

Morecambe and Lunesdale 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 Morecambe and Lunesdale, 67.2% of working aged people were working full-time and 32.8% 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), 29.5% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 26.4% in 2013. This compares to 23.6% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

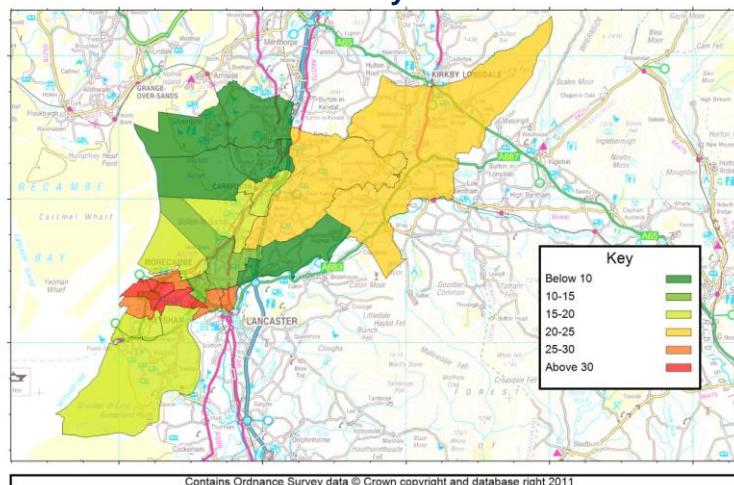


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 6.4%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions grew from 6 to 21 (250%) over this period. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 166 to 140 (-15.7%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Morecambe and Lunesdale, 21% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 15.2%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 24.2% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Heysham North (35.6%) 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 downward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims have remained at a constant level between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Lancaster (21). Over the same period, actual possessions increased by 28.6% (7 to 9). Meanwhile, mortgage claims and possessions have fallen over the same period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Lancaster Council made 47 homelessness decisions and accepted 12 households as being homeless and in priority need (25.5%). At the end of 2014, there were no households housed in temporary accommodation, a similar picture as in the quarter ending in June.



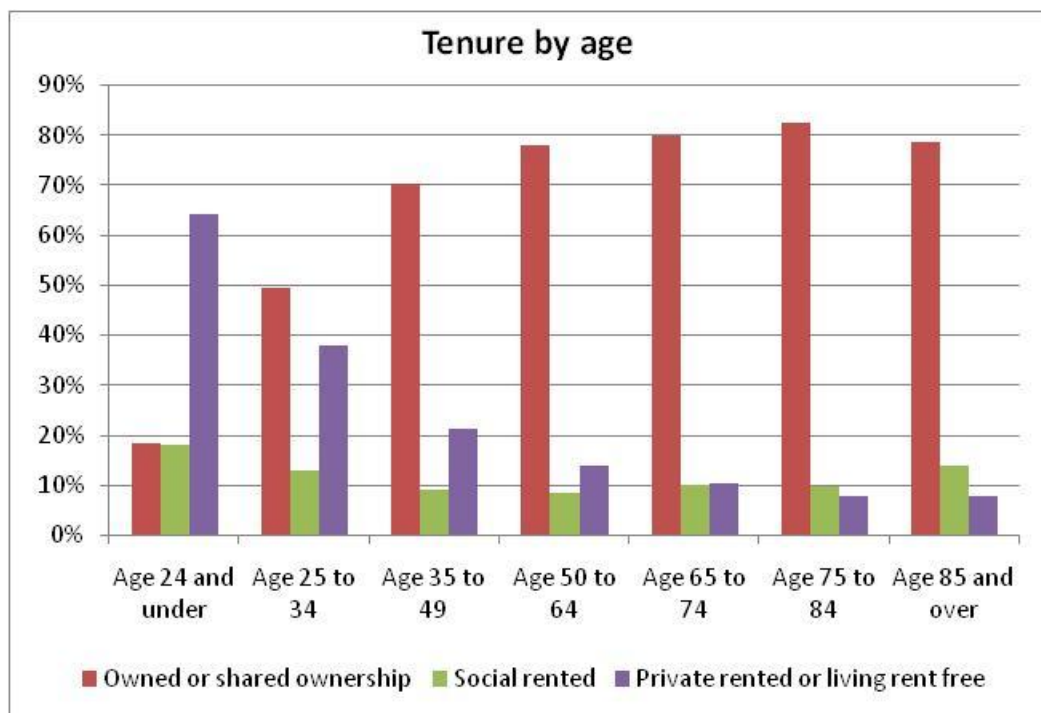
Some have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as the reason behind the increase in homelessness in some areas. The latest annual figures show that in Lancaster, the number of new starts have risen but completed homes have fallen (2012/13 to 2013/14), and that no started dwellings or social completions were in the social sector.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 90 dwellings started and 160 completed in Lancaster. No started dwellings were in the social sector, while 6.3% of completions were in the social sector. In the corresponding quarter of 2013, no starts or completions were in the social sector.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 2% are owner-occupiers, 10% rent from a social landlord and 18% 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 75 to 84 year age bracket (82%) before falling to 78% 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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