

Public Document Pack



To: Councillor Allard, Convener; Councillor Bouse, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Brooks, Clark, Crockett, Davidson, Graham, Greig, Hutchison, Kuszniir, Mennie, Tissera and Watson.

Town House,
ABERDEEN 25 October 2023

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

The Members of the **ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Council Chamber - Town House** on **WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2023 at 10.00 am**. This is a hybrid meeting and Members may also attend remotely.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream can be viewed on the Council's website. <https://aberdeen.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

JENNI LAWSON
INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER – GOVERNANCE (LEGAL)

BUSINESS

DETERMINATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

1.1. There are no items of urgent business at this time

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

2.1. Members are requested to determine that any exempt business be considered with the press and public excluded

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

3.1. Members are requested to declare any interests or connections

DEPUTATIONS

4.1. There are no requests for deputations at this time

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1. Minute of previous meeting of 30 August 2023 (Pages 3 - 8)

COMMITTEE PLANNER

6.1. Committee Business Planner (Pages 9 - 12)

NOTICES OF MOTION

7.1. There are none at this time

REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

8.1. There are no referrals at this time

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

9.1. Population Needs Assessment - CUS/23/318 (Pages 13 - 110)

9.2. External Advisers' Report - CUS/23/319 (Pages 111 - 116)

9.3. Committee Effectiveness Report - COM/23/325 (Pages 117 - 138)

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

10.1. None at the time of issuing the agenda

Integrated Impact Assessments related to reports on this agenda can be viewed [here](#)

To access the Service Updates for this Committee please click [here](#)

Website Address: aberdeencity.gov.uk

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Emma Robertson, emmrobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee

ABERDEEN, 30 August 2023. Minute of Meeting of the ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Allard, Convener; Councillor Bouse, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Blake (as substitute for Councillor Tissera), Bonsell (as substitute for Councillor Graham), Brooks, Clark, Davidson, Greig, Hutchison, Kuszniir, Lawrence (as substitute for Councillor Crockett), Mennie and Watson.

External Advisers: - Dr John Bone (University of Aberdeen), Sophy Green (Chief Executive of Instant Neighbour); Maggie Hepburn (Chief Executive of Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations); and Phil Mackie (NHS Grampian)(from Article 8).

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be located [here](#).

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

URGENT BUSINESS

1. There was no Urgent Business.

EXEMPT BUSINESS

2. There was no Exempt Business.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

3. Members were requested to intimate any Declarations of Interest or Transparency Statements in respect of the items on the agenda.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that the Convener advised that he had a connection in relation to all of the agenda items as he was a Council appointed representative to Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) Board, Aberdeen Foyer and Fairer Aberdeen Fund Board and was Chair of the Granite City Good Food Steering Group, however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connections amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussion on the items;
- (ii) to note that Councillor Brooks advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda items 9.4 (Family Wellbeing Fund and Fuel Poverty) and 9.5 (Initiatives to support bringing people out of poverty) as he was founder and Chairman of the TLC Charity which was part of the Trussell Trust family of food banks however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connection amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussion on the items; and

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

30 August 2023

- (iii) to note that Dr John Bone advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda items 9.4 and 9.5 as he was a Board member of C-FINE, however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connection amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussion on the items.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 21 JUNE 2023

4. The Committee had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 21 June 2023.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note the comments from the Interim Chief Officer – Governance (Legal) in respect of article 4(i) with regard to Integrated Impact Assessments; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the minute.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER

5. The Committee had before it the planner of committee business, as prepared by the Interim Chief Officer – Governance (Assurance).

The Committee resolved:-

to note the Planner.

VIDEO PRESENTATION BY DR FLORA DOUGLAS - INFANT FOOD INSECURITY RESEARCH

6. The Committee received a video presentation from Professor Flora Douglas - Research Professor of Public Health at the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Practice at the Robert Gordon University.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note that a longer version of the video presentation would be circulated to members;
- (ii) to instruct the Locality Manager to issue a Service Update in respect of the Infant Food Security Pilot Improvement Project;
- (iii) to thank Professor Douglas for the presentation; and
- (iv) to otherwise note the content of the video presentation.

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

30 August 2023

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WORK AND PENSIONS - CUS/23/251

7. The Committee had before it an update report prepared by the Locality Inclusion Manager on work agreed through the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Department of Work and Pensions.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the report.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree the recommendation.

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES - CUS/23/252

8. The Committee had before it a report by the Locality Inclusion Manager regarding detailed plans and costs for a Citizens' Assembly - while noting that budget approval would require to be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) approve the approach to deliver an assembly on poverty and gender inequality in Aberdeen; and
- (b) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment to give authority to conduct a procurement exercise, where the estimated Contract Value is below £50,000 (supplies/ services).

The Convener moved, seconded by the Vice Convener:-
that the Committee approve the recommendations.

Councillor Kuszniir, seconded by Councillor Brooks, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee:

- (1) note progress on plans to facilitate Citizens' Assemblies on Poverty and Inequality;
- (2) instruct the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Empowerment in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, and Chief Officer - Customer Experience, to cease further work on Citizens' Assemblies in light of the complexity, cost and risks regarding the effectiveness of Citizens' Assemblies; and
- (3) requests that the Finance and Resources Committee reallocate any funds previously committed to Citizens Assemblies to increasing available crisis grants.

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

30 August 2023

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (7) – the Convener, Vice Convener and Councillors Clark, Davidson, Greig, Hutchison, and Mennie; for the amendment (6) – Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Brooks, Kuszniir, Lawrence and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

In terms of Standing Order 34.1, Councillor Kuszniir indicated that he wished to refer this matter to Council for a final decision and he was supported by Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Brooks, Lawrence and Watson.

FAMILY WELLBEING FUND AND FUEL POVERTY - CUS/23/253

9. The Committee had before it a report prepared by the Locality Inclusion Manager regarding the review and uptake of the Family Wellbeing Fund, which included an update on the uptake of insulation measures in support of fuel poverty.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee approve the re-allocation of funding option recommended at 3.8 of the report.

The Convener moved, seconded by the Vice Convener:-
that the Committee approve the recommendation.

Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Bonsell, moved as an amendment:- that the Committee approve the re-allocation of funding option recommended at 3.8, except with the reduction of fuel vouchers to £20,000 and allocation of a grant of £27,494 to Abernecessities for the provision of winter clothing for families at risk of being unable to buy their school age children gloves, hats, winter jackets, socks etc, with a requirement to report back on the use of these funds.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (7) – the Convener, Vice Convener and Councillors Clark, Davidson, Greig, Hutchison and Mennie; for the amendment (6) – Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Brooks, Kuszniir, Lawrence and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to instruct the Locality Manager to issue a Service Update in respect of a breakdown of the distribution of funds for the provision of winter clothing for families at risk of being unable to buy their school age children appropriate winter clothing; and
- (ii) to otherwise adopt the motion.

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

30 August 2023

INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT BRINGING PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY - CUS/23/254

10. The Committee had before it a report prepared by the External Advisers and the Locality Inclusion Manager in respect of initiatives to support bringing people out of poverty.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the report.

At this juncture, Councillor Kusznir advised that he had a connection in relation to the item as he was a Board Member of Citizens' Advice Aberdeen, however, having applied the objective test he did not consider that his connection amounted to an interest which would prevent him from participating in the discussion on the item.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to agree that should the bid for the Cash-First Fund be unsuccessful, the External Advisers would report back to Committee on the background work undertaken and provide Committee with further information for discussion;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Customer Services, to issue a Service Update advising Members of the process for proposing External Advisers to join the Committee;
- (iii) to note the update from the Locality Inclusion Manager that a report would be submitted to Council regarding the appointment of an External Adviser following a name having been put forward;
- (iv) to instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, in partnership with the External Advisers, to report back to a future meeting of the Committee, no later than summer 2024, on the issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services and the impact this had:- on the services available in Aberdeen; on the unmet need; and specific recommendations for Council services and other organisations to address this unmet need; and
- (v) to otherwise note the report from the External Advisers.

REPORT ON VISIT TO ABERDEEN FOYER - CUS/23/267

11. The Committee had before it a report provided by Aberdeen Foyer following the Members' visit on 21 June 2023.

The Locality Inclusion Manager and Team Leader – Employability and Skills, responded to the Key Questions and Challenges for the Committee section on pages 60 and 61 of the report.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee:

- (a) note the report at Appendix 1 provided by Aberdeen Foyer; and

ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE

30 August 2023

- (b) thank all those at Aberdeen Foyer, including the many staff, volunteers and participants, who welcomed the Committee and provided an informative and interesting afternoon.

The Committee resolved:-

to agree the recommendations.

VALEDICTORY

12. The Convener paid tribute to Evan Adamson who had recently stood down as an External Adviser and noted his valuable contributions during his time on the Committee.

The Committee resolved:-

to note that the Convener would write to Evan Adamson on behalf of the Committee to thank him for his contributions during his time as External Adviser.

- **COUNCILLOR CHRISTIAN ALLARD, Convener.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	ANTI-POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year.								
2	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
3	1st November 2023								
4	Population Needs Assessment - CUS/23/318	On 21 June 2023 Members agreed: 5(b) to instruct the Chief Officer Early - Intervention and Community Empowerment, to liaise with the Chief Officer - Data and Insights, and align the Committee business planner with key Community Planning Aberdeen deliverables. The business planner originally had a report on 'demographic information on child poverty, in-work poverty and other forms of poverty in the city' due for 1 November 2023. However, the Committee agreed to align the business planner with Community Planning deliverables and to replace the paper with the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) which provides a comprehensive data overview for the City to underpin the refresh of the LOIP, and has been added to the business planner for 1 November 2023.	On the agenda	Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		
5	External Advisers - CUS/23/319	To provide updates on (1) the joint workshop with the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group (OIG) on 19 September 2023 to begin the process of refreshing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the emerging actions identified; and (2) the bid led by ACVO and a group of third sector and public partners to the Scottish Government Cash First fund.	On the agenda	External advisers; Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1		
6	Annual Committee Effectiveness Report - COM/23/325	To present the annual committee effectiveness report after a full year of committee.	On the agenda	Andy MacDonald	Customer	Customer	GD 8.5		
7	31 January 2024								
8	Committee Visit to Aberdeen Cyrenians			Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.1 and 1.3		
9	20 March 2024								

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
10	Memorandum of Understanding between Aberdeen City Council and the Department of Work and Pensions on preventing homelessness and improving outcomes	At the Council meeting on 13 July 2022 the Council resolved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); to agree that the Co-Leaders of the Council countersign the MoU on behalf of the Council; and to agree that update reports for the MoU be submitted on a six-monthly basis to the relevant committee.		Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	2.3		
11	Equality Outcomes Progress Report	To provide an update on the progress achieved at the end of Year 3 of Aberdeen City Council's Equality Outcomes for 2021-25. Last reported to Committee on 8 March 2023.		Baldeep McGarry	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	2.2		
12	Integrated Children's Services Plan - Annual Update	The statutory requirement for an integrated plan has resulted in the Child Poverty Action Plan being integrated into the Children's Services Plan, as reported to Education & Children's Services (ECS) committee on 21 March 2023. Yearly progress reports will be presented to ECS Committee and thereafter for approval by the Community Planning Management Board. Reporting to the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee will therefore align with this reporting cycle.		Eleanor Sheppard	Education/ICFS	Children's and Family Services	1.1	D	Defer to June in order to align with reporting to Education and Children's Services Committee on 30 April 2024.
13	12 June 2024								
14	Final LOIP and Locality Plans	On 21 June 2023 Members agreed: 5(b) to instruct the Chief Officer Early - Intervention and Community Empowerment, to liaise with the Chief Officer - Data and Insights, and align the Committee business planner with key Community Planning Aberdeen deliverables.		Jacqui McKenzie/ Martin Murchie			1.1		
15	Issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services	On 30 August 2023, Members resolved: to instruct the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment, in partnership with the External Advisers, to report back to a future meeting of the Committee, no later than summer 2024, on the issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services and the impact this had; on the services available in Aberdeen; on the unmet need; and specific recommendations for council services and other organisations to address this unmet need;		Jacqui McKenzie	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.12		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Director	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
16	Citizens' Assemblies	To note detailed plans and costs for a Citizens' Assembly		Jacqui McKenzie/ Paul Tytler	Early Intervention and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.2		
17	28 August 2024								
18	Committee Visit								
19									
20	06 November 2024								
21									
22									

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	1 November 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2023
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/318
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie, Commissioning (Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group)
CHIEF OFFICER	Martin Murchie, Data and Insights
REPORT AUTHOR	Anne McAteer, Research Officer
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the 2023 Population Needs Assessment for Aberdeen City. The Population Needs Assessment is a key source of evidence which informs the key priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council and provides an updated evidence base for the next refresh of the 2016 Local Outcome Improvement Plan. It includes demographic information on child poverty, in-work poverty and other forms of poverty in the city.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 notes the Population Needs Assessment 2023 as contained at appendix 1.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The revised Population Needs Assessment is a key source of evidence which informs the priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council. The Population Needs Assessment was approved by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 6 September 2023 and will be considered by Council on 11 October 2023.
- 3.2 The Population Needs Assessment revised for 2023 provides an updated evidence base for the next refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans due in April 2024. The document provides an overview of the situation at this point in time which the Community Planning Partnership's Outcome Improvement Groups will now use to consider whether the priorities within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans remain relevant and focussed on addressing the City's areas of greatest need. The data sets included in the Population Needs Assessment are monitored on an ongoing basis through our online [Outcomes Framework](#) and any new data released between now and April 2024 will be flagged and also considered as part of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plan refresh process. For example, the Population Needs Assessment includes Scotland's Census 2022 rounded population estimates published on 14 September 2023 but further data is scheduled to be released in spring 2024.

- 3.3 As in previous years, the Population Needs Assessment has been aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals . The Sustainable Development Goals recognise that ending poverty must go hand in hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and support economic growth in a way which does not compromise the climate and nature. These are issues at the core of our Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 3.4 A new addition to the Population Needs Assessment for 2023 is the inclusion of a population health commentary, provided by colleagues from Public Health, NHS Grampian. This commentary provides a helpful summary of the Population Needs Assessment findings, drawing out key points and issues to be considered fully as part of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan refresh process.
- 3.5 Some key points identified within the Population Needs Assessment through the lens of poverty include:
- Children in Low income families: Provisional data for 2021/22 estimates that 6,818 children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative Low Income families - up from 6,172 in 2019/20. Almost two-thirds (62.7%) of children living in relative low income families are in working families and 27% are under 5 years old. Over half (55.6%) of children living in relative low income families are in lone parent families.
 - Across four main organisations providing emergency food, almost 62,000 emergency food parcels were distributed in 2022/23, averaging over 5,000 parcels every month.
 - In 2022-23, the Trussel Trust reported that ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ was the 9th highest reason for referral across all food bank referrals in Scotland. In Aberdeen, it was the second highest.
 - In December 2022, almost a third (32%) of respondents to the City Voice survey reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – up from 10% in August 2021. Over a quarter of respondents (27.3%) said that paying for heating meant missing out on other activities (compared to 11.8% in 2021)
- 3.6 The Population Needs Assessment is being considered by Community Planning Aberdeen’s Outcome Improvement Groups as part of the refresh process for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans. This includes the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group which is responsible for delivering the current Local Outcome Improvement Plan stretch outcome that by 2026 no one will suffer due to poverty.
- 3.7 The Population Needs Assessment is a key source of data for all partners to utilise in their own organisations to consider whether the key findings have an impact on their individual strategic plans. For example, the Council’s Corporate Delivery Plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk			
Compliance			
Operational			
Financial			
Reputational	There is a risk that the Population Needs Assessment does not accurately reflect the needs of the population which may have a negative impact on the public's perception of the Council and Partnership working.	L	Colleagues across the Community Planning Partnership have contributed to the development of this Population Needs Assessment. It has been signed off by the Community Planning Partnership Outcome Improvement Groups and CPA Management Group as an accurate reflection of needs across the City based on the data currently available.
Environment / Climate			

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The Population Needs Assessment is a key source of evidence to understand the needs of the population and informs the key priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council. Alleviating poverty in Aberdeen is central to the vision of the LOIP and Locality Plans.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and potential identification of new priorities under this theme.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and potential identification of new priorities under this theme.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and potential identification of new priorities under this theme.
Regional and City Strategies	
	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and can be utilised by Partners when reviewing regional and city strategies.
UK and Scottish Legislative and Policy Programmes	
	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and aligns to the requirements placed upon the Partnership by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (“CEA”).

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Stage 1 Assessment has been completed.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2021

10.2 Online Outcomes Framework

<https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/outcomesframework/>

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 Population Needs Assessment 2023

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment

October 2023

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Community Planning
Aberdeen

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Population Health Commentary

Assessing the needs of a population is not an exact science. Rather, it is a process by which we can better understand the types of things that will bring benefit to people and explore how that can be related to the services and interventions that are being provided. In this report, we start this process by considering the data that is available to us. This can focus on significant life events or the lived experiences of people, it can tell us about what services have been providing and how they are performing, and it can also tell us something about what we could be doing differently. In all these cases, there is a need to recognise that all the data we use requires interpretation.

This document provides Community Planning Aberdeen with an important foundation to work, together with the people of Aberdeen, to better understand the city and its communities and take collective action, through our Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, underpinning our approach to community planning and improving local outcomes. It is this process that provides the opportunity for the interpretation to take place and a population need assessment to be completed.

Our Economy

A healthy economy is an inextricable link to a healthy population. It is clear that the ways in which economic circumstances affect people can both enhance or reduce their health and wellbeing. Simply put, people who experience economic inequalities have poorer health and wellbeing. People who are economically secure, have better health and wellbeing.

The data included within the population needs assessment regarding our economy presents a picture of an area that is experiencing an economic transition toward a low-carbon economy. The analysis suggests that we are well placed to manage that transition with a clear focus on developing greater diversity in our business sectors. Energy remains a key component in this, though more on developing the renewables sector, with tourism and financial and business services sectors also important in the mix. Even if the wealth gap between the region and Scotland as a whole is narrowing, in 2021 we were still wealthier per head of the population than Scotland.

Against this background, there are still grounds which urge caution. Employment in the city is at its lowest level since 2016, with roughly 1 in 4 of the working age population economically inactive. In 2021 it was estimated that 1 in 7 Aberdeen households had no one within the household working, but households with low income, or likely to be experiencing financial instability, are also important. Data for the city relating to households where there is at least one person in work but are still experiencing relative poverty is not included in the PNA, but indicators of relative poverty in Scotland suggest that about 3 out of 5 (57%) experiencing relative poverty will be within working households, an observation echoed in the data for child poverty. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still being understood, but the general view is that it has increased poverty across the UK, with women, children, and those in minority ethnic communities more likely to be effected. All of these indicators suggest that there is a real potential for family / household financial insecurity of a type that is being put

under further pressure by the visible fuel and food poverty that is being experienced by local people.

From a population health perspective, it is the ability for the local economy to help create and maintain health and wellbeing which is important. This means practically that it can sustain, high quality employment, that helps people to live in homes suitable to their needs and which can be kept warm and dry. A local economy that can help people and families maintain the types of financial security to put food on the table and to afford the other day to day necessities of everyday life. Beyond the home, the local economy helps to sustain places and communities socially and environmentally in a way that can promote wellbeing.

Taken together, whilst there are encouraging signs within the economic landscape of Aberdeen, there is also evidence that we continue to have factors that are likely to be feeding into household-based, financial instability and economic inequalities. That these can and will feed into health and social inequalities is clear. We need to be addressing the economic inequalities and supporting financial security if we wish to prevent loss of health and wellbeing.

Our People: Demography

To understand the health and wellbeing of our population, the essential starting point is an understanding of the population itself. The relative composition of the population by age, sex, ethnicity, how it is changing over time, and the personal, social and economic circumstances of people are all factors which can tell us much about the types of need which must be met. Changes in the overall health of the population as a whole are also important to understand how to promote or maintain population health.

The population of Aberdeen City peaked in 2015 (230,350) falling slightly to 2021 (227,430). Based on an assessment from 2018, the population is projected to return back to the 230,000+ level by 2028, care is needed here in that this projection suggests that most of this will be due to net inward migration to the City (though this is something which has not been observed 3 of the last 5 years to 2020-21). The total number of births within the City has been lower than the number of deaths for both 2021 and 2022. The current age and sex structure of the population is predominantly made up of people of working age (16 to 64 years (y)) comprising just over 2/3rd of the population. The remaining 1/3rd is roughly equally divided between those under 16y and those of pensionable age. The population projections suggest that by 2028, the proportion of the oldest groups will have increased by over 10% (65-74y – 14.4%, 75+y – 16.1%). For all other groups the projected changes are 5% or under. As might be expected, the increasing proportion of the over 65y population is reflected in a projected increase in the proportion of households where the main householder is over 65y. Overall, even accepting that the population projects may be prone to error, it is likely possible to conclude that any changes in the overall population size will be modest, and most likely to be driven by migration.

Indicators can also tell us something about the health of the population in the round. When considering these within the PNA, we can say that for both women and men increased life expectancy has stalled and that healthy life expectancy is declining. We can say that both life

expectancy and healthy life expectancy vary across Aberdeen, with people from areas with higher deprivation having shorter lives and being more likely to live with poorer health for longer. Whilst this can be difficult to interpret, these indicators suggest that the future health of individuals born in Aberdeen during 2019-21 can expect to live around 20% of their lives in poor health. Here and now we know that 1 in 4 adults describe themselves as having a limiting, long-term illness.

Our People: Children & Young People

Creating good population health and wellbeing starts before birth and continues as the child and young person develops. Ensuring that a child starts well, and is supported as they develop into young people, is essential in creating good population health and wellbeing throughout life. Early support to the child – and to their families or principle care givers – will have a real impact on the future and lifelong physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. Because of the way in which deprivation affects health, the lower someone's social position is, the worse their health. So early action can help to reduce health inequality.

During the period from before birth to the start of school, the indicators recorded in the PNA present something of a mixed picture. Five indicators relating to the health of babies before and at the time of birth have been included. Of these the most striking is the continued fall in the rate of babies born who have been affected by maternal drug use. This is now at its lowest level ever, even though the actual level of maternal drug use during pregnancy is higher than that seen across Scotland as a whole. At the same time, recorded maternal smoking at beginning of pregnancy remains at about 1 in 8 pregnancies. The other two indicators – which deal with the health of the baby at birth – remain relatively stable. Premature births are similar to the levels seen in Scotland and overall 85% of children are born at a healthy weight. Of course, this means that 15% of children are both with either low, very low, or high birthweights – all of which can be associated with developmental problems. Thankfully the crude infant death rate (which covers deaths of babies and infants up to 12 months) remains low. Once the child has been born, they are entered into the Child Health Surveillance and the Immunisation programmes. From this area, another five indicators are presented covering the period from birth to school-entry. From these indicators three themes emerge. Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, it is clear that the rates of pre-school immunisation by 24 months remain below the national target of 95% coverage. The second area relates to the variation in breastfeeding rates across the City, which are masked by the overall breastfeeding rate which is better than that reported for Scotland. Continuing the important work already underway to address these risks to child health is key. At the same time, this focus on identified issues should not lead to taking a lesser interest in areas which the indicators are either static or only gently declining.

Once children have started a school, the emphasis on health indicators tends to switch more towards maintaining health through managing risk factors. These focus on physical health and mental wellbeing. Physical health indicators of school age children in the PNA consider healthy weight, physical activity, oral health and, early pregnancies. For healthy weight, physical activity, and oral health the issue of interest is not simply the rates observed, but it is the variations that are seen across the City or in different settings. In all three cases, there is clear room for improvement in promoting healthier children, but reducing the variation in

local communities, or settings should also be a significant consideration as these reflect health inequalities that will lead to poorer health in the longer term. The rate of pregnancy amongst girls aged 13 to 15y in the City continues to fall.

We are fortunate in Aberdeen City to have good data relating to the mental health and wellbeing of school-age children. The indicators are based primarily on a schools-based survey and – now that we have two iterations of the survey – we can begin to have more confidence in how we interpret them. The data in relation to children in primary 6 & 7 classes suggest that, on the whole, they feel that they are healthy and that this is improving. Affluence within the family is clearly a factor as the more affluent the family, the more likely the child reported being healthy. Three indicators relating to mental wellbeing explore happiness, wellbeing, and self-confidence in P6 and P7 children. This suggests that the children were broadly happy about most things, though low happiness with “appearance” was noted. In a similar way, reported wellbeing was good for 3 in 4 and feeling self-confident reported by just short of 3 in 5 children. As with general health, there was an effect associated with family affluence that highlighted that children in less affluent families had lower wellbeing and self-confidence rates. Gender was also an issue. Taken together, these data indicate that there are clearly high levels of happiness, wellbeing and self-confidence amongst a majority of P6 and P7 children. However, it would be easy to overlook the observation that this masks a proportion of children who report a less positive experience. And for all, the effects of gender and family affluence should be considered.

For those in secondary 1 through 6 classes, general health was also reportedly high, though the gradient noted for P6 and P7 children relating to family affluence remained. The experience of these young people relating to mental wellbeing are more complex. The low level of happiness with “appearance” was also noted, with a second area of lower happiness seen regarding “school”. That said, the position on both these indicators was seen to be improving (meaning that fewer children were unhappy in relation to “appearance” and “school”). Generally, the rates for wellbeing are also improving, though the impact of family affluence on the wellbeing of secondary school children needs to be explored further. This relationship – where family affluence / deprivation impacts on children’s experience – is the most striking feature of the indicators included for educational attainment and positive destinations post school education.

The message is clear. The life circumstances of children affect their educational attainment. These are the types of educational inequality that can lead into health inequalities in early adulthood and beyond.

Our People: Adults

The health of individuals within the adult population is a complicated area for assessing need. As people age and their life circumstances change, their health will change. In population health terms these changes across the life-course are an important consideration when we think about need and how that translates into the types of health and care services required. As we get older, we tend to need more health and social care support. This is due to a range of reasons including developing long term conditions, or diseases that require ongoing management, or simply a result of increasing frailty. Preventing disease progression or

reducing adopting healthier behaviours is therefore an important element of health and health care amongst adults.

In regard to health behaviours, smoking, obesity, and being physically active are reported in the PNA. These are important as they are closely related to a range of diseases where preventing smoking and obesity or being physically active can help prevent disease. Given that over half of the deaths in Aberdeen City in 2022 were associated with cancers and circulatory diseases, for which smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity are risks, the main message for Aberdeen City is that there is still work to be done promoting healthier lifestyles.

Alcohol and drug misuse is well explored in the PNA with a range of indicators drawn from surveys and service activity. For alcohol, the prevalence of people using alcohol above the recommended weekly guideline was recorded at 1 in 4 of adults in the 5 years 2017-21. The rates at which people are being admitted to hospital due to alcohol have continued to decline and the rate of alcohol-related deaths has been relatively stable over the last few years, although this increased in the most recent data. A different picture is presented in the comparable indicators for drug misuse. Even though the rates for drug-related hospitalisation observed in the City are lower than for Scotland as whole, the drug-related death rate has increased substantially in recent years, with the most recent data being the first to show a decrease since 2010-2014. Continuing to reduce the serious consequences of alcohol and drug misuse will remain a priority for Aberdeen City and its Alcohol and Drug Partnership. However, we also need to recognise the impacts that alcohol and drugs have on the health and wellbeing on the families, friends, and wider communities around those who misuse substances should not be under-estimated.

The data for selected diseases – cancer registrations, coronary heart disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – are all indicative of the demands that are being placed on health care services. However, in all cases it is important to note the variation in the indicators across the City. There is unlikely to be a single cause of these health inequalities and we need to understand that such health inequalities happen as a result of wider inequalities experienced over time. As a result, these types of health inequality are challenges not only for treatment here and now, but reflect a need to place a greater emphasis on future disease preventative intervention happening at the same time. Such wider approaches to early intervention are also going to be important in considering health and care demand in a range of settings, especially for those who are in older age. The indicators included around hospitalisation show that emergency admissions are reducing, including for older people with multiple needs. However, they also show that for a range of care settings outside of hospital, there are high levels of use, which may suggest that there are pressures in the system which need to be managed.

General population indicators of mental health and wellbeing in adults suggest that most people are not experiencing poor mental health or loss of mental wellbeing. However, two indicators suggest that around 1 in 6 adults self-report dissatisfaction with their mental health and around 1 in 7 could be at risk of suffering a mental illness. Against this background, health indicators for the City suggest that more people are being prescribed drugs for anxiety and depression than ten years ago, though the rate of people being in hospital for mental illness has fallen. Deaths from suicides is also falling. None of these indicators take into account the

full effects of the cost of living crisis, suggesting that mental health and wellbeing may deteriorate in the near future. As with physical illness, these indicators emphasise the need for treatment continuing and that a greater emphasis on public mental health promotion is required. Again, early intervention is needed. For example, addressing the number of people feeling socially isolated and for whom local community spaces and opportunities to socialise are perceived to be limited.

Our Place

In population health, it is acknowledged that where we live, where we work, and where we spend our time has an important influence on our health and wellbeing. We refer to “place” to mean the buildings, streets, public and natural spaces that make up the physical environment around us, and to “communities”, (the people, social groups, and the support networks that make up our social environment). How places are designed and built, how they develop and are kept in good order are really important in creating health and sustaining wellbeing for individuals, for families, and for communities. In the chapter of the PNA on place, all of the areas included have an influence of population health and wellbeing and this is reflected in how people talk about the places in which they live and what they hope for their communities.

Having somewhere to live which is affordable, warm, and secure is an essential part of having wellbeing. Indicators relating to the availability of housing, by type, for what relative cost, by the tenure of the property, and how available they may be are included in the PNA. However, these figures can miss some of the factors that affect people’s health. For example, the number of households that are experiencing fuel poverty, or those who – for a range of reasons – are without a secure place to live. The data included also relate to crime and criminal behaviour, describing the actual levels of crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, and diversion from prosecution. It can be difficult to generate a sense of how indicators such as these directly relate to health, but we do know that such factors affect how you feel about a place and how safe you feel being there. Feeling safe within your place and your community are important factors in wellbeing too, so low risk of house fires and being safe when using roads are important.

The natural environment, sustainability and climate change forms a significant element of the chapter with indicators relating to greenhouse gas emissions, extreme weather events, flood risk, and adaptation to climate change. These are all important in the context of human health as climate change is already beginning to affect human health alongside planetary health. Direct health effects associated with climate change include increased mortality and ill-health associated with excess heat and cold and mental health and wellbeing loss associated with flooding and buildings damage to properties to name just two. At the same time climate change has indirect effects to health and wellbeing which happen as climate change makes health inequalities associated with air pollution, access to greenspaces, fuel poverty and food poverty worse. Of course these effects take time to happen. So data associated with – for example – greenhouse gas emissions now will take time for this to translate into effects on the climate that then effect human health. So, as with other things discussed above, what is happening now is a reminder that we have to act now, to prevent future poorer health.

The PNA does include data on environmental factors that have a direct impact on current health. In particular it is good to know that outside air pollution has remained within legal limits at the six, city-wide monitoring sites for particulates for over 6 years. Active travel is increasing with nearly 1 in 4 people using bicycle or walking to work or school. It is recommended that for good health and wellbeing people need to be able to access a green space within 300m of their home, so it is good to see that access to greenspaces and woodland is being protected and that the quality of local blue spaces (water and river sides) is being monitored for its health. These indicators are important as they tell us about the potential that there is for promoting human health and wellbeing, it remains up to individual, families and communities to be encouraged and supported to make use of the City's green and blue spaces.

An ability to participate within ones community is a key element in creating and maintaining wellbeing and being a protection against loss of health. It is good therefore to see the opportunities that there are for participating in community approaches to build assets and participate in local planning and decision making. Of particular interest from a population health perspective is the use of the Scottish Place Standard tool which captures how a community sees itself in relation to many of the factors discussed here that relate to health and wellbeing. There is clearly a real willingness to participate, ensuring that we build on this further will be essential to building better, healthier places and communities across Aberdeen.

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Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1. What is a Population Needs Assessment?

The Population Needs Assessment is a high-level analysis of key groups, priorities, and challenges across public services, including service performance and information available on the customer perspective. The PNA will identify areas where more detailed analysis is required to ensure a greater understanding of existing and potential provider strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement.

This PNA will update the information provided in the [Population Needs Assessment](#) which was carried out in 2021.

The PNA will include aggregated data under the headings of Economy, People and Place. Whilst it is intended that the PNA will provide a comprehensive overview of the state of Aberdeen across a wide range of indicators, there will be areas which are identified as out of scope for the initial assessment. Where there is an identified need for more detailed analysis, this will be planned for the future. For example, data drilling down into specific communities, service provider or market.

1.2. Data used and limitations

Much of the data presented in this document comes from official statistics provided by, for example, the Scottish Government, National Records of Scotland, Public Health Scotland, ONS and NOMIS. Additional data has been provided by Council services and Community Planning Partners.

In general percentages and rates presented have been rounded to one decimal point. Some of these (e.g. life expectancy) will have a degree of error associated with them because of the way they are generated. Technically, these results should be presented with their associated Confidence Interval (usually $\pm x\%$). Differences are said to be statistically significant if confidence intervals do not overlap. However, for ease of presentation, confidence intervals are not shown. A degree of caution is therefore required when interpreting some of the data – particularly for smaller geographies such as neighbourhoods or intermediate zones where there is likely to be greater imprecision around estimates and confidence intervals are likely to be broader.

1.3. Consultation

Within this Population Needs Assessment information on the Customer and Citizens perspective has been included. In most cases, this has been done using Aberdeen City Voice. Aberdeen City Voice is Aberdeen’s citizens’ panel. There are over 800 citizens on the panel who have agreed to give their views on a range of issues. Full access to the questionnaires and reports can be found at [Aberdeen City Voice](#).

1.4. Layout

The layout follows the LOIP themes – Economy, People and Place. Section 2 focuses on Economy, Section 3, 4 and 5 relate to People, with Section 3 giving a demographic overview of the City, Section 4 covering Children and Section 5 looking at Adults. Section 6 focuses on Place.

1.5. Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and support economic growth which doesn’t compromise the climate and nature – issues at the core of the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The goals serve as a framework to cross check against our population needs assessment to help identify any gaps.

Scotland made a commitment to the SDGs in 2015 and there is alignment with Scotland’s National Performance Framework . The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sit above a raft of detail (169 targets and 130 indicators) to drive and measure progress towards 2030. A summary table presenting the data in the PNA through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals is shown in Appendix 1.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Our Economy



2. Our Economy

During the 2010s, the region embarked on economic diversification, actively seeking and attracting investments in other industries such as renewable energy, food and drink, and life sciences. The 2020s mark a period of growth and diversification for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire's regional economy. Positioned favourably for the transition to a low-carbon economy, the region boasts numerous innovative businesses in the renewable energy sector.

Recent economic indicators for Scotland paint a complex picture. In April 2023, Scotland's GDP experienced a decline of 0.5%. The entire UK faced significant inflationary pressures due to high energy prices and supply chain disruptions, resulting in an inflation rate exceeding 10% in the spring of 2023. Consequently, concerns have arisen about the cost of living across the UK. Projections suggest a real earnings drop of 1.5% across Scotland for the year 2023-24, reflecting the impact of the ongoing cost of living crisis. Aberdeen, was particularly negatively impacted, with average salaries decreasing by £129 per month (in real terms) in October 2022 compared to the previous year – the third largest drop in monthly earnings in any local authority in Scotland and the sixth largest in the UK. However, despite these challenges, average monthly earnings in Aberdeen still outpace the Scottish and UK averages. Looking ahead, Skills Development Scotland forecasts that Aberdeen will grow at an average rate of 0.5% between 2022 and 2025, in contrast to the broader Scottish average growth rate of 1.2%. [1]

2.1. Economy

Gross Value Added (GVA): In 2021 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a GVA per head of £31,823 (constant prices) showing a slight increase from the previous year (£30,249).

The gap between the wealth of the North East region and both Scotland and the UK has been progressively narrowing since 2015. In 2015, the GVA per head in the North East was 50.8% higher than the Scottish average and 40.4% higher than the UK average. In 2021 GVA per head in the North East was 23.7% higher than Scottish average and 10.6% higher compared to the UK average.

Growth sector enterprises: Scotland's Economic Strategy recognises the importance of key industries in the continued growth of the country. The Strategy has identified six sectors where Scotland has a distinct comparative advantage – Food and Drink (including fisheries and agriculture), Creative Industries (including digital), Sustainable Tourism, Energy (including renewables), Financial and Business Services, and Life Sciences. In 2022 there were 4,030 growth sector enterprises in Aberdeen City with almost half of these (48.8%) being financial and business services. Between 2019 and 2022, the number of growth sector enterprises has decreased by 830. In 2021, total employment in growth sector enterprises was 52,630 – down from 60,890 in 2019 [1].

Oil and Gas: In the North East of Scotland, the oil and gas industry has been at the core of the region's economy for over five decades, contributing to the region's prosperity and higher average earnings compared to other parts of the UK. However, in the North East, direct employment in the sector declined from its peak of 30,600 in 2015 to 21,000 in 2021. Nevertheless, the oil and gas sector continues to be a significant employer, directly and indirectly (i.e. within the wider supply chain) supporting around 60,000 jobs in the North East. The region is now embracing an economic diversification strategy, transitioning to new forms of renewable energy and supporting the growth of high-value jobs in non-energy sectors. The Energy Transition Zone (ETZ), the largest dedicated energy transition complex in Scotland, has been allocated £53 million by the UK and Scottish Governments to facilitate the shift from oil and gas jobs to green energy. With over 90% of the UK's oil and gas workforce equipped with medium to high skills transferability, the North East emerges as a key energy transition region, well-positioned to adapt to adjacent energy sectors. As the region moves towards renewable energy and the growth of non-energy sectors, the emphasis on diversification aims to pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable economic future.

Tourism: In Aberdeen City, the tourism sector has witnessed a revival, with positive trends indicating significant growth. The city welcomed an estimated 160,000 international visitors in 2022, with over 1,241,000 nights spent—a record high since 2018. This increase in tourism led to an impressive expenditure of £134 million by international visitors, setting a new record and resulting in an average spend of £838 per visit [2]. Furthermore, the arrival of cruise ships at Aberdeen South Harbour is set to bring over 8000 passengers to the city in 2023, expected to boost the economic Gross Value Added (GVA) by more than £750k. **Air passengers:** In 2022 there were 1.96 million terminal passengers through Aberdeen Airport. This is up from 1.08 million in 2021 and 0.99 million in 2020, but lower than the 2.91 million passengers in 2019 [3]. **Rail passengers:** In 2021-22 there were 1,536,720 entries and exits at Aberdeen train station. This is down from 2,497,108 in 2019-20 (numbers dropped to 393,982 during 2020-21) [4]. Despite facing challenges during the pandemic, including revenue drops of 60% to 80% for hotels reliant on business or corporate trade, the resilience and promising recovery of Aberdeen's tourism sector indicate a bright outlook for the city's economic growth and continued appeal as a vibrant destination.

