NORTHERN Housing Consortium
THE VOICE OF HOUSING IN THE NORTH

Crewe and Nantwich 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 51,000 people aged over 16 years old in employment (71.8%) in Crewe and Nantwich. There are 56,000 jobs in the constituency which equates to 0.82 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 1,165 such claimants in November 2015 (1.7% 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 23,810 children in low income families in the constituency in August 2013 (15.4% of all children). Over four-fifths were in families in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance while 14.3%, in families in receipt of Council Tax Credit and with less than 60% of median income.

Crewe Central ward (31.7%) had the greatest concentration of such children followed by Crewe St Barnabas (29.4%). Crewe St Barnabas also has a higher than average proportion of children living in a family in receipt of Income Support or JSA (89.5%).

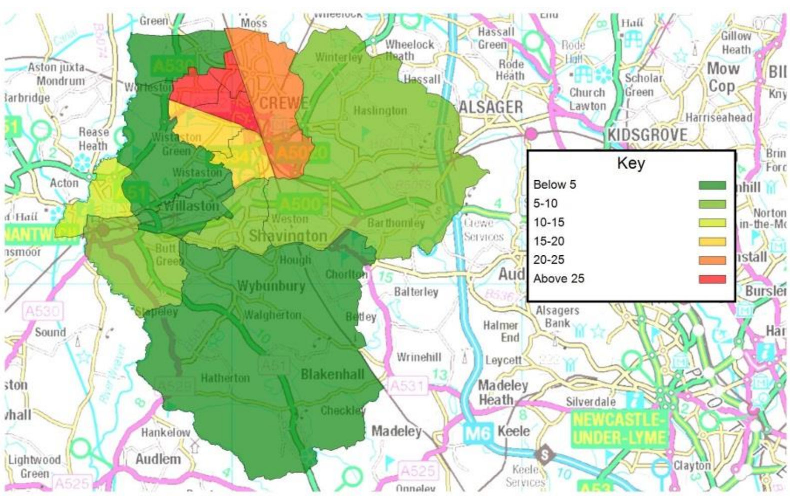

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Figure 1: Percentage of children in low income families

Housing Market

In 2014/15, there were 104 homeless acceptances by Cheshire East Council. This is an 89.1% increase on the 55 acceptances in 2009/10. Of these, 32 households were found temporary accommodation and there were 16 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 4,163. This is a 35.4% fall from 6,439 in 2009 compared with the 23.5% fall in Cheshire. Long-term vacants fell by 45.8% over the same period. There was a total of 308 social vacants and 43 were classed as long-term vacant (14%) which is a decrease from 88 in the previous year.

As at April 2014, there were 6,018 households on the housing waiting list in Cheshire East. This is a 51.8% decrease on the previous year of 12,495. Furthermore, this figure represented a large fall on previous years and the long-term trend is a 14.9% decrease on 2009 figures.

There are clear signs of a recovery in housing market with year-on-year increases in sales between 2009 and 2014 (42.4%) with greatest increase in sales of terraced properties and a fall in sales of flats and maisonettes (ONS). The data also shows house prices at their highest level in 2014 (£140,000).

As figure 2 shows, median house prices and pay have not grown at the same rate. Median gross pay outstripped that of median house prices in 2014. As a result, the affordability ratio fell to 6.6 from 6.9 between 2013 and 2014.

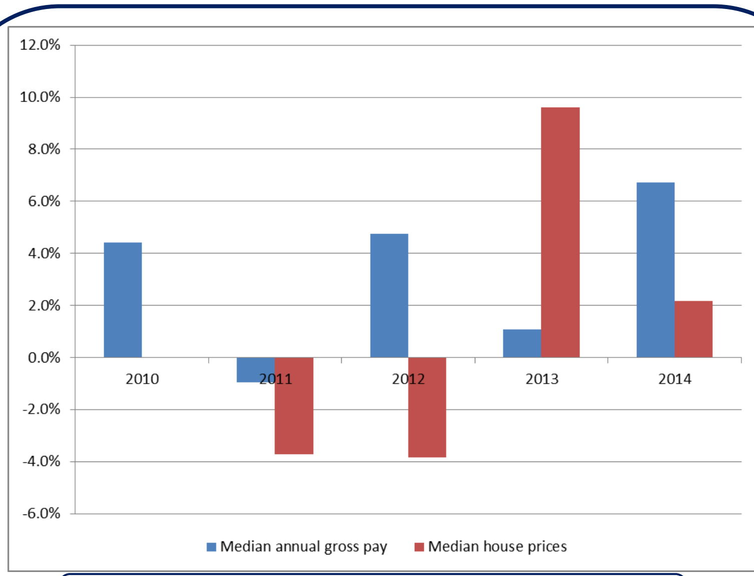

Figure 2: % change in house prices and pay

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