

Blyth Valley 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 Blyth Valley, 71% of working aged people were working full-time and 29% worked part-time. The corresponding figures for the region are 70% and 30%.



The Annual Survey of Salaries and Hours (ASHE) shows that in the constituency (as a place of work), 28.5% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), a decrease from 29.3% in 2013. This compares to 23.4% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

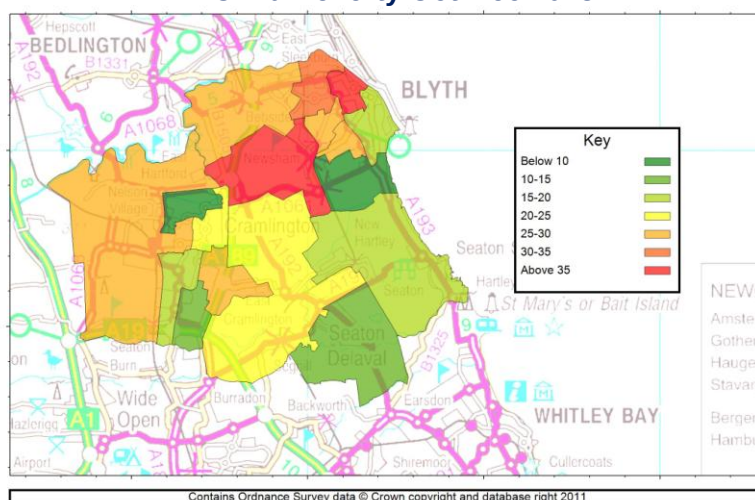


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 16.9%. Employment and Support Allowance began and ended this same period on no sanctions. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 148 to 123 (-16.9%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Blyth Valley, 25% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 14.8%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 23.6% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Croft (41.2%) 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 fell further by 14.2% between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Northumberland (from 113 to 97). Over the same period, actual possessions grew by 3.6% to 29. Meanwhile, mortgage claims fell but actual possessions grew over the same period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Northumberland Council made 80 homelessness decisions and accepted 43 households as being homeless and in priority need (53.8%). At the end of 2014, no households were housed in temporary accommodation, a similar picture as in the quarter ending in June.



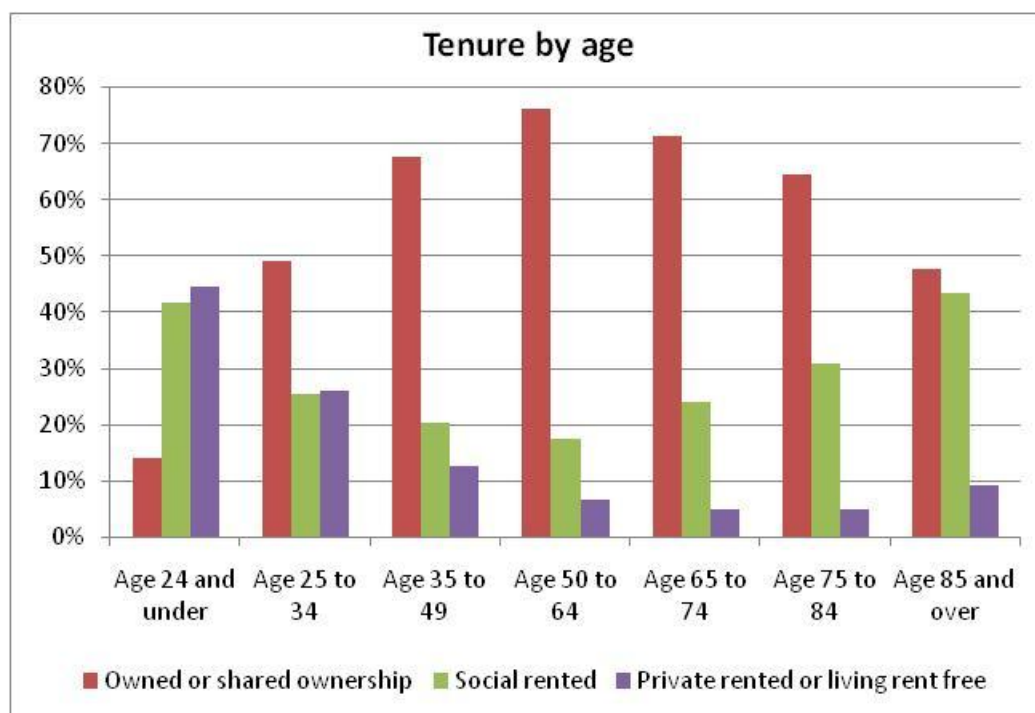
Some have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as the reason behind the increase in homelessness. The latest annual figures show that in Northumberland, while the number of new homes started has increased and completed homes decreased (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion in the social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



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 160 dwellings started and 200 completed in Northumberland. While 25% started dwellings were in the social sector, 30% of completed dwellings were social. In the corresponding quarter of 2013, 47.4% of dwellings started and 38.9% of completed were in the social sector.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 65% are owner-occupiers, 23% rent from a social landlord and 12% 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 (14%) and 50 to 64 year age bracket (76%) before falling to 48% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (86%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.



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