2.2. Businesses

Business Outlook: The North East of Scotland stands as a thriving hub for business activity, boasting over 20% of Scotland's leading businesses. With 568 businesses per 10,000 adult residents, the region surpasses the Scottish average of 393. Notable companies, including FirstGroup, Ayr, Karro Food, Balmoral Group, Chivas Brothers, Enquest, and Wood, have their headquarters or host major operations in the area. Aberdeen City showcases its commitment to innovation, with business expenditure on research and development more

than double the Scottish average. The region consistently ranks among the top 10 in the UK for foreign direct investment, while also leading Scotland in patent applications per capita since 2015. Furthermore, North East Scotland's international exports per head are more than double the national average, representing 23% of Scotland's total international exports. Emphasizing its dedication to advancing renewable energy, the University of Aberdeen is an integral part of the National Decommissioning Centre partnership for the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, a significant Innovate UK initiative. As signs of optimism emerge, the latest Fraser of Allander Scottish Business Monitor report (Q1 2023) reveals that business sentiment has risen to its highest level since 2021, reflecting the region's resilience and promising economic outlook.

Rateable Value Change: As of April 2023, Aberdeen was one of the biggest beneficiaries of the revaluation with the city's total rates bill down by 17%. Aberdeen had been experienced big increases in the 2017 revaluation, which reflected buoyant local economic conditions in the 2015 tone date. Business rate bills for Aberdeen shops fell by 19% and Aberdeen's hotels saw valuations fall by 20%.

As of April 2023, every empty unit on Union Street saw a reduction in its rateable value, at an average of a 26% drop, increasing their appeal to prospective tenants.

Businesses: In 2022 there were 7,930 enterprises and 10,590 local units in Aberdeen City ¹. This is down from 8,390 enterprises and 11,140 local units in 2021. In 2020, most enterprises (85.7%) were classified as Micro (employing up to 9 people), 11% were small (10 to 49 people), 2.6 were medium (50 to 249 people) and 0.8% were large (employing over 250 people) [5].

Business births and deaths: In 2021 there were 860 new businesses in Aberdeen City – a slight increase from 830 in 2020. Between 2015 and 2020, the number of business births each year was broadly stable (between 1065 and 1100) before dropping in 2020. In 2021 there were 1,185 business deaths – higher than 1,035 in 2020. One-year survival rates of 2020 business births was 94.6% in Aberdeen compared to 94.2% in Scotland. Five-year survival rates of 2016 business births was 39.1% in Aberdeen compared to 40.7% in Scotland [6].

Business Gateway start-ups: In 2022-23 there were 411 Business Gateway Start-ups – up from 391 in 2021-22. This is equivalent to a rate of 180.7 per 10,000 population – higher than the rate for Scotland of 143.3 per 10,000 population [7].

2.3. Labour market

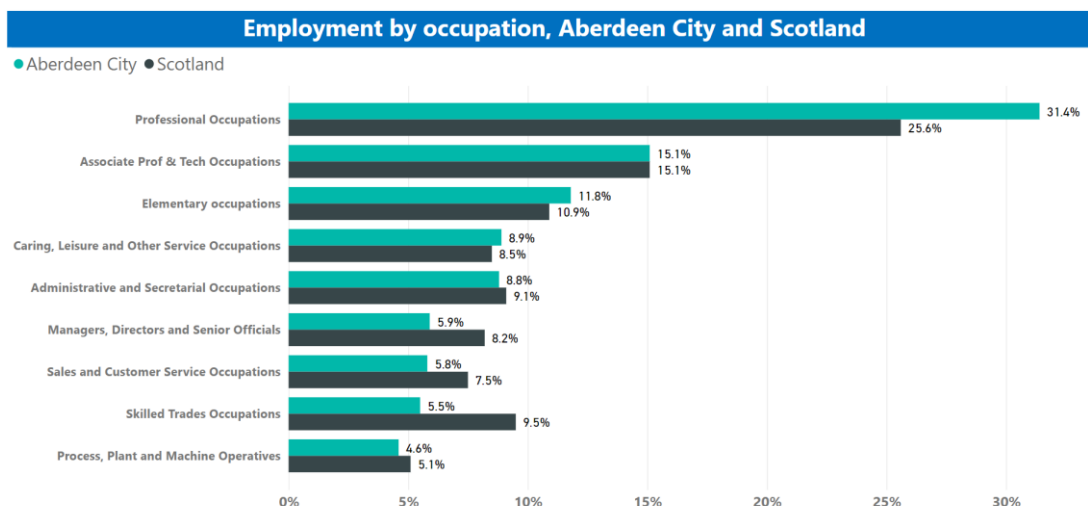
Labour Market Outlook: The labour market in Aberdeen has witnessed both challenges and positive developments in recent times. In 2022, the employment rate fell to 71.2%, marking its lowest level since 2016, while Economic Inactivity reached a record high of 24.9%. One particularly affected group has been young people, with the youth employment rate (age 16-24) falling by over 40 percentage points to just above 30% during the pandemic, although it has since recovered to over 50%. Prior to the pandemic, Aberdeen's youth employment rate stood among the highest rates of all local authorities in Scotland, at over 70%. Younger workers, who are over-represented in industries severely affected by lockdown restrictions,

¹ An enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records) which has a certain degree of autonomy within an Enterprise Group. An individual site (for example a factory or a shop) in an enterprise is called a local unit.

such as retail and hospitality, experienced significant disadvantage. Despite these challenges, North East Scotland enjoys one of the highest densities of private sector employment in all of Scotland. Throughout the pandemic, Aberdeen experienced a slower recovery in job postings compared to other major cities and the overall Scottish average. However, since August 2022, Aberdeen has surpassed its pre-pandemic level of job postings, reaching a recent high in June 2023. The region's recovery efforts and vibrant private sector offer potential for continued growth and resilience.

Employment and employment sectors: In 2021, there were an estimated 158,000 jobs in Aberdeen City (down from 170,000 in 2019) of which 110,000 (69.6%) were full-time and 48,000 (30.4%) were part-time. The most common sectors/industries were Human Health and Social Work Activities (17.1 % of jobs), Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (12.7%), Mining and Quarrying (11.4%) and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (11.4%) [5].

Employment by occupation: In the year April 2022-March 2023, almost a third (31.4%) of those in employment in Aberdeen City were in Professional Occupations compared to 25.6% in Scotland. The proportion of those employed in other occupations is similar to or lower than Scotland, with the exception of those in elementary occupations and those in caring, leisure and other service occupations which are higher in Aberdeen City than in Scotland [5].

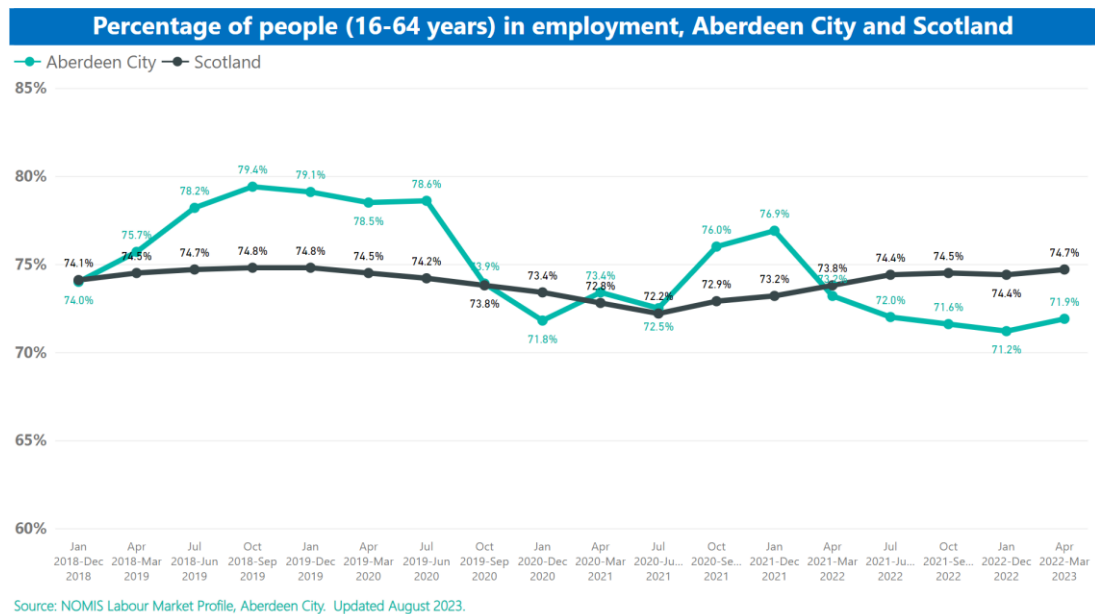


Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated August 2023. (Percentage is a proportion of all persons in employment.)

Economic activity²: In the year from April 2022-March 2023, 76% of Aberdeen’s working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active compared to 77.4% in Scotland. A slightly higher proportion of males (76.7%) than females (75.3%) were economically active. The proportion of females who are economically active is the same as Scotland (75.3%), while the proportion of males who are economically active is lower than that of Scotland (79.6%).

² Economically active refers to people who are either in employment or unemployed. Economically inactive refers to people who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who are looking after a home or retired.

In the same period, 71.9% of Aberdeen City’s working age population were in employment (compared to 74.7% in Scotland). A higher proportion of males were in employment (72.5%) than females (71.3%). The employment rate for ethnic minorities was 63.8% [5].

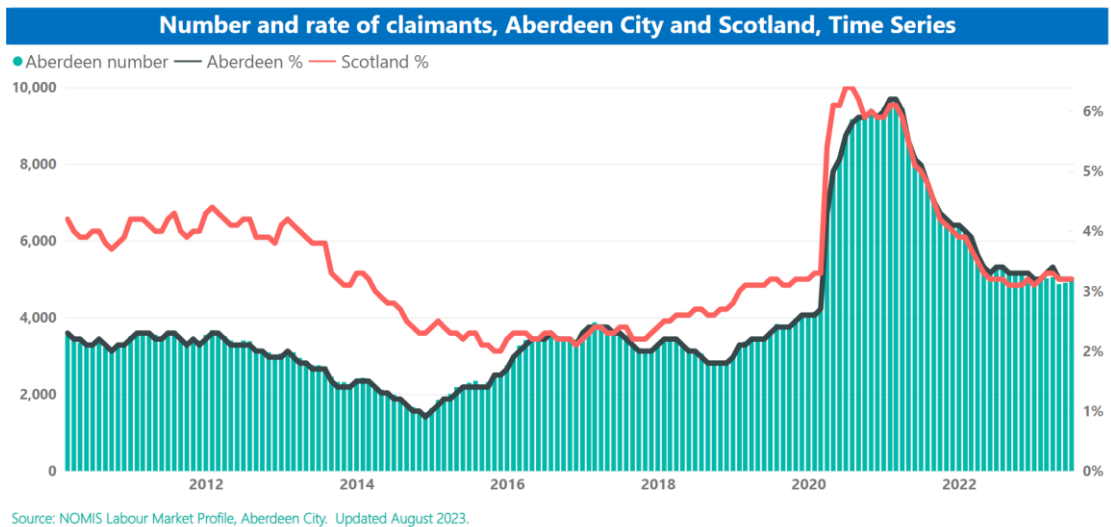


Economic inactivity: In the year from April 2022-March 2023, 24% of Aberdeen’s working age population were economically inactive. A slightly higher proportion of females (24.7 %) than males (23.3%) were economically inactive. The proportion of males who are economically inactive is higher in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (20.4%). Of those who were economically inactive, 39.4% were students, 23.9 % were long-term sick, 15.6% were looking after home/family and 8.1% were retired. Over three-quarters (76.4%) of those who were economically inactive did not want a job [5].

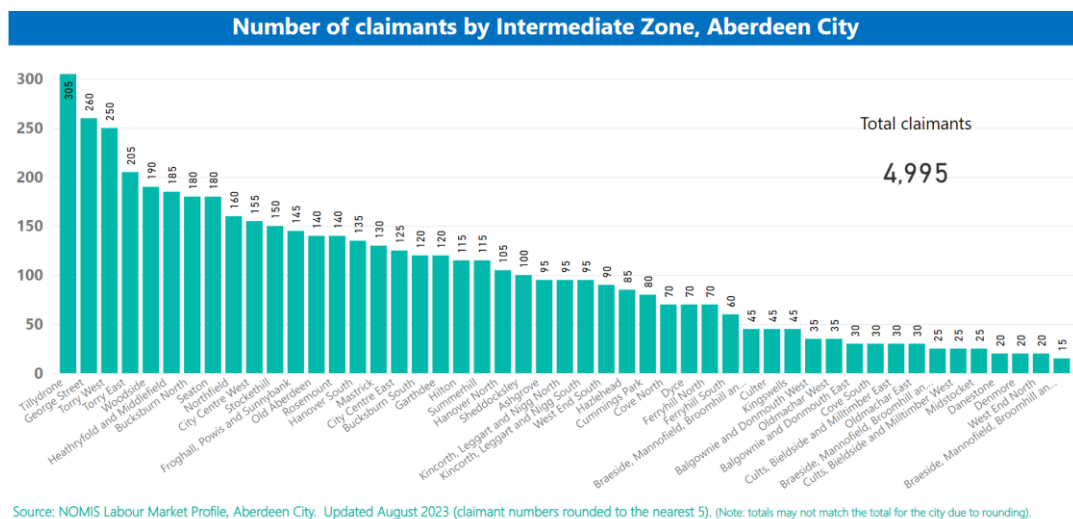
Claimant count³:

In July 2023 there were 4,995 claimants in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 3.2% which is the same as the rate for Scotland. More claimants in Aberdeen City were male (2,935) than female (2,060) and most (3,000) were aged 25-49 years. 905 claimants were aged 16-24 years and 1,090 claimants were aged 50+ years [5].

³ Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed.



The number of claimants varies across the City (Intermediate Zones), being highest in Tillydrone (305 claimants) and lowest in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South (15). [5].



Unemployment (model-based): In the year from January to December 2022, the (model-based) unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 4.3% - higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.5% [5].

Employability pipeline: In 2021-22 there were 2,611 unemployed people assisted into work from council employability programmes – up from 149 in 2020-21. This is equivalent to a rate of 59.3% (of the number of unemployed people based on the model-based unemployment count) compared to a rate of 19.7% in Scotland [7].

Workless households: In January to December 2021 there were an estimated 10,700 workless households (i.e. households where no-one aged 16 years or over is in employment) in Aberdeen City – an decrease from 12,500 in 2020. This is equivalent to 13.8% of all households compared to 18.6% in Scotland. In Scotland (no data available for Aberdeen City), it is estimated that 12% of children are in workless households [5].

Job density: In 2021 there were an estimated 172,000 jobs in the City – equivalent to 1.12 jobs per person aged 16-64 years (compared to 0.81 for Scotland) [5].

Qualifications: In January to December 2021 (no data available for 2022), compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City had a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to NVQ4 and above (54.4% in Aberdeen and 50.0% in Scotland) [5].

Modern apprenticeships: In 2022-23 Q4, there were 1,076 Modern Apprenticeships currently in training (compared to 1,085 in 2021-22 Q4). The percentage of leavers successfully achieving a Modern Apprenticeship fell slightly from 72.6% in 2021-22 Q4 to 71.8% in 2022-23 Q4 [8]. In 2022-23, there were 700 starts, down slightly from 709 in 2021-22 [9].

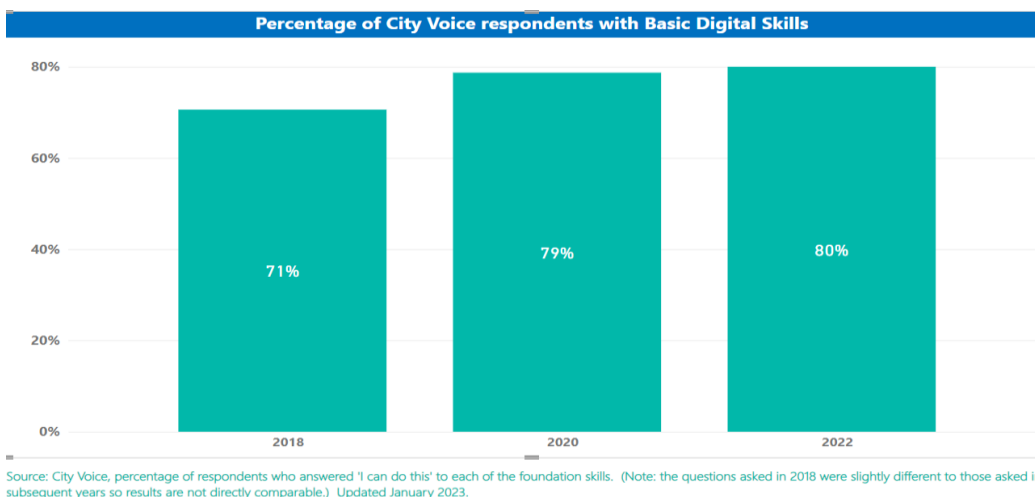
Graduate apprenticeships: In 2021-22, 60 people in Aberdeen City enrolled in a Graduate Apprenticeship – up from 49 in 2020-21 [10].

Digital skills: The digital technology sector is growing rapidly and is a key contributor to economic growth – creating an unprecedented demand for skills with employers across all sectors. Skills Development Scotland reports that annual vacancies in ICT in Scotland are projected to average 15,600 per annum, a 20% increase on previous estimates, and that employers report that they find it difficult to recruit employees with the right technical skills or experience [11].

In Scotland, between 2008 and 2018, the number of teachers whose main subject is Computing Science fell by almost 23%. Similarly, data from the SQA Annual Statistics Report shows that between 2017-21, National 5 participation in Computing Science fell by 15%. Participation in Higher Computing Science fell by 24% over the same period. Most of the pupils who take Computing Science are males. By the time pupils take the Higher Computing Science qualification, only 17% of them are female on average; an imbalance that continues as they move on through university and into industry [12]. In Scotland, 79% of those undertaking Computing Science courses were males and in 2017, only 23% of digital technology roles were held by women [13].

According to the Department for Digital, Culture and Sport [14], in 2021 half (48%) of businesses were recruiting for roles that required data skills. The most common type of data role sought by businesses was a data analyst (12%). One in ten (10%) were recruiting for a Head of Data, with similar proportions recruiting for a Data Manager (9%), a Chief Technology Officer (8%) and a Data Protection Officer (8%). The need for data skills is not confined to people in specialist data roles; virtually all white-collar workers increasingly need to have a basic understanding of data. As mentioned in the Analytic Britain report, “The data revolution has implications...for the entire workforce. We all need to become more data literate to operate successfully in increasingly ‘data-rich’ environments” [15].

Digital technologies are also part of daily life for most people. Reliance on digital technologies became even more apparent during the pandemic – working from home, connecting with friends and family, and undertaking basic everyday tasks such as shopping and banking. A series of questions relating to digital technology have been asked in the City Voice survey. In December 2022, when asked about access to digital tools, 79% of City Voice respondents reported having access to a laptop or PC, 88% to a smart phone and 68% to a tablet. Overall, 96% of respondents reported having access to at least one of these devices. This is an increase from 2018 when 90% of respondents reported having access to at least one device, with the largest increase being in access to smartphones (increase from 71% in 2018 to 88% in 2022). 91.4% of respondents reported having household access to internet at home. City Voice respondents were also asked a series of questions about their ability to perform digital tasks. Based on responses, 80% of respondents were identified as having ‘basic digital skills’ – an increase from 71% in 2018 [16].



2.4. Earnings

Average weekly wage: In 2022, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers living in Aberdeen City was £637.90 – slightly lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £640.30. As in Scotland, the median weekly pay was higher for males (£644.90) than for females (£629.70). The gap between male and female wages has closed in recent years – in 2019 the difference in average weekly wage between males and females living in Aberdeen City was £102.20 compared to £15.20 in 2022. While male full-time workers living in Aberdeen City earned less than those in Scotland (£675.10), female full-time workers earned more (£604.70 in Scotland). [5].

Living Wage: In 2022 an estimated 6.7% of employees in Aberdeen City were earning less than the Living Wage compared to 9.0% in Scotland and down from 13% in 2021 [17]. In May 2023, there were 85 employers in Aberdeen City who were signed up to the Real Living Wage – up from 69 in May 2022 [18].

2.5. Poverty and deprivation

Cost of living crisis overview:

While all households in Scotland will be affected by increases in the cost of living, a report by the Scottish Government suggests that it is those with lower incomes and little or no savings who will be most impacted as they spend a higher proportion than average on energy, food and transport and they therefore have less flexibility in their budget to cope with price rises. Low income households with particular characteristics are likely to fare worse. This includes larger families; households in receipt of means-tested benefits (and those narrowly ineligible for means-tested benefits); households who rent their homes; disabled households; households with an unpaid carer; gypsy/travellers; rural and island households; single person households and single parent households. Certain groups are over-represented in these households, most notably minority ethnic groups and women. [19].

More than 8 out of 10 children in relative poverty in Scotland are in at least one of these priority groups:

- lone-parent families
- a household where someone is disabled
- families with three or more children
- minority ethnic families
- families with a child under one year old
- families where the mother is under 25 years of age

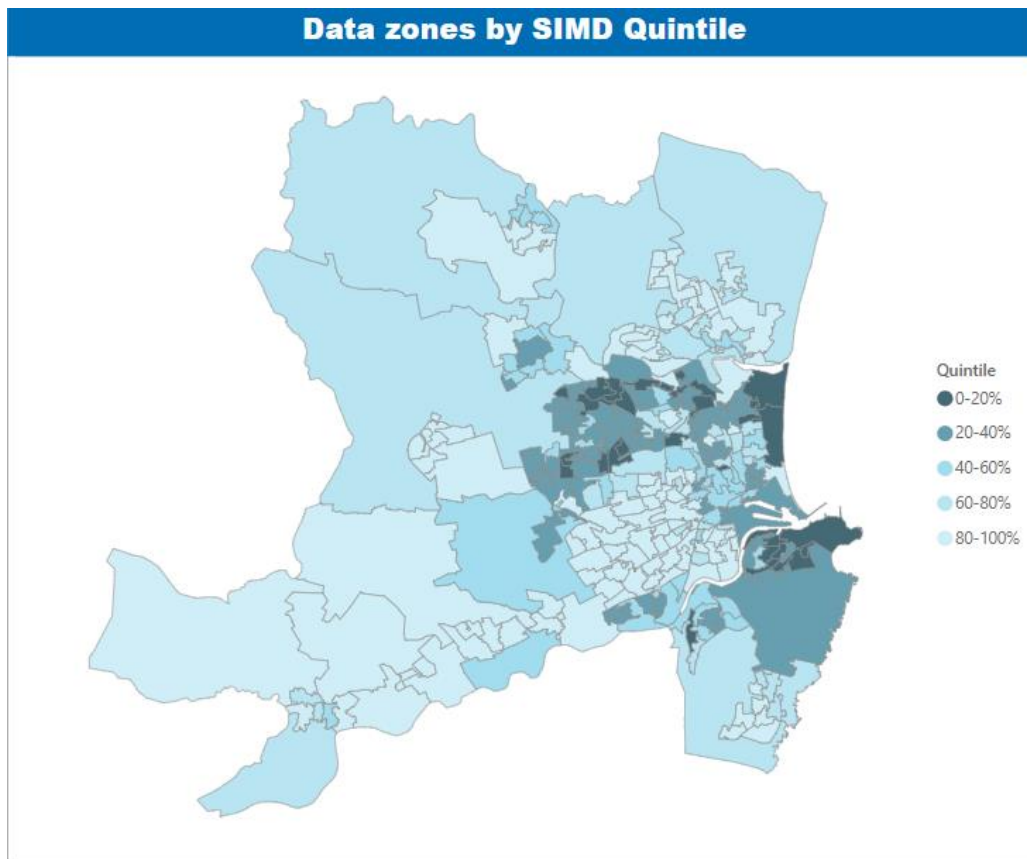
While there has been support for people with the cost of energy, people and families have been affected by the increase in inflation and locally there has been an increase in demand for emergency food provision. Support to mitigate some of the impacts locally has included:

- Increased financial advice provision
- Increased support through Scottish Welfare Fund
- Procurment of suitable food to increase supply of emergency food
- Provision of fuel vouchers
- Provision of Warm Spaces during the winter period to alleviate cost of heating homes

Linked to a rise in poverty is growing financial insecurity. Research by the Money and Pensions Service (November 2022) suggests that one in six UK adults have no savings and a quarter of UK adults have less than £100 put away [20]. More recent research (January 2023) suggests that as many as one in five adults are borrowing to pay for food and other essential bills, with half doing so for the first time [21].

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD): The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation. If an area is identified as ‘deprived’, this can relate to people having a low income but it can also mean fewer resources or opportunities. SIMD looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing. SIMD ranks all data zones in Scotland from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,976).

The most recent SIMD release was in 2020. Based on overall rankings of deprivation (i.e. All Domains), Aberdeen City’s position worsened between 2016 and 2020. The number of datazones in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland (SIMD Quintile 1) increased from 22 (out of 283) in 2016 to 29 in 2020, and the number of datazones in the 20-40% most deprived areas of Scotland increased from 57 to 65. This means that the proportion of datazones in the 40% most deprived areas of Scotland has increased from 28% to 33.2%. Conversely, while lower than in 2016, Aberdeen City still has a relatively high number of datazones in the 20% least deprived areas of Scotland with 104 (36.7%) datazones in this category [22]. At mid-2021, there were 21,696 people in Aberdeen living in the 20% most deprived areas, of which 3,969 were children [23]. (It should be noted that SIMD is an area-based measure of relative deprivation - not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived, and not everyone who is deprived lives in a deprived area.)



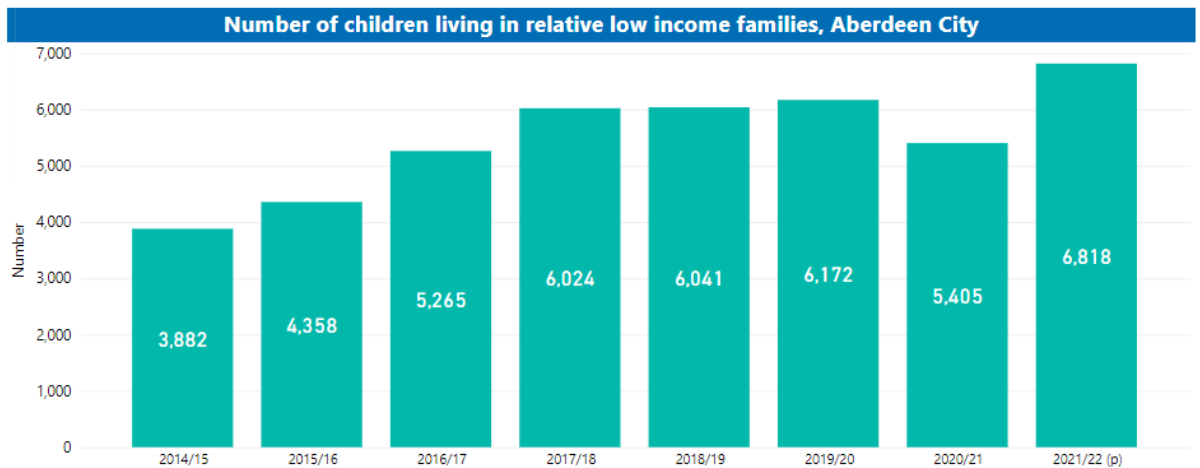
Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020V2 [22]

Relative poverty: In Scotland in 2019/22 an estimated 21% of people were living in relative poverty (below 60% of median income) after housing costs and it is estimated that 57% of those in relative poverty are in working households (i.e. households where at least one person is working). It is estimated that 24% of children in Scotland are living in relative poverty after housing costs [24].

Children in Low income families: Provisional data for 2021/22 estimates that 6,818 children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative Low Income families⁴ - up from 6,172 in 2019/20. Almost two-thirds (62.7%) are in working families and 27% are under 5 years old. Over half (55.6%) of children living in relative low income families are in lone parent families [25].

The number of children in relative low income families varies across the city ([intermediate zones](#)) ranging from a low of 12 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 443 in Heathryfold. (Note: Data collection for FYE 2021 and 2022 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is advised that additional caution should therefore be exercised when making comparisons to previous years.)

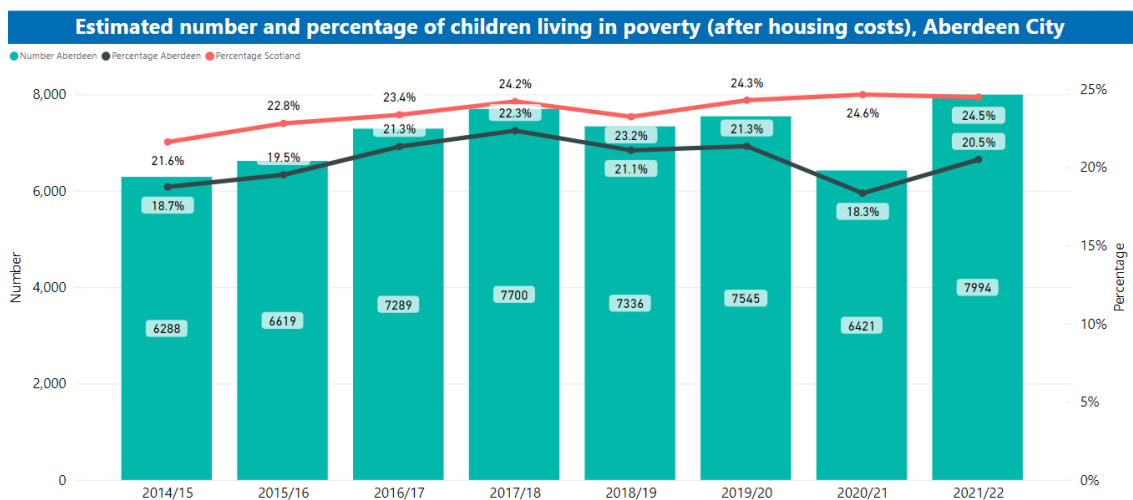
⁴ Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income before housing costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. A person is defined as a child if they are under 16 years old. A person will also be defined as a child if they are 16-19 years old and not married/in a civil partnership nor living with a partner and living with parents/responsible adult and in full-time non-advance education or in unwaged government training.



Source: Stat-Xplore, Children in Low Income Families, Relative Low Income Dataset. Updated April 2023.

Note: Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions. A child is defined as an individual aged under 16 years. A person will also be defined as a child if they are 16-19 years old and are not married nor in a civil partnership nor living with a partner; and they are living with parents/responsible adult; and in full-time non-advance education or in unwaged government training. Data collection for FYE 2021 and FYE 2022 was affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Additional caution should therefore be exercised when making comparisons with previous years.

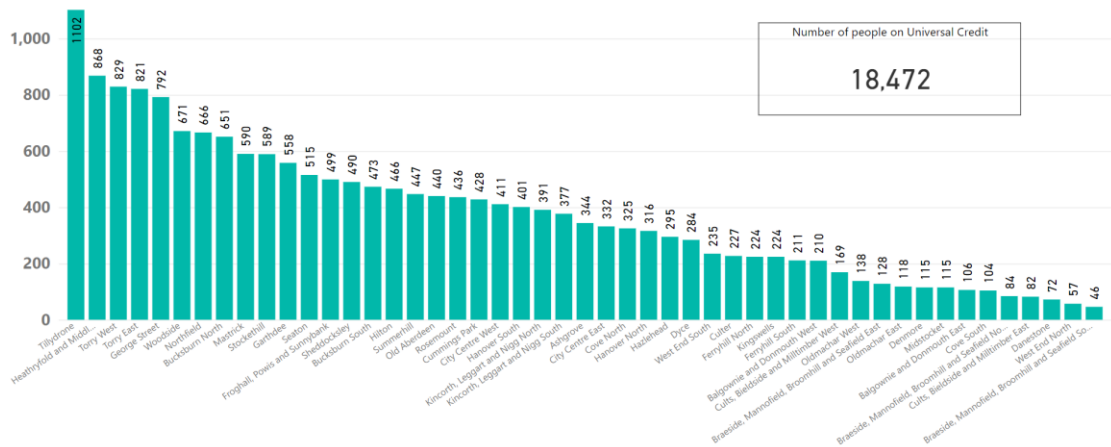
Child poverty: Research published by the End Child Poverty coalition reported that in 2021/22 an estimated 7,994 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City were living in poverty (below 60% median income after housing costs). This is equivalent to 20.5% of children compared to 24.5% for Scotland and 18.3% in 2020/21 [26]. (Note: Data collection for FYE 2021 and 2022 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is advised that additional caution should therefore be exercised when making comparisons to previous years.)



Source: End Child Poverty, Child poverty in your area 2014/15-2022/22. Updated June 2023. (Children 0-15 years.) Data collection for FYE 2021 and FYE 2022 was affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Additional caution should therefore be exercised when making comparisons with previous years.

Universal credit: In July 2023 there were 18,468 people on Universal Credit in Aberdeen City – up from 17,375 in July 2022 (however as people may be transferring to Universal Credit from the old system, caution is advised in interpreting figures as increases may be due to this). In June 2023, 38.1% (6,962) of those on Universal Credit were in employment [27]. The number of people on Universal Credit varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 46 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 1,102 in Tillydrone. (Note: the total for Intermediate Zones may not match the totals for Aberdeen City due to disclosure controls applied to the data.)

Number of people on universal credit by Intermediate Zone, Aberdeen City



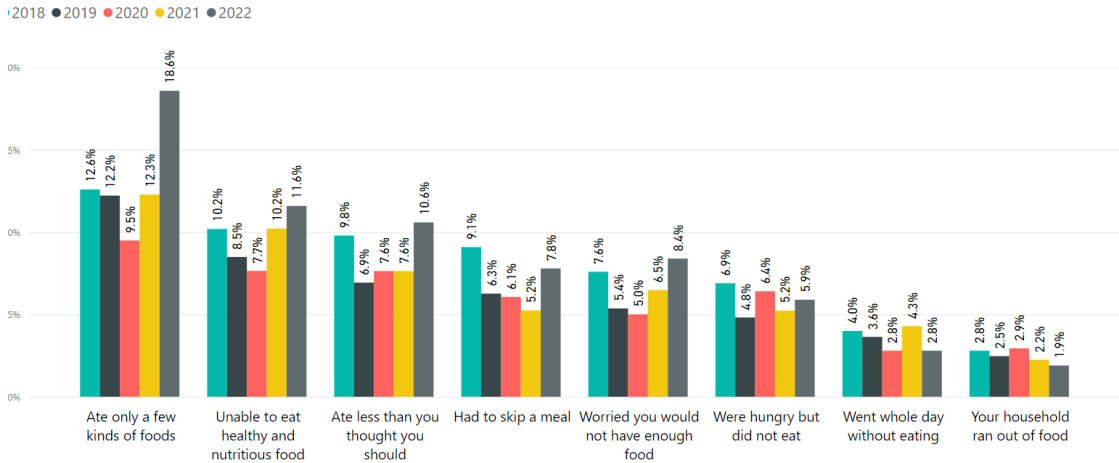
Source: Stat-Xplore, Number of people on universal credit. Updated August 2023. (Figures are a count of the number of people on Universal Credit on the second Thursday of each month. Figures for the most recent month are provisional. Note: the total for IZs may not match the totals for Aberdeen City due to disclosure controls applied to the data).

Food poverty: Questions around Food Security have been asked in the City Voice each year from 2018 to 2022. Specifically, the questions ask if during the last 12 months, there was a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:

- You were worried you would not have enough food to eat?
- You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food?
- You ate only a few kinds of food?
- You had to skip a meal?
- You ate less than you thought you should?
- Your household ran out of food?
- You were hungry but did not eat?
- You went without eating for a whole day

While most respondents did not report concerns around their ability to access healthy or nutritious food due to money or lack of other resources, in December 2022, 18.6% of respondents reported they ate only a few kinds of food, 11.6% that they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 10.6% that they ate less than they thought they should and 8.4% that they were worried they would not have enough food to eat. Since 2021, the proportion of respondents who answered 'yes' has increased in most categories, with the largest increase being in the proportion who reported they ate only a few kinds of food (from 12.3% to 18.6%) [28].

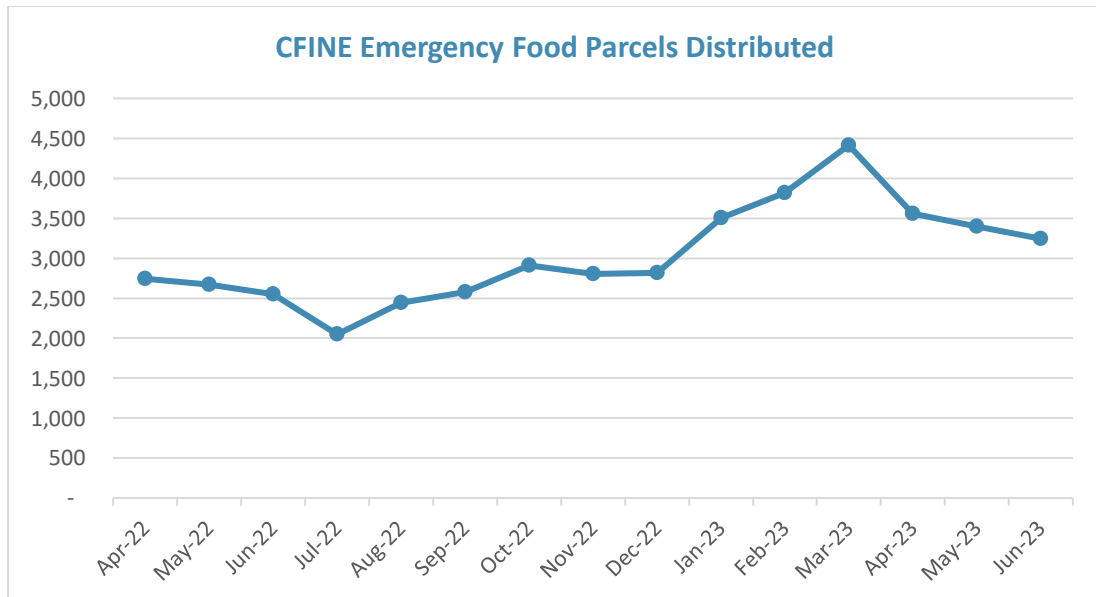
Food security: Percentage of City Voice respondents who answered 'yes' to the question: during the last 12 months was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources you:



Source: City Voice. Updated January 2023.

