

Penrith and the Border 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 45,000 people aged over 16 years old in employment (80.3%) in Penrith and the Border. There are 48,000 jobs in the constituency which equates to 0.96 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 360 such claimants in November 2015 (0.7% 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 15,385 children in low income families in the constituency in August 2013 (8.6% of all children). Over two-thirds were in families in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance while 17.7%, in families in receipt of Council Tax Credit and with less than 60% of median income.



Penrith South ward (14.5%) had the greatest concentration of such children followed by Appleby (14.1%). Penrith East has a higher than average proportion of children living in a family in receipt of Income Support or JSA (85.7%).

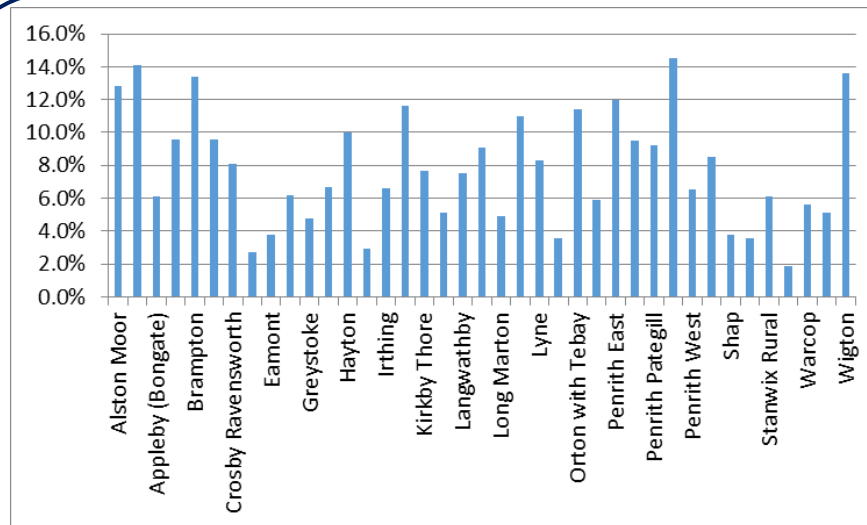


Figure 1: Percentage of children in low income families

Housing Market



In 2014/15, there were 5 homeless acceptances by Eden Council. This is a 72.2% decrease on the 18 acceptances in 2009/10.



In October 2014, the total number of vacant homes was 1,105. This is a 46.4% increase from 755 in 2009 compared with the 4.4% increase in Cumbria. Long-term vacants grew by 41.8% over the same period. There was a total of 20 social vacants and none were classed as long-term vacant.



As at April 2014, there were 1,068 households on the housing waiting list in Eden. This is a 6.6% increase on the previous year 1,002. Furthermore, this figure represented a large growth on previous years and the long-term trend is a 31.2% 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 (47.8%) with greatest increase in sales of detached properties and a fall in flat and maisonette sales (ONS). The data also shows house prices at their highest level since 2010 (£172,000).



As figure 2 shows, median house prices and pay have not grown at the same rate. Median house prices grew in 2014 while median gross pay fell. As a result, the affordability ratio grew to 9.5 from 8.8 between 2013 and 2014.

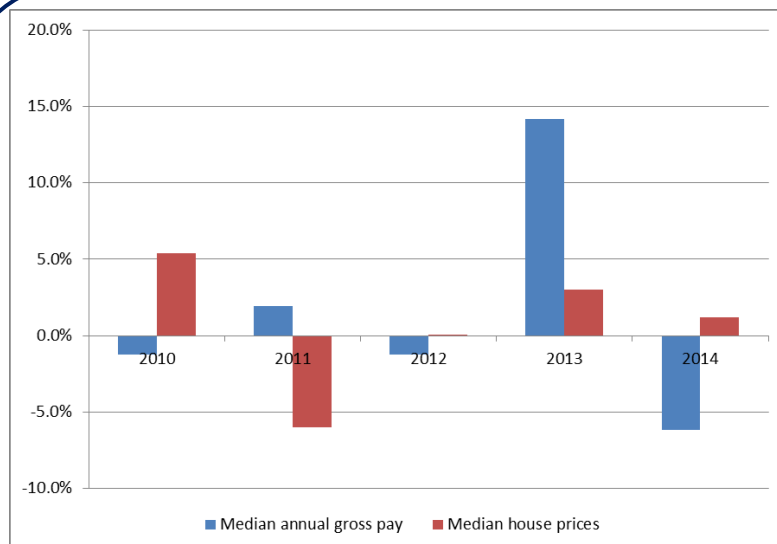


Figure 2: % change in house prices and pay

If you have any queries regarding the content of the APPG briefings, please contact:
Barry Turnbull, Policy Services Officer, 0191 5661030 or barry.turnbull@northern-consortium.org.uk