

Ashton-under-Lyne 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 Ashton-under-Lyne, 73.2% of working aged people were working full-time and 26.8% worked part-time.



The Annual Survey of Salaries and Hours (ASHE) shows that in the constituency (as a place of work), 20.3% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), a decrease from 23.9% in 2013. This compares to 23.6% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

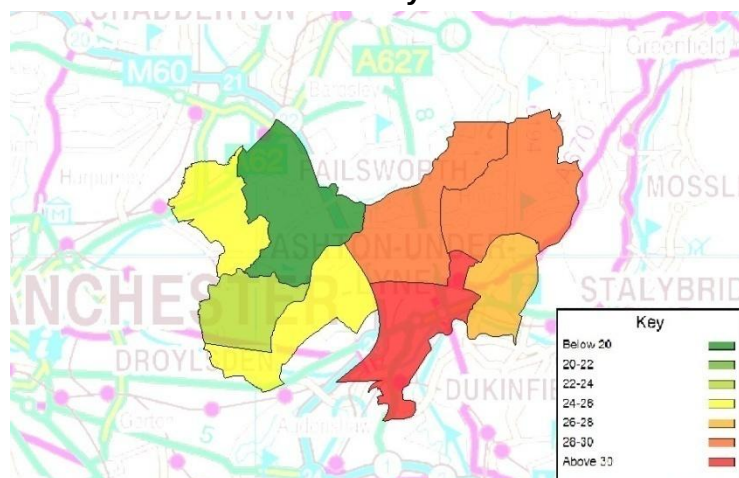


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 11.4%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions doubled from 12 to 24 over this period. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 155 to 124 (-20%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Ashton-under-Lyne, 24% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 18.3%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 28.8% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that St Peter's (40.1%) is the worst affected ward.

Child Poverty Oct-Dec 2013



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Housing Market



After being on a general downward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims have risen by 3.7% between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Tameside (from 136 to 141). Over the same period, actual possessions have remained constant at 46. Meanwhile, mortgage claims and possessions fell over the same period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Tameside Council made 33 homelessness decisions and accepted 15 households as being homeless and in priority need (45.5%). At the end of 2014, 13 households were housed in temporary accommodation, an increase of 44% on 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 Tameside, while the number of new homes started has increased and dwellings completed has fallen (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion in the social sector has increased for both.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 90 dwellings started and 80 completed in Tameside. While no started dwellings were in the social sector, half of completed dwellings were social. In the corresponding quarter of 2013, 20% of 50 started dwellings and 50% of completed dwellings were in the social sector (out of a total of 100).



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 63% are owner-occupiers, 21% rent from a social landlord and 16% 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 (11%) and 50 to 64 year age bracket (71%) before falling to 57% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (89%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.

