Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough 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 74,705 residents in Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough aged between 16 and 74. Of these, 64.9% are economically active (this includes unemployed and actively looking for work) which compares to 66.4% in South Yorkshire and 68.4% for the region as a whole.

The latest economically active figures are an increase on those from the 2001 Census. In 2001, there were 61.1% 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 that the economically active are concentrated in the north east of the constituency with Hillsborough (75.5%) wards having the highest proportion of economically active 16 to 74 year olds.

Of the economically active total, 51.6% are full-time employees, while 23.1% work part-time employees. A further 9.6% are self-employed and 11.1% are unemployed (and looking for work). The proportion of those in employment has fallen by 4.7% since 2001 and there has been a move to more part-time workers with 2001 figures showing 23.1% working part-time.

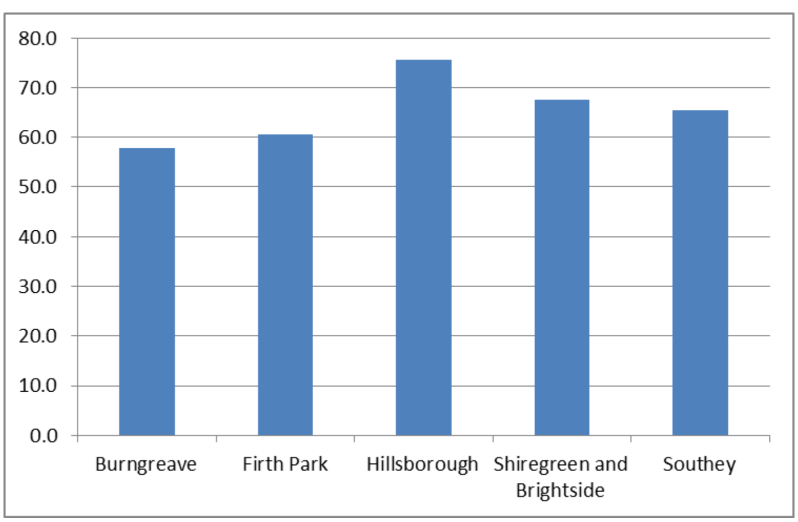

Figure 1: Economically Active by ward

Benefits and affordability

Nomis data showed that in June, there were 2,735 Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the constituency, a fall from 2,730 at the same point in 2015. This represents 4.1% of people aged over 16 in the constituency with 25-34 year olds making up 29.3% of claimants.

Using these indicators, it would appear that the Government's aim of a lower welfare country is being achieved. However, annual survey of hours and earnings data shows that hourly pay for full-time workers fell between 2014 to 2015 from £10.50 to £10.33 (and only a 3p increase on 2013) – contrary to the higher wage 'settlement'.

Notwithstanding the fall in full-time hourly earnings, Ministry of Justice figures show that total housing possession claims (-24.7%) and actual possessions (-15.5%) fell in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015 in the Sheffield local authority area.

The greatest fall was seen in mortgage claims (-35.2%), while social landlord claims also fell, by 26.2%. Mortgage possession remained constant at 13, while social landlord possessions are also showing a downward trend (-10.9%) as Figure 2 shows.

The data also shows an increase of private landlord claims (14.3%), however while private landlord possessions fell from 10 in 2015 to none in 2016 Q1.

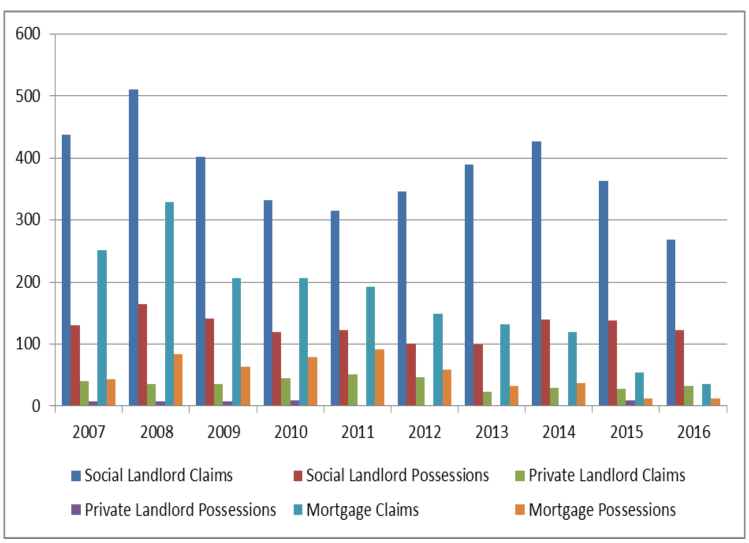

Figure 2: Possession claims and possessions

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