

Southport Parliamentary Constituency

This is the first bulletin of 2015 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

Financial Distress



Census data shows that in Southport, 66.9% of working aged people were working full-time and 33.1% worked part-time. The corresponding figures for the region are 70.3% and 29.7%.



The Annual Survey of Salaries and Hours (ASHE) shows that in the constituency (as a place of work), 26.2% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), a decrease from 27.1% in 2013. This compares to 23.6% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

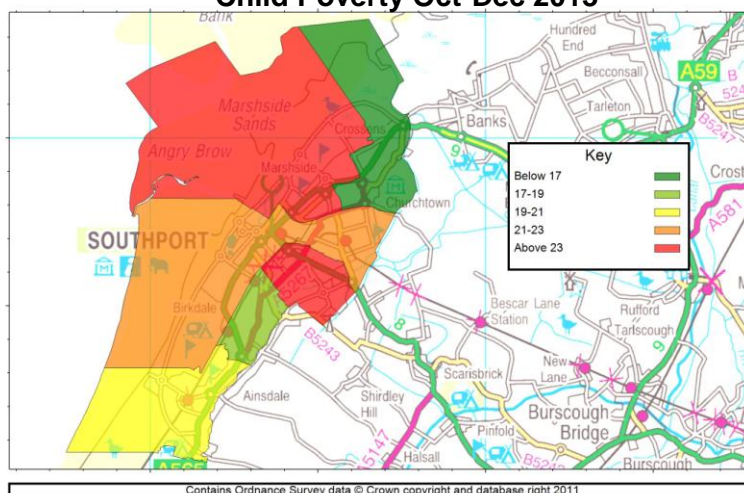


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 63.8%. Employment and Support Allowance began and ended the same period on no sanctions. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 127 to 46 (-63.8%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Southport, 16% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 13%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 20.8% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Cambridge (24.4%) is the worst affected ward.

Child Poverty Oct-Dec 2013



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



After being on a general downward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims grew by 10.8% between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Sefton (from 111 to 123). Over the same period, actual possessions also fell by 118.8% to 35. Meanwhile, mortgage claims also fell by 23% and actual possessions grew by 9.5% over the same period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Sefton Council made 24 homelessness decisions and accepted 16 households as being homeless and in priority need (66.7%). At the end of 2014, 10 households were housed in temporary accommodation, compared to none in the quarter ending in June.



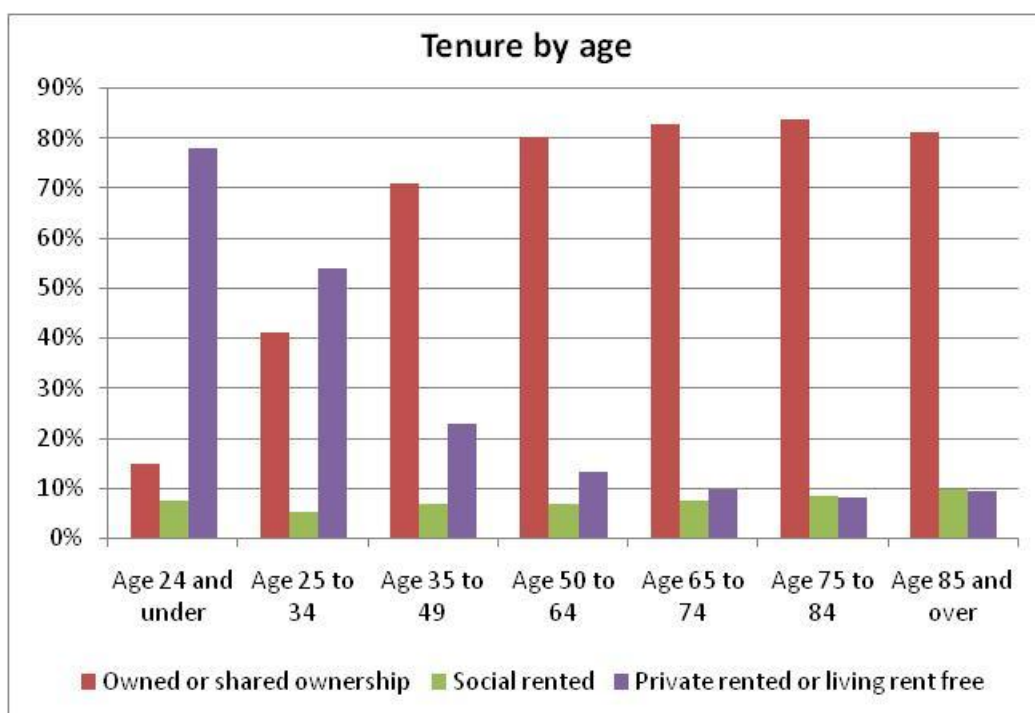
Some have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as the reason behind the increase in homelessness. The latest annual figures show that in Sefton, while the number of new homes started has increased, completions have fallen (2012/13 to 2013/14) Meanwhile, the proportion in the social sector has increased for both.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 30 dwellings started and 70 completed in Sefton. While no started dwellings were in the social sector, 28.6% of completed dwellings were social. In the corresponding quarter of 2013, 40% of dwellings started and no completions were in the social sector.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 73% are owner-occupiers, 7% rent from a social landlord and 20% are private renters. However, looking at tenure by the age of the household reference person shows changes by age. There is a steep increase in owner-occupation between the ages of 24 and under (15%) and 75 to 84 year age bracket (84%) before falling to 81% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (88%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.



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