

Westmorland and Lonsdale 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 Westmorland and Lonsdale, 67.7% of working aged people were working full-time and 32.3% 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), 30.4% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 23% in 2013. This compares to 23.6% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

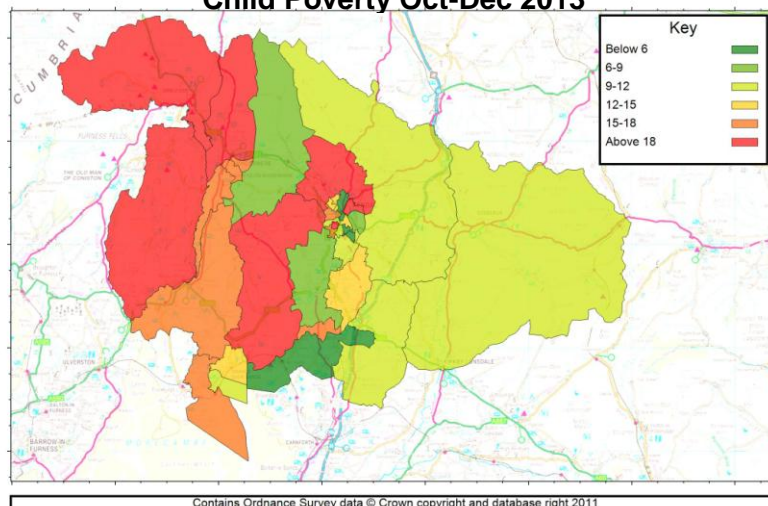


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 42.9%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions grew from none to 6 over this period. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 28 to 10 (-64.3%).



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Westmorland and Lonsdale, 8% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 8.4%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 13.5% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Windermere Applethwaite and Troutbeck (29.4%) 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 a general upward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims fell by 52% between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in South Lakeland LA (from 25 to 12). There were no social landlord possession over this period. Meanwhile, mortgage claims fell and there were no possessions over the same period.



In the final quarter of 2014, South Lakeland 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 compared to 11 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. The latest annual figures show that in South Lakeland LA, while the number of new homes started have risen (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion of these figures in the social sector have fallen while the proportion of social stock in completed dwellings has increased.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 60 dwellings started and 20 completed in South Lakeland LA. Both social sector starts and completions had increased on the corresponding quarter of 2013.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 73% are owner-occupiers, 11% 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 (19%) and 65 to 74 year age bracket (84%) before falling to 75% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (81%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.

