

Congleton 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 Congleton, 70.9% of working aged people were working full-time and 29.1% 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), 24.9% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 21% 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 40%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions grew from none to 6 in the same period. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 70 to 36 (-48.6%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Congleton, 11% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 9.9%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 16% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the table below shows that Congleton Town East (20.9%) is the worst affected ward.

Child Poverty Oct-Dec 2013

Ward	After Housing Costs
Alsager	18.9%
Congleton Rural	10.4%
Congleton Town East	20.9%
Congleton Town West	15.6%
Middlewich	13.3%
Sandbach	14.4%
Sandbach East and Rode	17.8%

If you have any queries regarding the content of the APPG briefings, please contact:
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Housing Market



After a general downward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims fell further between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Cheshire East by 20% (from 95 to 76). Social landlord possessions fell from 34 to 16 (-52.9%) and mortgage claims and possessions also fell over this period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Cheshire East Council made 45 homelessness decisions and accepted 27 households as being homeless and in priority need. At the end of 2014, there were 29 households housed in temporary accommodation, an 11.5% increase on the quarter ending in June.



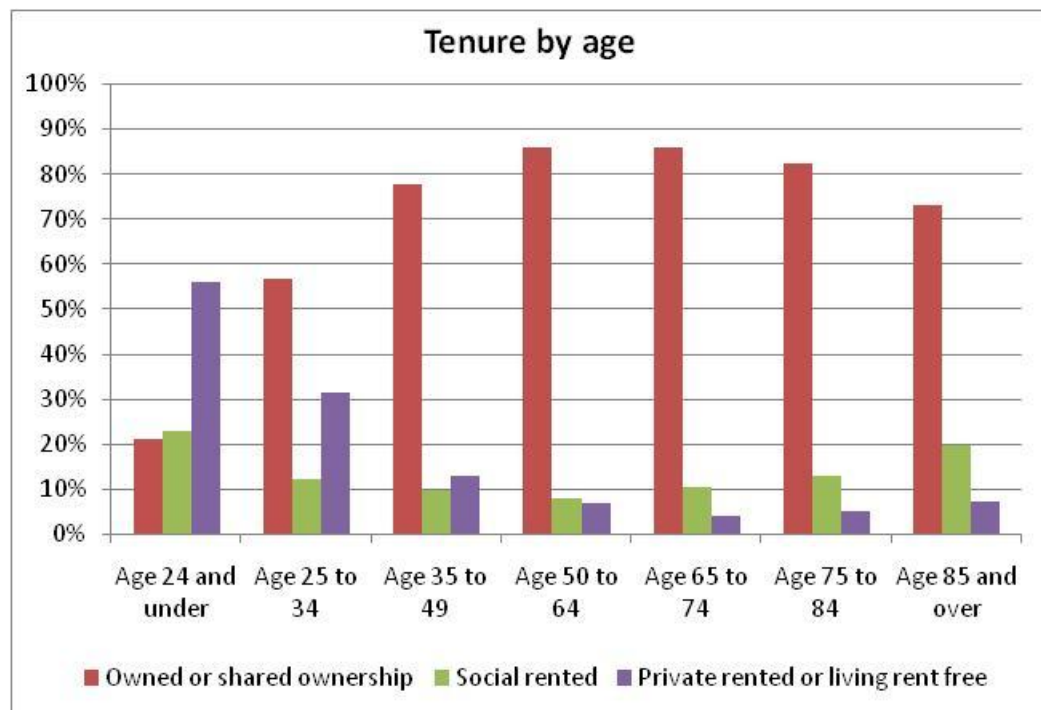
Some have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as the reason behind the increase in homelessness. The latest annual figures show that in Cheshire East, while the number of new homes started and completed have increased, (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion of homes started and completions in the social sector have fallen over the same period.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 230 dwellings started and 280 completed in Cheshire East. While the proportion of social dwellings in both starts has fallen on the corresponding quarter of 2013, that of completions have increased.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 79% are owner-occupiers, 10% rent from a social landlord and 11% 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 (21%) and 50 to 64 year age bracket (86%) before falling to 73% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (79%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.



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