

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 City of Chester, 69.4% of working aged people were working full-time and 30.6% 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), 20.8% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 17.8% 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 19.1%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions grew from none to 10 in the same period. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 110 to 79 (-28.2%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in City of Chester, 17% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 12.8%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 20.5% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the table below shows that Blacon (34.9%) is the worst affected ward.

### Child Poverty Oct-Dec 2013

Ward	After Housing Costs
Blacon	34.88%
Overleigh	25.03%
City	20.74%
Hoole and Newton	17.69%
Mickle Trafford	15.39%
Upton	13.78%
Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross	11.71%
Gowy	7.82%

## Housing Market



After a general upward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims fell between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Cheshire West and Chester by 10.5% (from 153 to 137). Social landlord possessions fell from 35 to 29 (-17.1%) and mortgage claims and possessions also fell over this period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Cheshire West and Chester Council made 89 homelessness decisions and accepted 26 households as being homeless and in priority need. At the end of 2014, there were 44 households housed in temporary accommodation, a 4.3% decrease 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 Cheshire West and Chester, while the number of new homes started and completed have increased, (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion of homes started and completions in the social sector also grew over the same period.

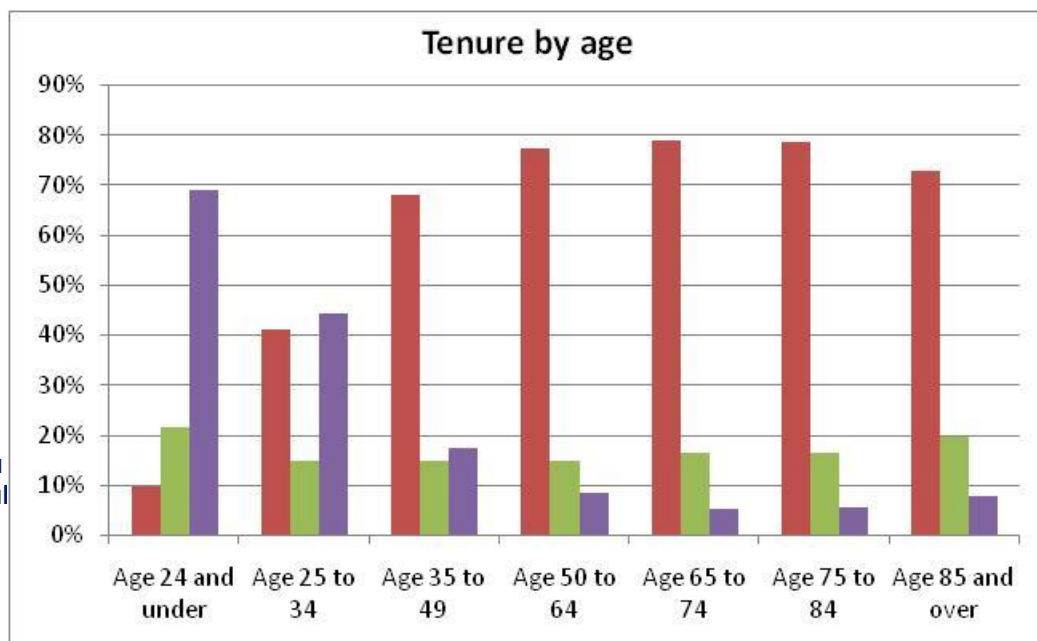


Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 170 dwellings started and 280 completed in Cheshire West and Chester. The proportion of social dwellings in both starts and completions have fallen on the corresponding quarter of 2013 – 5.9% and 10.7% respectively.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 67% are owner-occupiers, 16% 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 (10%) and 64 to 74 year age bracket (79%) before falling to 73% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (90%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.

If you  
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**City of Chester  
Parliamentary Constituency**



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