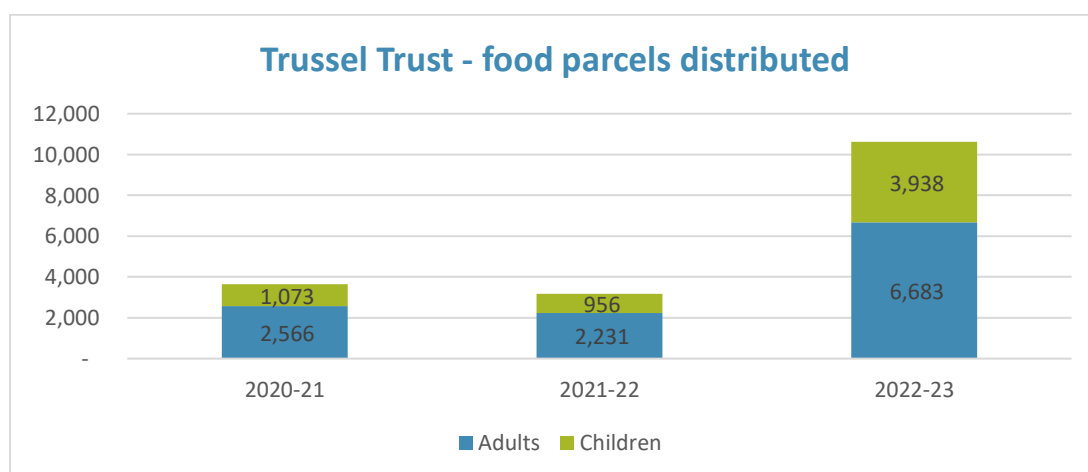
Foodbank use: There is currently no single source of data on foodbank use in Aberdeen City. Data for this document has been provided by a four of independent organisations (CFINE, Trussel Trust, Instant Neighbour and Inchgarth) who provide emergency food parcels. Across these four organisations, almost 62,000 emergency food parcels were distributed in 2022/23, averaging over 5,000 parcels every month.

CFINE: In 2022/23, CFINE distributed 35,307 emergency food parcels – an average of 2,942 per month. The monthly distribution of emergency food parcels increased sharply in the first three months of 2023, peaking in March when 4,414 parcels were distributed. In the first three months of 2023/24 a total of 10,197 food parcels have been distributed – an average of 3,399 per month.

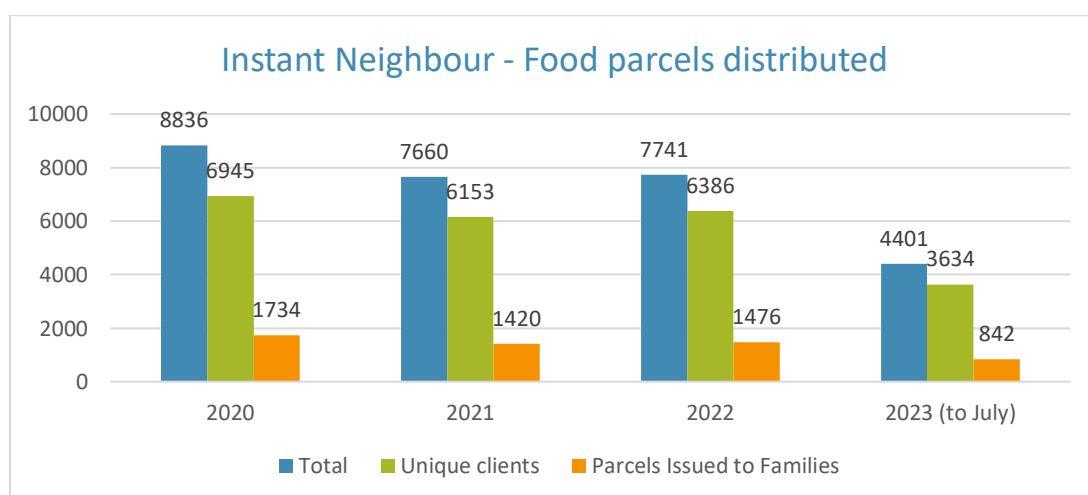


Trussel Trust: In 2022-23 Trussel Trust distributed 10,621 food parcels in Aberdeen City – more than double the amount in 2021-22 when 3,187 parcels were distributed (a 233% increase). There were 1,740 unique clients (some people will have received more than one parcel a year) with an average of 2.5 vouchers (referrals) per client. The most common household types were receiving parcels in 2022-23 were single people (38.4%) and families (30.7%) followed by couples (15.7%) and single parent families (12.3%).

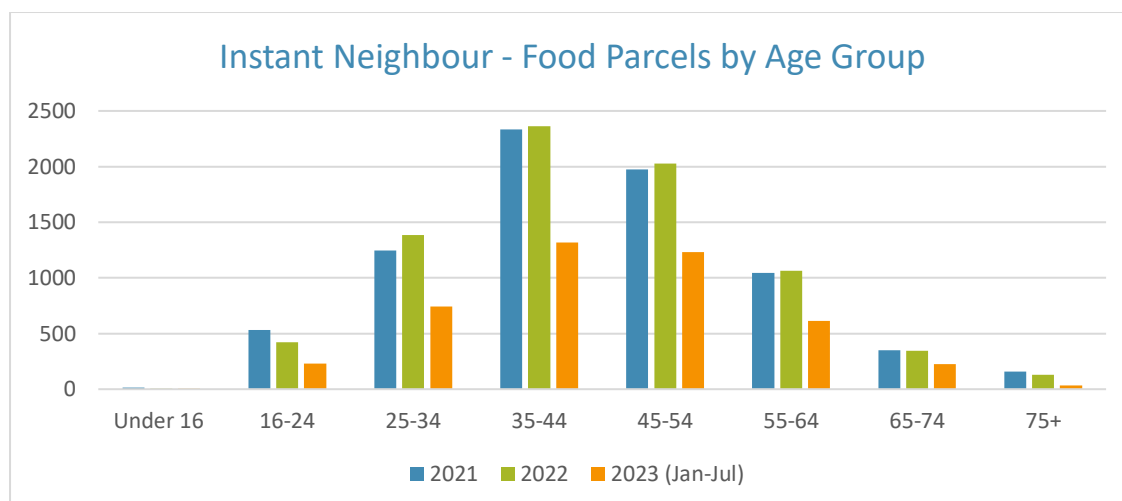
The most common reason for referral was ‘low income’ (3,027 referrals for this reason). The second most common reason was ‘no recourse to public funds’ (490 referrals). Analysis by the Trussel Trust reports disproportionately high levels of no recourse to public fund (NRPF) referrals in Aberdeen. In 2022-23, NRPF referrals across Scotland was the 9th highest reason for referral across all food bank referrals. In Aberdeen, it was the second highest. Furthermore, of all the NRPF referrals across Scottish food banks, 15% came from Aberdeen City.



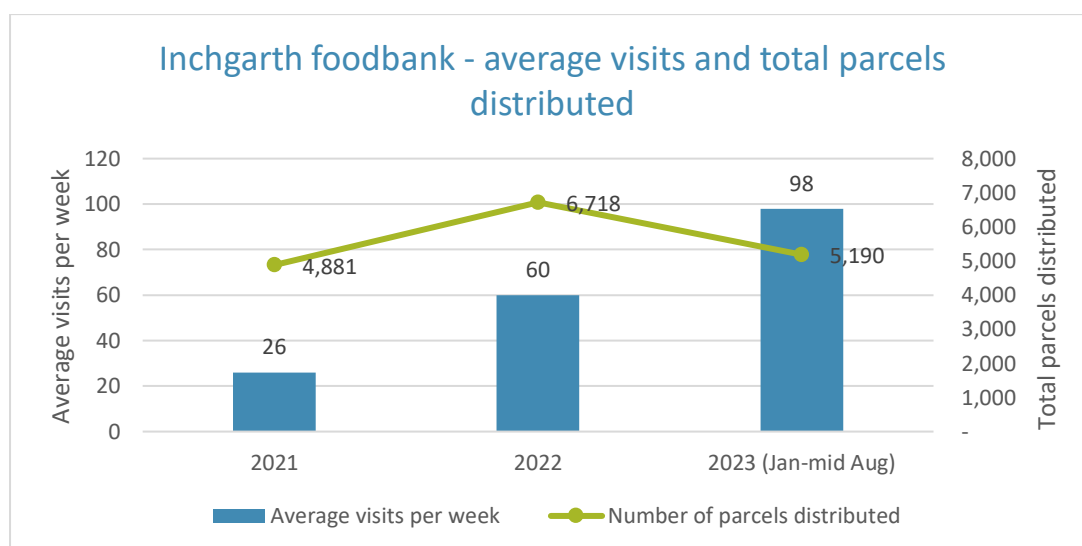
Instant Neighbour: In the first seven months of 2023, Instant Neighbour distributed 4,401 (average of 629 per month) food parcels with 842 of these being to families. Most clients visited the foodbank once in a month (unique clients) with the remainder visiting more than once. Up to July, there were on average 48 new clients each month in 2023. Around 7,700 parcels a year were distributed in both 2021 and 2022.



The age-groups most commonly using Instant Neighbour foodbanks were 35-44 years and 45-54 years.



Inchgarth Foodbank: To date in 2023 (January to mid-August), a total of 5,190 food parcels have been distributed to a total value of £98,439. On average there are 98 visits to the foodbank every week – higher than the average of 60 visits per week in 2022.



Community Pantries: Mitigating food poverty through increased memberships of community pantries was highlighted as an area where people could be offered dignity and choice rather than the foodbank offer of crisis provision. While food banks provide vital support to those suffering financial hardship, they do not represent a sustainable means of accessing food. Pantries offer those on low incomes to set up a yearly membership and pay a minimal weekly fee. In March 2023, there were 853 Community Pantry members – up from 487 in April 2021.

Recognising the challenges people can face attending one of our fixed food pantries, a mobile food pantry was launched in September 2021 to increase accessibility within our priority neighbourhoods and widen the reach. The positive response to the mobile pantry has continued throughout this year and is now available in 10 neighbourhoods on a bi-weekly

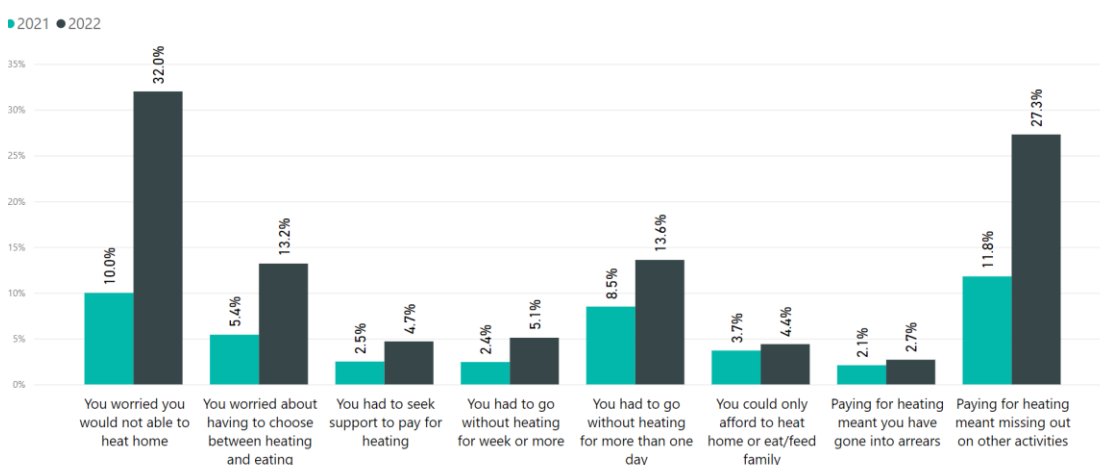
basis, a 67% increase. The areas are: Middlefield, Sheddocksley, Kincorth, Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton, Northfield, Quarryhill, Bucksburn and Hilton. Across all 10 areas there has been a total of 2088 shops at the mobile pantry, a 454% increase since 2021/22 and representing 20% of all pantry shops across the city. This increase has also been seen across the two other food pantries, with an overall increase in the total number of shops across all food pantries from 5,726 in 2021/22 to 10,234 in 2022/23.

Allotments: The allotment waiting list continues to grow: 793 households were waiting in 2021, by March 2023 this had risen to 1,047 households [29].

Fuel poverty: Official statistics for fuel poverty are now relatively dated with the most recent being for 2017-19 (data collection for the Scottish House Condition Survey was affected by COVID-19 with new local authority figures not expected to be available until early 2026). In 2017-19 an estimated 26.1% of households were in fuel poverty⁵ – up from 23% in 2016-18 and higher than the rate for Scotland of 24.4%. A higher proportion of those in social housing were in fuel poverty than those in owner occupied housing (46.2% compared to 12.9%). In 2017-19 an estimated 12.8% of households were in extreme fuel poverty [30].

A series of questions around ability to heat your home were asked in City Voice 45 (August 2021) and City Voice 46 (December 2022). In December 2022, almost a third (32%) of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – up from 10% in August 2021. Over a quarter of respondents (27.3%) said that paying for heating meant missing out on other activities (compared to 11.8% in 2021) [28].

Your heating: Percentage of City Voice respondents who answered 'yes' to the question: during the last 12 months was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:



source: City Voice. Updated January 2023.

Homeless applications: In the year 2022-23, there were 1,762 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation in Aberdeen City Council. This is up from 1,404 in 2021-22 – an increase of 25%. There were 50 applications where at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping the night before their application. In March 2023, 399 households

⁵ A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, total fuel costs necessary for the home are more than 10% of the household's adjusted net income (after housing costs), and if after deducting fuel costs, benefits received for a care need or disability and childcare costs, the household's remaining adjusted net income is insufficient to maintain an acceptable standard of living. For extreme fuel poverty a household would have to spend more than 20% of its adjusted net income (after housing costs) to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.

were in temporary accommodation (up from 264 in March 2022), 45 of these households had either pregnant women or children in them (down from 65 in March 2022) with a total of 85 children in temporary accommodation(down from 110 in March 2022) [31].

Our People



3. Demography

3.1. Population

Population: The first release of data from the 2022 Census was published on 14th September 2023. This is a limited release and reported rounded population estimates for Scotland and all local authority areas. At March 2022, Aberdeen City had an estimated population of **224,000** [32]. This equates to 4.1% of Scotland’s total population. In terms of population size, Aberdeen City is the 8th largest local authority in Scotland. There were more females (114,600) than males (109,400) in the city with females making up 51.2% of the population. Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen city has a higher proportion of people aged 16-64 years (68.2% compared to 64.6%) and a lower proportion of people age 65+ years (17.1% compared to 20.1%) and under 15 year-olds (14.7% compared to 15.3%). Between 2011 and 2022, the population in Aberdeen City grew by 0.5% (from 222,793) compared to an increase of 2.7% for Scotland as a whole.

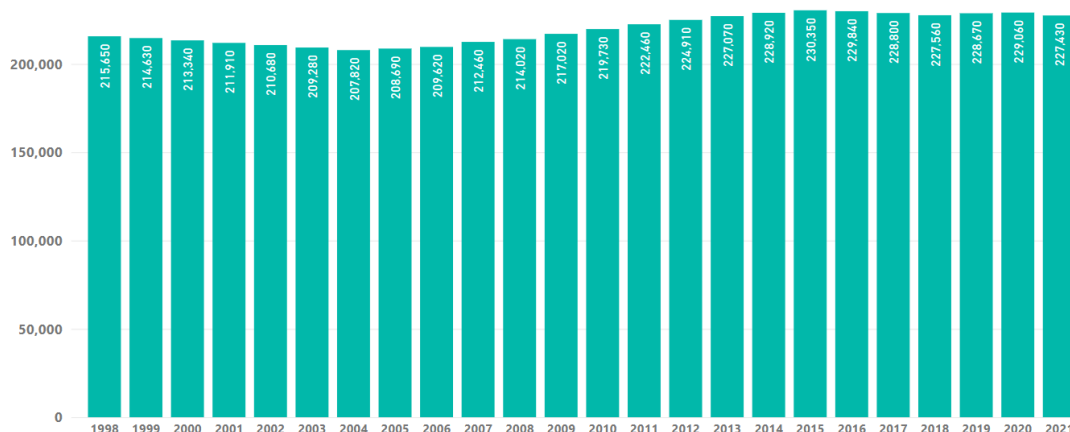
As yet, there is no Census data available for smaller areas of the city. However, based on 2021 mid-year estimates, the population varies considerably by [neighbourhood](#), ranging from a low of 1,745 in Cummings Park to a high of 13,554 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield [23].

Population change: Note: the following data does not include the recently released Census data. It is likely that the mid-year population estimates (provided by National Records of Scotland) for the years between the 2011 Census and the 2022 Census will be recalculated and revised in the coming year. (So while the pattern of change is likely to be similar, the numbers will probably change.)

Following an 11-year period of year-on-year increases, Aberdeen’s population peaked in 2015 (230,350) and decreased in each of the 3 subsequent years before increasing again between 2018 (227,560) and 2019 (228,670). The population fell again in 2021 to 227,430 – its lowest level since 2013. The drop in population between June 2020 and June 2021 was consistent with that seen in other large cities which saw their populations fall during the pandemic while some rural areas saw their populations rise⁶.

⁶“As well as people moving long term out of cities and into the surrounding areas, there may have been students who have moved back to their parents’ addresses temporarily during the pandemic. Another factor could be people who had previously moved updating their address with a GP to make sure they received their COVID-19 vaccination letters. Address information from GPs feeds into our migration estimates. Future reports will tell us if the areas which have gained population sustain those levels in the years ahead.” National Records of Scotland, [City Populations fall in latest estimates](#).

Population of Aberdeen City, Time Series



Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Estimates Time Series Data. Updated July 2022.

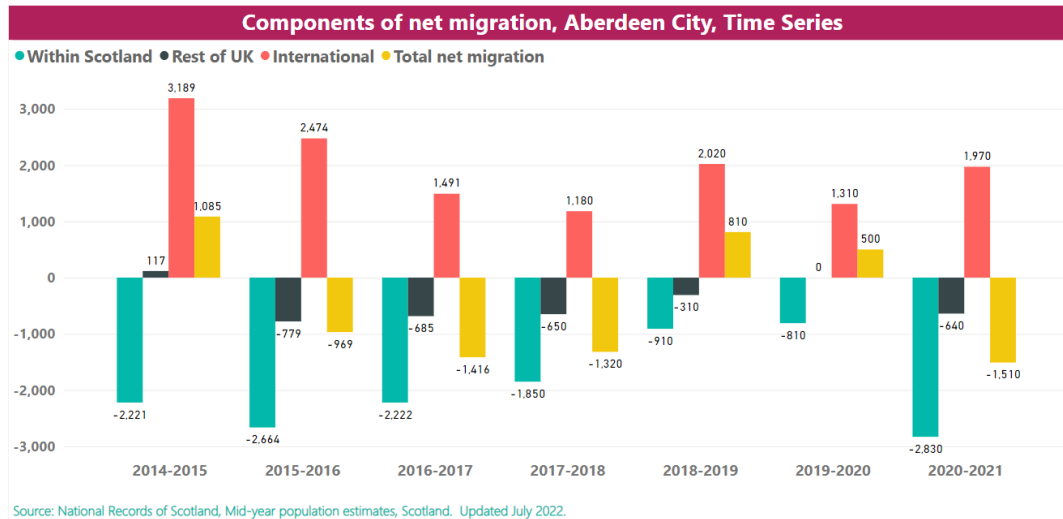
Age structure: Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen has a relatively young population. In 2021, the median age in Aberdeen was 38.3 years compared to 42.2 years for Scotland. Comparison of broad age structures showed that Aberdeen had a higher proportion of working-age people (68.9% compared to 65%) and a lower proportion of under 16 year-olds (15.8% compared to 16.6%) and people of pensionable age (15.4% compared to 18.4%) than Scotland [33]. Within Aberdeen, however, the age structure varied considerably by neighbourhood. The proportion of children (0-15 years) ranged from 8.2% in City Centre to 24% in Middlefield. The proportion of 16-64 year-olds ranged from 59.5% in Dyce to 84.5% in City Centre and the proportion of people aged 65+ years ranged from 7.3% in City Centre and Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank to 25.5% in Danestone [23].

Country of birth and Ethnicity: Aberdeen City has a diverse population. The most recent figures (year ending June 2021) available from National Records of Scotland estimate that 22.5% of the City's population was born outside the UK (compared to 9.7% for Scotland). Of those, it is estimated that 58.8% are from EU countries and 43.1% from non-EU countries (compared to 50% for both groups in the year to end December 2019). The estimated proportion of those born outside the UK has fluctuated in the last few years, from 24% in the year ending June 2017, down to 19% in year ending June in both 2018 and 2019, before rising again to 24.7% in the year to end June 2020 and down to 22.5% at end June 2021 [34]. At the time of the 2011 Census, Aberdeen City had the third highest proportion of non-white ethnic minority people in Scotland at 15.6%. This was more than double the Scotland rate at 7.6% [35]. (Data from the 2022 Census is not expected to be released until Spring 2024.)

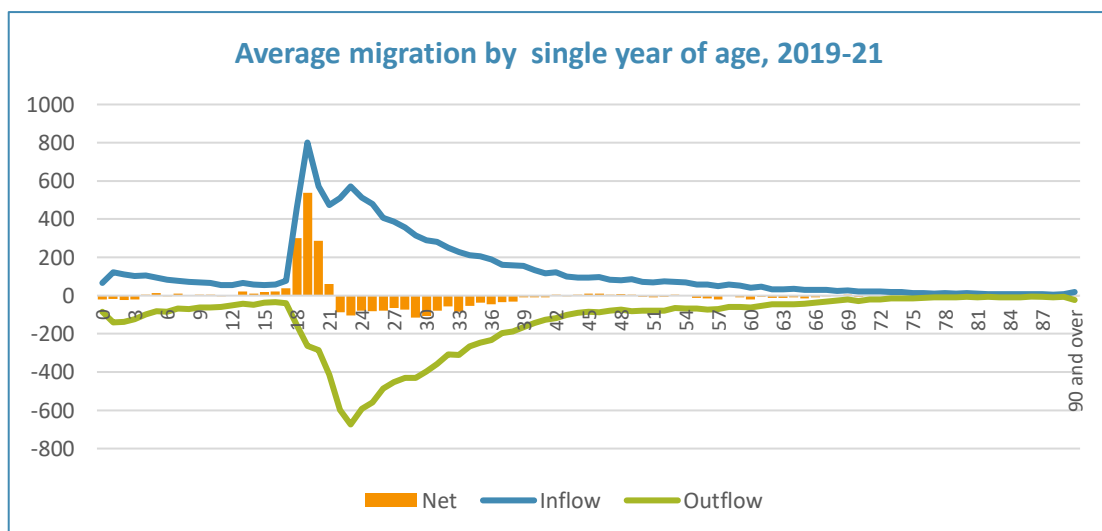
Disability/health: Aberdeen City has a slightly higher rate of people (known to the local authority) with learning disabilities at 5.5 per 1000, compared to 5.2 for Scotland as a whole [36]. At the time of the 2011 Census, 26.5% of the population reported having one or more long-term health conditions (compared to 29.9% in Scotland) and 16% reported having a long-term health condition that limited their activities (compared to 19.7%) in Scotland [35]. In the Scottish Health Survey (2017-21), 26% reported having a limiting long-term illness in Aberdeen City compared to 34% in Scotland. This proportion was higher in females (30%) than males (22%) [37].

3.2. Migration

Migration: Population change is driven by two main components: 1) natural change (births minus deaths) and (2) net migration (the sum of migration to/from Scotland and internal migration). It also includes other changes (e.g. changes in prisoner and armed forces population) although these tend to make up a smaller proportion of changes. The decrease in population between mid-2020 and mid-2021 was mainly driven by high net out-migration from Aberdeen City to other parts of Scotland and the UK (-3,470) as well as negative natural change (-135). While net overseas migration was positive (1,970), this was not high enough to offset net out-migration from Aberdeen to other parts of Scotland and the UK [33].



Migration to the City varies by age with most movement being in younger adults. In 2019-21, average positive net migration was highest in 18-21 year olds and negative net migration highest for people in their early 20s and 30s. The chart below shows in, out and net migration to the City by single year of age [38].



Source: National Records of Scotland, Total Migration to or from Scotland

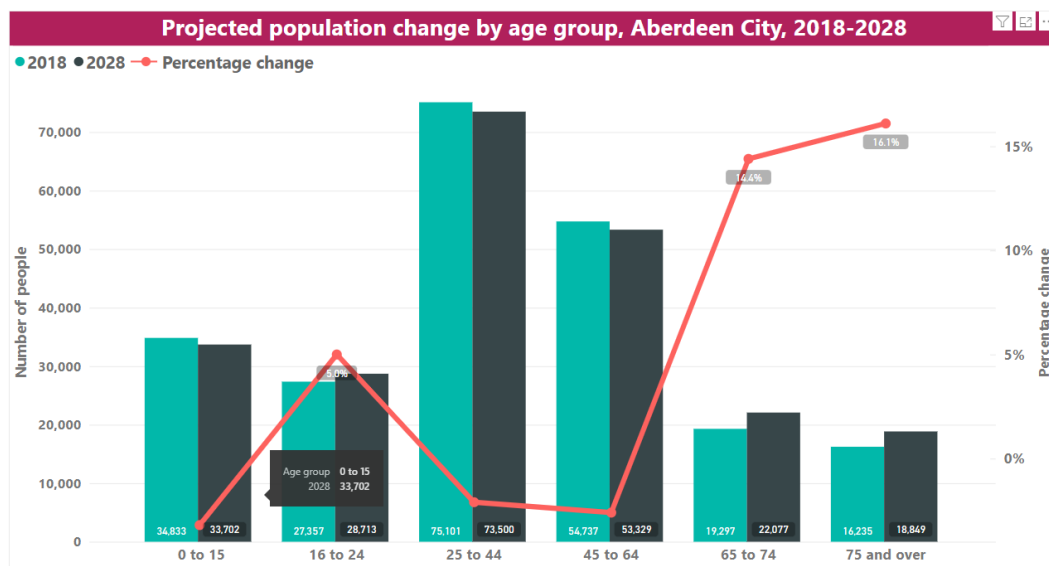
While there is limited data on origin/destination flows for overseas and the rest of UK migration, data on within Scotland migration for 2020-21 show that the highest levels of movement for Aberdeen were between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (3,453 out and 2,316 in, giving a net of -1,137), Aberdeen City and Edinburgh (1,091 out and 537 in, giving a net of -554) and Aberdeen City and Glasgow (856 out and 435 in, giving a net of -421). During 2020-21, positive net migration to Aberdeen City from other council areas in Scotland was relatively low with the highest positive net migration being from Moray (238 in and 214 out, giving a net of 24), Inverclyde (31 in and 20 out, giving a net of 11) and Angus (224 in and 215 out, giving a net of 9) [39].

3.3. Population projections

Population projections: Population projections are now quite dated with the most recent being 2018-based – i.e. before Brexit and COVID-19. Newer projections (based on Census data) are not expected to be available until Spring 2024.

Between 2018 and 2028 the population of Aberdeen is projected to increase by 1.1% to 230,170. Over the same time period, the population in Scotland is projected to increase by 1.8%. Most of the increase in Aberdeen City is projected to come from migration (1%) with natural change accounting for 0.1% of the projected increase. Across Scotland, between 2018 and 2028, 14 councils are projected to see a population decrease and 18 councils are projected to see a population increase [40].

Projected change by age group: The projected change is not consistent across all age groups. In Aberdeen City, decreases are projected in the 0-15 year age group (-3.2%), the 25-44 year age group (-2.1%) and in the 45-64 year age group (-2.6%). Increases are projected for the other age groups, with the largest increase being in the 75 years and over age group (16.1%). In terms of size, however, 25 to 44 years is projected to remain the largest age group with the 75+ years group projected to remain the smallest group [40].

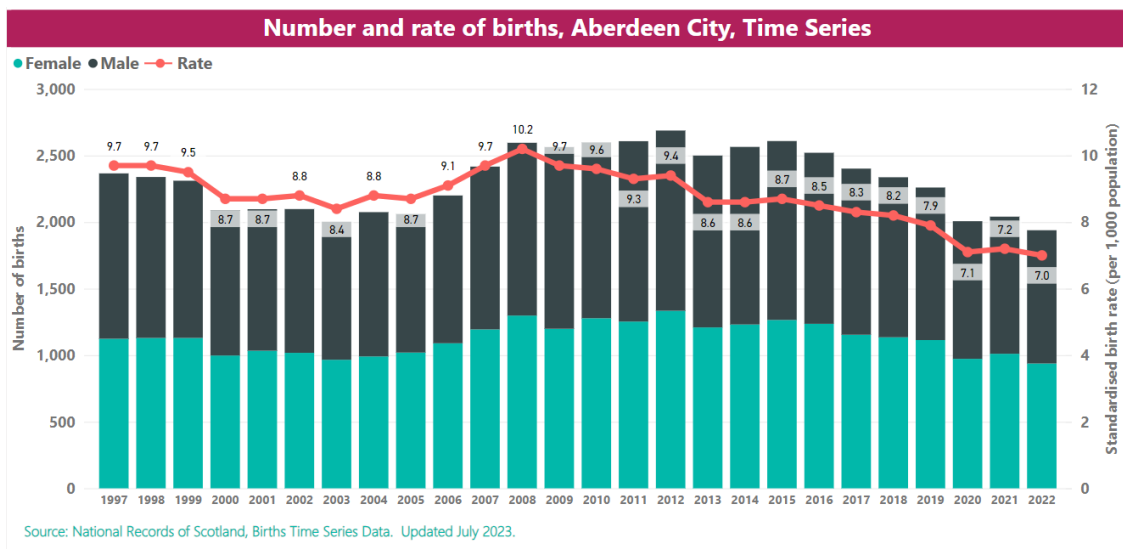


Projected change by gender: The projected change differs by gender. The male population is projected to increase by 2.5% over the period, while the female population is projected to

decrease by 0.2%. This would mean that by 2022, the number of males in Aberdeen City would, in contrast to recent trends, be higher than the number of females [40].

3.4. Births

Births: In 2022 there were 1,939 births in Aberdeen City – a decrease of 5% from 2,041 births in 2021. Of these births, 938 (48.4%) were female and 1,001 (51.6%) were male. The standardised birth rate was 7.0 per 1,000 population (compared to 8.6 for Scotland as a whole) and is the second lowest rate in Scotland, with the lowest being City of Edinburgh at 6 per 1,000 population. The most common age group for mothers is 30-34 years and the least common age group for mothers is 0-19 years. Compared to 20 years ago, more births are now to older mothers, with the number of births to women aged 0-19 years and 20-24 years decreasing (by 86% and 46.1% respectively) and the number of births to women aged 35-39 years and 40 years and increasing by (by 33.1% and 115% respectively) [41]. The number of births varies across the city. The [Intermediate Zone](#) with the highest number of births in 2021 (2022 data not yet available) was Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg South (84 births) and the Intermediate Zone with the lowest number of births was West End North (19 births) [42]. The rate of births (crude rate per 1,000 population) ranged from a low of 5 in Rosemount to a high of 16.5 in Bucksburn South [43].



3.5. Deaths

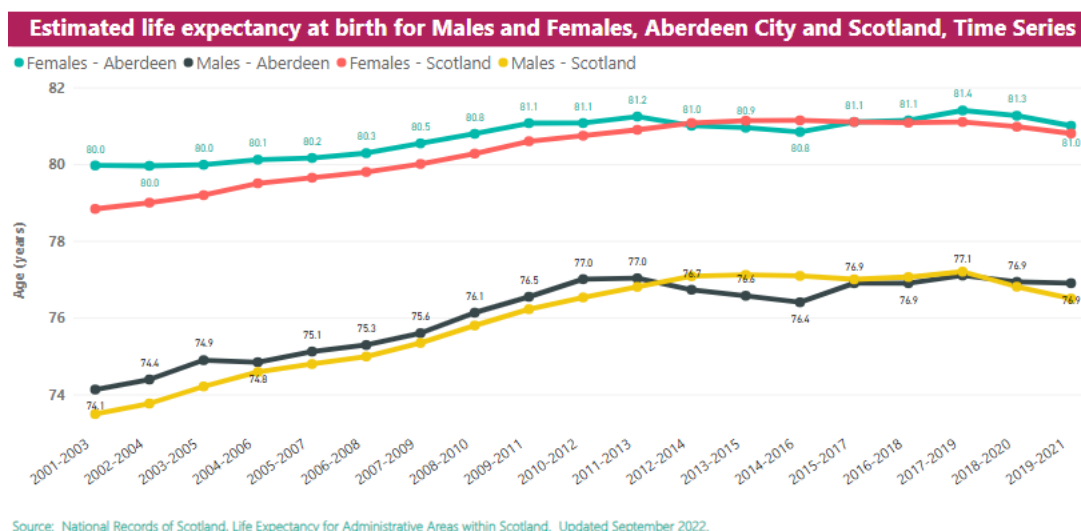
Deaths: In 2022 there were 2,248 deaths in Aberdeen City – a very slight decrease from 2,257 deaths in 2021. Of these deaths, 1,131 (50.3%) were female and 1,117 (49.7%) were male. The age-standardised death rate was 11.4 per 1,000 population compared to 11.5 in Scotland. The highest number of total deaths were in the 85-89 years age group (731 deaths). For females, the most common age group for deaths was 90 years and over and for males the most common age group was 80-84 years [44].

Death rates vary across the city. Based on Intermediate Zones, the most recent data is for 2019-2021 (3-year aggregate). Age-sex standardised rates range from a high of 2,252 per 100,000 population in Woodside to a low of 794 in West End South. The equivalent rate for Aberdeen City is 1,173 [43].

Early deaths (15-44 years, all causes): In 2019-21, the rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) for early deaths in Aberdeen City was 94 which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 117. This rate varied by deprivation, being highest in the most deprived areas. The rate for SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) was 202 per 100,000 population compared to a rate of 36 for SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate for early deaths varies across the City (intermediate Zones). In the period 2019-21, the rate of early deaths ranged from 0.0 per 100,000 population in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield North, Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South and Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg South to 294 per 100,000 population in Woodside. [43].

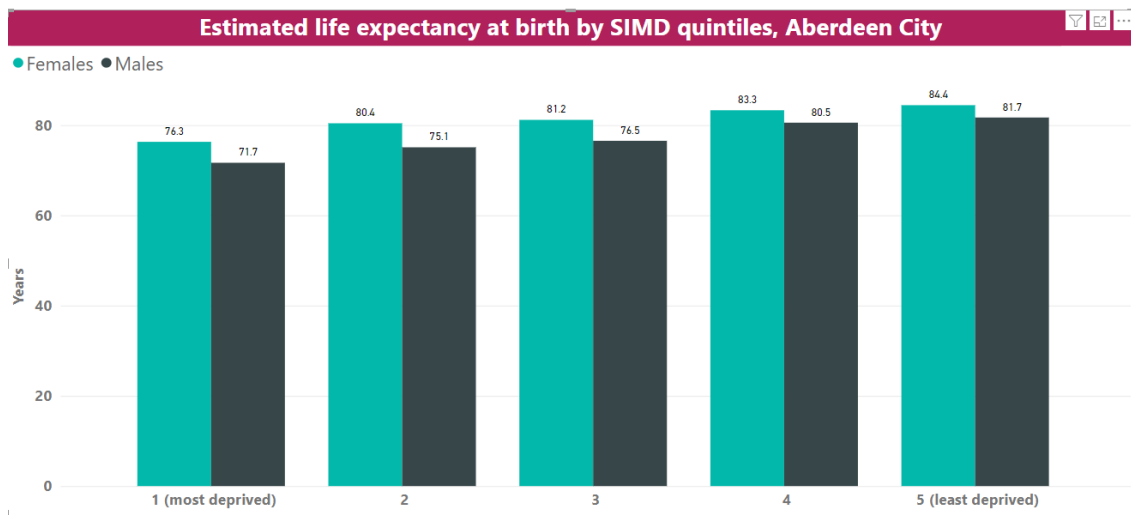
3.6. Estimated life expectancy at birth

Estimated life expectancy: In general, Life Expectancy (LE) at birth is higher for females than for males. In 2019-21 in Aberdeen City LE at birth was estimated to be 81.40 years for women and 76.9 years for men, i.e. on average, a baby girl born in Aberdeen City in 2019-21 could expect to live for 81.0 years while a baby boy born in Aberdeen City in the same period could expect to live for 76.9 years. The estimated LE at birth for both females and males is similar to that for Scotland (80.8 years and 76.5 years respectively) [45]. Across Scotland, life expectancy has increased since the early 1980s but has now remained virtually unchanged since 2012-14, with most of Scotland’s council areas experiencing a slow-down or a stall in life expectancy growth since that time.



Estimated life expectancy by deprivation: Estimated life expectancy is strongly associated with deprivation. In Aberdeen City in 2017-2021, estimated life expectancy for males in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) was 71.7 years compared to 81.7 years for males in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) – a difference of 10 years. For females, the difference in estimated life expectancy was less marked, at 76.3 years for females in quintile 1 compared to 84.4 years for females in quintile 5 – a difference of 8.1 years [45]. Comparison with data from 2013-2017

shows that the gap in estimated life expectancy between most and least deprived quintiles in Aberdeen City has increased for males (previously 9.7 years) and females (previously 7.4 years).

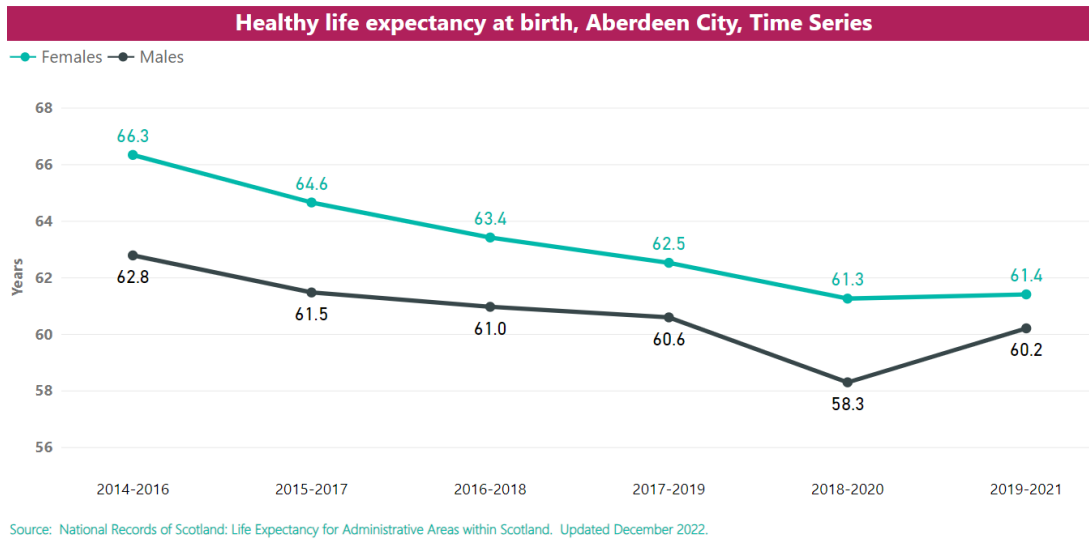


Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland. Updated September 2022.

