

Blackburn 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 Blackburn, 66.1% of working aged people were working full-time and 33.9% 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), 24.1% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 23.2% in 2013. This compares to 23.6% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

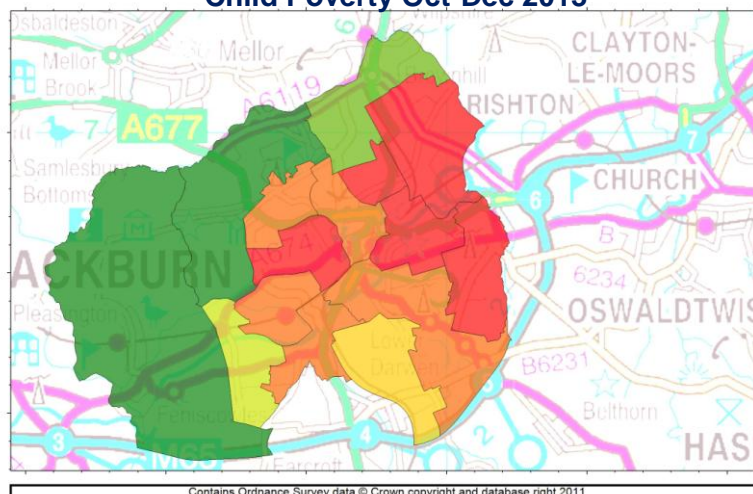


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 73.3%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions fell from 10 to none in the same period. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 282 to 78 (-72.3%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Blackburn, 30% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 24.4%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 36.9% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Audley (44.9%) 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 upward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims fell by 21.8% between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Blackburn LA (87 to 68). Over the same period, actual possessions increased by 77.8% to 16. Meanwhile, mortgage claims and possessions fell over the same period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Blackburn Council made 33 homelessness decisions and accepted 7 households as being homeless and in priority need (21.2%). At the end of 2014, there were no households housed in temporary accommodation compared to 7 in the quarter ending in June.



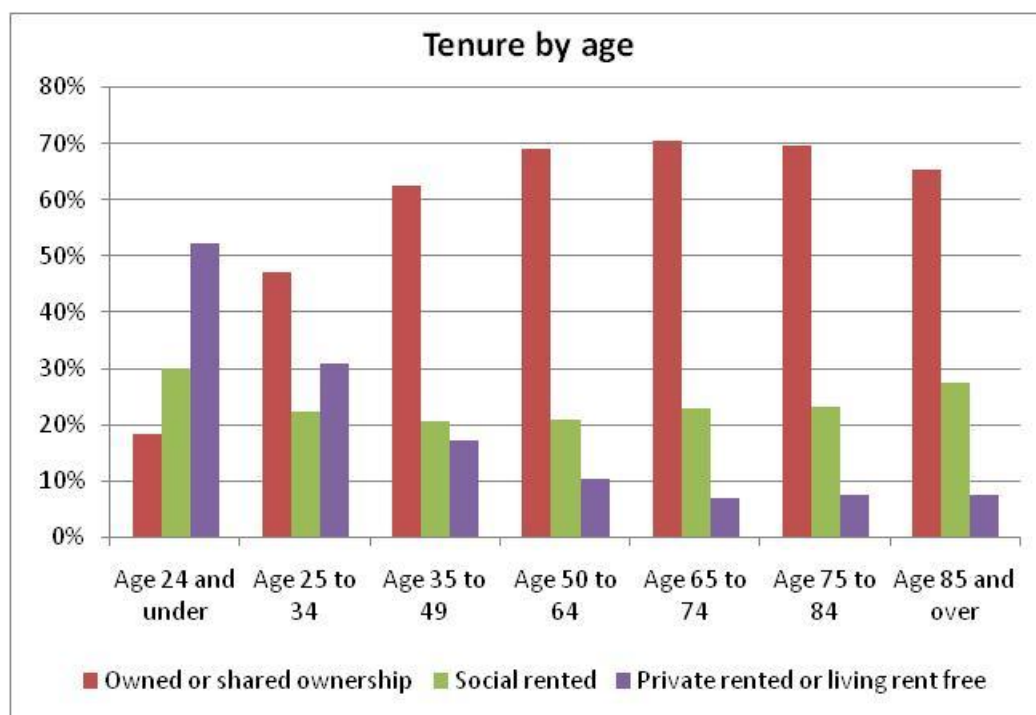
[Some](#) have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as the reason behind the increase in homelessness in some areas. The latest annual figures show that in Blackburn LA, the number of new starts are similar and completed homes have increased (2012/13 to 2013/14), and that 38.1% and 12.5% of these respectively were in the social sector.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were no dwellings started and 30 completed in Blackburn LA. None of the completed dwellings but no completions were in the social sector.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 61% are owner-occupiers, 22% rent from a social landlord and 17% 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 (18%) and 65 to 74 year age bracket (70%) before falling to 65% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (82%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.



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