Sheffield Hallam 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 Sheffield Hallam, less than 5% of the child population in the constituency live in poverty. According to figures by The Children's Society, no children in the constituency 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 2,942 general needs lettings in Sheffield (CORE data). This compares to 3,740 lettings in the same period of 2012/13 (a 21.3% decrease). Lettings of one-bedroom properties fell by 26.9% (Q3 2013/14 compared to Q3 2012/13).

Data released by the Department of Communities and Local Government in October shows that a total of £995,802 was allocated to Sheffield Council in Discretionary Housing Payment funding. Of that, no funds have been committed to residents according to the data.

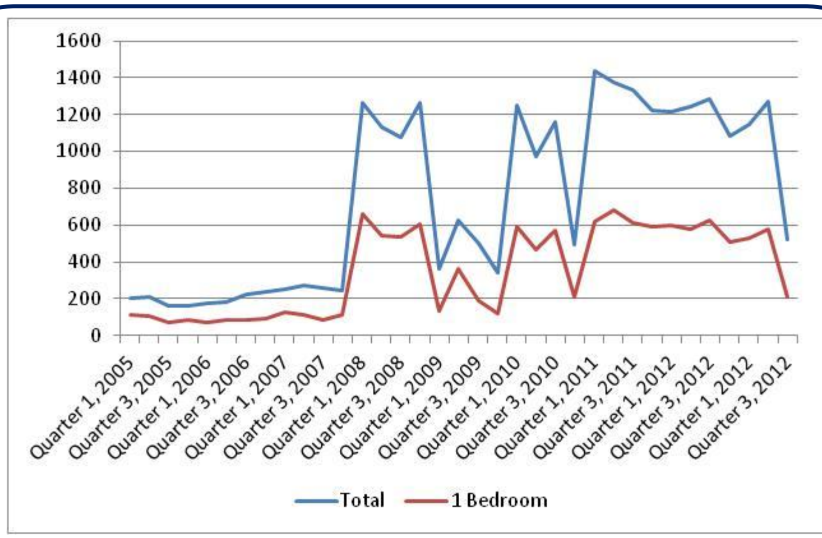

Figure 1: Summary of DHP Awards

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 66 homes were bought in Sheffield with support of the scheme. This represents 16.6% of the 398 completed equity loans in South Yorkshire.

Average house prices in Sheffield in February 2014 stood at £117,201 an increase of 3.4% on the same period in 2013. This is driven by sales volumes being on a general upward trend, ending on 594 in December 2013 compared with 455 in December 2012.

Vacant dwellings have been on a general downward trend since 2008. In October 2013 there were a total of 6,156 vacant dwellings in Sheffield compared with 8,894 in 2008. Of the 2013 figure, 169 were owned by housing associations. Long-term vacants have fallen by 33.6% since 2008.

In 2012/13, Sheffield Council made a total of 3,204 homeless decisions. Of these, 1,218 applicants were accepted as being homeless and in priority need (38%). The number accepted as being homeless equates to 5.03 per 1,000 households in the city – down from 6.01 in 2011/12 but up 4.65 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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