

## Ashton-under-Lyne Parliamentary Constituency

This is the second 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 the impacts of welfare reform and the housing market 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

### Welfare Reform



[Real Life Reform](#) report is the result of a partnership between Northern Housing Consortium, seven registered providers and York University. Some findings emerging from the first report are that 65% of households have less than £10 per week to live on following rent and essentials such as food and bills. 83% of households are in debt (average £2,418). Households are reporting increased levels of stress and depression.



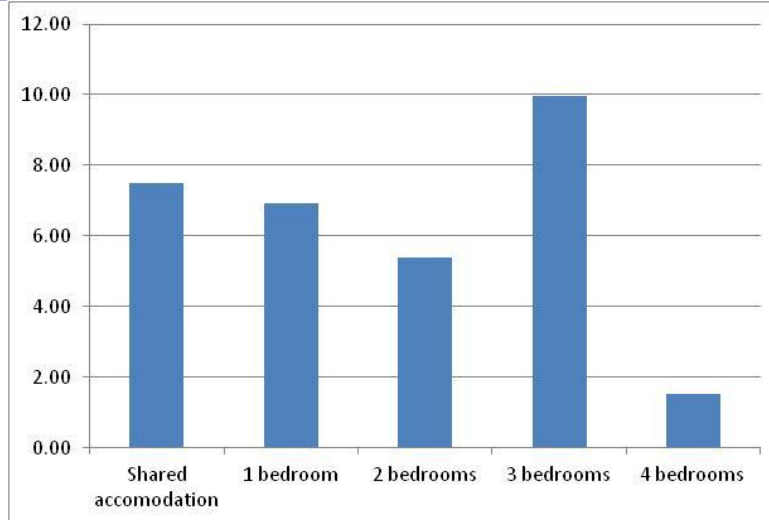
The Trussell Trust's latest figures show that more people are being referred to foodbanks with Benefit related problems since April's welfare reforms. Between April and June, over 150,000 people received three days' emergency food from a Trussell Trust foodbank - 200% more than the same period in 2012. The nearest foodbank to the constituency is the Tameside foodbank in Dukinfield.



The number of Housing Benefit claimants in the social sector has risen in the constituency since the implementation of the under-occupation penalty. Such claims rose by 3.1% between March and May this year. Furthermore, claims of Local Housing Allowance in the private sector grew by 7.4% in the same period compared with 1.75% in Greater Manchester. However, the average weekly LHA award fell by 0.7%, suggesting a higher proportion of claimants in smaller properties.



Notwithstanding this, the increase in claimants means that the overall weekly LHA cost has risen by 6.6% (multiplying no. of claimants by average weekly award) (£14,133). While claimants in shared accommodation grew by 7.1%, those living in one and two-bedroom properties did so by 7.4% and 6.7% respectively in the constituency.



**Figure 1: Change in weekly LHA costs**

## Housing Market



Ministry of Justice data shows that in the Tameside LA area, social landlord possession claims in the first two quarters of 2013 stood at 331. This compares to 229 claims in the corresponding timeframe in 2012 – a 44.5% increase. Landlord possessions grew by 18.8% over this time. In the private sector (rented and mortgage), while claims fell by 11.3%, possessions fell by 28.1%.



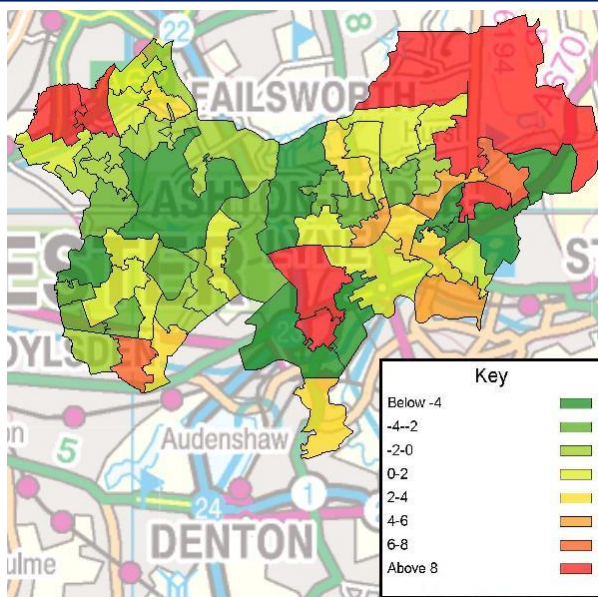
According to ONS figures, the population in the constituency grew by 0.5% from 90,019 in 2010 to 90,456 in 2011. The map below shows the population change by lower super output area and that greatest population increases have taken place in LSOAs covered by the Ashton Hurst ward (Tameside) and parts of Ashton St Michael's ward (Tameside) have seen greatest decreases (note: data is not available for some LSOAs in 2011).



CORE data shows that social housing lettings have grown in Tameside from 2,201 in 2011/12 to 2,358 in 2012/13 – a rise of 7.1%. Meanwhile, in Oldham, lettings have grown by 3.5% (from 2,283 to 2,364). This compares to an overall fall of 6.8% in Greater Manchester.



In the year ending in March 2013, there were 914 decisions made by the planning authority in Tameside. Some 98 of these (10.7%) were regarding developments for housing. This represents 10% of all housing-related decisions in Greater Manchester.



**Map 1:** Percentage change in population

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