The relationship between estimated life expectancy and deprivation means that for both males and females there are important differences in estimated life expectancy at birth depending on where you live in Aberdeen City. The most recent data available for smaller geographies ([Intermediate Zones](#)) is for the period 2017-2021 (5-year average). For males, estimated LE at birth ranges from a low of 69.4 years in Woodside to a high of 83.1 years in Braeside, Mannofield and Broomhill & Seafield North – a difference of 13.7 years. For females it ranges from a low of 72 years in Woodside to a high of 86.3 years in West End North – a difference of 14.3 years. [43].

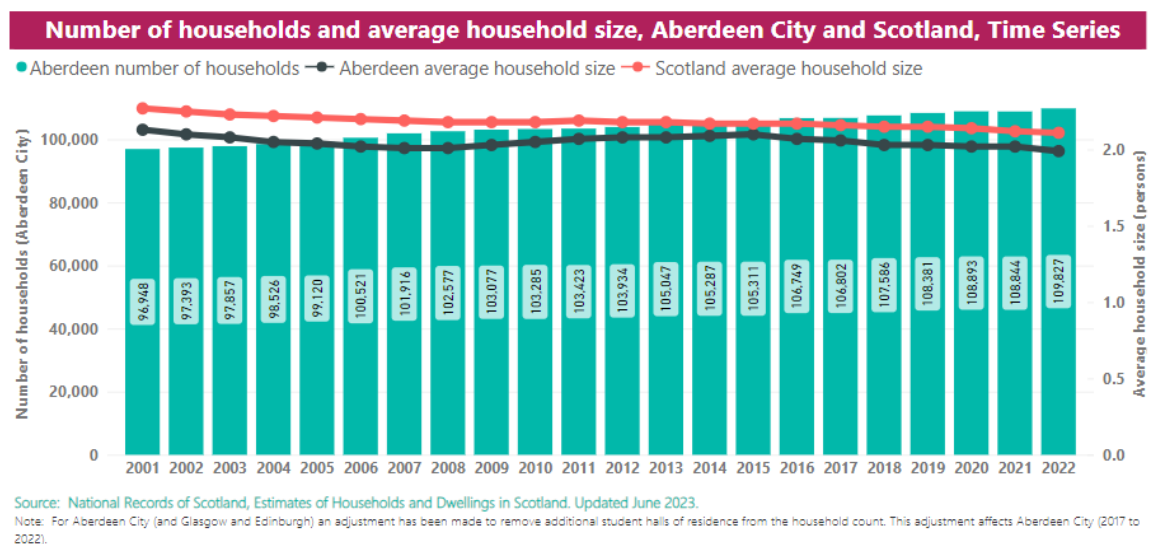
3.7. Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy: While Life Expectancy (LE) counts total years of expected life regardless of level of health, Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) represents the number of years that an individual can expect to live in good health. In 2019-21, males in Aberdeen City had an estimated life expectancy at birth of 76.9 years and a healthy life expectancy of 60.2 years, giving an expected period of ‘not healthy’ health of 16.7 years. This means that a baby boy born in 2019-2021 could expect to live 78.3% of his life in healthy health. In 2019-2021, females in Aberdeen City had an estimated life expectancy at birth of 81.0 years and a healthy life expectancy of 61.4 years, giving an expected period of ‘not healthy’ health of 19.6 years. This means that a baby girl born in 2019-2021 could expect to live 75.7% of their life in healthy health. So while on average females have a higher life expectancy than males, they also spend a higher proportion of their lives in ‘unhealthy health’. In Scotland, HLE is strongly associated with deprivation. Healthy life expectancy for males in the most deprived areas of Scotland was 26 years lower than in the least deprived areas. For females the difference was almost 25 years. In the most deprived areas, males and females spend more than a third of their life in poor health compared to around 15% in the least deprived areas [46].



3.8. Households

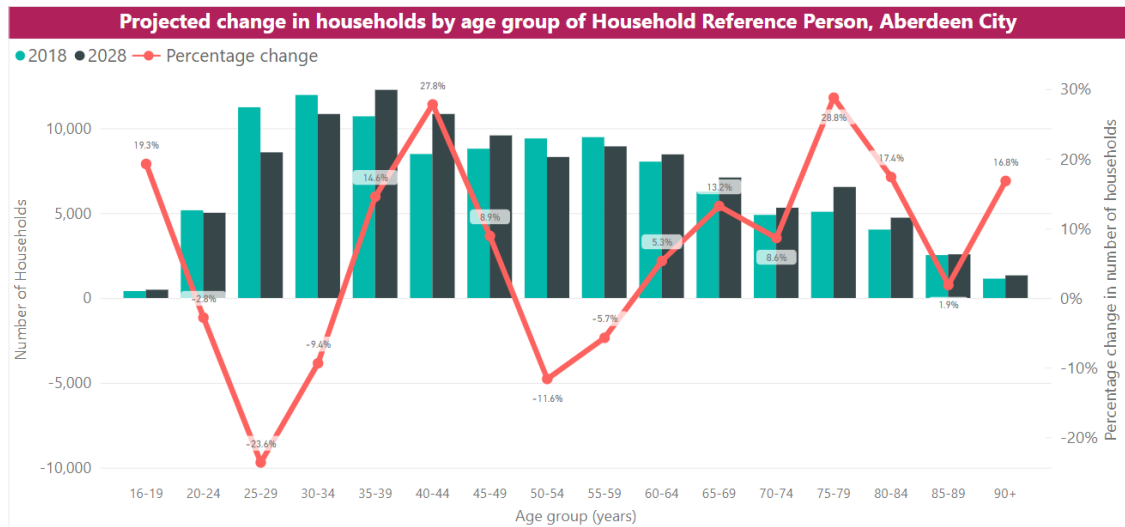
Households: In 2022, there were 109,827 households in Aberdeen City – up from 108,844 households in 2021. Since 2002, the number of households in Aberdeen has increased by 12.8% (12,434 households) which is lower than the average rate for Scotland of 15.3%. The average household size was 1.99 compared to 2.11 for Scotland. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, average household sizes have decreased over the past 20 years (from 2.10 and 2.25 respectively in 2002) [47].



Household projections: As with the population projections, the most recent household projections are 2018-based as so relatively dated. New projections are not expected until early 2024.

Between 2018 and 2028, the number of households in Aberdeen City is projected to increase from 107,586 to 110,884. This is a 3.0% increase, which compares to a projected increase of 5.0% for Scotland as a whole. In 2028, the household type “One adult” is projected to remain the most common in Aberdeen City (38.4% of all households in 2018 and 38.9% in 2028) and

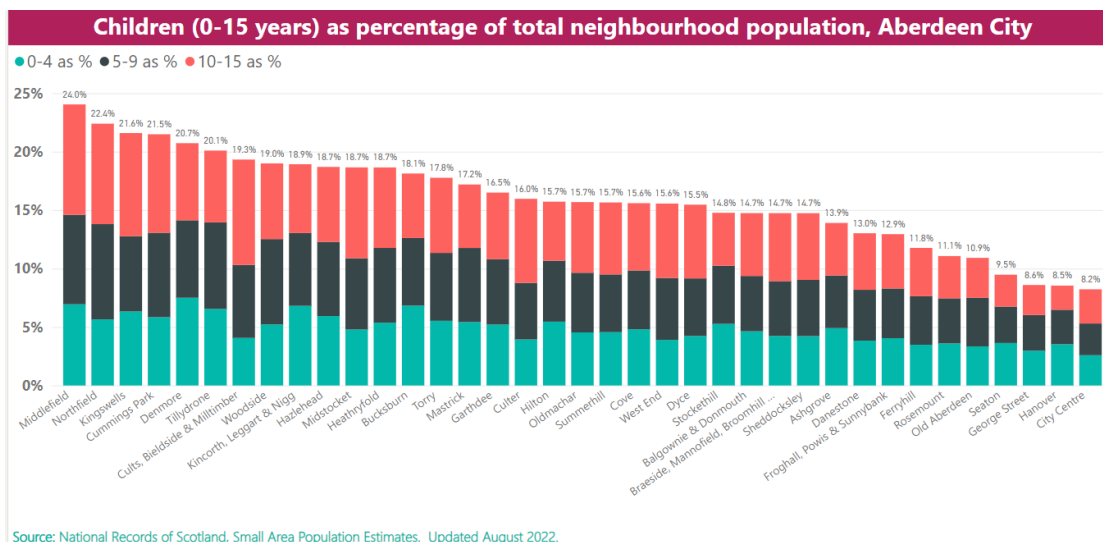
the household type “One adult, one or more children” is projected to remain the least common (3.7% in 2018 and 3.6% in 2028). Between 2018 and 2028, the household type “Three or more adults” is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-5.0%) and the household type “Two or more adults, one or more children” is projected to see the largest percentage increase (5.0%). Based on 5-year age groupings, between 2018 and 2028, the 25 to 29 age group is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-23.6%) and the 35 to 39 age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (28.8%). In terms of size, however, 35 to 39 years is projected to become the largest age group of a Household Reference Person (HRP), compared to 30-34 years in 2018 [48].



4. Children & Young People

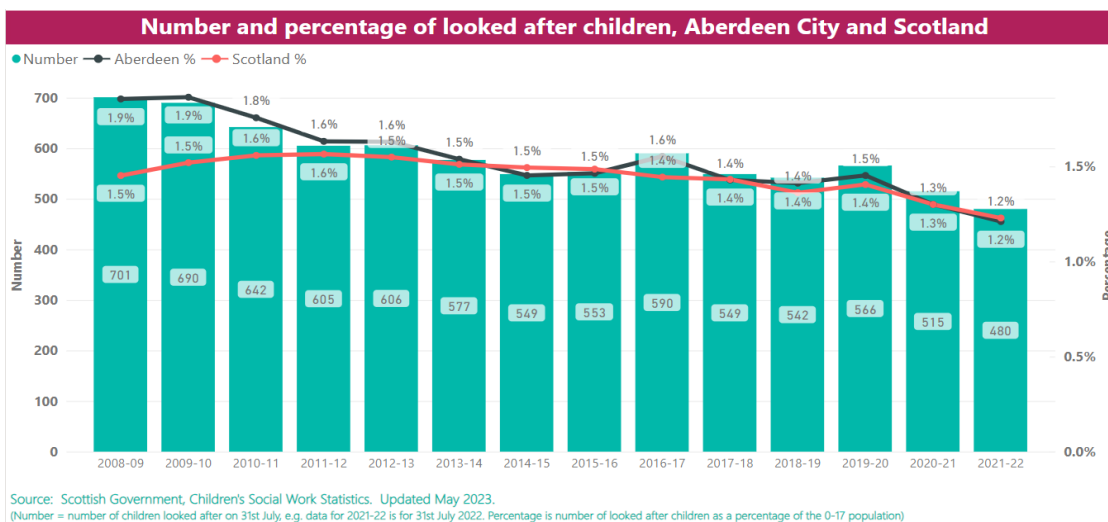
4.1. Child population

Child population: In 2021, there were 35,860 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City – 15.8% of the city’s population [23]. The number and proportion of children varies by neighbourhood. In terms of numbers, Old Aberdeen has the smallest child population (281) while Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber has the largest (2,431). The City Centre has the smallest proportion of children (8.2% of the population of the neighbourhood) and Middlefield the largest (24.0%).

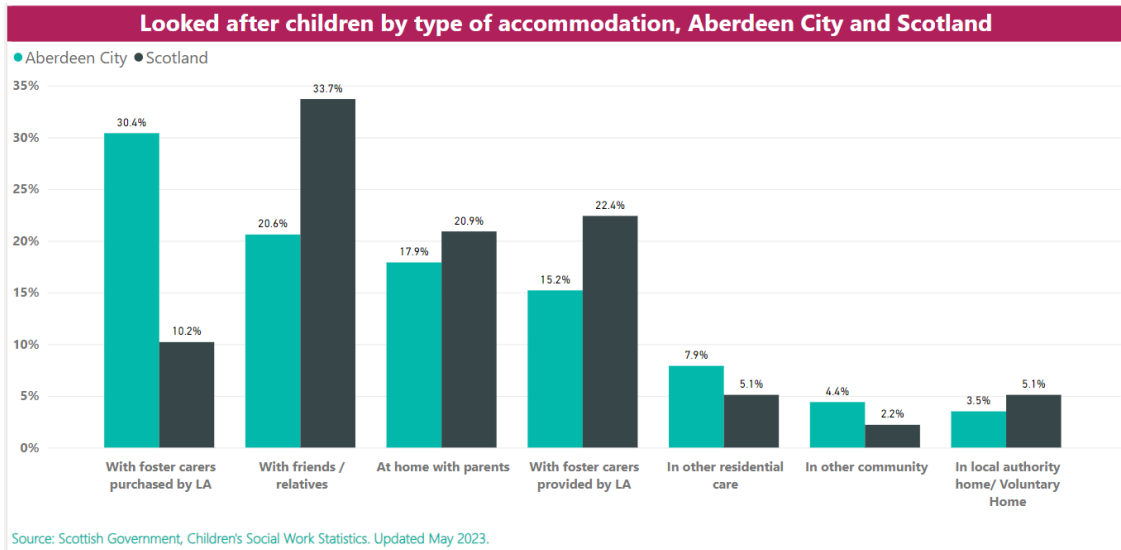


4.2. Looked after children

Looked after children (LAC): Between 1/08/2021 and 31/07/2022, there were 100 children starting to be looked after and 147 ceasing to be looked after. On 31st July 2022 there were 480 looked after children (LAC) in Aberdeen City – equivalent to 1.2% of the 0-17 years population. This is the same as the rate for Scotland. Most (59.1%) looked after children in Aberdeen City are boys, and 17.9% are under 5 years old. Five percent of looked after children are known to be from an ethnic minority group and a quarter (25.4%) are known to have a disability. 16% of LAC are 16 years year or over. [49].

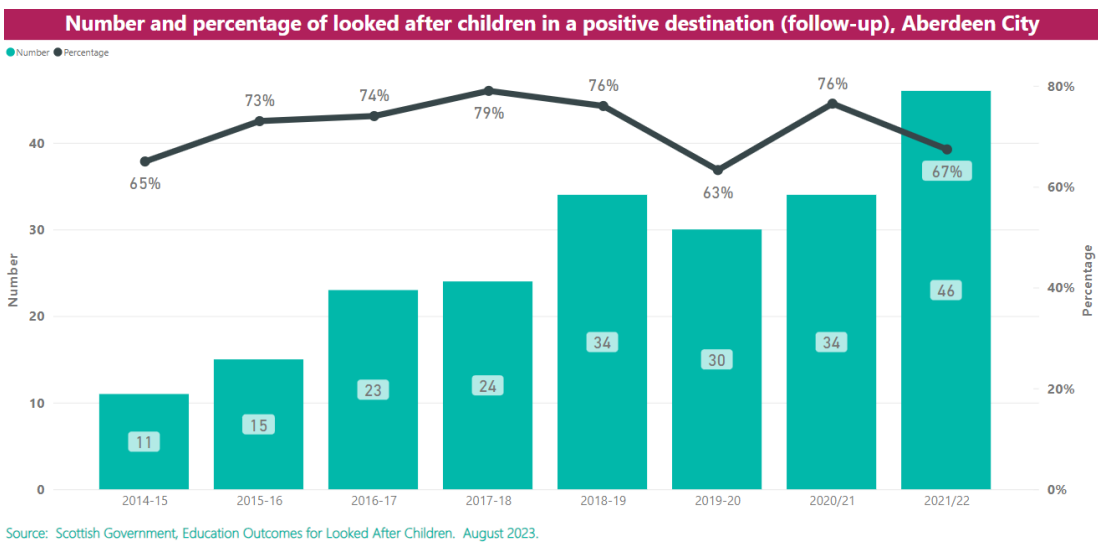


Accommodation: Foster care is the most common setting for looked after children in Aberdeen City. At 38.5%, the proportion of looked after children in kinship care (at home with parents or with friends/relatives) is lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (54.6%) [49]. In 2020-21, 21.2% of LAC had more than 1 placement in the past year – higher than the rate for Scotland of 16.8% [7].

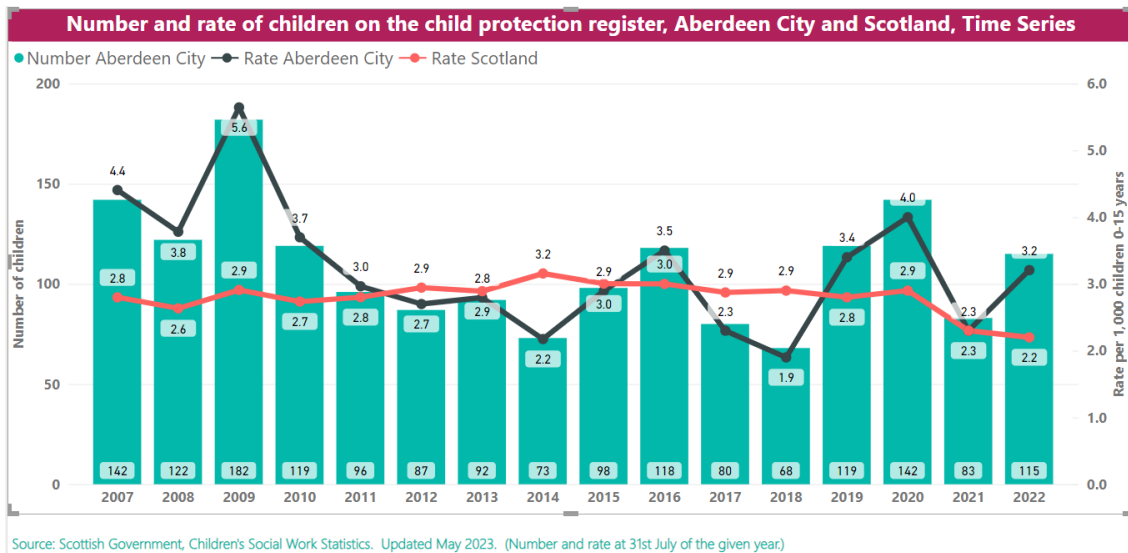


LAC educational outcomes: In 2021/22, 76.1% looked after children in Aberdeen City left school with 1 or more qualification at SCQF level 4 – lower than the rate for Scotland of 78.3% but higher than rate of 65.8% in 2020/21 [50]. Attendance and exclusion data is only available every 2 years. In 2020/21 the attendance rates for looked after children in Aberdeen City was 89.1% compared to 87.9% for Scotland. [The exclusion rate](#) (per 1,000 pupils who were looked after) was lower in Aberdeen (76.5 per 1,000 pupils compared to 77.8 per 1,000 pupils in Scotland) [51].

LAC positive destinations: In 2021/22, 67.4 % of looked after children in Aberdeen City had a positive destination (based on 9-month follow-up survey and children who were looked after for the full year) compared to 70.4% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate for all children of 90.8% (2021/22) . The percentage of children in a positive destination fell in both Aberdeen City and Scotland compared to 2020/21 from 76.5% and 71.5% respectively [50].



Child protection: At 31st July 2022, there were 115 children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) in Aberdeen City. This is an increase from 83 in 2021. The rate of children on the CPR (per 1,000 children aged 0-15 years) was 3.2 compared to 2.2 in Scotland [49]. The most common concerns identified at case conferences of children who were on the child protection register at 31st July 2022 were parental mental health problems (50), neglect (48) and emotional abuse (46). (Note: multiple concerns can be recorded rather than just the main category of concern.) In 2020/21, 2.2% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months – lower than the rate in 2019/20 of 3.1%. In Scotland 7% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months [7].



4.3. Mental health and wellbeing

Information on mental health and wellbeing is informed by the SHINE Mental Health Surveys [52]. Two surveys have been conducted, the first in March 2022 and the second in November/December 2022. During November / December 2022, 9,803 children [52] and young people from P6-S6 completed the Mental Health & Wellbeing Survey developed by the Scottish Schools Health and Wellbeing Improvement Research Network (SHINE), this was a higher return than the previous year (9,428). In real terms this means there were returns from 67% of all pupils from P6 to S6 with a higher proportion of returns from younger year groups. Children and young people from P5-S6 also had the opportunity to undertake a Physical Health & Wellbeing survey developed by the Local Authority. 6,993 pupils completed this survey in November/December 2022.

Given that an individual's mental health and wellbeing is influenced by a wide variety of factors, including environmental, social and the interaction between these, the survey looked at how family affluence (using the Family Affluence Scale – low/medium/high) and gender (boy/girl/did not disclose) impacts wellbeing in the most recent survey. In general, those in the low family affluence group were more likely to report a range of negative outcomes across nearly all the measures within the survey. Similarly, amongst both primary and secondary school pupils, those young people who did not disclose their gender were more likely to report a range of negative outcomes and feelings across nearly all measures.

Primary 6 & 7

In November 2022, 3533 pupils from P6 and P7 completed this survey with 119 pupils not providing details of their gender and 46 pupils not identifying their year group. This is a slightly higher return from last year (3,514) and is thought to be due to the rising school roll.

General health: 82%, 2897 (80%, 2811 in March 2022) of learners in primary 6 and 7 who responded reported that their health was excellent or good. The proportion of pupils self-reporting Excellent or Good Health in November 2022, with the exception of P6 boys, has improved across combined gender and stage in comparison with March 2022. The percentage who reported their health was excellent or good varied by Family Affluence (from 73% with low family affluence to 89% for those with high family affluence) and gender (61% for those who did not disclose their gender, 82% for boys and 84% for girls).

Happiness: Learners were asked to rate how happy they were with various aspects of life (appearance, school, future, health, choice, friends, family, time use, things you have, home and overall). Across P6 and P7, learners were positive about many aspects of their lives. However, across both age groups and gender categories, 'Appearance' was still lower than other aspects of their lives with 24% of P6 learners and 30% of P7 learners noting appearance as a concern (down from 27% and 35% respectively in March 2022). Young people in the lowest family affluence group were more likely to report low levels of happiness across a range of life domains than their more affluent peers. In particular, Those in the lowest group were more than twice as likely to report low levels of happiness with life as a whole, the home they live in, choices available to them, friendships, appearance, their future and school than their peers in the least deprived cohort. Similarly, those who did not disclose their gender were nearly 6 times more likely to be negative about life as a whole than their peers. Only thoughts about free time were in line with peers.

WHO-5 Wellbeing Index: This is a five item scale which provides a measure of emotional functioning, with a score of 50 or less indicating low mood. A score of 28 or less indicates at risk of depression. Based on this scale, 75% of those in P6 & 7 did not show evidence of low mood. Again this differed by family affluence with 34% of pupils from the low affluence group reporting low mood compared with 23% in the medium affluence group and 15% of those in the most affluent group. Additionally, the difference between outcomes for those deemed to be at risk of depression was more prevalent with those identified as being least affluent nearly 4 times more likely to be at risk compared to those deemed the most affluent. Low mood also varied by gender with girls (26%) more likely to report low mood than boys (22%), but with those who did not disclose their gender (51%) more than twice as likely to have low mood than their peers. Those who did not disclose were twice as likely to report being at risk of depression (15% compared to 7% for both boys and girls).

Self Confidence: Learners were asked about how confident they felt in themselves. 57% of P6 & P7 pupils stated that they always or often felt confident (up from 52% in March 2022). Again this varied by family affluence (low 49%, medium 58% and high 66%) and gender (boy 65%, girl 50% and did not disclose 27%).

Secondary 1-6

In November 2022, 59% 6270 (60%, 5914 in March 2022) learners from S1-S6 completed the secondary survey with 292 learners choosing not to provide details of their gender and 98 learners not identifying their year group.

General health: In November 2022, 73% of learners in S1-6 reported that their general health was excellent or good (up from 70% in March 2022). Levels of self-reported health varied by year group. Reporting good or excellent health was also associated with family affluence with 81% of secondary pupils in the high family affluence group rating their health as good or excellent compared with 61% of those in the low family affluence group. There were also differences by gender with only 39% of those who did not disclose reporting excellent or good health (compared to 69% of girls and 79% of boys).

Happiness: Within Secondary Schools, it was clear that the aspects of their lives learners were most happy with are, home, things they had, time use, friends and family, with school and appearance consistently receiving lower scores. Overall, 25% (a reduction of 6% of learners since March 2022) report low happiness linked to 'Appearance' and 20% (a reduction of 3%), linked to 'School'. Although there is a notable reduction in both areas, showing a positive step forward, there continues to be, however from Primary to Secondary, an increase from 10% of primary learners to 20% of secondary learners who report low happiness regarding school. Family affluence heavily influences happiness at the secondary phase. Those in the low affluence group were twice as likely to be unhappy with life in general than those in the highest affluence group. Those in the lower affluence group were 5 times more likely to express unhappiness with the home they live in. In terms of low happiness with life, across nearly all of the measures, pupils who didn't disclose their gender expressed the most unhappiness.

WHO-5 Wellbeing Index: This is a five item scale which provides a measure of emotional functioning, with a score of 50 or less indicating low mood. A score of 28 or less indicates at risk of depression. In November 2022, 40% of S1-6 learners self-rated below the 50-score threshold - down from 47% in March 2022. In general, the proportion of learners indicating low mood is higher in girls than boys and increases by year group (although in November 2022 the percentage of both boys and girls expressing low mood dropped between S5 and S6 – from 35% to 31% for boys and from 65% to 54% for girls). Comparison between March and November data shows a reduction in the number of learners at risk of depression in both gender groups and most year groups although the percentage of girls at risk of depression remains higher for girls than for boys. Family affluence strongly influences both low mood and a risk of depression with the percentage of those in the lower affluence group being higher than for those in the higher affluence groups. Those who did not disclose their gender are also more likely to self-report low mood and be considered at risk of depression.

Self Confidence: In November 2022, the proportion of S1-S6 pupils who report always or often feeling confident was 41% (up from 35% in March 2022). A higher proportion of boys than girls reported always or often feeling confident across all year groups (with an average of 53.7% for boys and 27.3% for girls).

Feeling safe: Learners were asked to consider how safe they felt within various environments and across all schools and year groups, the majority of learners reported that they felt safe always or most of the time in their communities (87%), at home (96%) and in school (81%), however there is a percentage of learners who reported that they rarely or never feel safe in these environments.

Feeling listened to: Being available to listen to children and young people, is essential for supporting individual needs and understanding fully what is required. Learners were asked if they had an adult in their lives that listens to them about how they are feeling. 68% positively shared that they always did, showing an increase of 4%. 5% (345) also stated no, they did not have an adult in their life that listens to them about how they are feeling. This is a similar percentage of learners from March 2022.

Child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS)

The NHS in Scotland provides mental health services for children and young people with a wide range of mental health conditions including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, behaviour problems, depression and early onset psychosis. This treatment is provided through Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services. Data is available by Health Board. In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 4,144 referrals received in Grampian Health Board, of which 3,135 (75.6%) were accepted. At the end of March 2023, there were 335 patients waiting to be seen. Of these 321 (95.8%) had been waiting less than 18 weeks (target period) [53].

4.4. Education

School and pupil numbers: In 2022 there were 14,573 primary school pupils and 10,430 secondary school pupils in Aberdeen City. There were also 140 pupils enrolled in Special Schools. The total number of pupils was 25,143 [54].

Additional support needs/disability: In 2022, 36.5% (5,315) of primary pupils and 43.5% (4,541) of secondary pupils had additional support needs. The most common reason for support for both primary and secondary pupils was English as an additional language. In 2022, 6,294 (25%) of all pupils in Aberdeen City did not have English as their main home language. The five main home languages (other than English) are Polish, Arabic, Russian, Urdu and Ukrainian. In 2022, 518 school pupils were assessed and/or declared as having a disability and 802 pupils had autistic spectrum disorder [54].

Attendance: Percentage attendance is calculated in relation to the total number of possible attendances (half-days). In 2020/21, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 94.3% and for secondary schools the rate was 90.7%. The respective rates for Scotland were 91.4% and 83.2% [55].

Exclusions: In 2020/21 there were 408 cases of exclusion in Aberdeen City (77 in Primary Schools and 331 in Secondary schools) – down from 1,221 in 2018/19. This is equivalent to a rate of 17.2 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. The rate of exclusions was higher in secondary schools (105.8) than in primary schools (19.7). The number of pupils excluded was also higher in secondary schools (237) than primary schools (57) [56].

Free school meals (FSM): In 2022/23, 77% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were registered for FSM in mainstream local authority schools. (Note: from the beginning of the 2022/23 school year all pupils up to and including P5 were eligible for FSM under the universal provision. 22.3% of P6 and 18.7% of P7 pupils were registered for FSM.) At secondary school level, 16.6% of pupils were registered for FSM – up from 15.7% in 2021 and 13.9% in 2020. Since 2022, all pupils at special schools all eligible for FSM [54].

Eco-Schools: 100 Aberdeen schools are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and 13 have achieved green flags [57].

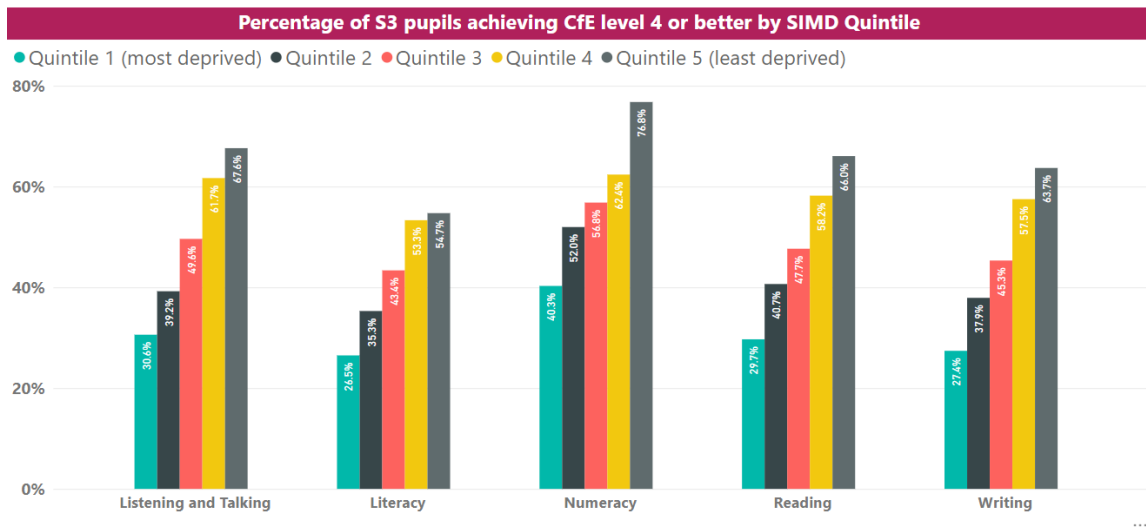
Attainment

Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels: Data on achievement against expected levels (Early Level, First Level, Second Level, Third level or better and Fourth Level) is given at four stages – P1, P4, P7 and S3 – in five areas: reading, writing, listening and talking, literacy and numeracy. In 2021/22, with a few exceptions, the proportion of pupils in Aberdeen City achieving the expected level is similar to or lower than the equivalent proportion for Scotland as a whole [58].

Percentage of pupils achieving expected levels						
		P1	P4	P7	S3	S3
		Early Level	First Level	Second Level	Third Level or better	Fourth Level
Reading	Aberdeen City	76%	76%	80%	84%	51%
	Scotland	79%	76%	79%	88%	54%
Writing	Aberdeen City	74%	69%	74%	83%	49%
	Scotland	77%	70%	73%	87%	52%
Listening and talking	Aberdeen City	84%	86%	85%	85%	52%
	Scotland	86%	85%	86%	89%	55%
Literacy	Aberdeen City	70%	66%	71%	80%	44%
	Scotland	74%	67%	71%	86%	48%
Numeracy	Aberdeen City	82%	74%	76%	89%	61%
	Scotland	84%	75%	76%	89%	59%

Source: Scottish Government, Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels 2021/22 [58]

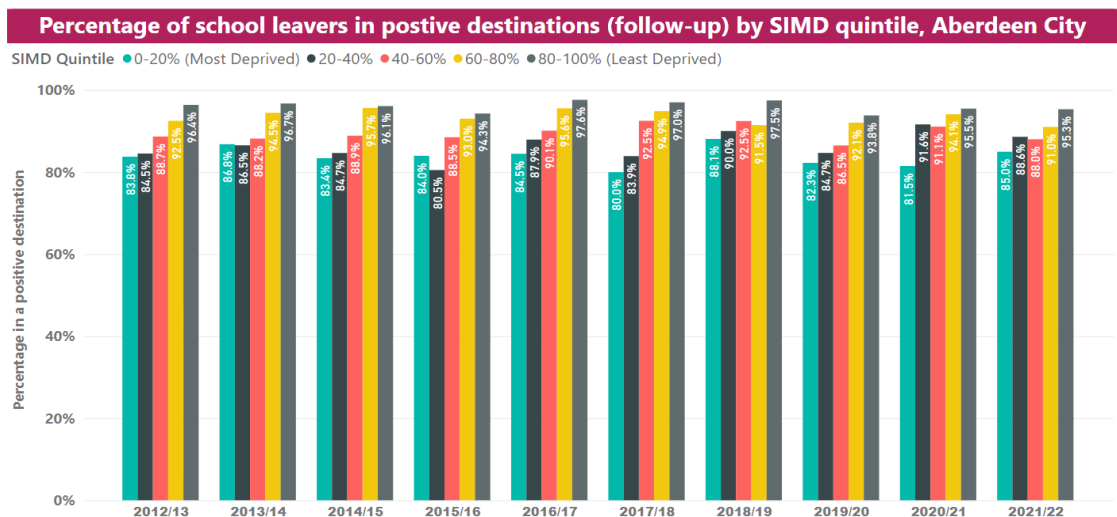
Achievement of expected levels varies by deprivation. In Aberdeen City in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% (SIMD 2016) achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%. As an example, the chart below shows the percentage of S3 pupils achieving Fourth Level in each of the five areas [58].



SCQF Literacy and Numeracy: In 2021/22 88% of school leavers achieved literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 4 or better (same as in 2020/21) and 64% achieved literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 5 or better (compared to 65% in 2021/22) [59]. 70% of pupils gained 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 – up from 63% in 2020/21 [7].

Positive destinations: Follow-up destinations for school leavers are for outcomes approximately 9 months after the end of the school year. In 2021/22, 90.8% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, a decrease from 92.1% in 2020/21 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 93.5%. The most common destinations were higher education (39.9% of school leavers), further education (24.3%) and employment (24%) [60].

The percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination varied by deprivation (based on SIMD) with 85% of school leavers in the most deprived quintile having a positive destination compared to 95.3% of those in the least deprived quintile [60].



(Note: caution is advised in interpretation of 2019/20 figures due to the impact of COVID-19)

Participation in Education Employment or Training: The Skills Development Scotland Participation measure provides information on the current position of all children and young people between the age of 16 to 19 years, where they remain in school or have since left. In 2022, 91.2% of 16-19 year olds were participating in education, employment or training – up from 89.4% in 2021 [61].

Participation of Disabled Young People: In 2022, 86.8% of those identified as disabled were participating in education, employment or training – an increase from 83.6% in 2021 but lower than the rate for 2020 of 87.9%. The participation rate for those identified as disabled is lower than participation among non-disabled young people who in 2022 had 91.4% participation rates [61].

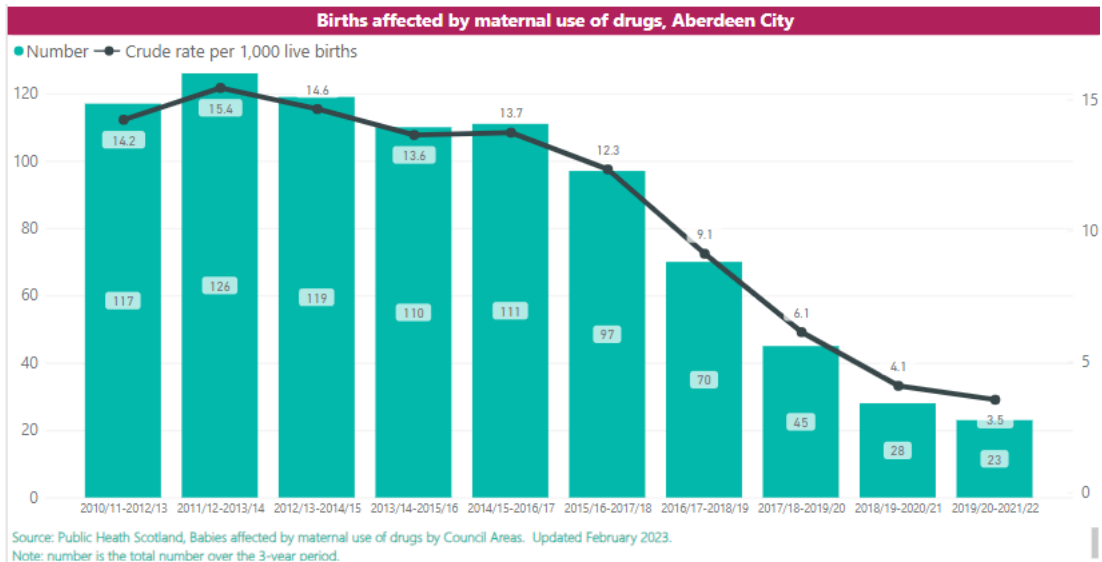
Participation levels in the 20% Most Deprived Communities: In 2022, participation rates were lower for those in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) than for those in the 20% least deprived areas (95.9%) [61].

Foundation apprenticeships (FAs): To date, six cohorts of pupils have participated in FAs (SCQF L6). In 2021/22 there were 117 enrolments for Cohort 6 and there are currently 15 FAs in training, down from 112 in the previous period [62].

4.5. Children – early years

Smoking during pregnancy: In 2019/20 to 2021/22 (3-year aggregate), 12.1% of women in the City with a known smoking status were recorded as a ‘current smoker’ at their first antenatal appointment. Rates of smoking during pregnancy are slightly lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (12.9%) and have decreased gradually over the past few years. Rates are highest in the most deprived areas (SIMD quintile 1) at 23.7% compared to 2.9% in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates of smoking during pregnancy vary across the City (HSC localities) at 11% in Aberdeen South, 12% in Aberdeen North and 13% in Aberdeen Central [43].

