

Rossendale and Darwen 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 Rossendale and Darwen, 73.1% of working aged people were working full-time and 26.9% 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), 34.4% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 30.1% in 2013. This compares to 23.6% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

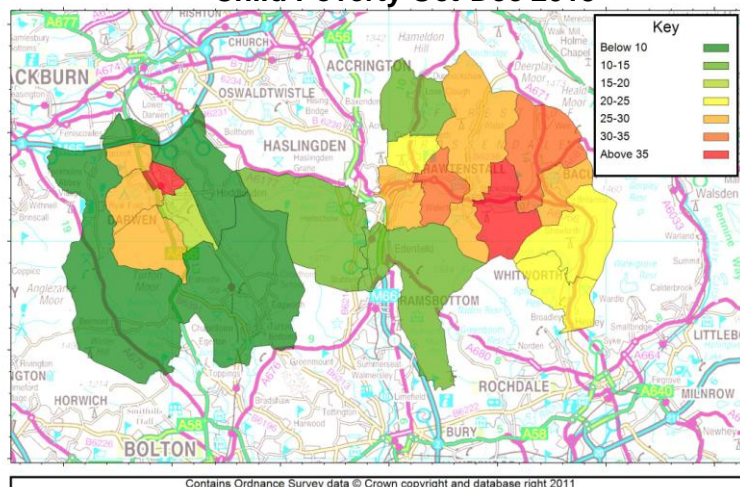


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 55%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions fell from 5 to none over this period. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 144 to 67 (-53.5%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Rossendale and Darwen, 18% 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, 23.9% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Sudell (38.3%) 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 have fallen by 64.3% between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Rossendale (from 28 to 10). Over the same period, there have only been actual possessions in quarter three of 2014 (14). Meanwhile, mortgage claims have fallen while possessions have increased over the same period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Rossendale Council made no homelessness decisions and so accepted no households as being homeless and in priority need. At the end of 2014, there were no households housed in temporary accommodation, a similar picture as in the quarter ending in June.



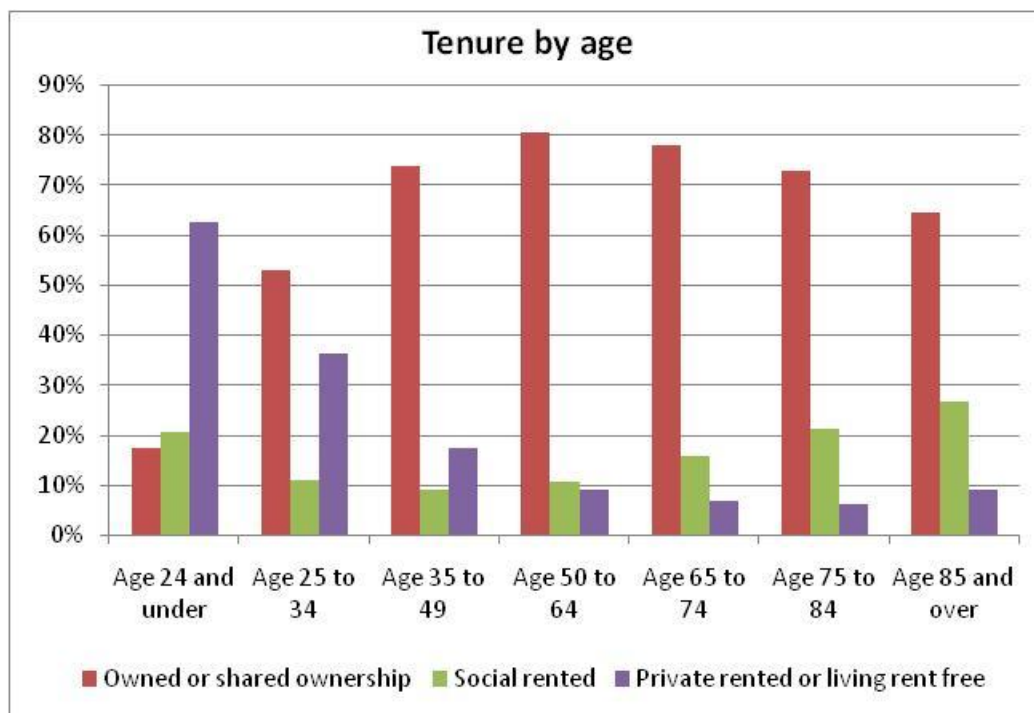
Some have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as the reason behind the increase in homelessness in some areas. The latest annual figures show that in Rossendale, while the number of new completed homes has risen, starts are at a similar level (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion in the social sector has increased for both.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 40 dwellings started and 20 completed in Rossendale. No started or completed dwellings were in the social sector. In the corresponding quarter of 2013, no started dwellings were in the social sector but 40% of completed dwellings out of a total of 50 were.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 71% are owner-occupiers, 12% rent from a social landlord and 16% 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 (17%) and 50 to 64 year age bracket (80%) before falling to 64% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (83%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.



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