Blackpool North and Cleveleys 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 36,000 people aged over 16 years old in employment (67.9%) in Blackpool North and Cleveleys. There are 33,000 jobs in the constituency which equates to 0.66 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 1,500 such claimants in November 2015 (3.0% of 16-64 year olds), which is a similar level as in 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 16,940 children in low income families in the constituency in August 2013 (24% of all children). Almost four-fifths were in families in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance while 12.8%, in families in receipt of Council Tax Credit and with less than 60% of median income.

Claremont ward (46%) had the greatest concentration of such children followed by Park (40.6%). Claremont also has a higher than average proportion of children living in a family in receipt of Income Support or JSA (89.6%).

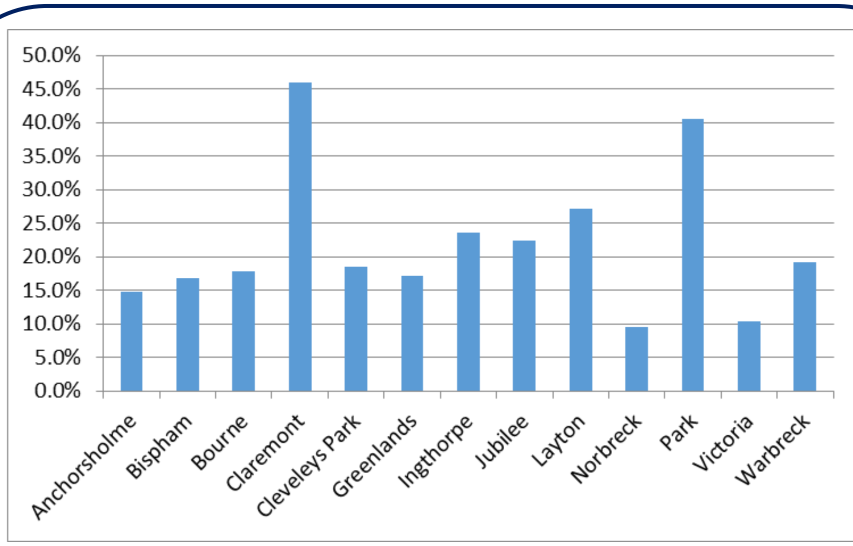

Figure 1: Percentage of children in low income families

Housing Market

In 2014/15, there were 49 homeless acceptances by Blackpool Council which is a 3.9% decrease on the 51 acceptances in 2009/10. A total of 35 households were found temporary accommodation and there were no 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 4,092. This is a 10.9% increase from 3,690 in 2009 compared with the 7.9% decrease in Lancashire. Long-term vacants fell by 0.8% over the same period. There was a total of 428 social vacants and 10 were classed as long-term vacant (2.3%).

As at April 2014, there were 4,843 households on the housing waiting list in Blackpool. This is a 23.4% decrease on the previous year 6,320. Furthermore, this figure represented a large fall on previous years and the long-term trend is a 27.6% decrease on 2009 figures.

There are some clear signs of a recovery in the housing market with an increase in sales between 2009 and 2014 (41.8%) with greatest increase in sales of detached properties (ONS). The data also shows house prices were highest since 2010 (£112,750).

As figure 2 shows, median house prices and pay have not grown at the same rate. Median house price growth outstripped that of median gross pay (ASHE) in 2014. As a result, the affordability ratio grew to 6.2 from 5.7 between 2013 and 2014.

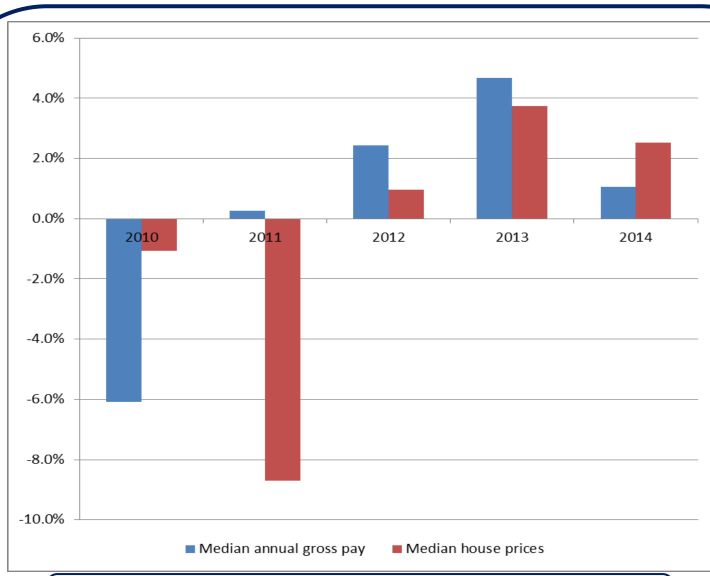

Figure 2: % change in house prices and pay

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