Maternities with drug use: In the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 there were 121 maternities with drug misuse recorded. This is equivalent to a rate of 18.8 (crude rate per 1,000 maternities) which is higher than the rate for Scotland of 16.6 [63]. In the same period there were 23 babies affected by maternal use of drugs, equivalent to a rate of 3.5 (crude rate per 1,000 live births). The rate of babies affected by maternal use of drugs has fallen substantially in recent years [64].



Healthy birth weight: In 2019/20 to 2021/22 (3-year aggregate), 85.1% of babies born in Aberdeen City were a healthy birth weight compared to 84.1% in Scotland. The proportion of babies who are a healthy birth weight has remained relatively stable over the past few years. Rates vary across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) ranging from a low of 73.3% in Culter to a high of 95.4% in West End South [43].

Premature births: In 2019/20 to 2021/22 (3-year aggregate), 8.3% of births in Aberdeen City were premature, similar to the rate for Scotland of 8.2%. The rate of premature births varied across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 2% in Culter, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 15% in Summerhill [43].

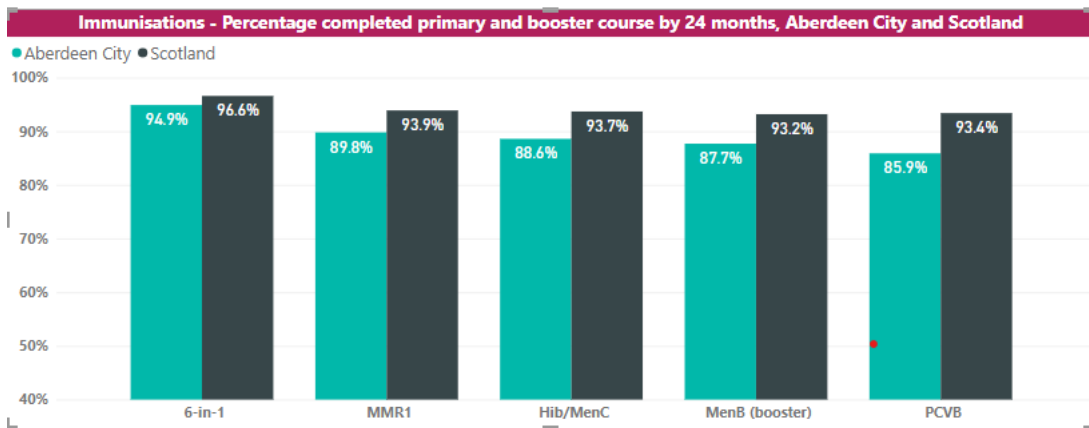
Infant deaths: In 2017-21, the rate (crude rate per 1,000 live births) of infant deaths (age 0-1 years) in Aberdeen City was 3.1 – lower than the rate for Scotland of 3.4 but higher than the rate for 2016-18 of 2.5 [43].

Breast-feeding: In 2019/20 to 2021/22 (3-year aggregate), 41.2% of babies in the City were exclusively breast-fed at the time of their 6-8 week review. This is significantly higher than the Scottish average of 31.9%. While the overall rate of breastfeeding for the City has increased over the past few years, there is variation across the City (based on [Intermediate Zones](#)) with rates ranging from a low of 16.9% in Heathryfold & Middlefield to a high of 76.0% in Culter, Bieldside & Milltimber East [43].

Exposure to second-hand smoke: In 2019/20 to 2021/22 (3-year aggregate), 7.6% of babies were reported as being exposed to second-hand smoke at their 6-8 week review. This is slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 6.9%. The percentage of babies exposed to second-hand smoke has remained fairly static in Aberdeen in the last few periods [43].

Immunisation: In Scotland there is a national target for 95% of children to complete courses of routine childhood immunisations by 24 months of age. In 2022, rates of babies who have completed the primary and booster courses for these immunisations by 24 months are lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland and are lower than the 95% target [65]. Uptake of immunisation varies by [Intermediate Zone](#). In 2019-21, percentage uptake of 6-in-1 at 24 months ranged from 89.5% in City Centre West to 100% in Hannover North and Oldmachar

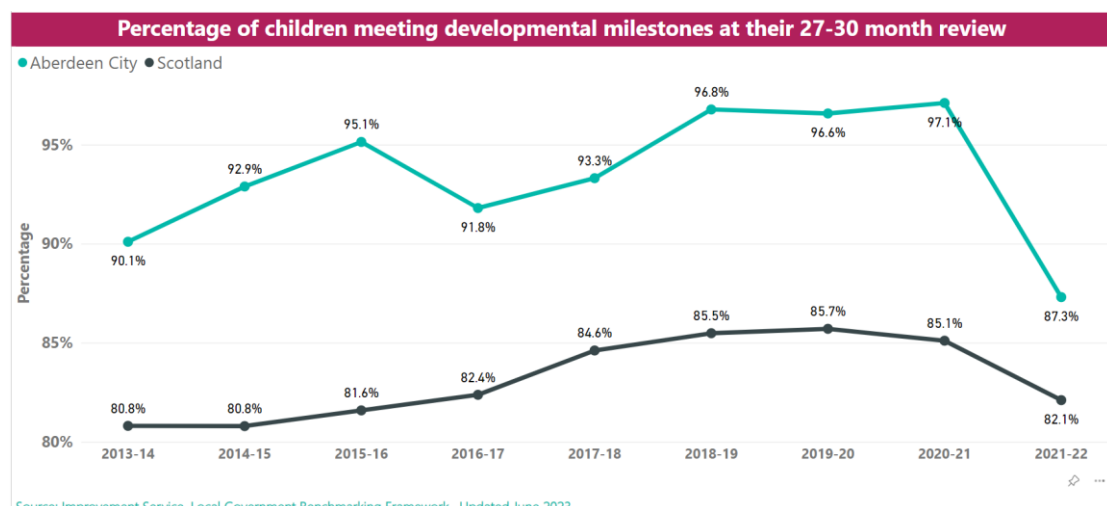
East and uptake of MMR ranged from 79.6% in City Centre East to 99.1% in Oldmachar East [43].



Source: ISD Scotland, Childhood Immunisation Statistics. Updated March 2023.

Developmental concerns at 27-30 months: At 27-30 month reviews, the health professional (normally a health visitor) assesses children’s developmental status and records the outcome (e.g. no concern, concern newly suspected as a result of the review, or concern or disorder already known prior to the review) against each of nine developmental domains (social, emotional, behavioural, attention, speech language & communication, gross motor, fine motor, vision and hearing). It has been recognised that an impact of covid/lockdown has resulted in an increase in speech and language concerns being evident at routine reviews. In 2021-22, 87.3% of children reviewed had no concerns identified at the review – down from 97.1% in 2020-21 [7]. In 2021-22 77.6% of children who were eligible for the 27-30 month review received a review - down from 83.3% in 2020-21.

In 2018/19-2020/21, the percentage of children with one or more developmental concern varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 0.0% in West End North to a high of 14% in City Centre East (2018/19-2020/21) [43].



Source: Improvement Service, Local Government Benchmarking Framework. Updated June 2023.

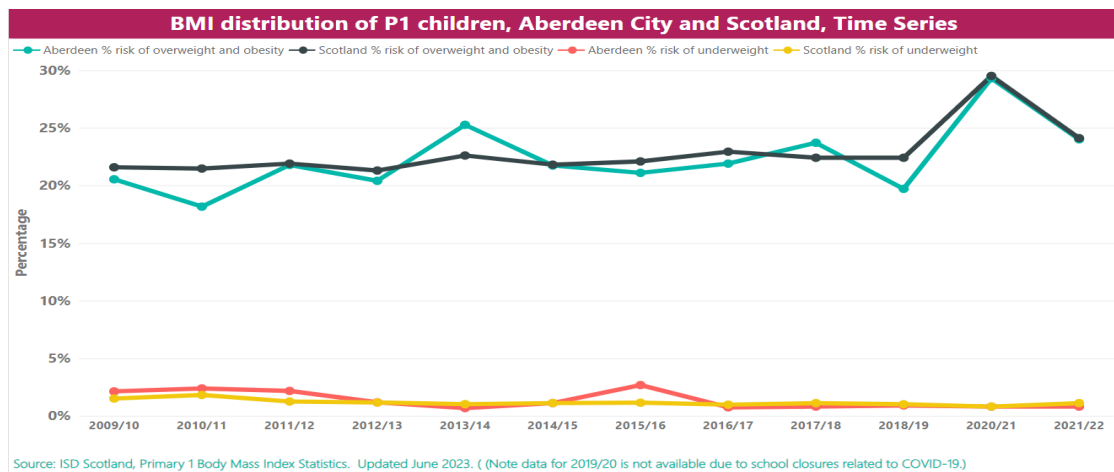
Unintentional injury in children under 5 years: In 2019/20 to 2021/22 there were 137 emergency hospital admissions for unintentional injury in children under 5 years (3-year rolling

average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 1,205 per 100,000 population – higher than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 1,005. After steadily falling for a number of years, the rate of emergency admissions for unintentional injuries has remained fairly static over the past few data periods [43].

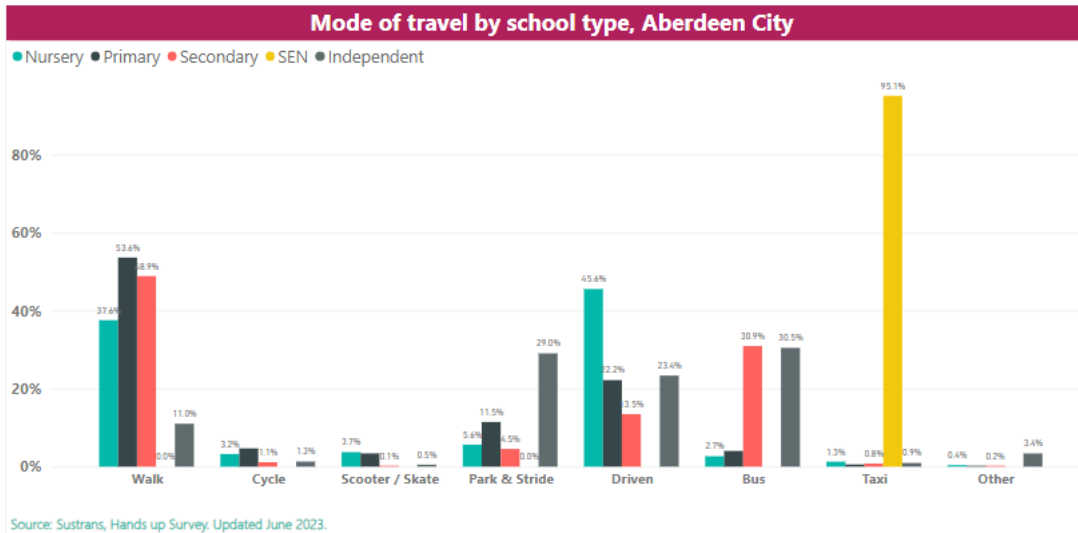
4.6. Child health

Healthy weight/BMI: In 2021/22, valid height and weight measurements were recorded for 1,972 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen City (equivalent to 80.4% of the 5 year-old population). Of these, 75.3% were classified as ‘healthy weight’ (BMI greater than 2nd centile and less than 85th centile) – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland of 74.7%. Based on 2020/21 data, the percentage of P1 children who were a healthy weight varied across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from 50% in Sheddocksley to 95% in West End North [43].

In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the percentage of P1 children classified as being at risk of overweight and obesity (BMI greater than or equal to 85th centile) spiked in the immediate post-COVID-19 period (from 19.7% in 2018/19 to 29.2% in 2020/21 for Aberdeen City). In 2021/22, the figure dropped to 24% in both Aberdeen and Scotland. The percentage of P1 children classified as at risk of underweight remained at less than 1% (Note: no data is available for 2019/20 due to COVID-19) [66].



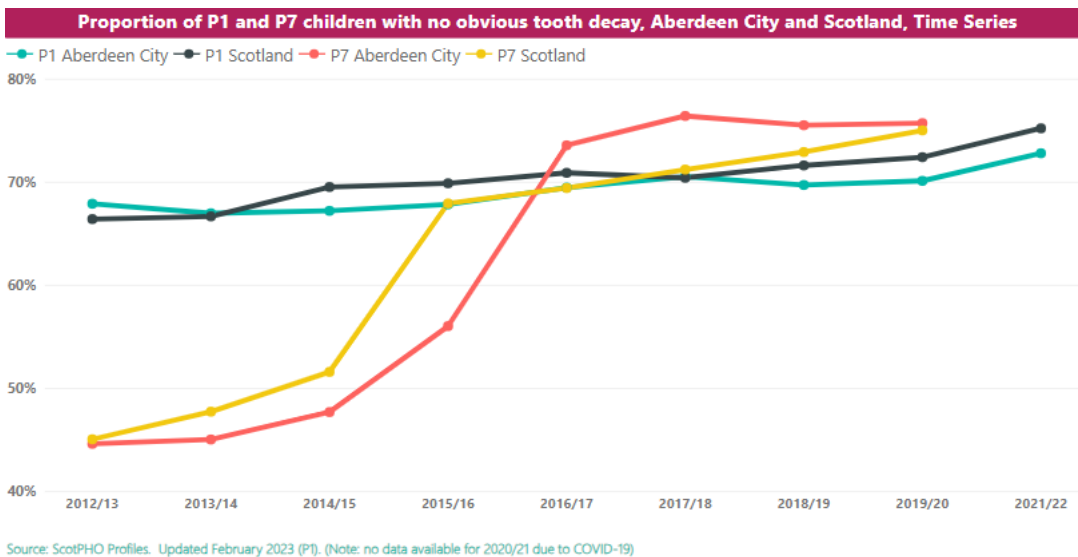
Active travel to school: In 2022, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (49%), followed by being driven (19.8%) and bus (13.2%). Mode of travel varied by type of school. Walking was the most common mode of travel for both primary (53.6%) and secondary (48.9%) pupils, while nursery children were most commonly driven to school (45.6%) with 37.6% walking. Pupils at SEN schools most commonly travelled by taxi (95.1%). The most common modes of travel for pupils at independent schools were bus (30.5%) and Park & Stride (29.0%) [67].



While still relatively high, the proportion of children who walk to school has fallen since 2010, with a noticeable drop between 2011 (58.3%) and 2012 (49.7%). Since then the proportion of children who walk has remained relatively stable at around 49% to 50% with some minor fluctuations.

Dental health: In 2021/22, 72.8% of P1 pupils in Aberdeen had no obvious tooth decay – slightly lower than the average rate for Scotland of 75.2%. This rate varied by deprivation, being lowest for those in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) at 55.1% and highest in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) at 81%. Across the City (Intermediate Zones), the proportion of [P1 pupils](#) with no obvious tooth decay ranged from a low of 44% in Torry East to a high of 90% in both Rosemount and Balgownie & Donmouth East. Since 2012/13 the percentage of P1 children with no obvious decay has increased from 67.9% to 72.8%.

In 2019/20 (no data published for 2021/22), the proportion of [P7 children](#) with no obvious tooth decay was 75.7% compared to 75% in Scotland. Again, there was variation by deprivation (67.9% in SIMD quintile 1 and 81.6% in SIMD quintile 5) and variation across the City with proportions ranging from a low of 50% in Hannover South to a high of 94% in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber West. The proportion of P7 children with no obvious decay increased markedly between 2014/15 (47.7%) and 2017/18 (76.4%) and but has fallen slightly in the last two periods where data was available [43].



Uptake of HPV vaccine in S3 girls: In 2019/20-2021/22, 76.6% (3-year rolling average percentage) of S3 girls had their HPV vaccine – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland (78.8%) and lower than the rate for 2018/19-2020/21 of 78.9%. Rates for uptake of HPV vaccine have decreased in each of the last eight periods in Aberdeen City from 91.4% in 2011/12-2013/14. Rates of HPV vaccine uptake vary by deprivation, being lowest at 63.3% in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) and highest in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) at 86.6%. Across the city (Intermediate zones) rates range from a low of 38.7% in Tillydrone to a high of 93.5% in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield East [43].

Teenage pregnancies: As in Scotland as a whole, the rate of teenage pregnancies (15-19 years) in Aberdeen City has reduced significantly over the past 10 years from 47.8 per 1,000 population (crude rate per 1,000 females aged 5-19 years) in 2008-2010 to 29.3 in 2018-2020 – slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 27.1. The rate of teenage pregnancies varies by deprivation from a high of 58.2 per 1,000 females age 15-19 years in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) to a low of 10.4 in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) [43]. The percentage of first-time mothers who are aged 19 years and under varies across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from 0.0% to 19.2% (most recent data 2016/17-2018/19) [68]. The rate of pregnancies for females under 16 years has also decreased in recent years - from a high of 10 per 1,000 females aged 13-15 years in 2009/11, to 2.2 per 1,000 in 2019/21 [69].

4.7. Smoking, alcohol, and drug use

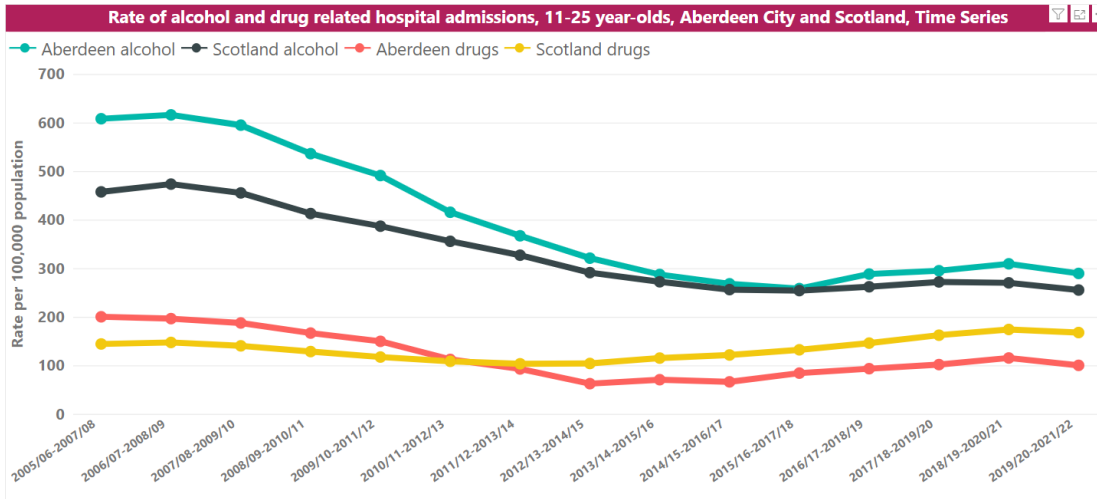
Data on smoking, alcohol and drug use/misuse is available from the Physical Wellbeing Survey [52]. 6,993 learners from P5-S6 completed the Physical wellbeing survey in November and December 2022. This is an increase of 800 (11.4%) pupils from March 2022.

Smoking: In November 2022, 6.7% (473) of learners reported that they have tried smoking (either cigarettes or e-cigarettes) – a reduction of 1.3% from March 2022. 2% (149) of young people reported that they use e-cigarettes or vapes once a week or more.

Alcohol: Learners were asked about alcohol consumption, regularity and type of alcoholic drinks consumed. 88%, 6137 (84.64%, 5242 in March 2022) of learners stated that they had never had a drink of alcohol. From March 2022 there has been a slight reduction from 80 to 62 learners who state that they get drunk weekly, with Cider, Spirits and Alcopops highlighted as those most often selected for regular consumption.

Drugs: Most (6,848) learners stated that they had never used drugs, however 2% (145) of learners reported that they have taken illegal drugs, drugs formerly known as legal highs, solvents or prescription drugs that were not prescribed for the. 21 of our learners also stated that they use drugs daily with the largest number of responses linked to cannabis, followed by Ketamine and Cocaine.

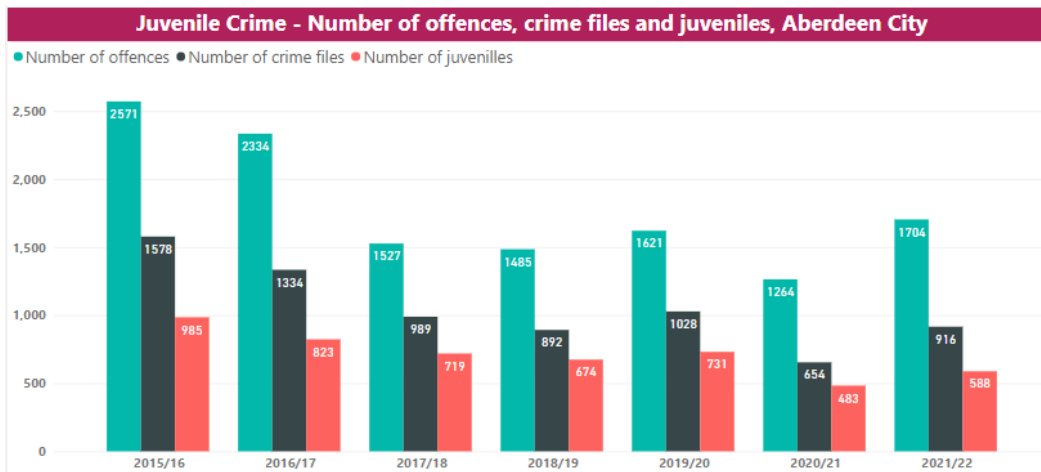
Alcohol- and drug-related hospital admissions, 11-25 years: In the period 2019/20-2021/22 the rate (per 100,000 population) of alcohol-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 289 compared to 255 in Scotland. In the same period, the rate of drug-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 100 in Aberdeen City – lower than the rate of 168 in Scotland. While there was a slight dip in the most recent figures, the rates for alcohol and drug-related hospital admissions appear to be on a gradual upward trend [43].



Source: ScotPHO Profiles. 3-year aggregates. Updated January 2023 (drug related) and March 2023 (alcohol related). (3 year rolling average number and directly age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population.)

4.8. Juvenile crime

Juvenile crime: In 2021/22, 588 young people (under 18 years) were identified as an accused – up from 483 in 2020/21. In the same period, the total number of Offences increased from 1,264 to 1,704 and the number of CrimeFiles increased from 654 to 916. In 2020/21, 361 (61.4%) of the juveniles were aged 8-15 years and 227 were aged 16-17 years. Just under three quarters (73.1%) were male. The most common type of offence for 8-15 year-olds and 16-17 year-olds was Miscellaneous offences. Over a third (34.5%) of juveniles appeared on more than one CrimeFile [70].



Source: Police Scotland, Comparative Report on Juvenile Offenders, Aberdeen City Local Authority Area. Updated May 2023.

Anti-social behaviour: In 2022, a total of 2,936 Youth Anti-social Behaviour calls were reported to the Police – down slightly from 3,015 in 2021 [71]. Quarterly data from 2023 is being compiled and will be made available in the near future. Following Covid-19, there has been a notable reduction in tolerance for youths by the public. This has resulted in more calls being received regarding youth disorder/annoyance, where the behaviour is in fact normal youth behaviour.

Referred to Children’s Reporter on offence grounds: in 2022/23 there were 273 young people referred to the Children’s Reporter, with 112 being referred on offence grounds – down from

136 in 2021/22. In 2022/23, 69 young people were jointly reported to the Children's Reporter and the Procurator Fiscal, down from 91 in 2021/22 [72] .

Diversion from prosecution: In 2021-22, 60 16-17 year-olds were diverted from prosecution – up from 40 in 2020-21 [73].

Criminal Justice Social Work Reports for 16-17 year olds: In 2021/22 there were 10 CJSW reports submitted for 16-17 year olds in Aberdeen City, down from 16 in 2020/21 and 30 in 2019/20 [73].

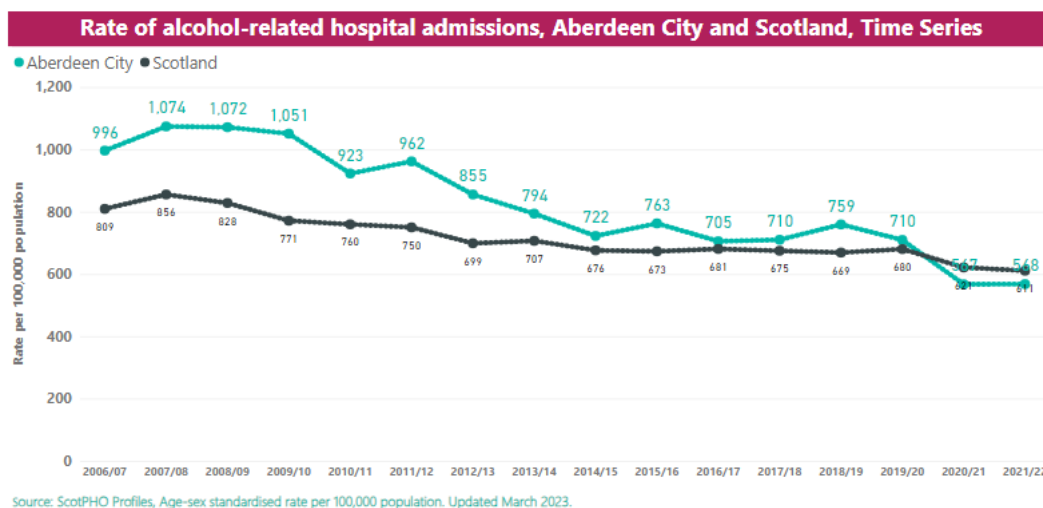
5. Adults

5.1. Health behaviours

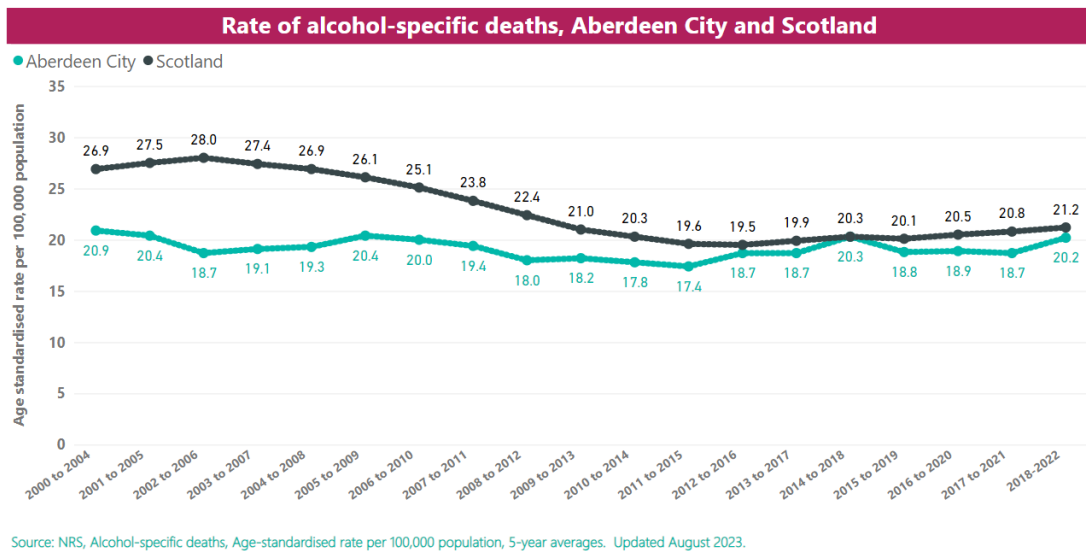
Alcohol: In the period 2017-21, 25% of adults in Aberdeen City were drinking above the guideline recommendations of 14 units per week. This is slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 24% and unchanged from the rate in 2016-19 [37]. (Note: data for 2017-2021 does not include data for 2020 due to COVID-19.)

Questions relating to alcohol consumption were asked in City Voice 46 (December 2022). When asked if they knew the maximum number of units of alcohol recommended over a week, less than half (46.7%) of respondents correctly choose 14 units. The next most common response was don't know at 25.9% [28].

Alcohol-related hospital admissions: In 2021/22 there were 1,242 alcohol-related hospital admissions in Aberdeen City – equivalent to a rate of 568 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 611. Alcohol-related hospital admissions were highest for those in the most deprived areas at 1,092 per 100,000 population for SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 207 per 100,000 population for SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived). [Across the City](#) (Intermediate Zones), the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions ranged from a low of 87.3 in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 2,104 per 100,000 population in Old Aberdeen [43].



Alcohol-specific deaths: In 2022 there were 49 alcohol-specific deaths in Aberdeen City – up from 43 deaths in 2021. As the number of alcohol-specific deaths can fluctuate substantially on a yearly basis, a 5-year rolling average number is also given. For the period 2018-22 this figure was 41.8 – higher than the figure of 38.6 in 2017-21. The rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths in 2018-22 was 20.2 per 100,000 population – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.2, but higher than the rate for 2017-21 of 18.7 per 100,000 population [74]. Rates of alcohol-specific deaths are higher for those in deprived areas. In Aberdeen City in 2017-21, the rate (age-sex standardised) for those in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) was 33.1 per 100,000 population compared with 8.1 per 100,000 population for SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) [43]. Rates of alcohol-related deaths vary across the city (HSC localities, 2017-21 data) from 13.9 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, to 15.5 in Aberdeen North and 28.9 in Aberdeen Central [43].



Alcohol Treatment Services: In Q3 2022/2023, 90 people accessed specialist alcohol treatment services, down from 106 in Q3 2021/22. Up to Q3, a total of 302 people accessed specialist alcohol treatment services in 2022/2023.

Drugs use prevalence: Data on prevalence of problem drug use is limited. In 2015/16 it was estimated that 1.5% of Aberdeen’s population have a problem drug use compared to 1.6% in Scotland [75]. Estimated prevalence of problem drug use is higher in males (2.0%) than females (0.9%).

Drug-related hospital admissions: In 2019/20-2021-22 there were 438 drug-related hospital admissions (3-year rolling average number) which is equivalent to a rate of 182 per 100,000 population, compared to 228.3 per 100,000 population in Scotland. Following a period of increasing drug-related hospital admissions, the rate has decreased slightly in the past two periods – from 191 in 2017/18-2019/21. Rates of drug-related hospital admissions are higher for those in deprived areas at 466.5 per 100,000 population for those in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 26.5 in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate of drug related hospital admissions varies (HSC localities) from 136 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, to 175 in Aberdeen North and 250 in Aberdeen Central [43].

Drug-related deaths: In 2022 there were 42 drug-related deaths in Aberdeen City – down from 62 deaths in 2021. Of the 42 deaths in 2022, 26 were males and 16 were females. Compared to 2020, females made up a higher proportion of drug-related deaths (38.7% in 2021 and 38.1% in 2022, compared to 23.2% in 2020). As the number of deaths can fluctuate substantially on a yearly basis, annual rates (age-standardised per 100,000 population) for 5-year periods are also given. In the period 2018-2022, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 22.9 deaths per 100,000 population. This is slightly lower than the equivalent rate for Scotland (23.4 per 100,000 population) and lower than the rate for 2017-2021 of 24 per 100,000 population. It is the 13th highest average annual rate of drug deaths of all local authorities in Scotland (improvement from 5th highest in 2018). As in Scotland, rates of drug-related deaths have increased year-on-year since 2010-2014. This is the first drop in 5-year age-standardised rate since 2010-14. In Aberdeen City, drug-related deaths were highest in the 35-44 year [age group](#) and the 45-54 year-old age group (with 54.7 and 58.6 per 100,000 population respectively in 2018-2022) [76].

The rate of drug-related deaths is higher for those living in deprived areas. In Aberdeen City in 2017-21, the rate (age-sex standardised) of drug related deaths for those in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) was 58.1 per 100,000 population compared to 3.6 per 100,000 population in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived [43]).



Naloxone Provision: Naloxone is a medication that counters the effects of opioid overdose, specifically it counteracts the impact that opiates exert on the central nervous system and on the respiratory system. In 2022/23 a total of 622 Naloxone Kits were supplied to persons at risk – up from 426 in 2021/22 [77].

Drug Treatment Services: In Q3 2022/2023, 113 people accessed specialist drug treatment services, up from 84 in Q3 2021/22. Up to Q3 2022/2023, a total of 327 people accessed specialist drug treatment services [78].

Smoking: In the period 2017-21, an estimated 15% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers compared to 16% in Scotland. A higher proportion of males (18%) than females (14%) were smokers. The percentage of adults who are current smokers has decreased from 18% in 2016-19 and 23% in 2014-17. It is estimated that 5% of adults use e-cigarettes (6% males, 4% females) [37]. (Note: data for 2017-21 does not include 2020 data due to COVID-19).



Obesity: In 2016-19 it was estimated that 23% of the City's adult population is obese (classified as a BMI of 30+). This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 29% and a decrease from 25% in 2014-17 [37]. (Note: no data available for 2017-21 due to COVID-19).

Physical activity: In the period 2017-21, an estimated 71% of adults in Aberdeen City were meeting the recommended guidelines for physical activity (150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week) compared to 66% for Scotland. 21% percent had low or very low levels of physical activity and 8% had some activity [37]. Based on data from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2021 89% of adults in Aberdeen City had taken part in some form of physical activity (including walking) in the previous month. When walking was excluded, the proportion dropped to 61%. The most common activities were walking (at least 30 minutes) at 82%, multi-gym/weight training at 21%, and running/jogging at 18% [79].

5.2. Mental health

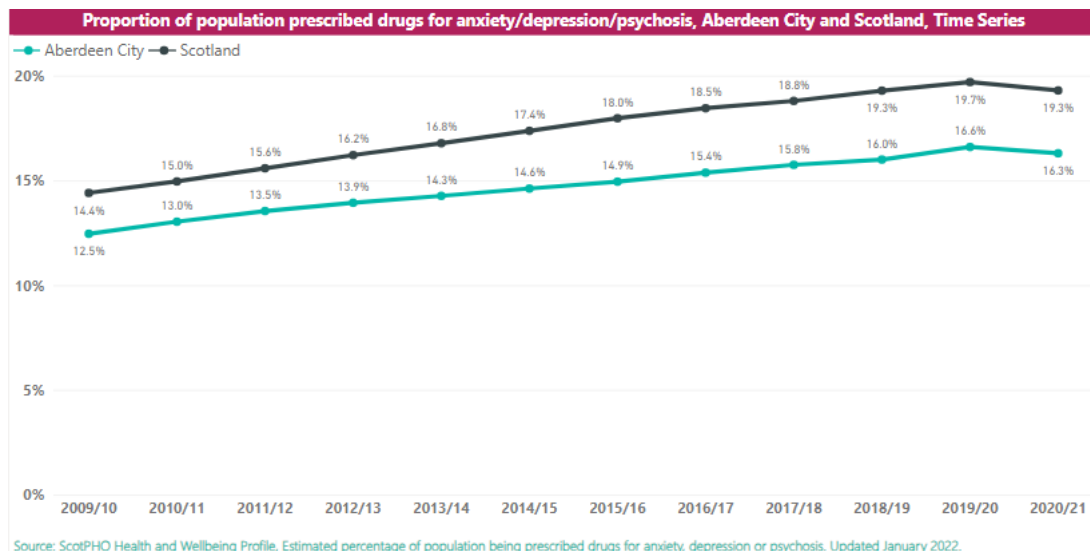
Cost of living crisis – impact on mental health: Financial strain and poverty are key drivers of poor mental health. People struggling to pay their rent or mortgage, feed their families, or cover essential bills are at higher risk of developing mental health problems including anxiety and depression [80]. While there is no specific data for Aberdeen City, research carried out for Mental Health Foundation Scotland reported that 33% of survey respondents experienced stress, 40% experienced anxiety, and 13% said they felt hopeless due to their financial situation in the previous month [80]. Recent statistics published by the Scottish Government showed that in March 2023, almost half (49%) of Scottish adults reported that their mental health is being negatively impacted by the cost of living crisis, with 13% saying that their mental health was impacted negatively to a large extent. When management of household finances were taken into account, only 3% of those who were 'managing well' reported being negatively impacted to a large extent, compared to 9% for those who were 'getting by ok' and 31% who were 'managing less well' [81].

Dementia: Alzheimer Scotland estimate that there are 90,000 people with dementia in Scotland with around 3,000 of these being under the age of 65 years [82]. In 2022, Dementia and Alzheimer's disease were the leading cause of death for females in Aberdeen City (12.2% of all female deaths) and the second most common cause of death for males (7.1% of all male deaths) ⁷ [44].

Prescriptions for anxiety/depression/psychosis: In 2020/21, 32,247 people in Aberdeen City were prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. This is equivalent to 16.3% of the population – lower than the proportion for Scotland of 19.3%. Although the rates for both Aberdeen City and Scotland fell slightly between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (from 16.6% and 19.7% respectively), the proportion of people receiving prescriptions for these conditions has increased in recent years, from (13% in 2010/11 for Aberdeen City). A higher proportion of those from SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) were prescribed (22%) than those in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) at 12.5%. The proportion of people prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression

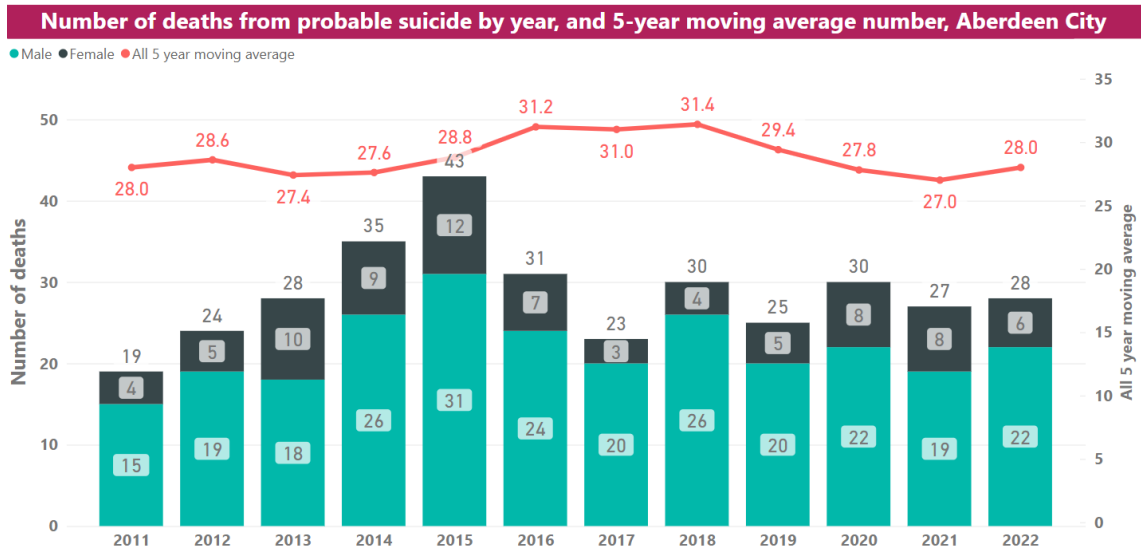
⁷ The leading cause of death analysis is based on a [list of causes](#) developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). There are around 60 categories in total and cancers are grouped separately according to the type of cancer, for example, lung, breast and prostate cancer are all counted as separate causes. If all cancers were grouped together, cancer would be the leading cause of death.

or psychosis varied by HSC locality, at 15.2% in Aberdeen South, 15.3% in Aberdeen Central and 18.6% in Aberdeen North [43].



