

Harrogate and Knaresborough Parliamentary Constituency

This is the first 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



Census data shows that in Harrogate and Knaresborough, 71.1% of working aged people were working full-time and 28.9% worked part-time. The corresponding figures for the region are 69.3% and 30.7%.



The Annual Survey of Salaries and Hours (ASHE) shows that in the constituency (as a place of work), 29.4% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 25.8% in 2013. This compares to 24.3% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

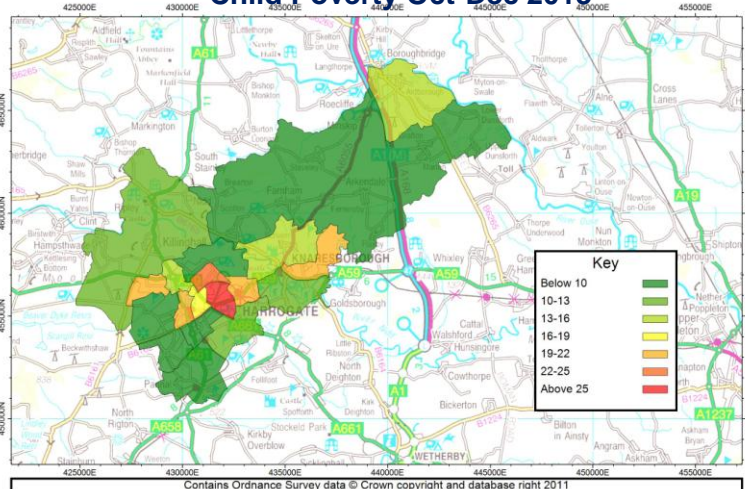


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 75.4%. Employment and Support Allowance began and ended the period on no sanctions. Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 65 to 16 (-75.4%) in the period.



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Harrogate and Knaresborough, 7% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 8.9%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 14.3% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Granby (26.7%) is the worst affected ward.

Child Poverty Oct-Dec 2013



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



After a general upward trend between Q1 2013 to Q2 2014, social landlord possession claims fell by 25.7% between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Harrogate from 35 to 26. Over the same period, actual possessions increased from none to 6.



In the final quarter of 2014, Harrogate Council made 49 homelessness decisions and accepted 33 households as being homeless and in priority need (67.3%). At the end of 2014, 58 households were housed in temporary accommodation, an increase of 18.4% on the quarter ending in June.



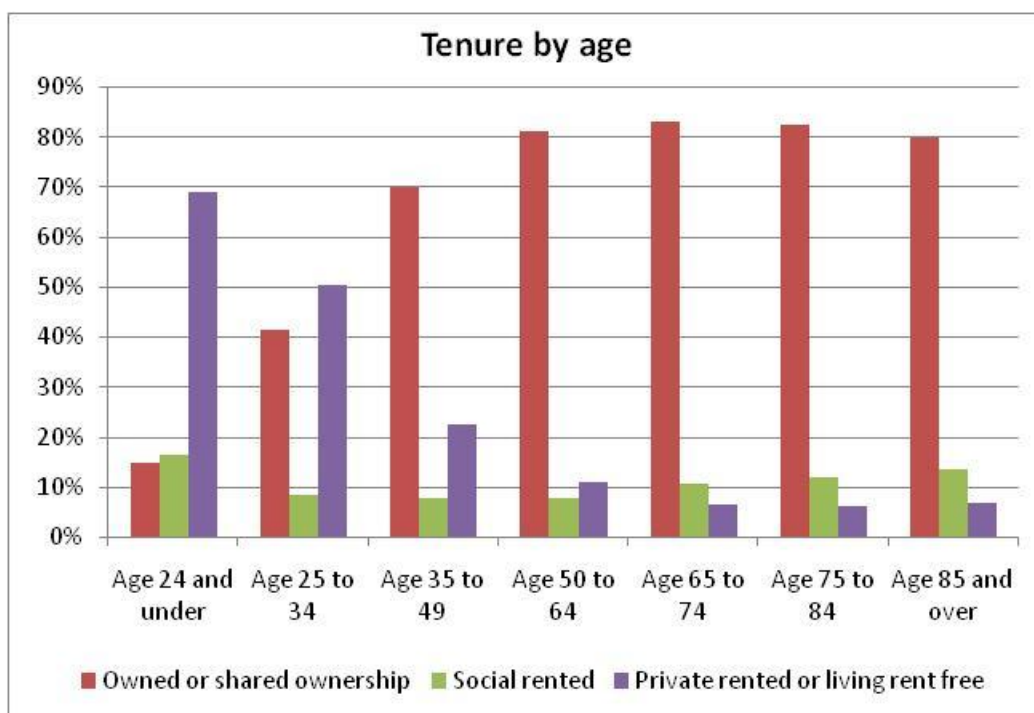
Some have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as a reason behind the increase in homelessness. The latest annual figures show that in Harrogate, while the number of new homes started has decreased, completions have risen (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion of social sector starts has increased and social completions have fallen over the same period.



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 30 dwellings started and 20 completed in Harrogate. One-third of starts but no completions were in the social sector. In the corresponding quarter of 2013 there were no social starts or completions.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 72% are owner-occupiers, 9% rent from a social landlord and 19% are private renters. However, looking at tenure by the age of the household reference person shows changes by age. There is a steep increase in owner-occupation between the ages of 24 and under (15%) and 65 to 74 year age bracket (83%) before falling to 80% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (85%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.



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