

Blackburn Parliamentary Constituency

This is the first bulletin of 2014 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



The third [Real Life Reform](#) report found an increase in the average debt of respondents taking part in the study (£3,503) with debt repayments increasing by 58% since October. 46% of participants report having nothing left each week to live on once rent and essentials such as food and bills have been paid.



Last year we reported that in Blackburn, 9,197 children live in poverty – 30% of the child population in the constituency. According to figures by The Children's Society, 7,377 children in poverty are estimated to miss out on the [warm home discount](#) in the constituency.



A number of sources report that households affected by the spare room subsidy cannot move due to a lack of suitable accommodation. In the first three quarters of 2013/14, there were 735 general needs lettings in Blackburn (CORE data). This compares to 637 lettings in the same period of 2012/13 (a 15.4% increase).



Data released the StepChange charity shows that in 2013, a total of 325 new debt management plans were put in place in the Blackburn postcode area. This is a 20.4% increase on the 2012 figure. Indeed, as figure 1 shows, there has been a general upward trend since 2005.

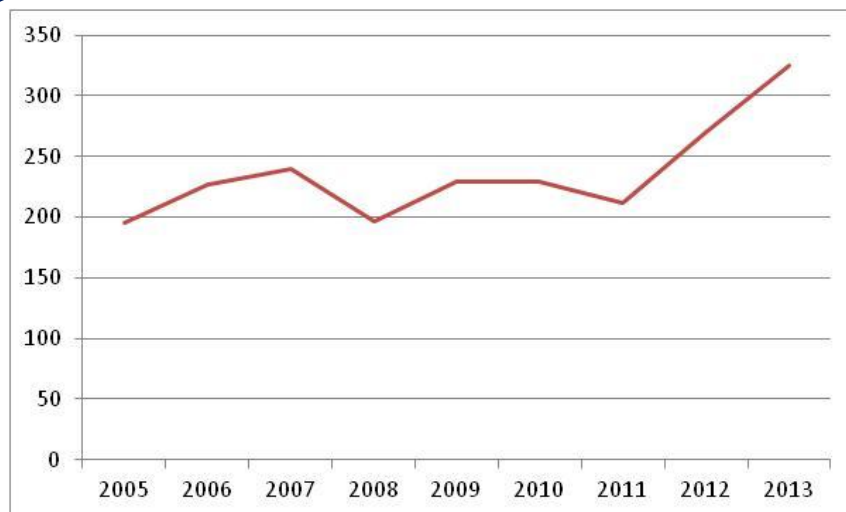


Figure 1: Change in number of new DMPs

Housing Market



The Chancellor announced in his Budget Statement that the Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme will be extended until March 2020. Since its launch on 1st April 2013 to the end of February 2014, a total of 39 homes were bought in Blackburn with support of the scheme. This represents 10.2% of the 383 completed equity loans in Lancashire.



Average house prices in Blackburn in February 2014 stood at £75,695 an increase of 1% on the same period in 2013. This is being driven by sales volumes being on a general upward trend, ending on 142 in December 2013 compared with 108 in December 2012.



Vacant dwellings have been on a general downward trend since 2008. In October 2013 there were a total of 3,405 vacant dwellings in Blackburn compared with 3,643 in 2008. Of the 2013 figure, 154 were owned by housing associations. Long-term vacants have fallen by 15.1% since 2008.



In 2012/13, Blackburn Council made a total of 92 homeless decisions. Of these, 24 applicants were accepted as being homeless and in priority need (26.1%). The number accepted as being homeless equates to 0.44 per 1,000 households in the borough – down from 0.5 in 2011/12 but up from 0.35 in 2010/11.

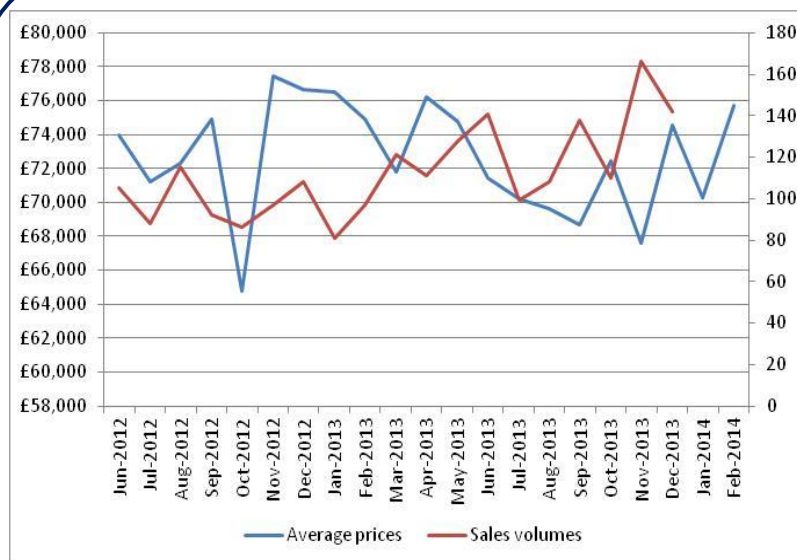


Figure 2: Change in house prices and sales volumes

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