Psychiatric patient hospitalisations: In 2019/20-2021/22 there were 510 (3-year rolling average number) patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 228 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 230 per 100,000 population. Rates of patients with psychiatric hospitalisation have fallen in both Aberdeen City and Scotland in recent years. Rates of psychiatric patient hospitalisation varied by deprivation, being highest in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) at 326 per 100,000 population compared to 160 per 100,000 population in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived). In Aberdeen City, rates were highest in Aberdeen Central (290 per 100,000 population). Rates were similar in Aberdeen North (204) and Aberdeen South (206). [43].

Deaths from suicide: In 2022 there were 28 probable suicides in Aberdeen City (22 male and 6 female). The number of suicides in a single year in the City peaked at 43 deaths in 2015 [83]. For the period 2018-2022 the rate (age-standardised per 100,000 population) of 11.9 per 100,000 population is the lower than the rate for Scotland of 14.4 per 100,000 population [83]. In 2017/19-2021/22 the rate of deaths from probable suicide was highest for those living in the most deprived areas of the city (15 per 100,000 population in SIMD quintile 1 compared to 6 per 100,000 population in SIMD quintile 5). Rates varied by HSC locality at 10.4 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, 10.5 in Aberdeen North and 12.6 in Aberdeen Central [43].



Source: National Records of Scotland, Vital events reference tables: Deaths which are the result of Intentional self-harm or events of Undetermined Intent. Updated September 2023. (Note: the 5-year moving average figure is given in the column for the final year e.g. the five year moving average number for 2018-22 is in the column for 2022.)

Mental health and wellbeing: The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) is a standardised scale which measures mental distress and mental ill-health. A score of 4 or more is indicative of a potential psychiatric disorder. In 2017-21, an estimated 17% of people in Aberdeen City had a score of 4 or more – lower than the rate for Scotland of 19% and similar to the rate in 2016-19 of 16%. A higher proportion of females (18%) than males (14%) had a score or 4 or more [37]. Mental wellbeing is measured using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS). Possible total scores range from 14 to 70 with higher scores indicating greater wellbeing. In 2017-21, the average (mean) score for Aberdeen City was 49.9 – similar to the score for Scotland of 49.5. Mean scores were similar for males (50.1) and females (49.8) [37].

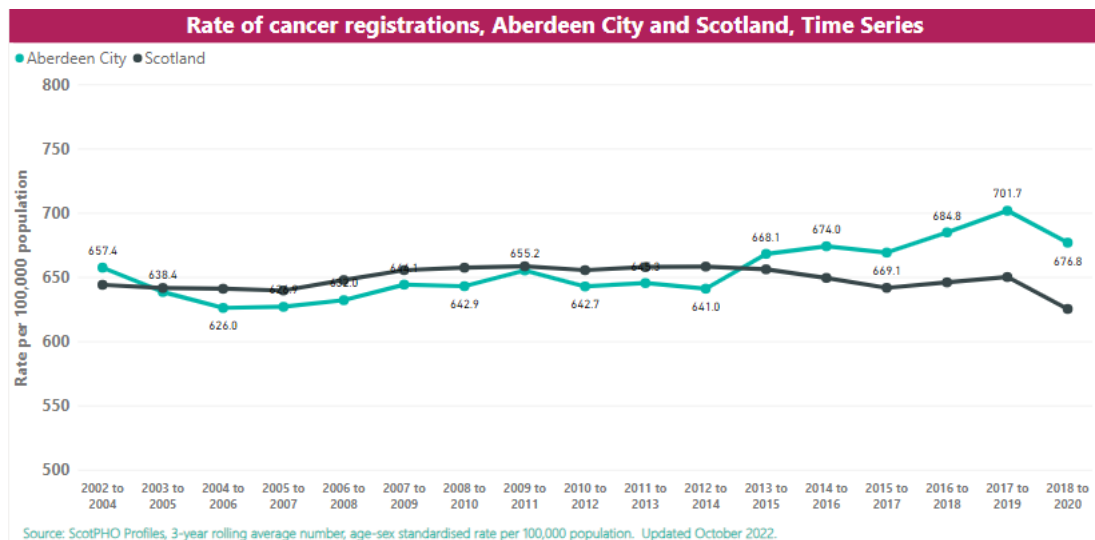
5.3. Key diseases

Key diseases: In 2022, cancer and circulatory diseases (such as coronary heart disease and stroke) together accounted for over half (51%) of all causes of death in Aberdeen City. In 2022, 27% of male deaths and a 25.7% of female deaths were caused by cancer, and 27.8% of male deaths and 21.7% of female deaths were caused by circulatory diseases [44].

Leading causes of death are also given for specific disease classifications (e.g. types of cancer and circulatory diseases are listed separately). In 2022, Ischemic heart diseases were the leading cause of death for males (14.9% of a male deaths), followed by Dementia and Alzheimer disease (7.1%) and Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung (6.7%). For females, Dementia and Alzheimer disease was the leading cause of death for (12.2% of all female deaths), followed by Ischaemic heart diseases (7.3%) and cerebrovascular disease (6.5% of all female deaths).

Cancer: In 2018-20 there were 1,287 new cancer registrations in Aberdeen (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) of 676.8 – higher than the rate for Scotland of 625.2. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the rate of cancer registrations decreased from the rates in 2017-19 (701.7 and 650.1

respectively). The rate of cancer registrations varies by derivation (rate of 781 per 100,000 population in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 609 in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived)) and by HSC localities, at 644.8 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, 692.5 in Aberdeen North and 700.5 in Aberdeen Central [43].



Cancer early deaths: In 2019-21 there were 279 early deaths (<75 years) from cancer (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 153 per 100,000 population – slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 150 per 100,000 population. Overall, the rate of early deaths from cancer has decreased over the last 10 years (from 181 per 100,000 population in 2009-11). The rate of early deaths from cancer is higher in deprived areas at 218 per 100,000 population in SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 92 in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) and varies across the City (Intermediate Zones), from a low of 64 per 100,000 population in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 303 in Seaton [43].

Coronary heart disease (CHD): In 2019/20-2021/22 there were 669 patient hospitalisations with coronary heart disease (3 year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 350 per 100,000 population – slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 342 per 100,000 population. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, the rate of CHD patient hospitalisations has decreased over the past 10 years. CHD hospitalisations are higher in deprived areas at a rate of 506.4 per 100,000 population for SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 254.2 in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate of CHD hospitalisations varies by Intermediate Zone, from a low of 188 per 100,000 population in Ferryhill North to a high of 715 in Tillydrone [43].

In 2019/21 the rate of early deaths (<75 years) from CHD was 50.1 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City, similar to the rate for Scotland of 52.6. The rate of early deaths from CHD was higher in more deprived areas (73 per 100,000 population in SIMD quintiles 1 and 2 compared to 31 per 100,000 population in SIMD quintile 5) and varied across the city ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 11.3 in Cove North to a high of 186 per 100,000 population in Old Aberdeen [43].

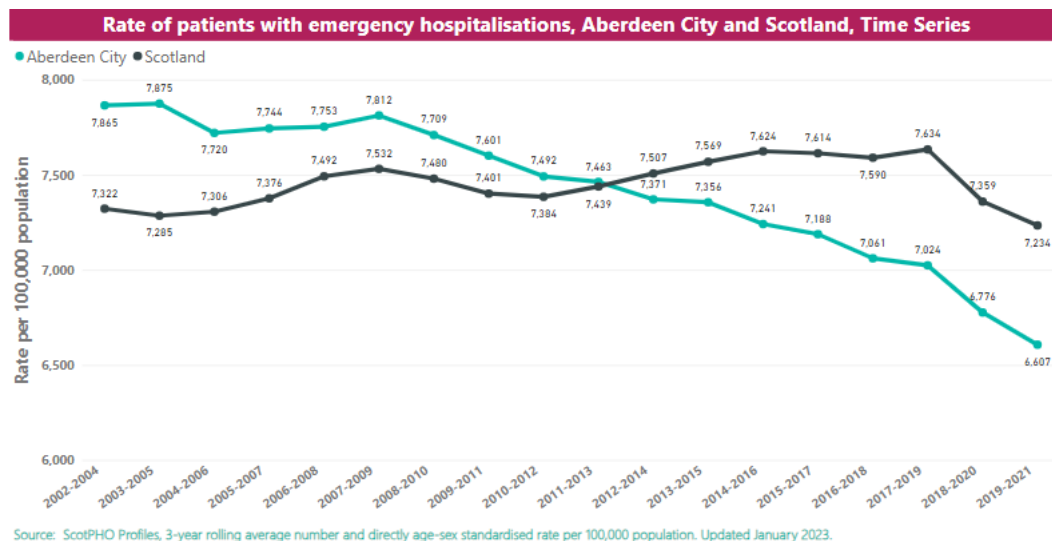
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): In 2019/20-2021/22, the incidence⁸ of COPD in Aberdeen City was 175 (3-year average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 112 per

⁸ Total number of patients with a first admission in 10 years who were discharged from hospital or died.

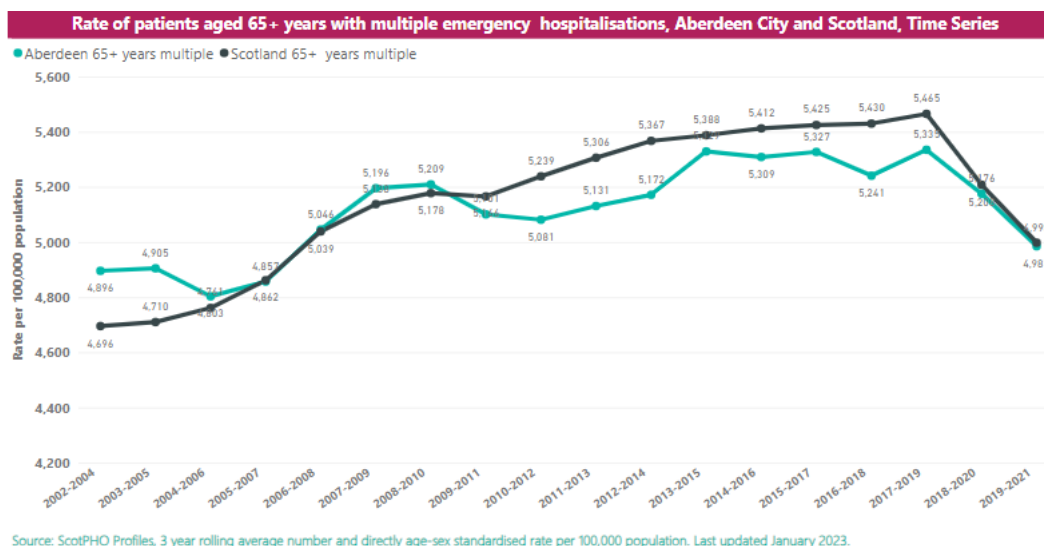
100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 126 per 100,000 population. Incidence of COPD has been decreasing in both Aberdeen City and Scotland over the last few data periods. In 2019-21 there were 82 deaths (3-year average), which is a rate of 54 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 61 per 100,000 population. In 2019/20-2021/22 there were 295 (3-year rolling average number) [patient hospitalisations](#) in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 186 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 207. The rate of patient hospitalisations for COPD is higher for those in deprived areas at a rate of 425 per 100,000 population for SIMD quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 59 in SIMD quintile 5 (least deprived) and varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 19 per 100,000 population in Kingswells to a high of 857 per 100,000 population in City Centre East [43].

5.4. Hospitalisations

Emergency hospitalisations: In 2019-21 there were 13,834 emergency patient hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average) – equivalent to a rate of 6,607 per 100,000 population. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 7,624. In Aberdeen City the rate of emergency patient hospitalisations has been gradually decreasing over the past 10 years, from 7,601 per 100,000 population in 2009-11. The rate of emergency patient hospitalisations varies across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) ranging from a low of 4,257 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 10,922 in Mastrick [43].



Patients aged 65+ years with multiple emergency hospitalisations: In 2019-2021 there were 1,778 patients aged 65+ years with 2 or more emergency hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 4,985 per 100,000 population which is slightly lower than the rate for Scotland of 4,997 and a decrease from the rate of 5,176 per 100,000 population in 2018-20. Rates vary across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)), ranging from a low of 2,602 in Kingswells to a high of 8,690 in City Centre East [43].



5.5. Home care and care homes

Home care: No figures available for Aberdeen HSCP for 2021/22. In 2020/21 (Census Week), 1,870 people in Aberdeen City were receiving home care (equivalent to a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 11 per 1,000 population). Most (81.6%) of those receiving care were 65 years or over, with 38.2% being 85 years or over. In total, 27,435 hours of care were received during Census week [84].

High levels of care: In Aberdeen, in 2020/21 there were 510 people aged 65+ years with high levels of care need who were cared for at home (i.e. who received 10 and more hours of home care purchased or provided by the local authority). This equates to 29% of all people in this age group with high levels of care need – significantly lower than the Scottish average of 38% [43].

Care homes: In 2022 there were 55 care homes in Aberdeen City with a total of 1,634 registered places and 1,431 residents. Most of these (1,364/95.3%) were long stay residents. Older people made up the largest portion of care home residents (80.8%). Since 2012 the number of care homes has decreased by 28.6% (down from 77 in 2012) [85].

Last six months of life: In Aberdeen City, in 2021/22 there were 2,048 deaths in Aberdeen City (including falls but excluding people who died from other external causes). For these individuals, 91% of their last six months of life was spent either at home or in a community setting with the remaining 9% spent in hospital. This is equivalent to an average of 16 days in hospital in the six months prior to death (same as in 2020/21 but 5 days less than in 2019/20) [86].

5.6. Looking After Own Health and Wellbeing

Own health and wellbeing: In Aberdeen in 2022, 92% of respondents to the Scottish Health and Care Experience (HACE) Survey reported being able to look after their own health ‘very well’ or ‘quite well’ – down slightly from 94% in 2020. In 2022, 67% of respondents agreed that they were supported to live as independently as possible, down from 73% in 2020, but

slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 65%. The percentage of adults supported at home who agreed they felt safe reduced in 2022 to 69% from 76% in 2020 [87].

Unpaid carers: The 2011 Census estimated that there were 222,793 people living in Aberdeen and that 15,571 are Carers with 6,229 stating that they provide more than 20 hours of unpaid care per week [35]. More recently, the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) presents that 11% of Aberdeen's population identify as a Carer. This is lower than the national average of 15% [37]. This would take us to a figure of 24,507. Of these numbers, there are estimated to be approximately 2000 Young Carers.

There is a significant gap between these estimates and those Carers known to services in Aberdeen [88].

- Adult Carers open to Quarriers Adult Carer Support Service (including enhanced support service) = 1,130
- Adult Carers known to Social Work services (with an adult Carer Support Plan in Place) = 620
- Young Carers open to Barnardos Young Carer Support Service = 135
- Young Carers known to Children's services (education) = 51

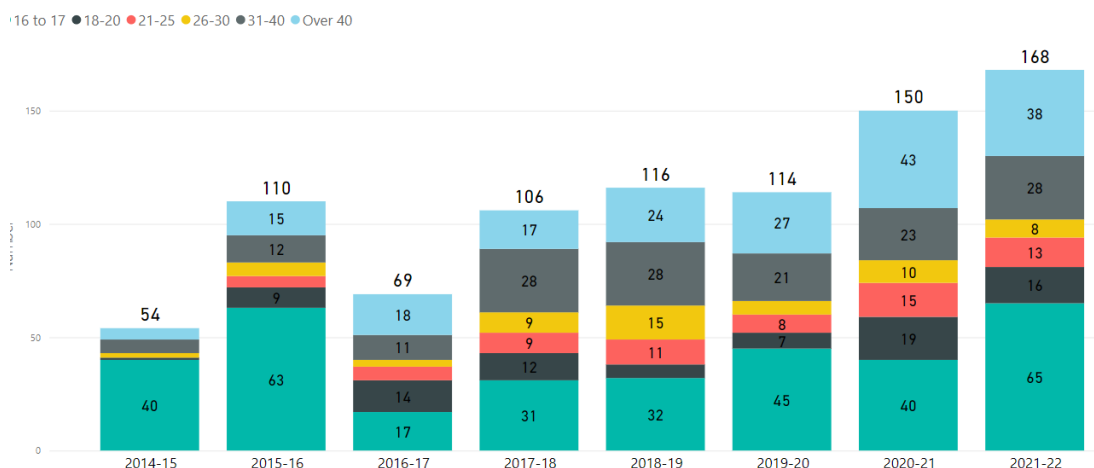
5.7. Criminal Justice & Social Work

First convictions and reconvictions: In 2019/20, 718 people living in Aberdeen City had a first ever court conviction – down from 739 in 2018/19. Of these, 29 were under 18 years and 104 were aged 18-20 years. Of the 1,597 offenders (over 18 years) in the 2018-19 cohort, 31.1% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence (mean 0.6 reconvictions per offender) [89]. (Note: delay in 2019-20 cohort data being available due to the impact of the pandemic and subsequent court closures on this cohort.)

Community payback orders: In 2021-22, 72.6% of Community Payback Orders were successfully completed, up from 67.6% in 2020-21 [73].

Diversion from prosecution (DP): In 2021/22 there were 219 referrals for Diversion from Prosecution. 168 Diversion from Prosecution Cases commenced of which 65 were 16 and 17 year-olds and 103 were 18+ years. The number of DP cases commenced has increased from 114 in 2019-20 and 150 in 2020-21 [73].

Diversion from prosecution - cases commenced by age group, Aberdeen City



Source: Scottish Government, Criminal justice social work statistics: additional tables back to 2004-2005, CJSW local authority tables for diversion from prosecution. Updated February 2023.

Bail supervision orders: In 2021-22, 24 Bail Supervision Case were commenced by individuals. These Orders are agreed by the Court so that an individual is supervised by Justice Social Work instead of being remanded in prison (which can lead to negative outcomes for individuals in relation to employment, housing, family relations, etc, which can result in an increased likelihood of further offending) [73].

Custodial sentences: In 2020-21, 351 people in Aberdeen City were given a custodial sentence – down from 471 in 2019-20. Of these, a quarter (89) were for a period of up to 3 months [90].

Voluntary assistance and statutory throughcare: In 2021/22, 11 individuals received voluntary assistance, down from 21 in 2020/21. In the same period, 196 received statutory throughcare, similar to 2020/21 when 195 received statutory throughcare [73].

Our Place



6. Our Place

6.1. Our City

Area: Aberdeen City covers an area of 186 square kilometres and has a population density of 1,226 persons per square kilometre (2021). In terms of population size, it is the 8th largest local authority in Scotland.

Neighbourhoods: The City contains 37 neighbourhoods – small area geographies that are used (by Community Planning) to differentiate between different areas of the City. (Note: the neighbourhood boundaries do not match official administrative data boundaries. As a result, official data may not be available at neighbourhood level. Intermediate Zones approximate neighbourhood boundaries.)

Priority localities: The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland. Following SIMD 2020, 13 of Aberdeen's neighbourhoods are recognised as deprived on this basis: Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Cummings Park, Northfield, Heathryfold, Mastrick, Kincorth, Ashgrove, George Street and Stockethill.

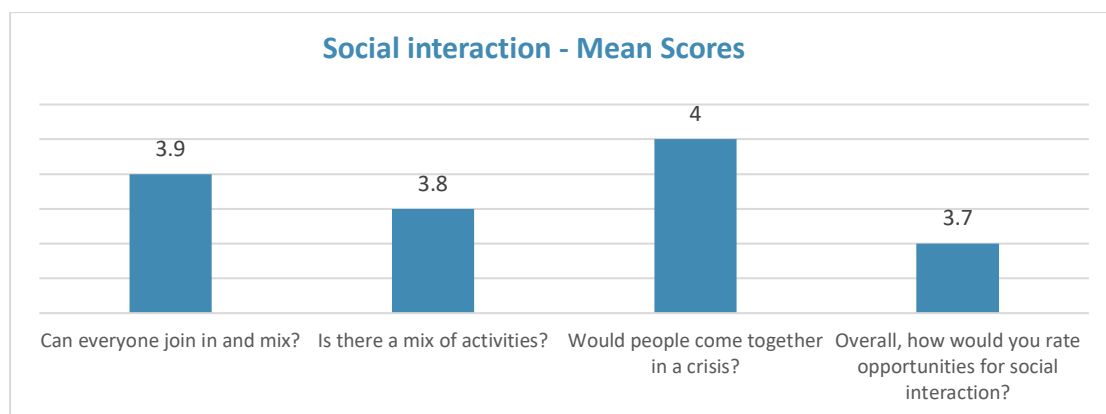
6.2. Communities

Community empowerment: Following the publication of the [Community Empowerment Strategy](#) by Community Planning Aberdeen's [Community Empowerment Group](#), a Community Empowerment edition of the City Voice was undertaken in June 2023. This asked panellists about current involvement and empowerment in their communities. Some of the questions in City Voice 47 were inspired by the [Place Standard](#) which is a recognised framework used for assessing places. The full City Voice report can be found [here](#) [91].

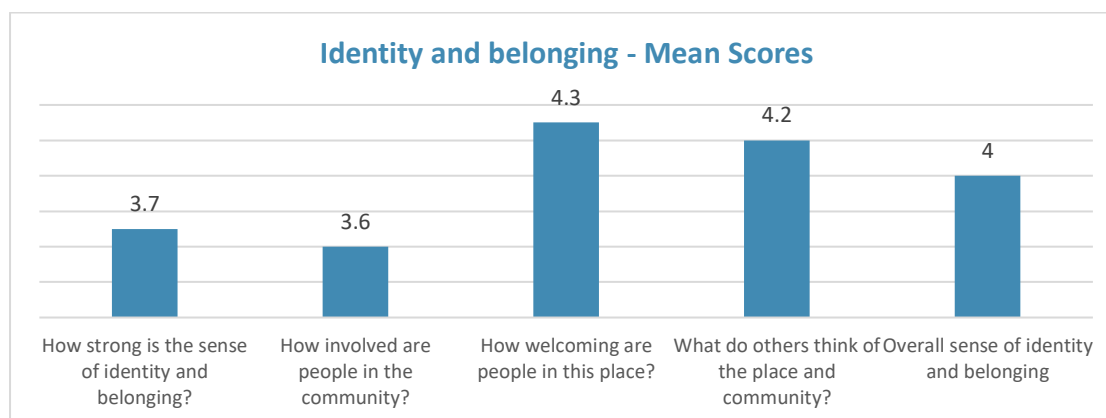
Social interaction: The first set of questions asked about where people get together and find out what is happening in their neighbourhoods. Food and drink outlets, local halls and centres, places of worship and schools are all spaces where communities naturally come together. Outdoor spaces such as streets, outdoor seating, local parks/ playgrounds/ walks,

and dog walking areas are also areas where people meet and gather. Unsurprisingly, 69% of people said that they find out about what is happening in their community by talking to friends, family and neighbours. Social media is also an important source of information with 57.3% of people saying that’s how they find out what is happening.

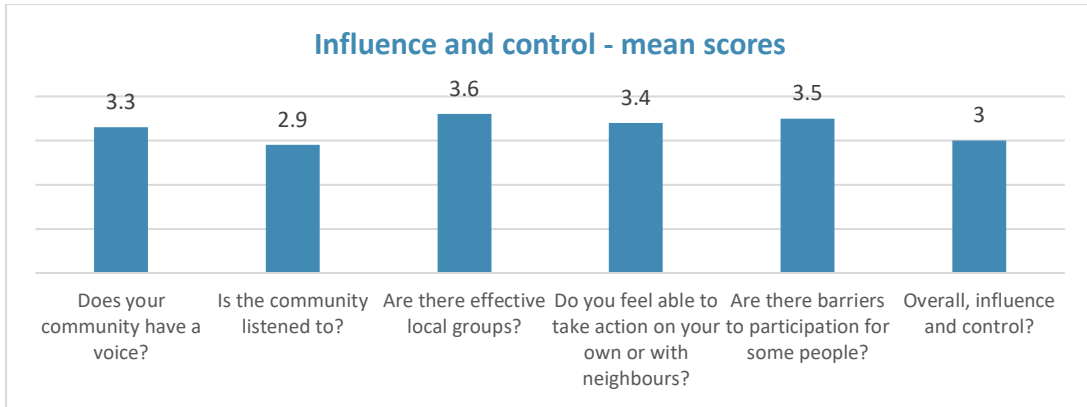
Further questions were then asked about different aspects of social interaction in their neighbourhood, with participants being asked to rate each on a scale of 1-7 (where 1 = little room for improvement and 7 = a lot of room for improvement). Mean scores were calculated for each question. Overall, respondents rated the range of opportunities to meet and spend time with other people in their neighbourhoods as 3.7 (out of a possible 7).



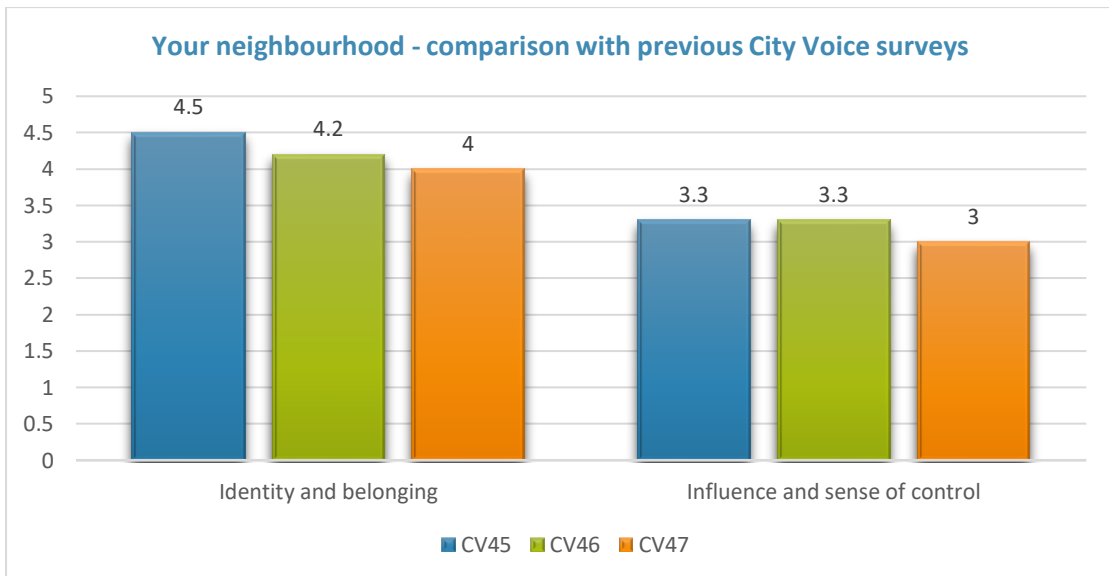
Identity and belonging: The next set of questions asked to what extent their neighbourhood has a positive identity that supports a strong sense of belonging. A series of questions relating to different aspects of identity and belonging were asked (see chart below). The average (mean) rating for ‘overall, to what extent does your neighbourhood have a positive identity that supports a strong sense of belonging?’ was 4 (out of 7).



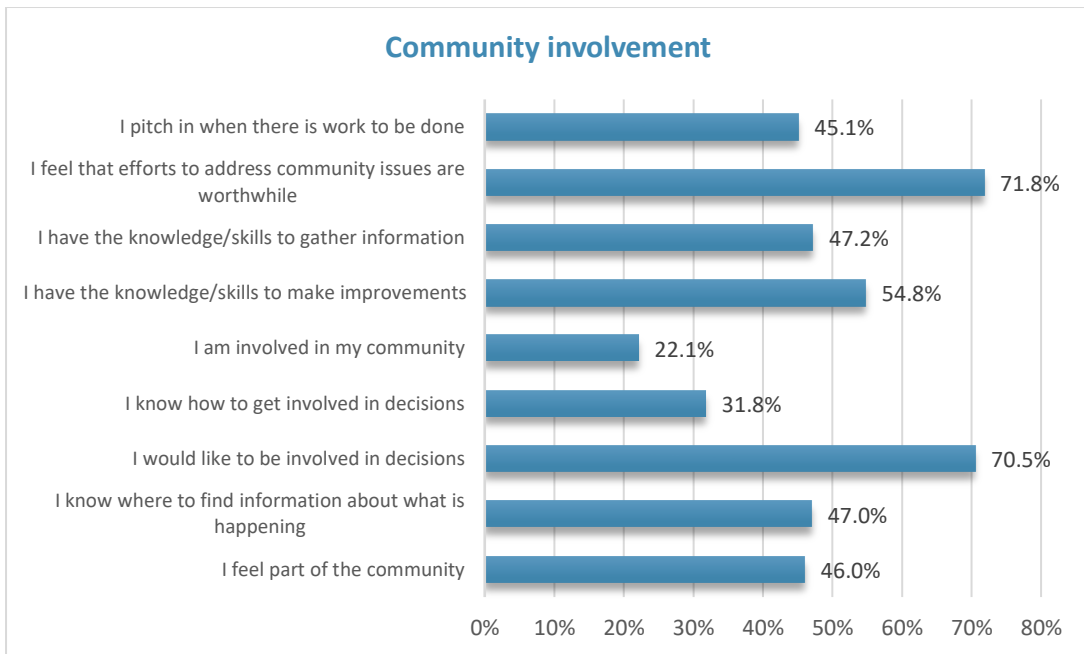
Influence and control: This set of questions was around whether people felt listened to and included in decision-making when things happen in their neighbourhood. Again, a series of questions relating different aspects was included (see chart below). The average (mean) rating for ‘overall, when things happen in your neighbourhood, how well do you feel listened to and included in decision-making?’ was 3 (out of 7), with the lowest individual score being for the question ‘is the community listened to?’ (2.9).



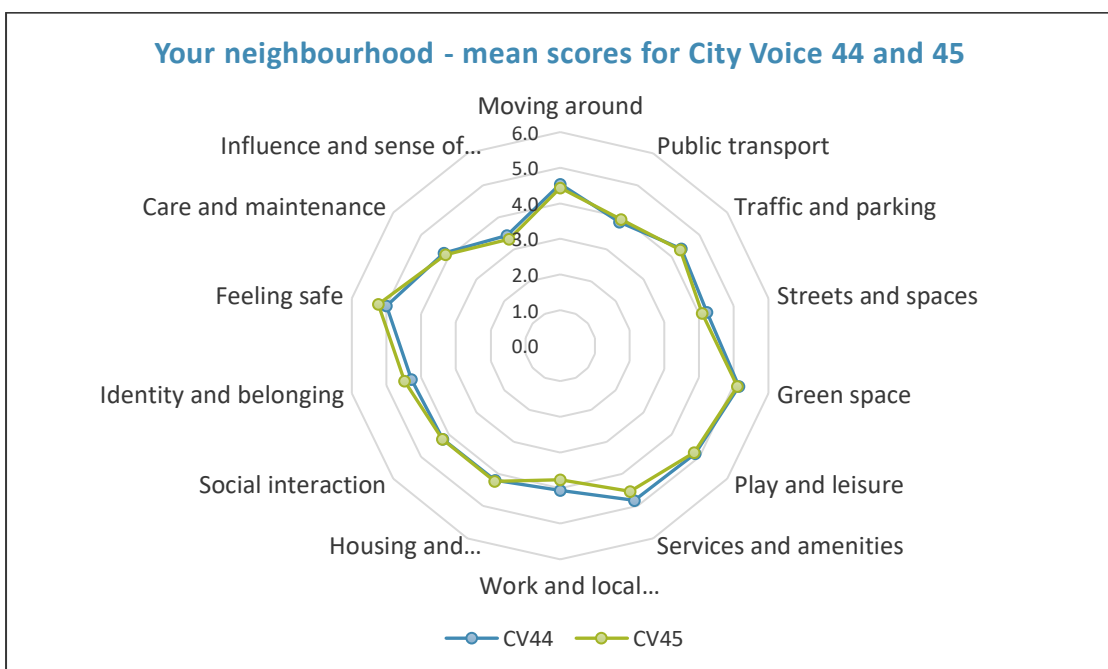
The overall questions relating to sense of Identity and Belonging and Influence and Control have been asked in previous City Voice questionnaires. Comparison with these surveys shows lower score for both areas in the most recent City Voice.



Involvement in community groups: City Voice 47 also included set of questions around involvement in community groups/activities. Most respondents agreed that efforts to address community issues are worthwhile (71.8%) and that they would like to be involved in decisions which affect their community (70.5%). However, only 31.8% said they knew how to get involved in decisions and 22.1% said they were currently involved in their community. Less than half of respondents said they feel part of their community (46%) or that they knew where to find information about what was happening (47%) .



Your neighbourhood: A shortened version of the full Place Standard questionnaire was included in City Voice 44 and 45. Participants were asked to answer a series of questions with their local neighbourhood in mind. For each of the 14 topics participants were asked to give a score on a scale of 1-7, where 1 = lots of room for improvement and 7 = very little room for improvement. On the whole, responses were similar across both questionnaires. In City Voice 45, **‘do you feel safe in your neighbourhood?’** and **‘can you regularly experience good quality natural space?’** were the highest scoring areas with mean scores of 5.2 and 5.1 respectively. The lowest scoring areas were **‘do you feel able to participate in decisions and change things for the better?’** (3.3) and **work and local economy** (3.8) [92].



Volunteering: There are currently over 80,600 volunteers in Aberdeen City, contributing an incredible 6.2 million hours of help every year in Aberdeen [93]. The high levels of volunteering we have in Aberdeen which ACVO support was highlighted in an analysis of volunteering responses to COVID-19 from Volunteer Scotland which showed that the COVID-19 Support Volunteers role registered with ACVO was the third most popular role in the whole of Scotland and the Bon Accord Care Support Volunteers the eighth most popular one people expressed an interest in. This again reflects the tremendous volunteering and caring/community spirit we have in Aberdeen.

Youth volunteering is also a great strength in Aberdeen, with 2,459 young people (age 12-25 years) undertaking Saltire Awards for volunteering (locality breakdown: Central: 541, North: 1155 and South: 763 people). The Saltire Awards are national awards endorsed by the Scottish Government and delivered in each local authority area by Third Sector Interfaces (ACVO in Aberdeen) to recognise the marvellous contribution young people make volunteering and the achievements of young volunteers. Certificates are awarded in recognition for undertaking 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 hours of volunteering [93].

We know there is substantial economic and social value in the act of volunteering with research showing increased life expectancy and quality of life values. Through our improvement projects we have built on the volunteering community that was crucial during the covid pandemic and sought to sustain the unprecedented level of volunteering seen during that time by further developing a wide range of opportunities. Between December 2021 and March 2023, we saw a 17.4% (437 to 513 – 76 new opportunities in total) in volunteer opportunities on the volunteer hub as a result of consistent promotion of the Hub across media and in contact with groups and volunteers augmenting ACVO's efforts.

Using digital and data to help our communities: The benefits of using data to improve productivity and transform public services have been recognised in the UK Data Strategy 2020 [94] and the subsequent "Roadmap for digital and data, 2022 to 2025" [95]. The Strategy also recognises some of the existing barriers. Presently data is not consistently managed, used or shared in a way that facilitates informed decision-making or joint working across the public sector. Effective use of data and digital technology can help the way we deliver our services and is fundamental to their planning and re-design. It can also empower people in our communities – improving the way they interact, both with each other and with public sector services. Data from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2019 suggests a relatively high degree of trust in public service organisations to use personal data only for acceptable purposes. When asked, 58% of adults said they had either 'a great deal' or quite a lot' of trust in public service organisations, compared to only 15% for private companies [96].

Aberdeen City Accreditations: Aberdeen has been a Fairtrade City since 2004. The accreditation renewal process is overseen by the Fairtrade Foundation. The Aberdeen Fair and Sustainable Trade Group, made up of a range of organisational partners and individuals, works to maintain accreditation for the people of Aberdeen.

Aberdeen is also a Sustainable Food Place and was awarded a silver accreditation in the initiative in 2022. The partnership, Granite City Good Food, works to maintain and extend that accreditation for the people of Aberdeen.

6.3. Housing

Dwellings: In 2022 there were 123,363 dwellings in Aberdeen City – an increase of 1,121 (0.9%) on the number of dwellings in 2021. The number of dwellings varies by neighbourhood from 724 in Cummings Park to 6,691 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield. Most (59.1%) are in [Council Tax](#) bands A-C, with 26.1% being in bands D-E and 14.8% being in bands G-H [47]. The proportion of dwellings within each Council Tax band varies by neighbourhood. For example in Cummings Park, 99% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands A-C, while in Cults, Bielside & Milltimber, 67% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands F-H [97].

40% of dwellings have a [single adult discount](#) with the proportion of dwellings with these discounts ranging from a low of 25.4% in Cults, Bielside & Milltimber to a high of 50.1% in Stockethill. 6.7% of dwellings have 'occupied exemptions' (e.g. student households), with the highest levels of exemptions being in Old Aberdeen (33%), George Street (31%), Seaton (26%) and Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank (20%) [47].

Second homes account for less than 1% of all dwellings in the City and in 2022 there were 8,103 vacant dwellings (6.6% of all dwellings) – an increase from 6,733 vacant dwellings in 2020. The percentage of vacant dwellings ranges from a low of 1.8% in Cummings Park to a high of 12.8% in the City Centre.

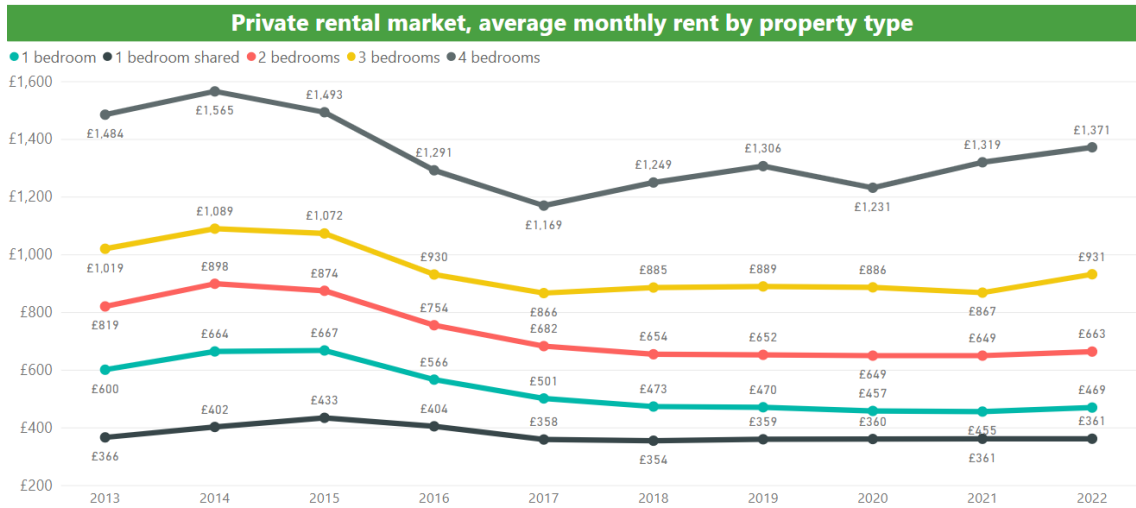
Most (55%) dwellings are flats, 18% are terraced, 16% are semi-detached and 11% are detached (based on 2017 – no update since then). Again this varies by neighbourhood e.g. in Seaton 96.8% of dwellings were flats while in Kingswells only 2.6% were flats and 63.1% were detached. At the time of the 2011 Census, 57.3% of households in the City were owned, 24.2% were socially rented, 17.0% were privately rented and 1.4% were rent-free.

