Public Document Pack

To: All Members of the Council

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 24 June 2025

COUNCIL

The Members of the **COUNCIL** are requested to meet in Council Chamber - Town House on **WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2025 at 10.30am.** This is a hybrid meeting therefore Members may attend remotely.

ALAN THOMSON
INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

B U S I N E S S

ADMISSION OF BURGESSES

1.1 No Burgesses to be admitted

NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

2.1 No urgent business at this stage

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

3.1 Determination of exempt business

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

4.1 Members are requested to declare any interests or connections

DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Deputation Requests

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

6.1 Minute of Meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 16 April 2025 - for approval (Pages 7 - 18)

6.2 Minute of Reconvened Meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 28 April 2025 - for approval (Pages 19 - 24)

6.3 Minute of Special Meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 28 April 2025 - for approval (Pages 25 - 30)

6.4 Minute of Special Meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 12 June 2025 - for approval (Pages 31 - 34)

REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES

7.1 No referrals at this stage

BUSINESS PLANNER AND OTHER MINUTES

8.1 Council Business Planner (Pages 35 - 38)

GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Aberdeen Local Development Plan - Evidence Report - CR&E/25/165 (Pages 39 - 70)

Appendices 1, 3 and 4 are not included with the agenda due to their size. However, they can be accessed at the link below:-

https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2899&ID=2899&RPID=71713995

9.2 Committee Places - CORS/25/166 (Pages 71 - 76)

9.3 Council Meeting Structure - CORS/25/164 (Pages 77 - 92)

9.4 Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2025 - CORS/25/162 (Pages 93 - 230)

9.5 Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 and Locality Plan Annual Reports for North, South and Central 2024/25 - CORS/25/163 (Pages 231 - 472)

9.6 Treasury Management Strategy - Year-End Review - CORS/25/145 (Pages 473 - 486)

NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1 Notice of Motion by Councillor Boulton

That the Council:

1. Instruct the Chief Officer - City Development and Regeneration to continue to provide support to Castlegate Arts to help them to achieve the cultural investment framework requirements and meet the Council's criteria for Following the Public Pound, and provide them with a monthly funding stream up to an annual amount in 2025/26 of £100k, to be taken from the General Fund Contingencies budget;

2. Note that an offer of a long-term lease remains available to Castlegate Arts on current terms;

3. Instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to instruct and update the building condition survey (previous version has been shared with Castlegate Arts) and make these costs available to Elected Members to assist budget setting process for 2026/27. The General Fund Contingencies budget will provide funding of up to £15k to secure any specialist or other works required in completing the survey work; and

4. Agree that the above measures are needed to ensure that the charity Castlegate Arts can continue its good work in the city for a wide range of our citizens.

10.2 Notice of Motion by Councillor Macdonald

That Council notes:

On 16 April 2025 the Supreme Court judgement in the For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers case was delivered. This gave an unequivocal ruling that women's rights are protected in law, as well as highlighting the continued protections for trans people under the Equality Act.

The Supreme Court unanimously agreed that the terms 'man', 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010 refer to biological sex. Holding a Gender Recognition Certificate does not change sex for the purposes of the 2010 Act.

The court ruling makes clear that the law protects women's rights to single-sex spaces and services.

As a consequence, the UK, Welsh and Scottish Governments, regulators and public bodies will now require to review and clarify their policies and guidance.

That Council agrees that in addition to reviewing all Council policies, procedures, guidance and training materials to ensure compliance with the Supreme Court ruling, the Chief Executive Officer should seek assurance from any services run or commissioned by the Council for compliance to the same end.

10.3 Notice of Motion by Councillor Nicoll

1. Notes that during the construction of the Aberdeen South Harbour, the original developer Dragados, implemented a procedure whereby HGV traffic accessing and egressing the site were required to follow an agreed route avoiding local housing estates. HGV contractors faced penalties for non-compliance.

2. Notes that concerns from local communities regarding HGV traffic using the now open Aberdeen South Harbour continue. In particular communities in Torry, Cove and Altens and Burnbank Village remain concerned regarding HGV traffic accessing and egressing the harbour using local neighbourhood roads infrastructure.

