

Birkenhead Parliamentary Constituency

This is the second 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



ONS figures show that in the year ending in June 2015, there were 33,000 people aged over 16 years old in employment (61.8%) in Birkenhead. There are 39,000 jobs in the constituency which equates to 0.69 jobs per 16-64 year old compared to 0.77 across the North West.



Experimental Jobseekers Allowance and out of work Universal Credit statistics produced by Jobcentre Plus shows that there were 2,110 such claimants in November 2015 (3.8% of 16-64 year olds), which is a 0.1% increase on the previous year. This compares to 2.4% of people in the region (a 0.1% increase).



The latest Government data shows that there were 21,185 children in low income families in the constituency in August 2013 (31.1% of all children). Over four-fifths were in families in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance while 8.8%, in families in receipt of Council Tax Credit and with less than 60% of median income.



Bidston and St James ward (43.5%) had the greatest concentration of such children followed by Birkenhead and Tranmere (43.2%). Birkenhead and Tranmere also has a higher than average proportion of children living in a family in receipt of Income Support or JSA (90.4%).

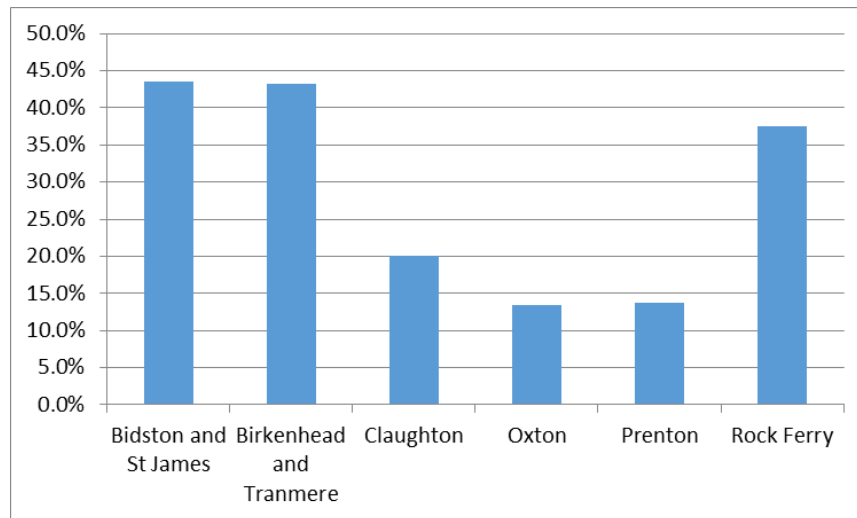


Figure 1: Percentage of children in low income families

Housing Market



In 2014/15, there were 100 homeless acceptances by Wirral Council which is a 96.1% increase on the 51 acceptances in 2009/10. A total of 10 households were found temporary accommodation and there were 19 households that were not found accommodation at the end of March 2015 despite a duty being owed.



In October 2014, the total number of vacant homes was 5,158. This is an 18.9% decrease from 6,360 in 2009 compared with the 20.8% decrease in Merseyside. Long-term vacants fell by 30.4% over the same period. There was a total of 601 social vacants and 282 were classed as long-term vacant (46.9%).



As at April 2014, there were 15,143 households on the housing waiting list in Wirral. This is a 73.6% increase on the previous year 4,552. Furthermore, this figure represented a large rise on previous years and the long-term trend is a 10% increase on 2009 figures.



There are clear signs of a recovery in housing market with year-on-year increases in sales between 2009 and 2014 (90.2%) with greatest increase in sales of terraced properties (ONS). The data also shows house prices were highest since 2008 (£115,000).



As figure 2 shows, median house prices and pay have not grown at the same rate. Median house prices outstripped that of median gross pay (ASHE) in both 2013 and 2014. As a result, the affordability ratio grew to 5.5 from 5.4 between 2012 and 2014.

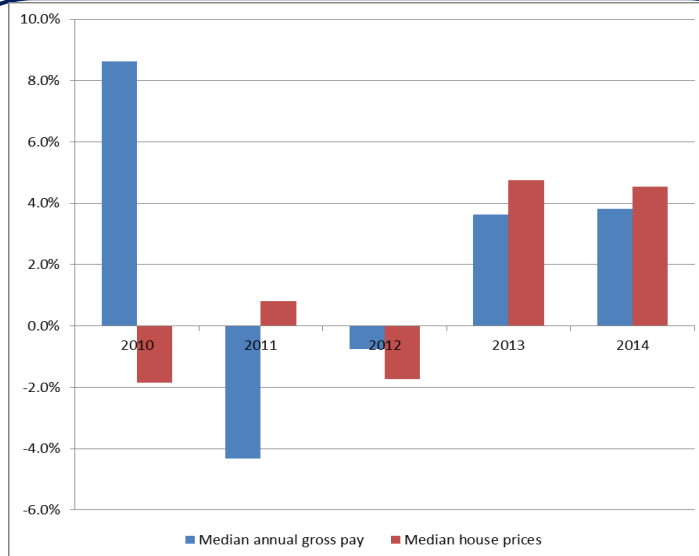


Figure 2: % change in house prices and pay

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