

## Barnsley Central 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 (73.3%) in Barnsley Central. There are 44,000 jobs in the constituency which equates to 0.79 jobs per 16-64 year old compared to 0.74 across Yorkshire and the Humber.



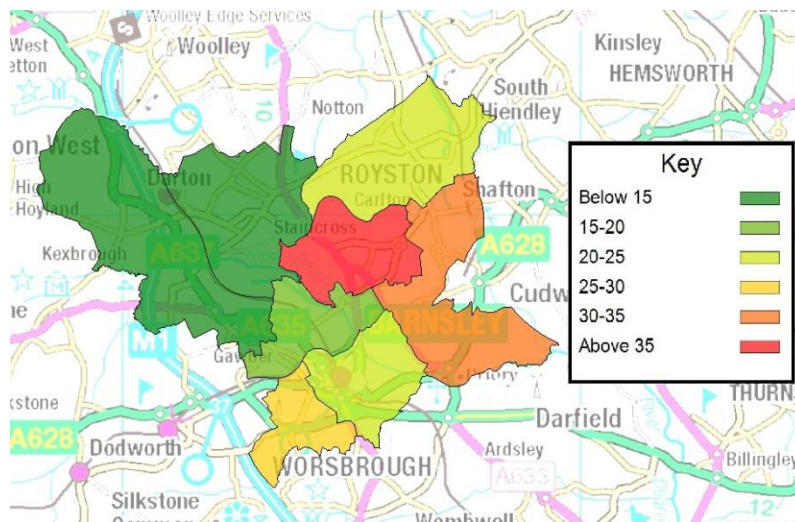
Experimental Jobseekers Allowance and out of work Universal Credit statistics produced by Jobcentre Plus shows that there were 1,430 such claimants in November 2015 (2.5% of 16-64 year olds), which is a 0.3% fall on the previous year. This compares to 2.2% of people in the region (a 0.5% decrease).



The latest Government data shows that there were 18,465 children in low income families in the constituency in August 2013 (22.8% of all children). Over four-fifths were in families in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance while 10.8%, in families in receipt of Council Tax Credit and with less than 60% of median income.



St Helens ward (35.5%) had the greatest concentration of such children followed by Monk Bretton (30.7%). Kingstone has a higher than average proportion of children living in a family in receipt of Income Support or JSA (89.9%).



**Figure 1: Percentage of children in low income families**

## Housing Market



In 2014/15, there were 13 homeless acceptances by Barnsley Council. This is an 86.3% decrease on the 95 acceptances in 2009/10. Of these, no households were found temporary accommodation and there were no cases of a duty being owed but no accommodation found.



In October 2014, the total number of vacant homes was 3,321. This is a 26.5% fall from 4,519 in 2009 compared with the 25.1% fall in South Yorkshire. Long-term vacants fell by almost a quarter (24.2%) over the same period. There was a total of 218 social housing vacants but only 12 were classed as long-term vacant (5.5%) which is a fall from 16 in the previous year.



As at April 2014, there were 5,850 households on the housing waiting list in Barnsley. This is a 3.9% decrease on the previous year of 6,086. Furthermore, this figure represented a large fall on previous years and the long-term trend is a 25% fall on 2009 figures.



There are clear signs of a recovery in housing market with an overall increase in sales between 2009 and 2014 (44%) with greatest sales of detached but a decrease in sales of flats (ONS). The data also shows house price increase since 2011.



As figure 2 shows, median house prices and pay have not grown at the same rate. Indeed, Median annual gross pay fell between 2013 and 2014 (ASHE). As a result, the affordability ratio increased between these years (5.4) after previously falling between 2011 and 2013.

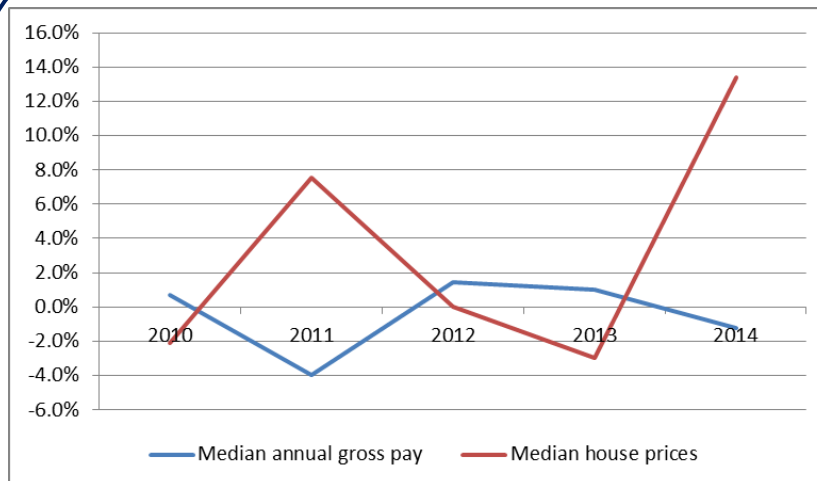


Figure 2: % change in house prices and pay

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](mailto:barry.turnbull@northern-consortium.org.uk)