Housing stock: In Aberdeen City in 2021 the Local Authority's housing stock totalled 22,104 – a slight increase from 21,936 in 2020. Of the Council stock, 16,730 (75.7%) were flats and 5,374 (24.3%) were houses. Since 2011, the total housing stock owned by the Council has decreased by 2.6% - from 22,704 [98]. At 31st March 2021 there were 4,138 applicants on the waiting list and 1,668 on the transfer list for housing [99].

Supply of new housing: In 2022-23, 1,059 new houses were supplied in Aberdeen City. Of these, 629 were private new builds, 375 were local authority new builds and 55 were housing association new builds [100].

Supported housing: A range of supported housing is provided by the Local Authority. In 2021, housing for older people included 110 very sheltered, and 1,879 sheltered dwellings (of which 223 are wheelchair adapted) and 1,470 medium dependency. Some 2,681 dwellings have been fitted with a community alarm. Housing for people with physical disabilities included 428 dwellings adapted for wheelchair use, 604 for ambulant disabled and 1,902 with other adaptations [101].

Private rental sector: In 2022, the average monthly rent in Aberdeen City and Shire (Broad Rental Market Area) was £469 for a one-bedroomed property, £663 for a 2-bedroomed property, £931 for a 3-bedroomed property and £1,371 for a 4-bedroomed property. These were broadly similar to the average rents in 2021 with the exception of 4-bedroomed properties which increased from £1,319 in 2021. Rents for all property types are lower than pre-2015 levels [102].



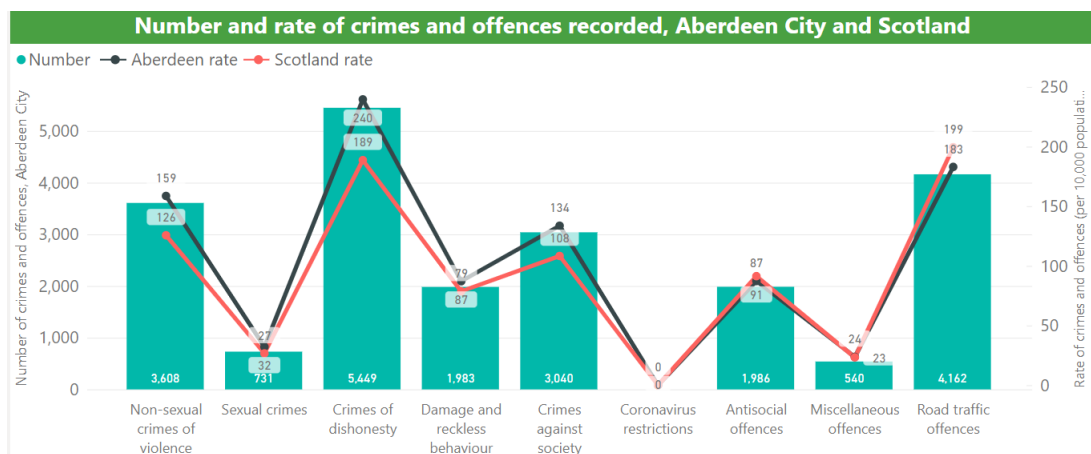
Source: Scottish Government, Housing Statistics for Scotland - Private Sector Rent Statistics. Updated December 2022.

House sales: In 2022, the average purchase price for a residential property in Aberdeen City was £187,169 – down from £193,402 in 2021 and considerably lower than the 2015 peak of £220,665. The number of properties sold in 2022 decreased slightly from 4,799 in 2021 to 4,729 in 2022 [103].

6.4. Crime

Crimes and offences: In Scotland, crimes and offences are classified into groups, with a new group for Coronavirus restriction crimes being added in 2019/20. Data from 2021-22 uses new categories of crime and offence groups. The changes include the introduction of a new set of crime and offence groups and categories. The largest change is the transfer of Common assault and stalking from the miscellaneous offences group to the non-sexual crimes of violence group and by extension the recorded crime total.

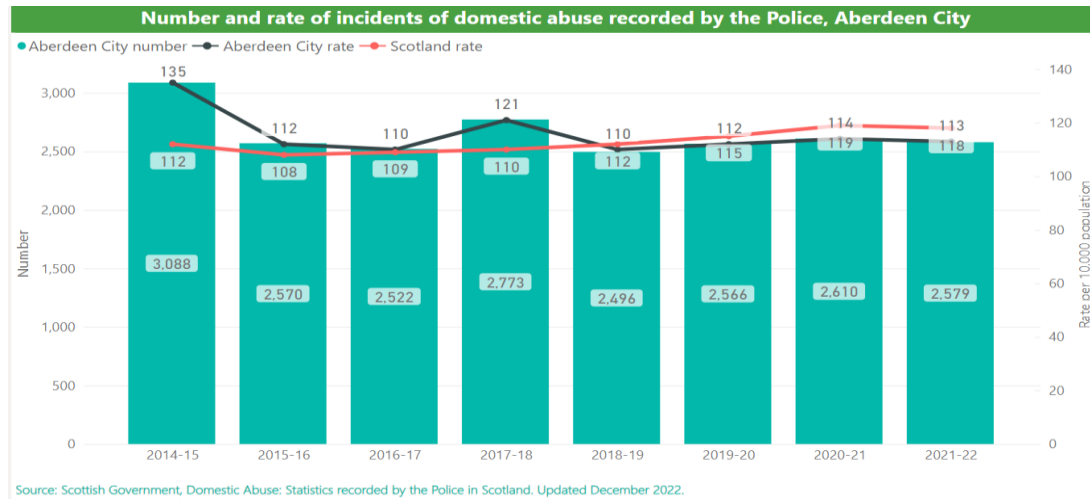
In 2022/23 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,449), Road Traffic Offences (4,162) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,608). The total rate (per 10,000 population) for crime was 651 (528 for Scotland) and for offences was 294 (314 for Scotland) [104].



Source: Scottish Government, Recorded Crime in Scotland. Updated June 2023.

The rate of crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas ([Intermediate Zones](#)). In 2019, the rate of crime⁹ range from a low of 4 (crude rate per 1,000 population) in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 247 in City Centre East [43].

Domestic abuse: In 2021/22 there were 2,579 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – down slightly from 2,610 in 2020/21 [105]. Not all incidents of Domestic Abuse result in a crime being recorded. In 2022-23 there were 116 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse – down from 170 in 2021-22 [104].



Hate Crime Reports: In 2022/23 there were 344 Police Scotland Hate Crime reports in Aberdeen City, up from 336 in 2021/22 [77].

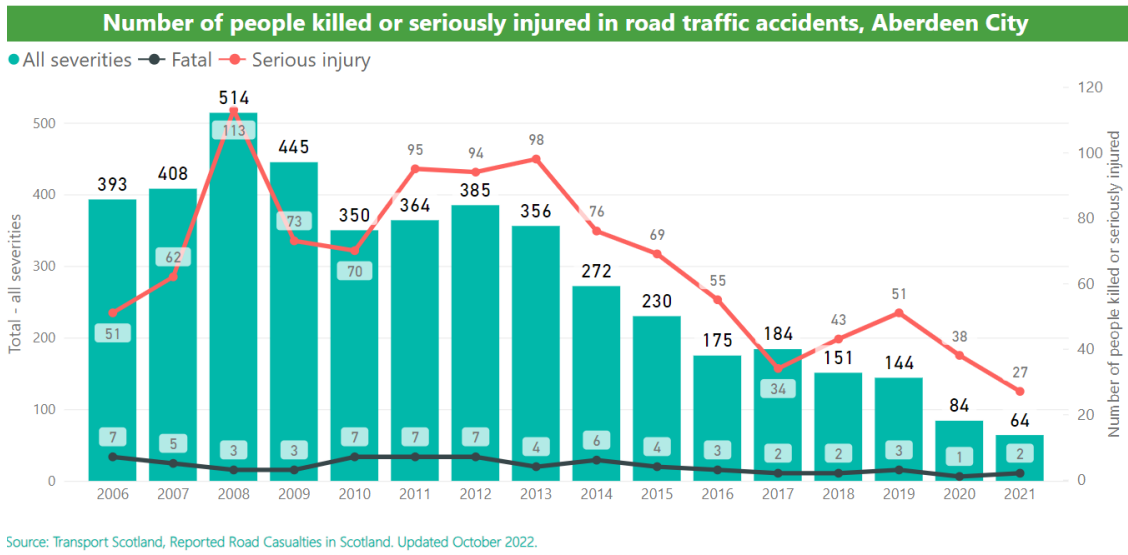
6.5. Safety

Accidental dwelling fires: In 2021-22 there were 199 accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen City (down from 222 in 2020-21) which is equivalent to a rate of 163 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 157 in Scotland. Impairment due to alcohol/drugs was suspected to be a contributory factor to accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen in 18.1% of cases – higher than the rate for Scotland of 14.6%. There were 25 non-fatal casualties and no fatal casualties [106].

In 2021-22 there were also 23 deliberate dwelling fires (rate of 18.8 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 16.4 for Scotland). In total there were 768 fires in Aberdeen City in 2021-22, of which 388 were primary fires, 377 were secondary fires and 3 were chimney fires. This is up slightly from the total of 757 fires in 2020-21 [106].

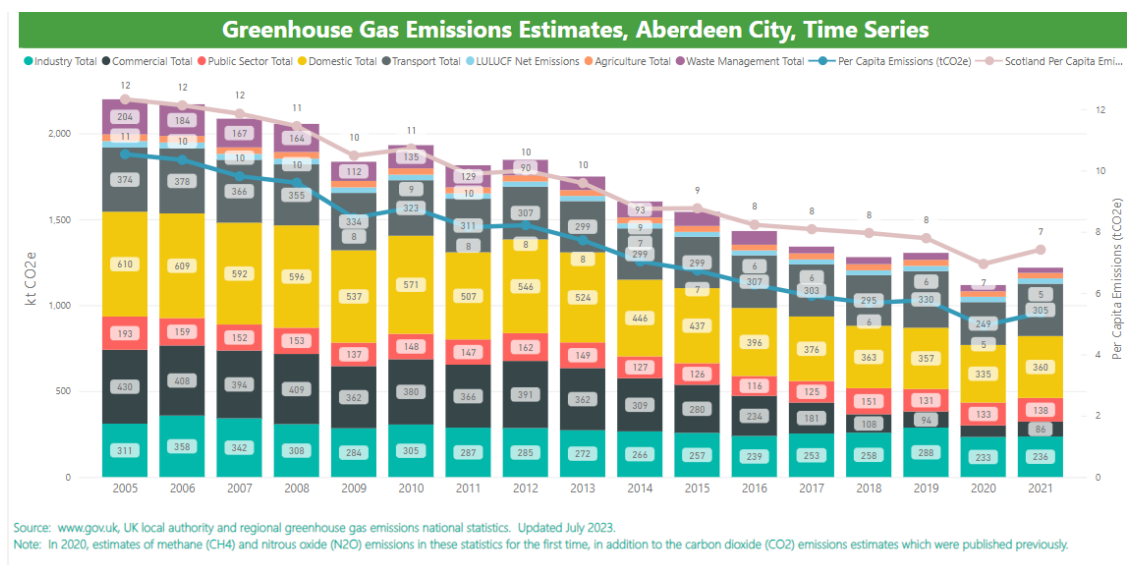
Road safety: In 2021 total, there were 64 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 2 were fatalities and 27 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has decreased in each of the last three years (from 151 in 2018) [107]. In 2019-21, the rate of casualties from road traffic accidents varied across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 5 per 100,000 population in Denmore to a high of 132 per 100,000 population in Torry East [43].

⁹ (based on SIMD crimes of violence, sexual offences, domestic housebreaking, vandalism, drug offences and common assault)



6.6. Environment – climate change

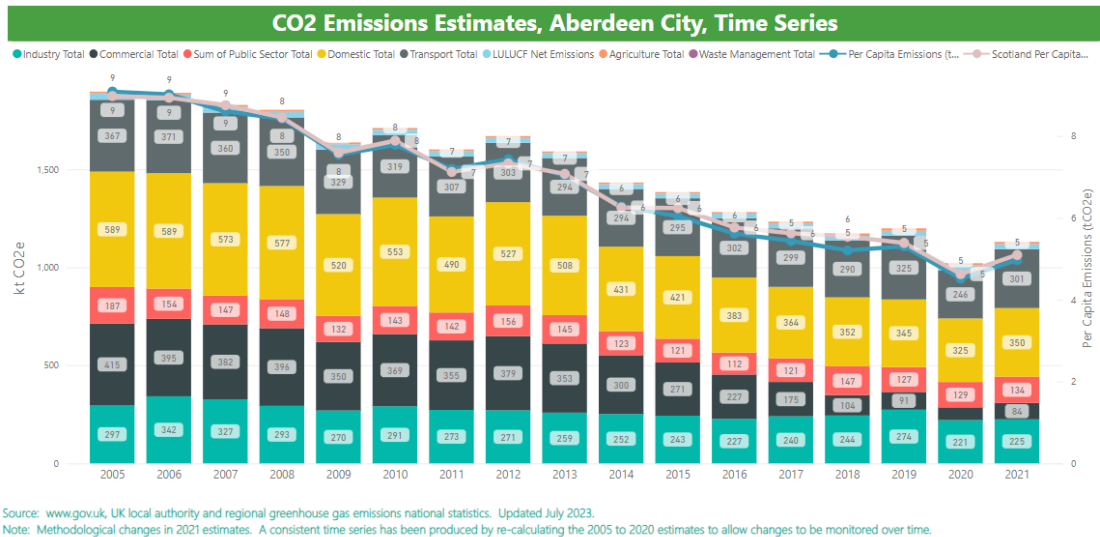
Greenhouse gas emissions: In 2020, estimates of methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) emissions were included in the published statistics for the first time, in addition to the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates which were published previously. In 2021, data for greenhouse gases was backdated to 2005 to provide a continuous run of data. In 2021, Greenhouse Gas emissions estimates totalled 1,218 ktCO2e for Aberdeen City – up from 1,117 ktCO2e in 2020, but lower than the figure of 1,305 ktCO2e in 2019. Domestic use was the single largest contributor (29.6% of all greenhouse gas emissions) followed by travel (25%). In 2021 per capita emissions were lower in Aberdeen City (5.4 tCO2e) than in Scotland (7.4 tCO2e) [108].



Figures for 2021 are higher than those for 2020. The overall increase since 2020 in end-user greenhouse gas emissions allocated to local authorities in the UK was 5.9%, is believed to be

largely as a result of the easing of restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and colder temperatures increasing the use of heating in buildings [108]¹⁰.

CO₂ emissions: In 2021 CO₂ emissions in Aberdeen totalled 1,130 kt (down 40.4% since 2005) – up from 1,021 in 2020. Since 2005, per capita CO₂ emissions have fallen in both Aberdeen and Scotland, mostly due to the greening of the electricity grid and the Net Zero Vision for Aberdeen has put in place a local commitment to meeting the Scottish Government target of Net Zero Emissions by 2045. In 2021, per capita levels were slightly lower in Aberdeen (4.97 tCO₂e) compared to Scotland (5.1 tCO₂e) [108].



CO₂ emissions within the scope of local authorities: alongside the full dataset, a subset dataset is also published which gives CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities (e.g. excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways, land-use, livestock and soils). In 2021, CO₂ emissions within the scope of local authorities totalled 1,046.9 kt – up from 937.5 kt in 2020, but down 42.7% since 2005 (1,827.4 kt).

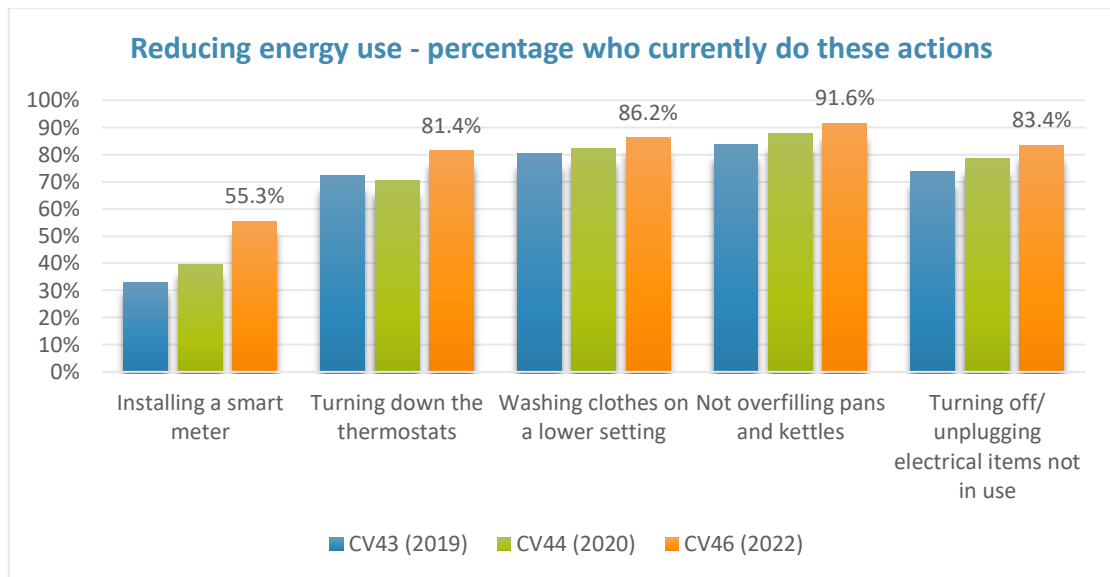
Public Sector CO₂ emissions: In 2021, Public Sector CO₂ emissions totalled 134 ktCO₂e – up slightly from 129 ktCO₂e in 2020. Public Sector Gas made up 81% of emissions.

Renewable energy: In 2021, Aberdeen City had 2,248 renewable energy installations (2,234 of which were photovoltaic) compared to 2,010 in 2020 and 789 in 2014. The installed capacity (MW) was 66.3MW in 2021 compared to 18.1MW in 2020 and 10.3MW in 2014. Renewable energy generation was 10,816MWh in 2021 - lower than 12,295MWh in 2020 and 25,704MWh in 2014 [109].

Reducing energy use and demand: Questions around reducing energy use and demand have been asked in the City Voice, most recently in December 2022. Overall the results suggest that most respondents are already taking steps to reduce the amount of energy they use e.g. turning down heating thermostats or switching off/ unplugging electrical items not in use. Common other ways of reducing energy use include wearing extra layers of clothing and reducing use of appliances such as ovens, dishwashers or tumble driers. Most respondents

¹⁰ Further information about public sector emissions can be found in the Sustainable Scotland Network Analysis Report 2021 to 2022 [Sustainable Scotland Network Analysis Report 2021 to 2022](#)

also reported that they currently are, or would be prepared to, undertake actions which would reduce energy demand, e.g. install more energy efficient appliances or upgrade insulation levels. The exception to this is installing renewable energy technologies such as solar panels, where over half of respondents (55.4%) reported either they were not prepared to do this, or that this option was not applicable (e.g. those living in rented accommodation) [28].



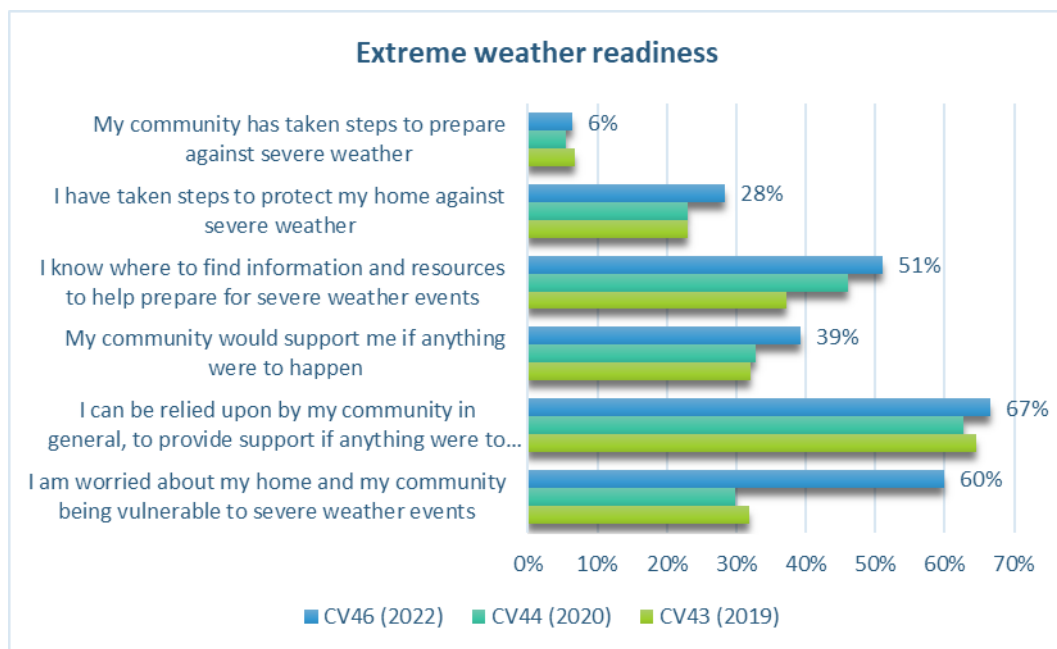
Climate Emergency Declaration: In March 2023, Aberdeen City Council added its voice to the growing number of local authorities around the world to have responded to the global climate change and nature loss crises by declaring a climate and nature emergency. Details of the declaration are available in the [minutes of the full Council meeting of 22 February 2023](#) (see item 18).

A city-wide [Green Champions](#) network exists to identify areas of improvement, drive change towards sustainable and resource efficient behaviour and promote activities which can benefit both climate and nature, as well as reducing long term costs and carbon inefficiencies. The developing city-wide network (currently six partners) meet up quarterly to support, share, and learn from each other.

Adaptation: Climate change is being experienced now across Aberdeen. Changes to local rainfall patterns and weather events are being seen, putting increasing numbers of people and property at risk. A Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) explored severe weather events experienced in Aberdeen over 2014-2019; as well as the impact on Council services. In comparing information with the previous LCLIP 2008-2013, changes in severe weather events, including storms, rainfall and warmer weather, between the two periods were noted. A refresh of Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework was produced in 2022, alongside an update to the Evidence Base which informs Aberdeen Adapts. The Evidence Base reflected strategic climate risks relevant to the city, taking information from sources including UK Climate Projections (UKCP18).

Results from the 2021 Scottish Household Survey estimate that 83% of people in Aberdeen City see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem – up from 68% in 2019 [79].

Extreme weather readiness: Questions about readiness for extreme weather events have been asked in City Voice. Data from City Voice 46 (December 2022), showed that over half (59.9%) of respondents agreed (either strongly agree or agree) that they were worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather events, double the response in 2020 (30%). While 66.6% of respondents agreed that they could be relied upon to by their neighbours or community to provide support if anything were to happen, only 39.3% agreed that their community would support them if anything were to happen. Just over half (51.1%) of respondents said they would know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events. Over a quarter (28.4%) of respondents reported they had taken steps to protect their home against severe weather and only 6.3% thought that their community had taken steps to prepare against severe weather with the most common response to this final statement being don't know (41.5% of respondents) [28].



Flood Risk: Scotland has been separated into 14 Local Plan Districts for flood risk management purposes. These districts are based on river catchments and coastal areas which cross administrative and institutional boundaries. SEPA, working with others, has produced a Flood Risk Management Strategy for each Local Plan District. The most recent Flood Risk Management Strategy produced by SEPA for the North East Local Plan District (2022-2028) identifies 4 areas in Aberdeen City that are potentially vulnerable to flooding – Aberdeen City North (Bridge Of Don, Dyce, Kingswells-north), Aberdeen City – South (Central), Peterculter, Cove and Nigg Bay (Cove Bay and Nigg Bay).

Number of people and properties at risk from flooding for each area:

- Aberdeen City - North (Bridge Of Don, Dyce, Kingswells-north): 7,600 people and 4,200 homes and businesses, 670 people and 610 homes and businesses and 100 people and 50 homes and businesses.
- Aberdeen City - South (Central): 23,000 people and 14,000 homes and businesses
- Peterculter: 790 people and 430 homes and businesses

- Cove and Nigg Bay (Cove Bay and Nigg Bay): 260 people and 150 homes and businesses and 90 people and 90 homes and businesses.

The total number of people at risk from flooding for the North-East Local area is 51,000. The total number of people at risk of flooding for Aberdeen City is 32,510. This means that 63.75% of the number of people at risk from flooding in the North-East are within Aberdeen City.

The total number of homes and businesses at risk from flooding for the North-East Local area are 30,000. The total number of homes and businesses at risk of flooding for Aberdeen City is 19,530. This means that 65.1% of the number of homes and businesses at risk from flooding in the North-East are within Aberdeen City.

Nature based solutions are being employed across Aberdeen, at locations such as at Seaton Park, Stronsay Park, and Maidencraig, to reduce flood risk while delivering additional outcomes for people and wildlife. A recent national Nature of Scotland Award was given to Aberdeen for this pioneering work on natural flood management.

6.7. Environment

Greenspace: Greenspace is important for a wide range of reasons, including health and well-being, improving biodiversity, climate mitigation and environmental protection. Greenspace also provides opportunities for play and recreation for all ages as well as providing economic benefits and ecosystem services. Greenspaces directly improve our health and wellbeing, benefitting society and helping to reduce costs on local and wider communities, the NHS, other public sector services and local businesses. Well-managed and maintained spaces can support people to interact with each other and promote a sense of place and community pride. Aberdeen has a diverse mix of greenspaces for people and wildlife. The types, quantities, quality and accessibility of these are not evenly distributed across Aberdeen. Areas of social deprivation tend to have lower diversity and quality spaces which in turn can impact on the health outcomes for those communities. Some areas, e.g. Deeside, have much higher prevalence of tree cover than others. Aberdeen has an overall tree canopy cover of 13%, much lower than comparable cities, Scotland as a whole, and national targets. Further analysis of the context, actions and trends in this area is required.

Aberdeen has 1,450 hectares of parks and other greenspaces. Further extensive areas of land are managed for people and nature and other co-benefits by other public, private and community bodies and partnerships, including, Forestry and Land Scotland, The River Dee Trust, the Woodland Trust and individual private land-owners.

The protection and enhancement of high-quality greenspace networks supports the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: 3 Good Health & Well-Being; 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities; 13 Climate Action; and 15 Life on Land. High-quality greenspace networks will also play a key role in helping to achieve the [Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap](#) by helping to store carbon and reduce carbon emissions.

Aberdeen's greenspaces are assessed through a periodic Open Space Audit, with the latest Audit currently being finalised. This Audit will provide information that is critical to directing greenspace management policies and targeted interventions and improvements for all

partners going forward. In December 2022, 69.9% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with their local greenspace – up from 65% in March 2020.

The amount of blue green infrastructure, including green walls, green roofs and rain gardens, within the built environment must be increased and enhanced to ensure a sustainable balance of blue, green and grey is achieved and to halt urban sprawl and the density of buildings, roads and hard infrastructure devoid of blue and green space.

The [Net Zero Aberdeen Natural Environment Strategy](#) identifies ways how we can all work together to improve greenspaces in the city e.g. by exploring sites to create naturalised grasslands and wildflower meadows across multiple land ownerships and increasing biodiversity and contributing to carbon stores and carbon savings from a reduction in intensive grass cutting on land across the city.

Aberdeen City Council is extending naturalised greenspace management [by improving and creating blue/green habitats in two high profile parks in the city](#). The Council is using a Nature Restoration in Parks grant from the Scottish Government to survey, plan and design work to further improve the parks for nature e.g. by creating/improving wildflower meadow areas for pollinators and tree planting. Aberdeen Flagship Parks for Pollinators Project also supports longer term '[B-lines](#)' pollinator work between Aberdeen City Council and the charity [Buglife](#).

86.9% of respondents to the Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire visited Aberdeen's greenspace or open space at least once a week (*Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire results will be published as part of the upcoming Open Space Audit report refresh*).

Woodland: Aberdeen has 2,410 ha of woodland - 13% of ACC's total land area. By comparison, Scotland's woodland cover is 18%. Native woodlands account for 22% of the total woodland area in Aberdeen. There are an estimated 115,000 individual street, park and garden and civic trees across the City.

Water environment: Aberdeen is a coastal harbour city bounded by two major inland waterways, the River Dee and the Don. These connections to water are important parts of its history, culture, economy, and well-being. Flooding, erosion, pollution, and wildlife impacts are all being experienced at the coast and inland and have significant implications for our people and economy. Further analysis of the context, actions and trends in this area is also required.

SEPA produces a classification system (five quality classes: Bad, Poor, Moderate, Good and High) to assess surface waters. In this system Aberdeen has 18 water bodies. Most of these (83.3%) are categorised as at least 'moderate' condition [110].

The River Don is currently classified as in a 'bad' ecological condition for its 10.7kms from Dyce to the tidal limit. The River Dee is currently classified as in a 'moderate' ecological condition for its 10.4kms from Peterculter to the tidal limit. The Denburn is currently classified as in a 'moderate' ecological condition for its 9.2kms length and the Leuchar Burn 'poor' ecological condition for 9Kms. The coastal water from Don Estuary to Souter Head (50 square kilometers) is classified as in good ecological status. North and south of this strip is in 'high' ecological condition.

The table below provides an overview of the condition of all 18 surface waters for 2020, 2019 and 2018.

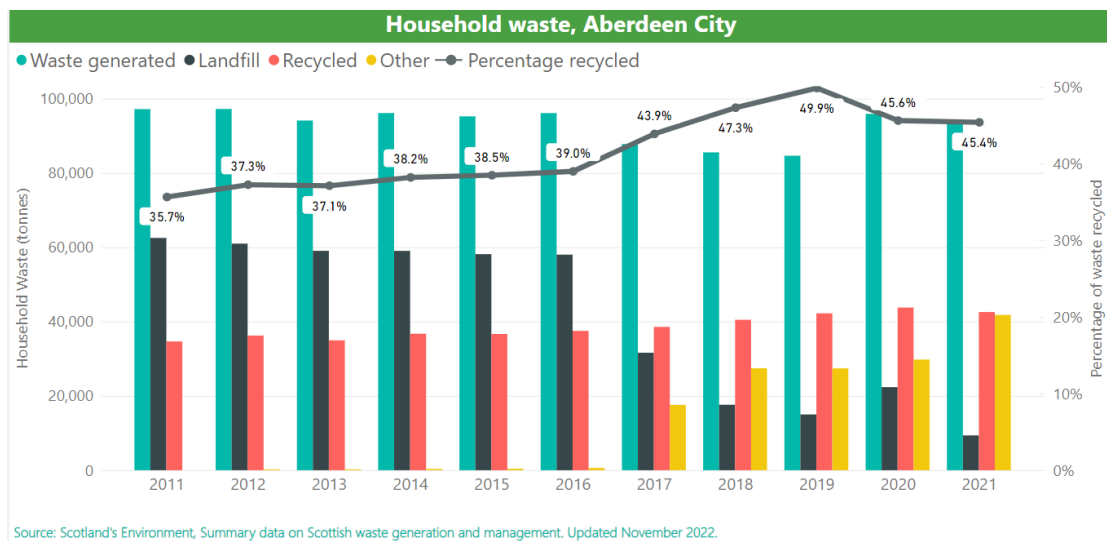
Name	2020	2019	2018
South Mundurno Burn	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Bad
Den Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Poor ecological potential
River Don - Dyce to tidal limit	Bad	Bad	Poor
Bucks Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate
Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential	Poor
River Don - Inverurie to Dyce	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good
Black Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate
River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Bad ecological potential
River Dee - Banchory to Peterculter	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Culter Burn	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Gormack Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Bad
Leuchar Burn	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential	Poor
Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Bad
Dee (Aberdeen) Estuary	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Don Estuary	High	High	High
Don Estuary to Souter Head (Aberdeen)	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Cruden Bay to the Don Estuary	High	High	High
Souter Head to Garron Point	High	High	High

Domestic water supply: The [River Dee and its tributaries](#), together with a number of private water supplies, provide a domestic water supply for the whole of Aberdeen City and over half of Aberdeenshire. Over 300,000 people drink water supplied by the River Dee each day [111].

Climate change is likely to bring more uncertainty and may exert pressure in areas that have not yet experienced water scarcity. SEPA are responsible for the forecast, monitoring and report of the situation facing Scotland's water resources and produces a during the summer months [112].

Natural heritage: The dramatic decline and loss of natural heritage is, alongside climate change, a crisis facing most of the globe. Aberdeen is not immune to this and this places risks on our citizens through impacts on food security, economy and health and wellbeing. Aberdeen has a diverse range of species and habitats and their outlook is currently mixed. Aberdeen has 1 Special Area of Conservation (SAC), 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 4 Local Nature Reserves and 45 Local Nature Conservation Sites. Approximately 17% of our land is protected for wildlife. ACC also manage a significant number of sites for nature that are not designated but provide essential refuge, food and wildlife corridors within Aberdeen. Currently, it is unclear what proportion is managed for nature but undesignated and this requires further analysis to compare to the UK wide target of 30% by 2030.

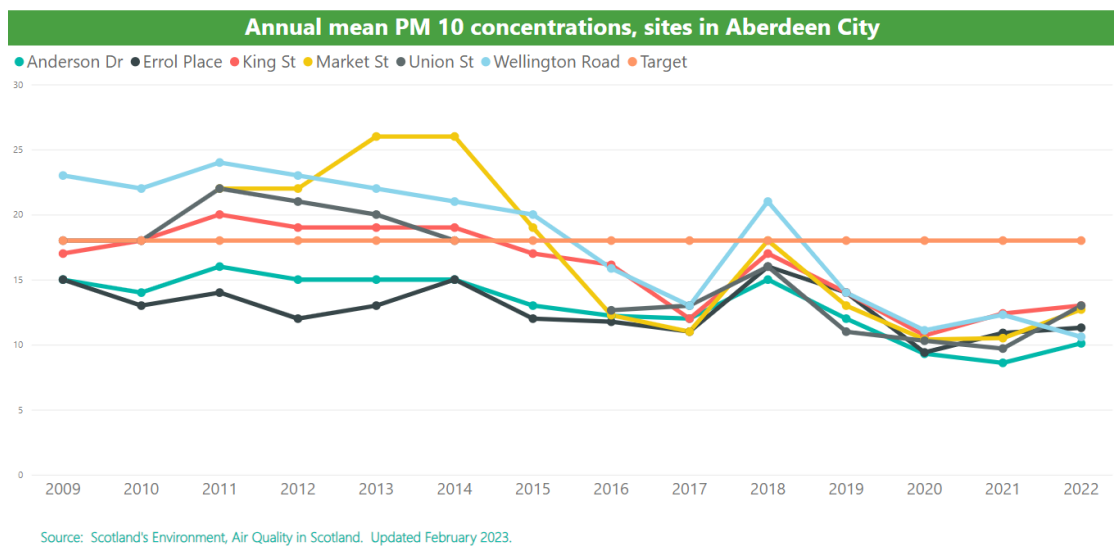
Household waste: In 2021, 93,747 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City. 2020 and 2021 saw increases in the amount of household waste generated compared to the preceding years. Overall, the amount of household waste going to landfill has fallen from 58,021 tonnes in 2016 to 9,376 in 2021. In the same period, the level of waste being recycled and 'other' diversions from landfill (disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods) has increased. In 2021, 45.4% of household waste was recycled (slightly less than the previous year) and 10% was sent to landfill. The carbon impact of household waste has fallen from 253,016 tonnes CO₂e in 2016 to 224,544 tonnes CO₂e in 2019 (although again there were increases in 2020 and 2021 compared to the immediately preceding years) [113].



Active travel: In 2021 an estimated 24% of people in Aberdeen City used active travel (walking or cycling) to get to work or education. This is an increase from 21.4% in 2018/19 [114]. In 2021, 34% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (up from 21% in 2019 – no data for 2020) and 4% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (up from 2% in 2019). Driving a car was the most common main mode of travel at 46% [114]. Most City

Voice respondents (89.1%) reported walking as one mode of travel and 14.8% reported they cycled as one mode of travel (December 2022) [28].

Air Pollution: Information on PM10 concentrations is available for six sites in Aberdeen City (Anderson Drive, Errol Place, King Street, Market Street, Union Street and Wellington Road) [115]. For PM10, the annual mean concentration for the air quality objective of 18ug/m3, and the daily mean concentration with the air quality objective of 50ug/m3 - not to be exceeded more than seven times per year - have not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016. The annual mean PM2.5 objective of 10µg/m3 has also not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016.



Electric Vehicles: In 2022/23, there were 79 public chargepoint sockets installed by the Council in order to encourage the use of electric vehicles - up from 56 in 2020 and 30 in 2017. In addition to these, there are a growing number of publicly available charge points that the Council does not have responsibility for.

7 Further Information




If you have any queries about the content of this document or would like further information, please contact us using the details below.