3. Notes that the identified access and egress route to the Aberdeen South Harbour will be via Hareness Road and Coast Road and that a new road layout is in the process of being finalised and delivered.

4. Notes that during the many years developing the proposed access and egress route from Aberdeen South Harbour, now identified as above, local communities have been assured that adequate measures would be included as part of the overall development to restrict HGV traffic from neighbouring residential communities.

5. Notes the Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee comprises 9 members; 3 elected members from Aberdeen City Council, 3 elected members from Aberdeenshire Council and 3 members from private industry. The 3 Aberdeen City Council members are all drawn from the Council SNP and Lib Dem administration. Further notes that on 14th February 2025, a meeting of the Joint Committee agreed prima facie to implement a width restriction on St Fittick's Road, i.e. "to instruct the Chief Officer - Operations, Aberdeen City Council, to progress all necessary consultations and traffic orders required for the implementation of a width restriction on St Fitticks Road." No funding for the new Aberdeen South Harbour route from the existing £25M budget for this work was identified. The Joint Committee did agree to "*instruct the Chief Officer, City Development and Regeneration, Aberdeen City Council, and the Head of Service, Planning and Economy, Aberdeenshire Council, to submit reports to Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Councils respectively seeking approval from each for the virement of £575,000 from the Strategic Transport Appraisal project to the Aberdeen City Region Deal External Transportation Links to Aberdeen South Harbour project".* The minute of the meeting was not available in the public arena for several weeks following the meeting. No provision was undertaken to restrict access by HGVs to neighbouring communities in particular Burnbank Village and Cove. The report recommended that officers engage in a consultation regarding these measures, despite having prima facie taken the decision as to the width restriction measures.

6. Notes St Fittick's Road is a single lane undivided carriageway and no physical measures will be in place to restrict HGV access above the stated width. Signage is proposed but no enforcement measures such as ANPR Cameras. Further notes similar measures in Golf Road, Aberdeen, are regularly ignored and little or no enforcement action follows. Further notes a number of weight restrictions exist throughout the Aberdeen City Council area.

7. Notes that a recent consultation exercise regarding the preferred route for access and egress to Aberdeen South Harbour failed to consult on all available measures to restrict HGV access to local residential communities.

8. Notes that at the Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee meeting of 22 April 2025, Councillor Alex Nicoll, Aberdeen City Council representing the Kincorth, Cove and Altens Ward requested to address the Joint Committee regarding HGV access to Aberdeen South Harbour. Further notes that this Committee has its own Standing Orders and is not obliged to accept deputations and that the Convener and Vice Convener decided not to accept the request from a local elected member and former Convener of the Joint Committee.

9. Agrees that decisions regarding road safety concerns by residents of the City of Aberdeen should be first and foremost taken by Aberdeen City Council acting as Roads Authority. Consultations should be open and transparent and carried out before decisions are made. Considers such behaviour shows a lack of openness, transparency and accountability.

10. Notes that the proposed consultation limited to a width restriction for St Fittick's Road has not yet commenced. Further notes that objections from the local Community Council and local elected members to the proposal have already been expressed. If objections are received to the consultation, these will be reported to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee.

11. Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations to consult with the local communities of Cove and Altens, Burnbanks and Torry on all traffic management options that could be utilised to restrict heavy goods vehicular access through these communities via Coast Road reporting the outcome of this consultation to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee.

10.4 Notice of Motion by Councillor Kusznir

That the Council:

1. Notes the Supreme Court decision *in For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers* [2025] UKSC 16, clarifying legal protections for single-sex spaces.

2. Notes the declarator by Lady Ross in a judicial review brought by parents against Scottish Borders Council, affirming the requirement to provide single-sex toilets in schools.

3. Acknowledges reports of increased incursions into women-only spaces by activists following the *For Women Scotland Ltd* decision, highlighting the need for clear Council guidance on separate or single-sex spaces.

