

Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford 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 Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford, 71.95% of working aged people were working full-time and 28% 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), 28.3% of all employee jobs paid below the Living Wage in 2014 (£7.65ph), an increase from 23.6% in 2013. This compares to 24.3% regionally and 21.7% nationally.

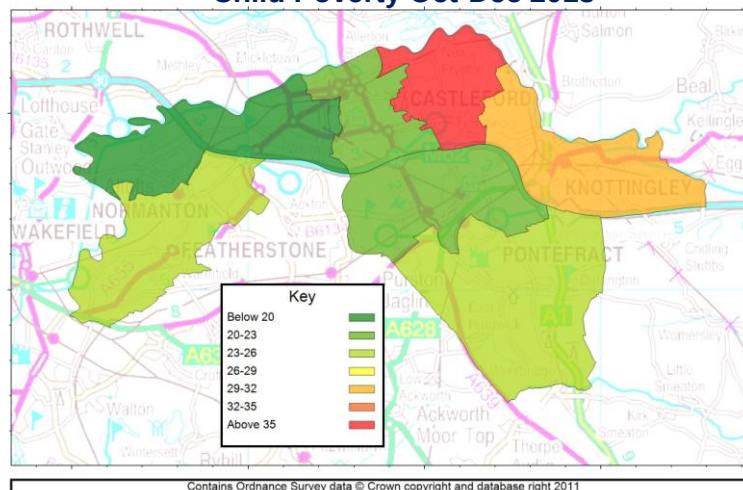


In the constituency, between September 2013 and September 2014, total Benefit sanctions fell by 26.1%. Employment and Support Allowance sanctions grew 5 to 13 (160%). Meanwhile, Job Seekers Allowance sanctions fell from 194 to 134 (-30.9%) the period.



In a previous edition of the Constituency Profiles, we reported that in Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford, 21% of children live in poverty. One year on, we can report that figure, before housing costs, stands at 16.1%. However, when housing costs are taken into account, 25.6% of children live in poverty (End Child Poverty) and the map below shows that Airedale and Ferry Fryston (36%) 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 16.2% between Q2 2014 and Q4 2014 in Wakefield (from 154 to 129). Over the same period, actual possessions fell by 13.6% to 38. Meanwhile, mortgage claims and possessions fell over the same period.



In the final quarter of 2014, Wakefield Council made 147 homelessness decisions and accepted 57 households as being homeless and in priority need (38.8%). At the end of 2014, 100 households were housed in temporary accommodation, a 23.5% increase on the quarter ending in June.



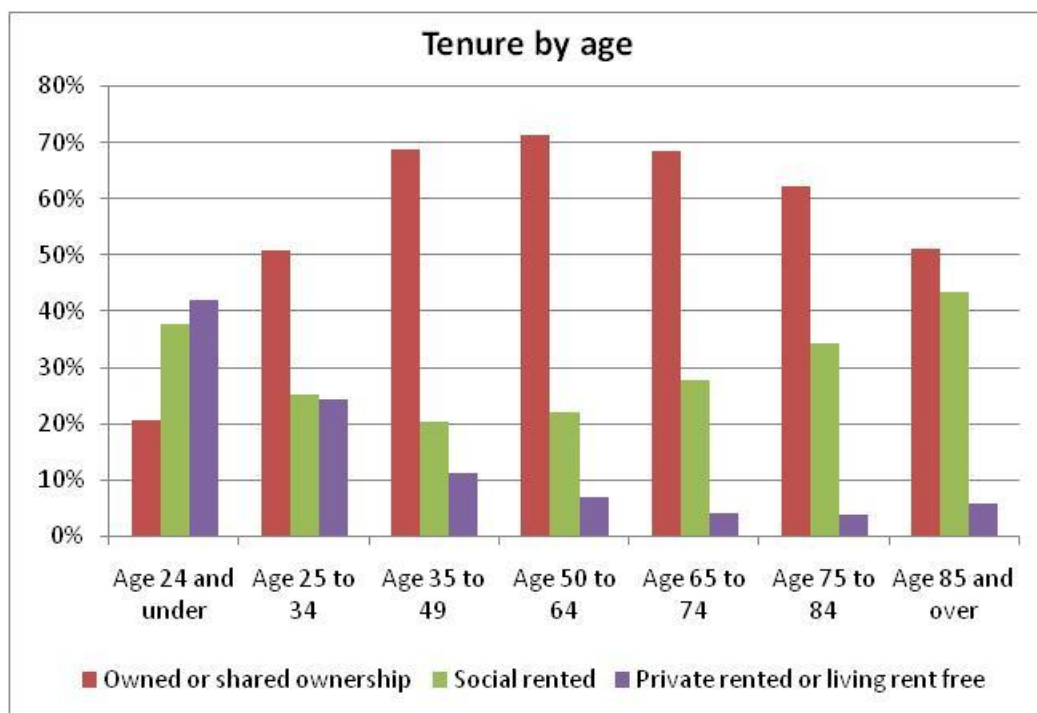
Some have pointed to a lack of new affordable homes being built as a reason behind the increase in homelessness. The latest annual figures show that in Wakefield, while the number of new homes started and completions has increased (2012/13 to 2013/14), the proportion of social sector dwelling starts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



Looking at quarterly building statistics, in the final quarter of 2014, there were 310 dwellings started and 230 completed in Wakefield. Some 12.9% of starts and 13% of completions were in the social sector. In the corresponding quarter of 2013, 17.7% of starts and 23.1% of completions were in the social sector.



Nomis data (2011) shows that in the constituency, 64% are owner-occupiers, 26% rent from a social landlord and 11% 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 (21%) and 50 to 64 year age bracket (71%) before falling to 51% for those aged 85 and over. Conversely, renting is more popular for those aged 24 and below (79%) before falling and then increasing slightly in later years.



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