Contact Anne McAteer, Research Officer, Community Planning Team






Email : communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk






Visit : www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/data

Appendix 1: An interpretation of the PNA through the lens of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>In 2021/22 an estimated 7,994 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City were living in poverty (below 60% median income after housing costs). This is equivalent to 20.5% of children compared to 24.5% for Scotland (End Child Poverty 2023). The proportion of children living in poverty has decreased slightly in Aberdeen from 21.3% in 2019/20.</p> <p>The number of datazones in Aberdeen within the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland increased from 22 (out of 283) in 2016 to 29 in 2020. Additionally the proportion of datazones within the 40% most deprived areas of Scotland has increased by 5.2% in Aberdeen between 2016 and 2020.</p>
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>18.6% of City Voice respondents reported they ate only a few kinds of food, 11.6% that they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 10.6% that they ate less than they thought they should and 8.4% that they were worried they would not have enough food to eat.</p> <p>The use of foodbanks has increased. In 2022/23 over 60,000 food parcels were distributed in Aberdeen City (CFINE, Trussel Trust, Instant Neighbour and Inchgarth).</p> <p>22.3% of P6 and 18.7% of P7 pupils were registered for Free School Meals in 2022/23. At secondary school level, 16.6% of pupils were registered for FSM – up from 15.7% in 2021 and 13.9% in 2020.</p> <p>In 2021/22, nearly a quarter of P1 children were classified as being at risk of overweight or obesity. In 2016-19 it was estimated that 23% of the City’s adult population is obese (classified as a BMI of 30+). This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 29% and a decrease from 25% in 2014-17.</p> <p>Less than 1% of P1 children were classified as being at risk of underweight.</p> <p>The allotment waiting list continues to grow: 793 households were waiting in 2021, by March 2023 this had risen to 1047 households (ACC Annual Allotments Report).</p>
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>In 2019-21 in Aberdeen City Life Expectancy at birth has fallen slightly for women (81 years) and remained static for men (76.9 years) and both are similar to the Scotland average of 80.8 years for women and 76.5 for men.</p> <p>The life expectancy gap between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Aberdeen has increased to 10 years for men and 8.1 years for women.</p> <p>In 2017-21, the rate of infant deaths (age 0-1 years) in Aberdeen City was 3.1 per 1000 live births – lower than the rate for Scotland of 3.4 but higher than the rate for 2016-18 of 2.5.</p> <p>The rate of cancer registrations decreased in Aberdeen from 2017 to 2020 but is higher than the Scottish average.</p> <p>In Aberdeen City, the rate of Coronary Heart Disease patient hospitalisations has decreased over the past 10 years as has the rate of early deaths from cancer (under the age of 75).</p> <p>Alcohol-related deaths are the higher than the previous five year period and slightly lower than the Scottish average.</p>

	<p>There were 42 drug-related deaths in 2022. In the period 2018-2022, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 22.9 deaths per 100,000 population slightly lower than the equivalent rate for Scotland.</p> <p>In the period 2017-21, an estimated 15% of adults in Aberdeen were current smokers compared to 16% in Scotland (an 8% reduction from 2014-2017). It is estimated 5% of adults currently use e-cigarettes.</p>
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>In 2021/22, 90.8% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, slightly lower than the previous year and lower than the rate for Scotland. 10.3% more school leavers had a positive destination from the least deprived areas of Aberdeen compared to the most deprived.</p> <p>In 2020/21, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 94.3% and for secondary schools the rate was 90.7%; higher than the rates for Scotland (91.4% and 83.2% respectively)</p> <p>In January to December 2021, compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City had a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to NVQ4 and above (54.4% in Aberdeen and 50.0% in Scotland).</p> <p>96 Aberdeen educational settings are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and 13 have achieved green flags Keep Scotland Beautiful Eco-Schools Map.</p>
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>The gender pay gap has improved since 2020. In 2022 the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers living in Aberdeen City was higher for males (£644.90) than for females (£629.70) representing a 2.3% difference. Female full-time workers in Aberdeen earned more however than the Scotland average (£604.70).</p> <p>Recorded incidents of domestic abuse were down slightly in 2021/22 from the previous year and in 2022/23 there were 116 recorded crimes for domestic abuse, 54 fewer than the previous year.</p>
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>The River Dee and its tributaries, together with 150 private water suppliers provide a domestic water supply for the whole of Aberdeen City and over half of Aberdeenshire. Over 300,000 people drink water supplied by the River Dee each day.</p> <p>Climate change is likely to bring more uncertainty and may exert pressure in areas that have not yet experienced water scarcity. SEPA are responsible for the forecast, monitoring and report of the situation facing Scotland's water resources and produces a weekly report during the summer months.</p> <p>Drinking water quality is monitored and maintained Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland.</p>
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>In 2017-19 an estimated 26.1% of households were in fuel poverty – up from 23% in 2016-18 and higher than the rate for Scotland of 24.4%. 12.8% were in extreme fuel poverty. A higher proportion of those in social housing were in fuel poverty than those in owner occupied housing (46.2% compared to 12.9%)</p> <p>In 2021, Aberdeen City had 2,248 renewable energy installations (2,234 of which were photovoltaic) compared to 2,010 in 2020. The installed capacity (MW) was 66.3MW in 2021 compared to 18.1MW in 2020. Renewable energy generation was 10,816MWh in 2021 compared to 12,295MWh in 2020.</p>

<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>In 2021 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a Gross Value Added per head of £31,823 (current basic prices) showing a slight increase from the previous year (£30,249). This is 23.7% above the Scottish average and 10.6% above the UK average. The gap between the North East, Scotland, and the UK has been narrowing since 2015.</p> <p>In 2022, 75.1% of Aberdeen’s working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active compared to 77.1% in Scotland. There were 5.5% fewer enterprises and 5% fewer local units in Aberdeen City compared to the previous year. The unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 3.9% - slightly higher than the rate for Scotland.</p> <p>In 2022, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers living in Aberdeen City was £637.90 – slightly lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £640.30.</p>
<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	<p>In 2022, 96% of City Voice respondents reported having access to either a laptop or PC, a smart phone or tablet : an increase from 90% in 2018.</p> <p>In 2022, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (49%), followed by being driven (19.8%) and bus (13.2%).</p> <p>In 2021, 34% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (up from 21% in 2019) and 4% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (up from 2% in 2019).</p>
<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p>In 2022, participation rates for 16-19 year-olds in education, employment or training were lower for those in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) than for those in the 20% least deprived areas (95.9%).</p> <p>86.8% of young people identified as disabled were participating in education, employment or training – an increase from 83.6% in 2021 but lower than the rate for 2020 of 87.9% (participation among non-disabled young people in 2022 was 91.4%).</p>
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>Provisional data for 2022/23 shows there were 1,772 homelessness applications in the year – an increase of 26.1% from 2021/22.</p> <p>In 2021-22 there were 1,536,720 entries and exits at Aberdeen train station. This is down from 2,497,108 in 2019-20.</p> <p>For PM10, the annual mean concentration for the air quality objective of 18ug/m3, and the daily mean concentration with the air quality objective of 50ug/m3 - not to be exceeded more than seven times per year - have not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016. The annual mean PM2.5 objective of 10µg/m3 has also not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016.</p> <p>In 2021, there were 64 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 2 were fatalities and 27 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has decreased in each of the last three years (from 151 in 2018).</p>
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<p>In 2021, 93,747 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City. 2020 and 2021 saw increases in the amount of household waste generated compared to the preceding years. 45.4% was recycled in 2021 (slightly less than the previous year) and 10% was sent to landfill.</p>

<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> 	<p>In 2021, Greenhouse Gas emissions estimates totalled 1,218 ktCO₂e for Aberdeen City – up from 1,117 ktCO₂e in 2020, but lower than the figure of 1,305 ktCO₂e in 2019. Domestic use was the single largest contributor (29.6% of all greenhouse gas emissions) followed by travel (25%). In 2020, per capita emissions were lower in Aberdeen City (5.4 tCO₂e) than in Scotland (7.4 tCO₂e).</p> <p>Data from the most recent City Voice questionnaire (December 2022), showed that over half (59.9%) of respondents agreed that they were worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather events, double the response in 2020 (30%).</p> <p>Results from the 2021 Scottish Household Survey estimate that 83% of people in Aberdeen City see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem – up from 68% in 2019.</p>
<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p> 	<p>The River Don is currently classified as in a ‘bad’ ecological condition for its 10.7kms from Dyce to the tidal limit. The River Dee is currently classified as in a ‘moderate’ ecological condition for its 10.4kms from Peterculter to the tidal limit. The Denburn is currently classified as in a ‘moderate’ ecological condition for its 9.2kms length and the Leuchar Burn ‘poor’ ecological condition for 9Kms</p> <p>The coastal water from Don Estuary to Souter Head (50 square kilometers) is classified as in good ecological status. North and south of this strip is in ‘high’ ecological condition.</p>
<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p> 	<p>Aberdeen has 2,410 ha of woodland - 13% of ACC’s total land area. By comparison, Scotland’s woodland cover is 18%. Native woodlands account for 22% of the total woodland area in Aberdeen. There are an estimated 115,000 individual street, park and garden and civic trees across the City.</p> <p>In December 2022, 69.9% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with their local greenspace – up from 65% in March 2020.</p> <p>In 2021, 17% of Aberdeen’s land was protected for nature.</p> <p>86.9% of respondents to the Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire visit Aberdeen’s greenspace or open space at least once a week (Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire results will be published as part of the upcoming Open Space Audit report refresh).</p>
<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 	<p>The rate of crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas. In 2022/23 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,449), Road Traffic Offences (4,162) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,608)</p> <p>718 people living in Aberdeen City had a first ever court conviction in 2019/20 which is 21 fewer than the previous year. Of these, 29 were under 18 years and 104 were aged 18-20 years. Of the 1,597 offenders (over 18 years) in the 2018-19 cohort, 31.1% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence.</p> <p>In 2022-23 there were 116 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse – 54 fewer than in 2021-22.</p>
<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 	<p>Aberdeen’s relationship with developing countries is expressed through its status as a Fairtrade City and this accreditation is maintained by a partnership of organisations connecting through the Aberdeen Fair and Sustainable Trade Group.</p> <p>Policy coherence across the goals is being assisted locally by the Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership and other important partnerships which include Aberdeen Climate Action, ACVO, Aberdeen Cycle Forum, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, Granite City Good Food Sustainable Food Places in Aberdeen City, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership, NESTRANS.</p>

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti-Poverty and Inequality
DATE	1 November 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	External Advisers report
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/23/319
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
REPORT AUTHOR	External advisers; Paul Tytler
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide committee with an update report from the external advisers.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

2.1 Notes the report from the external advisers.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 The external advisers were involved in a joint workshop with the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group (OIG) on 19th September to begin the process of refreshing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). A summary of the development actions are contained in Appendix 1.

3.2 In addition, the external advisors have been involved in a bid led by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and a group of third sector and public partners to the Scottish Government Cash First fund. The outcome of the bid is expected to be known by the end of October. Appendix 1 contains a summary of the bid proposal and expected outcomes.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

4.2 In the event that the bid to the Scottish Government Cash First Fund is successful, any supporting activity required from Council officers will be accommodated from within existing resources.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	None	None	L	Yes
Compliance	None	None	L	Yes
Operational	None	None	L	Yes
Financial	None	None	L	Yes
Reputational	None	None	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	None	None	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	There is no proposal in this report
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	There is no proposal in this report
Regional and City Strategies	There is no proposal in this report

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	It is confirmed by Chief Officer Jacqui McKenzie that no Integrated Impact Assessment is required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	not required.
Other	n/a

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 [Cash-First Fund: form and guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – External advisers report

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Paul Tytler
Title	Locality Inclusion Manager
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Tel	01224 067879

External Advisers Report

ACVO have led a group of third sector and public partners in developing and submitting a bid to the Scottish Government. The bid is for £200k over two years, and the outcome is expected to be known in October 2023.

Aberdeen Cash First Network - Project Summary

The project aims to provide speedy access to cash-first help at a time of crisis including flexible cash payments to alleviate immediate pressures. The purpose is to position food banks as a last resort for emergency help in the city.

The proposal would establish a flexible crisis fund to provide direct cash payments to people facing financial emergency. The project would identify improvements to the co-ordination and sharing of information between existing services currently providing emergency food along with financial advice. A review would be undertaken to improve the resources available to the public with a view to making it easier and quicker to find the right type of help at the right time whilst understanding the limitations caused by digital exclusion.

The project would use the knowledge of those with direct experience of financial crisis to design the parameters of a flexible crisis fund, to identify barriers to accessing cash focused support services in Aberdeen, and to identify pathways to other 'wrap around' support services which can help promote longer term financial stability.

The funding would also be used to employ a co-ordinator for the project, to establish a flexible crisis fund and to fund a lived experience group.

The co-ordinator would establish a lived experience group and work with them to understand what level of emergency financial help would be most helpful and at what points in the crisis timeline. The group would also use their experience as service users to identify barriers – systematic, psychological or other – to accessing financial help quickly.

The co-ordinator would work with partner organisations to improve existing cash-first pathways, establish new ways of working between services and identify circumstances where emergency cash payments have the greatest impact.

A new shared approach and ambition around cash first would then be extended to other organisations in the city beyond the life of the project.

Project Outcomes

A cash first approach would be co-designed and tested - but not cash only – the approach would be to reduce people's need to access food banks and move towards making them a last resort for emergency assistance in Aberdeen.

Each provider has much to offer, however it can be challenging to navigate and ensure the right support at the right time. Living with poverty can be exhausting and so the project will support ways to improve the referral and support pathways between partners, removing or reducing barriers identified by those from the target group working with them to support streamlining of processes where required.

The key elements of the project would be co-designed with people who have lived experience supporting power and voice that can influence local and national policy.

The outcomes would include an understanding of the effective timing and level of emergency cash payments and the appropriate route for distribution with a view to seeking ongoing funding to support this method of emergency intervention.

The impact of the cash first intervention would be measured with each individual to measure what works. The hope would be that those who access support through the project no longer require emergency food aid.

Improved and ongoing understanding across all partners as to what each has on offer across the city.

In the event that the bid is unsuccessful, the group led by ACVO will request consideration by the Anti-Poverty Committee and wider Council for support to enable the work to progress.

Anti-Poverty Workshop 19th September 2023

The external advisers joined the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group for a workshop to begin the process of refreshing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the potential to refresh the stretch outcome and improvement aims in the plan.

A number of development actions were identified, including:

- Understand lived experience through third sector to determine causal factors of poverty
- Understand impact of cash first on emergency food demand/minimum income
- Understand impact of Free School Meal vouchers during school holidays on demand
- Develop more consistent data on emergency food provision through Food Poverty Action Aberdeen
- Identify key indicators or proxy for poverty to improve clarity on measurement and progress
- Improve public debt recovery and write off processes
- Support people with no recourse to public funds

- Just Transition, new types of businesses
- Develop systematic resilience

The focus will be on reducing the use of foodbanks and the development of cash first approaches, along with wrap around support, including place-based benefit and financial advice services. The outcomes from the workshop are being further developed and will now feed in to the community planning process for refreshing the LOIP.

Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee External Advisers

November 2023

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee
DATE	1 November 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Committee Annual Effectiveness Report
REPORT NUMBER	COM/23/325
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jacqui McKenzie
REPORT AUTHOR	Emma Robertson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	GD 8.5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the annual report of the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee to enable Members to provide comment on the data contained within.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee:-

- 2.1 provide comments and observations on the data contained within the annual report; and
- 2.2 note the annual report of the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Annual Reports on Committee Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The annual committee effectiveness reports were introduced in 2018/19 following a recommendation from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as part of the Council's work towards securing that organisation's accreditation in governance excellence. The Terms of Reference set out that each Committee will review its own effectiveness against its Terms of Reference through the mechanism of the annual report.
- 3.2 The annual effectiveness reports were mentioned by CIPFA in their report which awarded the Mark of Excellence in Governance accreditation to Aberdeen City Council. CIPFA highlighted the implementation of the annual effectiveness reports as a matter of good practice in governance and were encouraged that, during consideration of the reports at Committee and Council, Members had made suggestions for improvements to the reports in future years.
- 3.3 Data from the annual effectiveness reports is used to inform the review of the Scheme of Governance, ensuring that Committee Terms of Reference are

correctly aligned, and identifying any areas of the Terms of Reference which had not been used throughout the year in order that they can be reviewed and revised if necessary. The information from the effectiveness reports has also been used in the past to feed into the Annual Governance Statement.

- 3.4 The reports provide a mechanism for each committee to annually review its effectiveness, including data on attendance, any late reports, referrals to Council and the number of times officer recommendations were amended, and to ensure that it is following its Terms of Reference.
- 3.5 Similarly, recording the sections or stretch outcomes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which apply to each report allows Members to be aware of the direct impact of any proposals before them on the LOIP, and gives a general overview at the end of each year of the number of reports which have had an impact on the LOIP stretch outcomes.
- 3.6 The annual effectiveness reports for committees retained from the previous structure were delayed to allow the newly established Committees to have a full year of data to report. This is the first year of operation for the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee.
- 3.7 Any comments from Members on areas of data that should be considered would be welcomed to ensure that Members are presented with meaningful data.
- 3.8 The annual report for 2022/2023 is therefore appended for the Committee's consideration. Following consideration by the Committee, the report will be submitted to Full Council in December for noting.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
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Strategic Risk	N/A			Yes
Compliance	Failure to submit this report would mean that the Council would not be complying with its instruction that all committees and Full Council receive such a report each year.	L	Council is given the opportunity to consider the reports and provide feedback on any amendments Members would wish to see in the content so that this can be taken on board for next year's Scheme of Governance review.	Yes
Operational	N/A			Yes
Financial	N/A			Yes
Reputational	N/A			Yes
Environment / Climate	N/A			Yes

8. OUTCOMES

There are no links to the Council Delivery Plan, however the committee effectiveness annual reports link to the Scheme of Governance, by ensuring that each committee is fulfilling its Terms of Reference.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	It is confirmed by the Interim Chief Officer – Governance (Assurance), Vikki Cuthbert, that no impact assessment is required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Emma Robertson

Committee Services Officer
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Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the first annual effectiveness report for the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee. The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2017, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference. The presentation of the annual reports was temporarily paused due to the disruption to committee meetings as a result of the pandemic, and then to allow time for the new committee structure to bed in following the local government elections in May 2022.
- 1.2 The Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Terms of Reference were considered as part of the 2023 Scheme of Governance Review. As a new Committee, no changes were made as part of that piece of work. The use of the Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored over the next year to identify if any changes require to be made in 2024.
- 1.3 Aberdeen City Council stands firm in its commitment to help people and communities affected by the cost of living crisis and alleviate suffering due to poverty where it exists across the city. The Council's Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee is clear that tackling poverty requires more than treating the short-term symptoms. Looking ahead to the future it seeks to improve the quality of life for all citizens and tackle poverty and disadvantage at its root cause.
- 1.4 Committee welcomes the expertise and input from our External Advisers, informing the development of committee business as well as the formation of a working group to support the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee. The working group brings together the external advisers and the members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group to ensure a joined up approach to tackling poverty.
- 1.5 The External Advisers have supported the Committee since it was established in November 2022 and report the following:
 - It has been helpful participating in the discussions on papers presented at Committee, having seen them in advance to allow due consideration;
 - The opportunity to highlight issues and help shape future Committee business through the external advisers reports and working group is welcomed; and
 - The development of clearer links with the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group is a welcome development.
- 1.6 An Anti-Poverty Workshop was held on 30 May 2023 with the External Advisers of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and members of the CPA Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, to explore how they could work together and with wider partners to achieve their shared outcomes. Organisations represented at the

Workshop included: Aberdeen City Council, ACVO, Aberdeen Foyer, CFINE, Instant Neighbour, NHS Grampian, SCARF and the University of Aberdeen.

- 1.7 The Committee has received six-monthly reports for assurance on the Memorandum of Understanding between Aberdeen City Council and the Department of Work and Pensions.
- 1.8 A key piece of work this year was progression on Citizens' Assemblies. The Committee has received three reports on this subject, with the most recent resolution to approve the approach to deliver an assembly on poverty and gender inequality in Aberdeen. A procurement exercise will now be undertaken in line with the Council's Procurement Regulations, to secure the services of two organisations to support the delivery of the process.
- 1.9 Committee Members have been getting out to visit our Communities and the organisations supporting them, with quarterly visits organised. So far we have been to SHMU, CFINE and Aberdeen Foyer, with further visits planned. The visits have been extremely helpful for the Committee in learning about the work of organisations across the city, hearing at first hand the issues and difficulties faced by people experiencing poverty, as well as from staff and volunteers on the challenges of supporting vulnerable people. This builds on input to the Committee from our external advisers. The commitment of the organisations in organising and hosting the visits is very much appreciated.
- 1.10 In addition, the reports to committee following the visits have been welcomed as an opportunity for organisations to further share information about their work and for committee to reflect on the learning.
- 1.11 I would like to thank Members – both Elected and External - and officers for their contributions during the first year of the Committee and look forward to working with them, and my Vice Convener, Councillor Desmond Bouse, next year.



Councillor Christian Allard
Convener – Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

To monitor and determine the Council's contribution to alleviating and mitigating all forms of poverty and inequality in the city.

The Committee will develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

1. The Committee will, in respect of poverty and inequality issues in the city:

- 1.1 Consider the impact of poverty on the city as a whole and targeted population levels, including on key groups such as children, minority ethnic communities and those of pensionable age who are known to be particularly disadvantaged by poverty;
- 1.2 Consider the evidence from Citizen's Assemblies on poverty and inequality matters;
- 1.3 Seek the views and involvement of those experiencing poverty and inequality;
- 1.4 Consider the effect of In-work Poverty and the Living Wage, including by receiving reports on Living Wage accreditation rates;
- 1.5 Consider evidence of "what's worked" in combating poverty and inequality;
- 1.6 Consider the impact of ongoing Welfare Reform measures, including by receiving reports on benefit access and uptake;
- 1.7 Consider the impact of poverty on Employability and Youth Employment, including by receiving reports on employment rates and positive destinations;
- 1.8 Consider the impact of Food Insecurity and Fuel Poverty, including by receiving reports on community food provision and energy cost impacts;
- 1.9 Consider the impact of stigma and discrimination on those experiencing poverty;
- 1.10 Consider the impact of poverty on the health and wellbeing of those experiencing it;
- 1.11 Monitor the progress of research relevant to poverty and inequality, including in relation to health determinants;
- 1.12 Consider matters relating to the provision of Credit Unions, fair and affordable banking and advice services;
- 1.13 Examine the nature of institutional and systemic discrimination in Aberdeen, and consider the steps required to eradicate such discrimination;
- 1.14 Monitor the performance of Council-funded community programmes and projects which seek to address poverty or inequality.

2. The Committee will:

- 2.1 agree the submission of Child Poverty Action Plans and Reports to the Scottish Government;
- 2.2 agree the submission of the Council's Equalities Mainstreaming Outcomes Reports to the Scottish Government; and
- 2.3 monitor the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Department for Work and Pensions through receipt of an annual report.

- 3.1 In undertaking the aspects at 1 and 2, the Committee will ensure that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards.
- 3.2 The Committee may make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee.

EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP

Emphasising the close links with Community Planning Aberdeen's Anti-Poverty Group, the Committee has appointed advisers who are not members of the Council. These external advisers were appointed by the Council at its statutory meeting as follows:

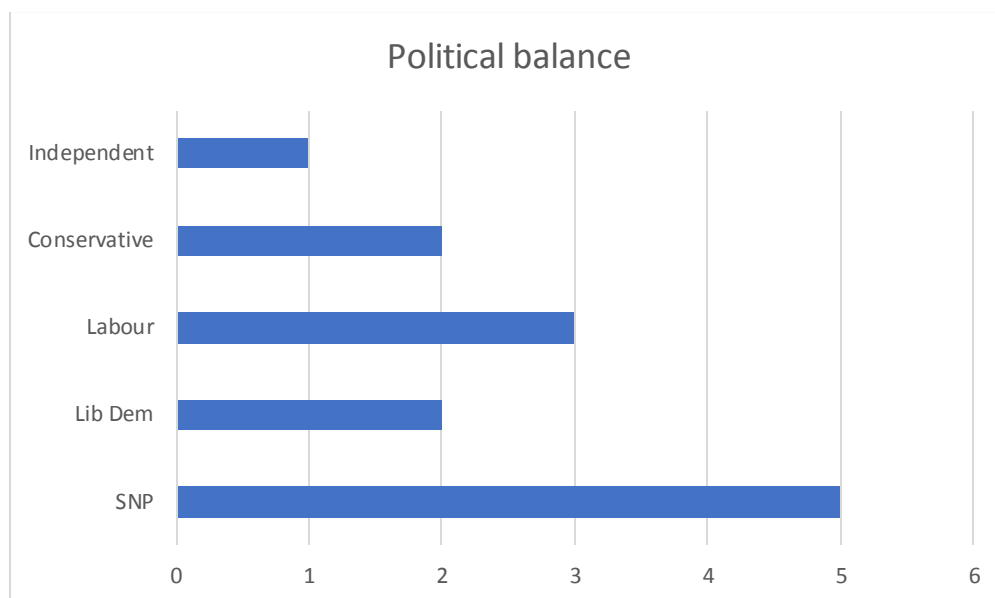
- 1 resident of Aberdeen with lived experience of poverty;
- Up to 2 people representing the charitable sector of Reference in Aberdeen;
- 1 person representing higher and further education in Aberdeen;
- 1 person representing key interest groups in Aberdeen (that may be appointed for a defined period of time); and
- 1 public health professional/practitioner who works in Aberdeen.

Executive Leads: Director of Customer Services and Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment.

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



3.3 The Committee also has five External Members who attend the meeting. The Advisers can ask questions and participate in any debate, but do not have the ability to move or second motions or amendments, nor to vote. These Members are:-

Dr John Bone	University of Aberdeen
Sophy Green	Instant Neighbour
Maggie Hepburn	ACVO
Phil Mackie	Public Health, NHS Grampian
Evan Adamson (until July 2023)	Instant Neighbour
Vacancy from July 2023	

4. Membership Changes

4.1 Councillor McLeod was a member of the Committee until the January 2023 meeting, after which time Councillor Kuszniir joined. Following the change of committee places as a result of the May 2023 by-election, Councillor Houghton left and Councillor Lawrence became a member of the Committee from the May 2023 meeting. Following the meeting of Council in August 2023, Councillors Bonsell and Lawrence stepped down from the Committee and Councillors Crockett and Tissera joined.

5. Member Attendance

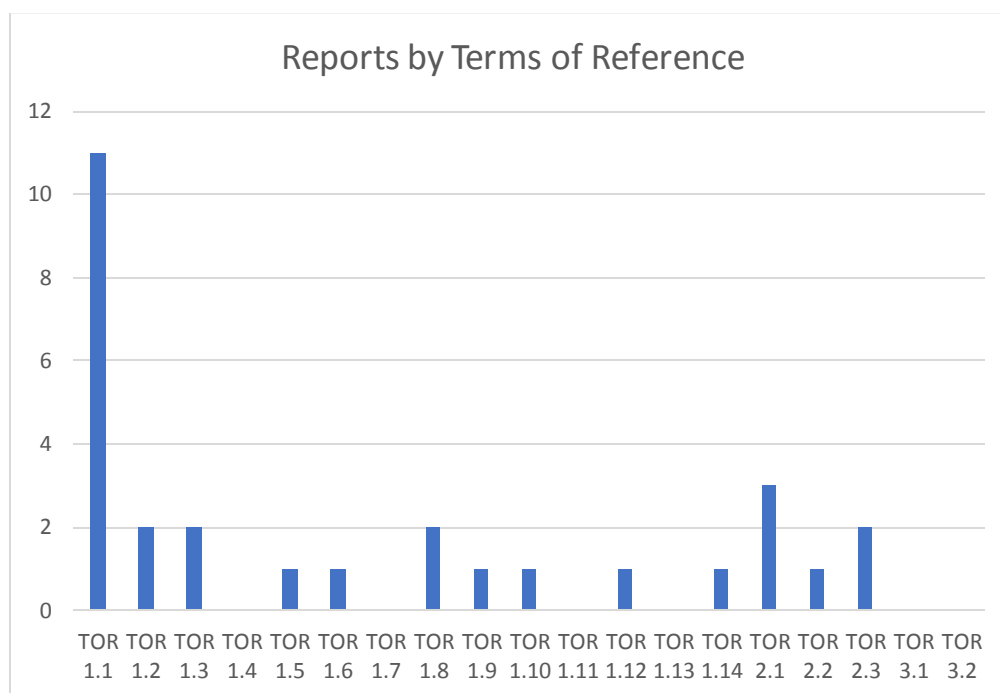
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Christian Allard	6	6	
Councillor Desmond Bouse	6	5	Councillor Steve Delaney
Councillor Jennifer Bonsell	5	4	Councillor M. Tauqeer Malik
Councillor Richard Brooks	6	6	
Councillor Donna Clark	6	6	
Councillor Barney Crockett	1	0	Councillor Graeme Lawrence
Councillor Derek Davidson	6	6	
Councillor Gordon Graham	6	5	Councillor Jennifer Bonsell
Councillor Martin Greig	6	6	
Councillor Ryan Houghton	3	2	Councillor Mrs Stewart
Councillor Michael Hutchison	6	5	Councillor Miranda Radley
Councillor Michael Kuszniir	4	3	Councillor Emma Farquhar
Councillor Graeme Lawrence	2	1	Councillor Deena Tissera
Councillor Jessica Mennie	6	5	Councillor Miranda Radley
Councillor Ken McLeod	2	0	Councillor Michael Kuszniir Councillor Emma Farquhar
Councillor Deena Tissera	1	0	Councillor Kate Blake
Councillor Simon Watson	6	5	Councillor Kate Blake

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had six meetings and considered a total of 24 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports under the majority of the main Terms of Reference which indicates that the Committee has discharged its role effectively throughout the course of the reporting period.

6.2.3 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review, and consideration will be given to whether those Terms Of Reference which have not been used in reports require to be amended

6.2.4 The majority of reports fell under Terms of Reference 1.1 - Consider the impact of poverty on the city as a whole and targeted population levels, including on key groups such as children, minority ethnic communities and those of pensionable age who are known to be particularly disadvantaged by poverty - which indicates that the Committee is fulfilling its purpose of monitoring and determining the Council's

contribution to alleviating and mitigating all forms of poverty and inequality in the city.

- 6.2.5 Other Terms Of Reference that featured regularly were consistent with the purpose of the committee, namely: 1.2 - Consider the evidence from Citizen's Assemblies on poverty and inequality matters; 1.3 - Seek the views and involvement of those experiencing poverty and inequality and those with knowledge or expertise in relation to these issues; and 1.8 - Consider the impact of Food Insecurity and Fuel Poverty, including by receiving reports on community food provision and energy cost impacts.
- 6.2.6 Reports referring to Terms Of Reference 2.1 and 2.3 were also reported to the Committee. Terms Of Reference 2.1 states that the Committee will approve for publication the Local Child Poverty Action Reports in terms of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 and Child Poverty Action Plans. These have been agreed by the Committee. Child Poverty has now been integrated into the Children's Services Plan, as reported to the Education and Children's Services Committee in March 2023. Going forward, annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports will be presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee and the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee, thereafter for approval by the Community Planning Management Board. Statutory reporting to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee will therefore align with this reporting cycle. TOR 2.3 relates to the monitoring of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Department for Work and Pensions through receipt of an annual report. The Committee has received two 6-monthly update reports in this regard.
- 6.2.7 Terms Of Reference 1.4, 1.7, 1.11 and 1.13 were not explicitly identified in reports throughout the year, however their topics were covered in other reports and through Service Updates. Terms Of Reference 1.4 relates to reports on in-work poverty and the Living Wage, Terms Of Reference 1.7 relates to employment rates and positive destinations. Terms Of Reference 1.11 refers to monitoring research relevant to poverty and inequality and Terms Of Reference 1.13 is examining institutional and systemic discrimination in the city.
- 6.2.8 In addition, there were no reports under Terms Of Reference 3.1 or 3.2. Terms Of Reference 3.1 relates to the Committee, in undertaking its remit, ensuring that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards. The majority of reports to the Committee could be argued to fall under this Terms Of Reference, however more specific Terms Of Reference relating to poverty and inequality were selected as the main Terms Of Reference. Terms Of Reference 3.2 states that the Committee may make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee. This has not arisen during the reporting period.

7. Reports and Decisions

7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	0
Exempt Reports	0	0
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	0	0
Number of reports approved unanimously	21	87.5%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	1 report 13 Service Updates	N/A
Number of reports delayed for further information	0	0
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	0
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	0
Number of referrals to Council under SO 34.1	1	4%

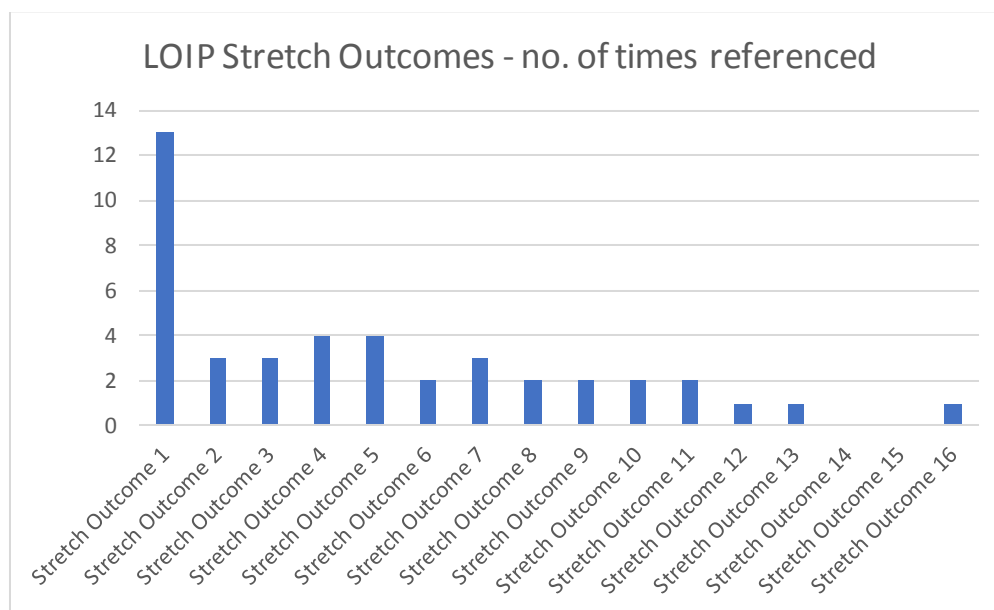
7.2 The additional report requested was regarding issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services.

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	0
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	0
Specific Standing Orders suspended	N/A
Number of deputations requested	0
Number of deputations heard	N/A
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

8.1 The chart below details of the 24 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below, the majority of reports have addressed Stretch Outcome 1 (No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026) which supports the purpose and remit of the Committee. There is however a wide spread across the other stretch outcomes, and as would be expected, most reports also have had a connection with stretch outcomes 4, 5 and 7, which relate to (i) 95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026; (ii) 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026; and (iii) 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026 – and more recently, stretch outcome 16 - 100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026 with a report on the Citizens' Assembly.

As can be seen from the chart below, reports to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee had links to most of the stretch outcomes, with the exception of 14 and 15.



8.2 Stretch outcome 14 relates to increasing sustainable travel and stretch outcome 15 relates to addressing the nature crisis, therefore it is unlikely that there would be reports considered at the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee which have links to those stretch outcomes.

9. Training and Development

9.1 An Anti-Poverty Workshop was held on 30 May 2023 with the external advisers of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, to explore how they could work together and with wider partners to achieve their shared outcomes. Organisations represented at the Workshop included:

- Aberdeen City Council
- ACVO
- Aberdeen Foyer
- CFINE
- Instant Neighbour
- NHS Grampian
- SCARF
- University of Aberdeen

Workshop attendees explored the outcomes that they were aiming to achieve in their respective organisations and collectively as a group. There was great commonality across the group and key outcomes included the following:

- Reducing fear
- Breaking the cycle of crisis, cash and repeat poverty
- Ensuring a sustainable approach to providing support for those that need it most
- Tackling poverty as a whole rather than breaking it down into different types of poverty (fuel, food, bed etc)
- Eliminating poverty through equity and equality of opportunity

Looking ahead to the future, the group considered what factors might impact and influence a collective approach to tackling poverty.

9.2 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

10.1 No declarations of interest and 18 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

11.1 During the reporting period, the Service has engaged in a wide variety of engagement and consultation. The following bullet points list some, but not all, of the engagement undertaken to give a flavour of the work throughout the year.

- Visit to SHMU
- Visit to CFINE
- Visit to Aberdeen Foyer
- Anti Poverty Workshop: External Advisers of the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee and members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Anti Poverty Outcome Improvement Group met to explore how they could work together and with wider partners to achieve their shared outcomes.
- Challenge Poverty Week event at Aberdeen Music Hall: Where three films made by SHMU, Abernecessities and Cyrenians were screened highlighting the lived experience of individuals and communities in Aberdeen, with input from CFINE on Food Poverty Action Aberdeen, and ACVO around some key policy issues.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Vice Convener Councillor Desmond Bouse and Convener Councillor Christian Allard meet Aberdeen Foyer CEO Leona McDermid.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee Convener Councillor Christian Allard, Vice Convener Councillor Desmond Bouse and Aberdeen Foyer CEO Leona McDermid chat with a Foyer Service User.



Photo: Norman Adams - Aberdeen City Council

On 8 March 2023, the Anti Poverty Committee visited CFINE as part of their programme of visits to key organisations.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee – Commentary

- 12.1 Officers have presented a wide range of reports to the Anti Poverty and Inequality Committee over the year, highlighting the very broad range of work to tackle poverty undertaken by services across the Council, including education, housing and homelessness, employability through City Growth and the Financial Inclusion Team. In addition, the Scottish Welfare Fund managed by the Revenues and Benefits Team provides key support in tackling poverty.
- 12.2 It has been particularly pleasing to see how areas of work, such as Tackling infant food insecurity work to address family and child poverty remains a key priority with Dr Flora Douglas presenting to respond to questions from Members. This is thought to be a very positive step.
- 12.3 Officers continue to respond to feedback from Members of Committee to ensure that reports presented provide information and analysis in a transparent and accessible format. Officers continue to appreciate both the scrutiny and high level of interest in our work across the city.
- 12.4 A key piece of work presented to Committee this year was the Child Poverty Action Report, a statutory requirement to report on local child poverty work. The Child Poverty Action Plan has been integrated in the Children’s Services Plan, ensuring effective integrated delivery.
- 12.5 Members have also heard about the outcomes delivered in supporting people through the cost of living which included further support through the Scottish Welfare Fund, support for food procurement to ensure supplies of emergency food, further development of food pantry membership and support with increasing energy costs through the provision of fuel vouchers. In addition, early work on exploring cash first approaches has been highlighted to committee.
- 12.6 Given the nature of the Committee business will often be of interest to the public, it is vital that reports are open and transparent and I am pleased to note that all business this year was considered in public session, with no exempt reports presented.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 Although there were no changes to the Anti Poverty And Inequality Committee Terms of Reference in 2023, in accordance with the usual practice of an annual review of the Scheme of Governance, the Terms of Reference will be reviewed and officers will reflect on whether any areas require further refinement moving forward to ensure the continued efficient operation of the Committee.
- 13.2 Aside from the regular annual reports and performance reports received for assurance, a selection of the business for the next year is listed below:-
- Population Needs Assessment

- Further reports from the External Advisers
- Issues faced by people in poverty in relation to accessing advice services and financial services

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
13.	Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14.	Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
15.	Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026