

Southport 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 47,000 people aged over 16 years old in employment (76.5%) in Southport. There are 36,000 jobs in the constituency which equates to 0.68 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 (2.2% of 16-64 year olds), which is a 0.2% 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 17,660 children in low income families in the constituency in August 2013 (14.9% of all children). Over three-quarters were in families in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance while 18.3%, in families in receipt of Council Tax Credit and with less than 60% of median income.



Duke's ward (17.6%) had the greatest concentration of such children followed by Kew (17.2%). Norwood also has a higher than average proportion of children living in a family in receipt of Income Support or JSA (81.1%).

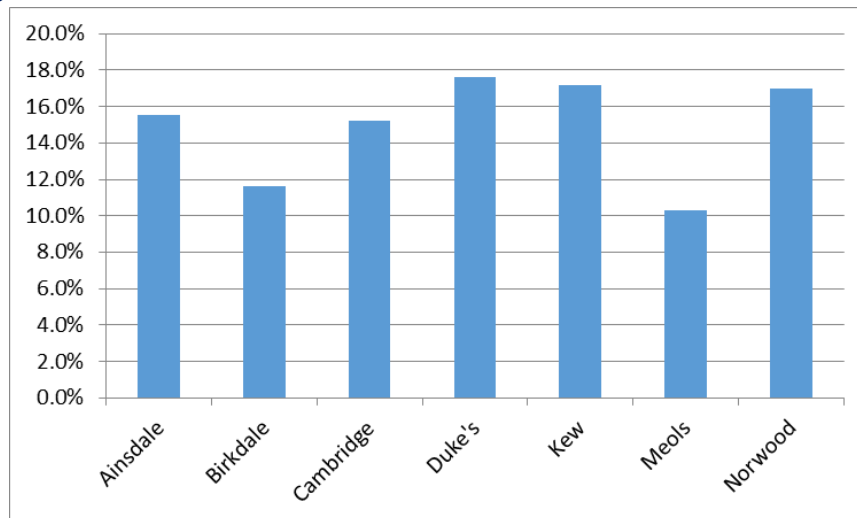


Figure 1: Percentage of children in low income families

Housing Market



In 2014/15, there were 70 homeless acceptances by Sefton Council which is a 6.1% increase on the 66 acceptances in 2009/10. Less than 5 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 5,416. This is an 18.4% decrease from 6,640 in 2009 compared with the 20.8% decrease in Merseyside. Long-term vacants fell by 40.9% over the same period. There was a total of 752 social vacants and 659 were classed as long-term vacant (87.6%).



As at April 2014, there were 8,772 households on the housing waiting list in Sefton. This is a 5.2% increase on the previous year 8,283. However, this figure represented a large fall on previous years and the long-term trend is a 42% 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 (76.3%) with greatest increase in sales of terraced properties (ONS). The data also shows house prices were highest since 2010 (£148,250).



As figure 2 shows, median house prices and pay have not grown at the same rate. Median gross pay (ASHE) outstripped that of median house prices in 2013. As a result, the affordability ratio fell to 7.4 from 7.6 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:
Barry Turnbull, Policy Services Officer, 0191 5661030 or barry.turnbull@northern-consortium.org.uk