

West Lancashire 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 40,000 people aged over 16 years old in employment (70.1%) in West Lancashire. There are 48,000 jobs in the constituency which equates to 0.80 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 1,260 such claimants in November 2015 (2.1% of 16-64 year olds), which is a 0.7% 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 20,215 children in low income families in the constituency in August 2013 (16.9% of all children). Over four-fifths were in families in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance while 12.1%, in families in receipt of Council Tax Credit and with less than 60% of median income.



Digmoor ward (40.6%) had the greatest concentration of such children followed by Tanhouse (33.6%). Birch Green has a higher than average proportion of children living in a family in receipt of Income Support or JSA (91.7%).

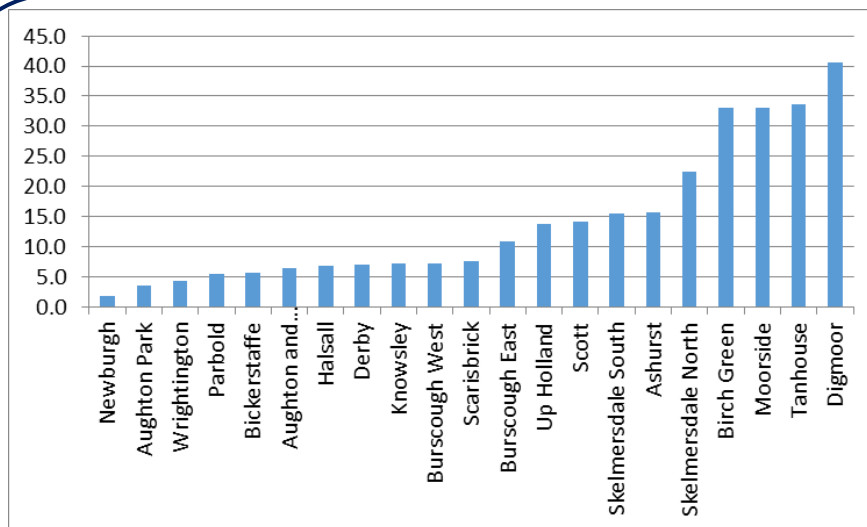


Figure 1: Percentage of children in low income families

Housing Market



In 2014/15, there were 21 homeless acceptances by West Lancashire Council. This is a 62.5% decrease on the 56 acceptances in 2009/10. Of these, less than five households were found temporary accommodation or 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 1,559. This is a 3.7% increase from 1,503 in 2009 compared with the 24.7% decrease in Lancashire. Long-term vacants fell by 18.8% over the same period. There was a total of 120 social vacants and 7 were classed as long-term vacant (5.8%).



As at April 2014, there were 1,667 households on the housing waiting list in West Lancashire. This is a 43.1% decrease on the previous year 2,931. Furthermore, this figure represented a fall on previous years and the long-term trend is a 34.6% decrease on 2009 figures.



There are signs that the housing market is recovering. There was an increase in sales between 2009 and 2014 (62.7%) with greatest increase in sales of detached properties (ONS). The data also shows median house prices reached their highest level in 2014 (£162,750).



As figure 2 shows, median house prices and pay have not grown at the same rate. Median house prices grew while median gross pay fell (ASHE) in 2014. As a result, the affordability ratio grew to 7.4 from 7.0 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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