

Blyth Valley Parliamentary Constituency

This is the first bulletin of 2016 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

Economic Activity



Neighbourhood Statistics shows that there are 61,181 residents in Blyth Valley aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 68% are economically active (this includes unemployed and actively looking for work) which compares to 67.9% in Northumberland and 66.2% for the region as a whole.



The latest economically active figures are an increase on those from the 2001 Census. In 2001, there were 65.9% of residents aged 16 to 74 classed as economically active. This coincides with an increase in the number of people aged 16 to 74.



Figure 1 below shows (where data is available) economically active are concentrated in Cramlington North (77.3%) and South Blyth (74.2%) wards having highest proportions of economically active 16 to 74 year olds.



Of the economically active total, 58.5% are full-time employees, while 21.8% work part-time employees. A further 8.6% are self-employed and 7.3% are unemployed (and looking for work). The proportion of those in employment has fallen by 2.6% since 2001.

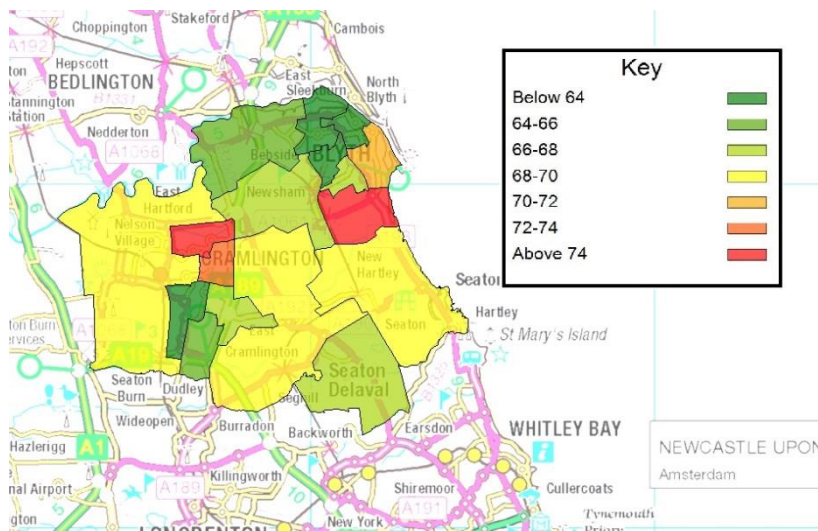


Figure 1: Economically Active by ward

Benefits and affordability



Nomis data showed that in June, there were 1,590 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, a rise from 1,550 at the same point in 2015. This represents 3.1% of people aged over 16 in the constituency with 25-34 year olds making up 25.7% of claimants.



Using these indicators, it would appear that the Government's aim of a lower welfare country is not being achieved. Furthermore, annual survey of hours and earnings data shows that hourly pay for full-time workers fell between 2014 to 2015 from £11.98 to £11.52 – failing to deliver on the higher wage 'settlement'.



Coinciding with the fall in full-time hourly earnings, Ministry of Justice figures show that total housing possession claims (1.9%) and actual possessions (10.9%) grew in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015 in the local authority area.



However, there were decreases in private landlord claims (-32.5%) and possessions (-22.2%). Mortgage claims (-17.1%) are also showing a downward trend as Figure 2 shows.



The data also shows a significant increase in mortgage possessions (46.2%) over this period. There were also increases in social landlord claims (16.8%) and possessions (6.1%).

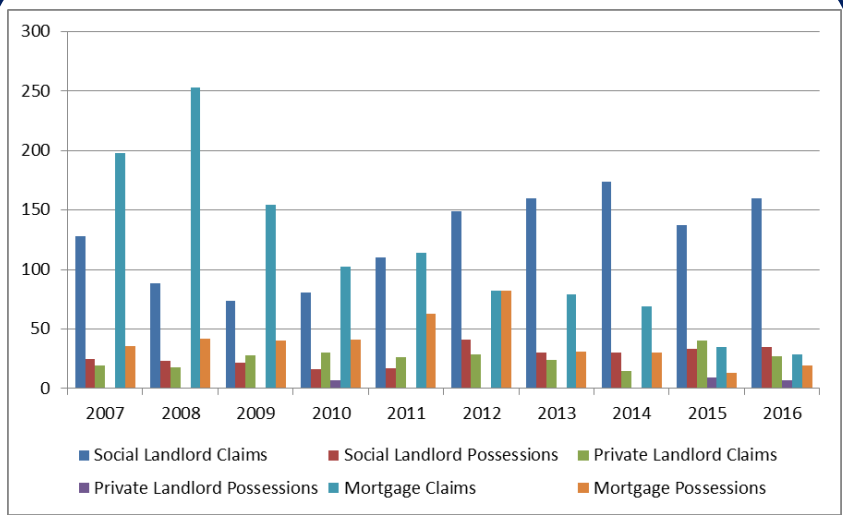


Figure 2: Possession claims and possessions

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