4. Recognises the ongoing work of Officers to update guidance for staff and building managers to ensure compliance with the judgment in *For Women Scotland Ltd.*

5. Further recognises that the Council await updated statutory guidance from both The Equality and Human Rights Commission and The Scottish Government.

6. Instructs the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord, in consultation with the Chief Officer - People and Citizen Services, to develop a separate or single-sex space policy or policies, in line with statutory guidance, for Aberdeen City Council to ensure the protection of such spaces in Council-owned and operated buildings.

7. Directs the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to present the proposed policy/ies to Council or the relevant committee for consideration and approval.

8. Recognises that a similar request was previously rejected by the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee before the aforementioned court decisions on 23 January 2024.

9. Affirms the necessity of this policy/ies, as the current delegation of decision-making on single-sex spaces to individual building managers lacks an overarching framework, potentially exposing the Council to legal risks due to inconsistent decisions across different buildings.

10.5 Notice of Motion by Councillors Yuill and Allard

This Council congratulates Aberdeen FC on winning the Scottish Cup.

10.6 Notice of Motion by Councillor Bonsell

That Council:

(1) Shares the pride of Aberdonians in our city, including its beautiful granite architecture, and wants everyone who lives, works, studies or visits here to see Aberdeen at its best;
(2) Understands the increasing concerns of residents, businesses and community organisations that graffiti is defacing too many buildings, walls and other structures in the city centre and across Aberdeen;
(3) Recognises the efforts of Council officers and Police Scotland in addressing the issue of graffiti, for instance, through their reporting systems, graffiti removal service, and diversionary activities, including the graffiti art wall in Sunnybank Park;
(4) Commends citizens for their vigilance in spotting and reporting graffiti to the Council and Police Scotland;
(5) Appreciates the positive contribution of NuArt Aberdeen to our cityscape and looks forward to the return of this cultural festival in 2026;
(6) Instructs the Chief Officer - Operations, following consultation with the Community Safety Manager, to bring a report to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 11 November 2025 on current efforts to reduce graffiti in Aberdeen and what more could be done, including partnership working with Police Scotland, local businesses, and community organisations.

EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

11.1 Energy Transition Zone - Land at St Fittick's Park & Doonies - CFS/25/171 (Pages 487 - 590)

Website Address: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

IIAs related to reports on this agenda can be viewed here

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Martyn Orchard, tel 01224 067598 or morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 16 April 2025

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost David Cameron, Chairperson;
Depute Provost Steve Delaney; and

COUNCILLORS

GILLIAN AL-SAMARAI
NURUL HOQUE ALI
CHRISTIAN ALLARD
ALISON ALPHONSE
KATE BLAKE
JENNIFER BONSELL
MARIE BOULTON
DESMOND BOUSE
RICHARD BROOKS
HAZEL CAMERON
DONNA CLARK
JOHN COOKE
NEIL COPLAND
WILLIAM CORMIE
BARNEY CROCKETT
SARAH CROSS
DEREK DAVIDSON
LEE FAIRFULL
GORDON GRAHAM
ROSS GRANT
MARTIN GREIG
DELL HENRICKSON
RYAN HOUGHTON
MICHAEL HUTCHISON
MICHAEL KUSZNIR
GRAEME LAWRENCE
SANDRA MACDONALD
NEIL MacGREGOR
ALEXANDER McLELLAN
KEN McLEOD
CIARAN McRAE
M. TAUQEER MALIK
DUNCAN MASSEY
JESSICA MENNIE
ALEX NICOLL
MIRANDA RADLEY
MRS JENNIFER STEWART
KAIRIN VAN SWEEDEN
LYNN THOMSON
DEENA TISSERA
SIMON WATSON
and
IAN YUILL

Lord Provost David Cameron, in the Chair.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found 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.

DRAFT

WELCOME

1. The Lord Provost welcomed Anne MacDonald (Audit Scotland) to the meeting, who would be observing proceedings in her role as the Council's External Auditor.

The Lord Provost advised that he planned to change the order of the agenda and that it was his intention to bring forward item 9.4 - Scheme of Governance Review 2025 - as the first item of General Business, and that other items may be brought forward later in the meeting as required.

