3.8% increase on the 10,270 reported last year.



Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) for 2012 shows that in St Helens South and Whiston constituency, the median weekly pay is £375.40. This represents an increase of 2.4% on the previous year. Full-time pay has grown by 3% and part-time pay by 4.2%.



Notwithstanding this overall increase, Campaign to End Child Poverty 2012 data shows that in St Helens South and Whiston, 5,760 children live in poverty – 26% of the child population in the constituency. Map 1 shows child poverty by ward and that the worst affected ward is Town Centre (42%).



Map 1: Child Poverty by Ward

If you have any queries regarding the content of the APPG briefings, please contact:
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