

Barrow and Furness 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 Barrow and Furness, 67.5% of working aged people were working full-time and 32.5% 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), 22.7% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 15.6% in 2013. This compares to 23.6% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

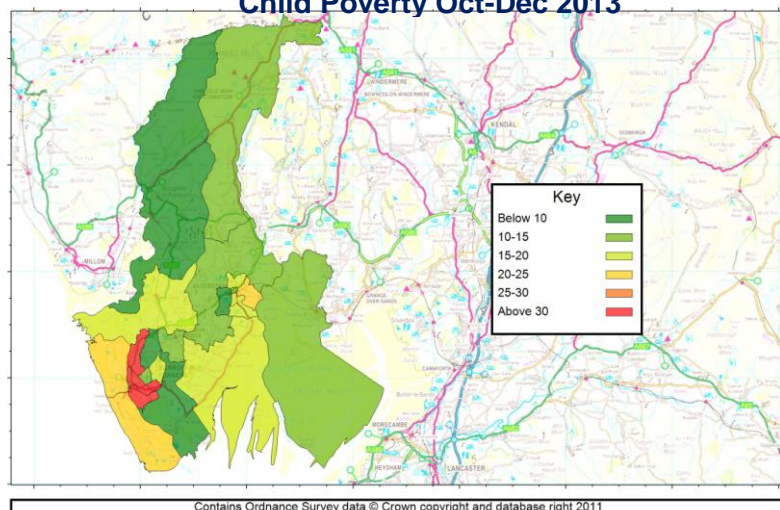


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 14.4%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions have risen from 8 to 14 (75%) over this period. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 110 to 87 (-20.9%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Barrow and Furness, 20% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 15.1%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 24% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Central (47.1%) is the worst affected ward.

Child Poverty Oct-Dec 2013



If you have any queries regarding the content of the APPG briefings, please contact:
Barry Turnbull, Policy Services Officer, 0191 5661030 or barry.turnbull@northern-consortium.org.uk

Housing Market



After a general downward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims grew between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Barrow-in-Furness LA by 50% (from 10 to 15). There were no social landlord possessions and mortgage claims also fell over this period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Barrow-in-Furness Council made 22 homelessness decisions and accepted no households as being homeless and in priority need. At the end of 2014, there were 8 households housed in temporary accommodation, a 33.3% increase on the quarter ending in June.



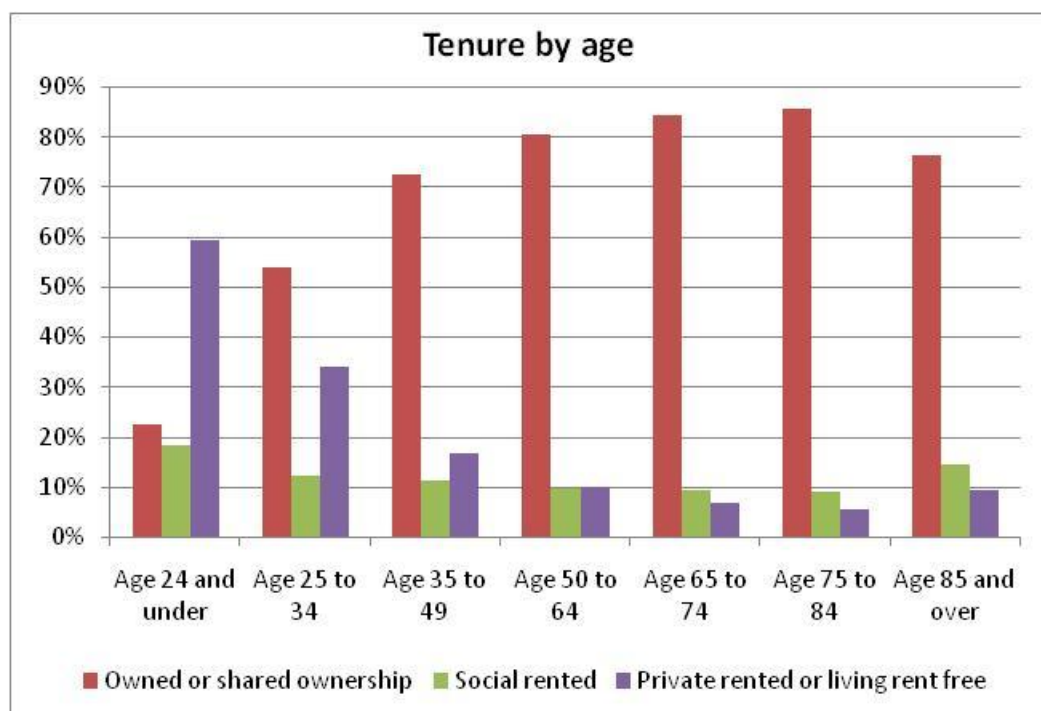
Some have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as the reason behind the increase in homelessness. The latest annual figures show that in Barrow-in-Furness LA, while the number of new homes started and dwellings completed have increased (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion of homes completed in the social sector has grown but there were no new social dwellings started.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 10 dwellings started and 10 completed in Barrow-in-Furness LA. There were no started or completed dwellings in the social sector – a similar picture as in the corresponding quarter of 2013.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 74% are owner-occupiers, 11% rent from a social landlord and 15% 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 (22%) and 75 to 84 year age bracket (85%) before falling to 76% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (78%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.



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