ADMISSION OF BURGESSES

2. (A) The person undermentioned was admitted into the presence of the Council and passed as a Burgess of Guild in respect of his Act of Admission in the Guild Burgess Book:-

Michael Melvin, Volunteering Services Manager, Aberdeen

(B) The person undermentioned was admitted into the presence of the Council and passed as a Burgess of Guild by right of their father's/mother's status as a Free Burgess:-

James Edward Maitland, Transformation Programme Manager, Aberdeen

NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

3. The Lord Provost advised that he had accepted an urgent notice of motion by Councillor Boulton onto the agenda as a matter of urgency in terms of Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL OF 5 FEBRUARY 2025

4. The Council had before it the minute of meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 5 February 2025.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the minute.

MINUTE OF RECONVENED MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL OF 17 FEBRUARY 2025

5. The Council had before it the minute of the reconvened meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 17 February 2025.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the minute.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL OF 5 MARCH 2025

6. The Council had before it the minute of meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 5 March 2025.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the minute.

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL OF 25 MARCH 2025

7. The Council had before it the minute of the special meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 25 March 2025.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the minute.

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL OF 2 APRIL 2025

8. The Council had before it the minute of the special meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 2 April 2025.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the minute.

COUNCIL BUSINESS PLANNER

9. The Council had before it the business planner as prepared by the Chief Officer - Governance.

The Council resolved:-
to note the business planner.

SCHEME OF GOVERNANCE REVIEW - 2025 - CORS/25/070

10. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Governance which made a number of recommendations for improvement to the Scheme of Governance following consideration and discussion by the cross-party elected member Governance Reference Group and in response to some outstanding Audit Scotland recommendations.

The report recommended:-
that the Council -
(a) approve Appendix C, Committee Terms of Reference, with effect from 21 April 2025;

DRAFT

(b) approve Appendix D, Powers Delegated to Officers, with effect from 17 April 2025, and delegate authority to the Chief Officer - Governance to make any further changes to Appendix 1 of that document necessary to reflect such approval;

(c) approve Appendix E, Standing Orders for Council, Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings, with effect from 21 April 2025; and instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to report back to the July Council meeting with further proposed revisions concerning meeting structure and motions and amendments for requisitioned meetings, utilising further input from the Governance Reference Group, as described in paragraph 4.3.4;

(d) approve Appendix F, Financial Regulations, with effect from 21 April 2025;

(e) approve Appendix G, Procurement Regulations, with effect from 21 April 2025;

(f) approve Appendix H, Member - Officer Relations Protocol, with effect from 21 April 2025;

(g) approve Appendix I, General Fund Budget Protocol and Appendix J, Housing Revenue Account Budget Protocol, with effect from 21 April 2025 and instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to schedule an additional meeting of Council to consider the Housing Revenue Account in December of each year;

(h) note Appendix K, the Councillors' Accessing Information Procedure Note, and instruct the Interim Chief Officer - Governance to issue and implement the proposed mechanism for elected members to request information from officers, effective from 21 April 2025;

(i) note that no changes were required to the Local Code of Corporate Governance at this time;

(j) note the minutes of the Governance Reference Group of 18 October and 22 November 2024, and 22 January, 19 February and 12 March 2025, as contained at Appendix A;

(k) note the cross-party/independent working groups which were in place, including the addition of a Future Libraries Group, as outlined in paragraph 4.1.4; and

(l) instruct the Chief Officer - Governance and Chief Officer - People and Citizen Services to put in place a programme of officer and elected member training and development on scrutiny, as outlined in paragraph 4.17.

Councillor Radley moved, seconded by Councillor Greig:-

That the Council approve the recommendations contained in the report, subject to the following amendment to the Standing Orders and additional instruction:

29.4 Motions and amendments submitted in accordance with Standing Order 29.1 will be circulated to all Members (of Council, the Committee or Sub-Committee) by 4pm on the working day prior to the relevant meeting, providing they have been finalised and determined by the Convener to be competent. **However, if such motions and amendments are not finalised and determined by the Convener to be competent by the said 4pm deadline, they will not be circulated unless with the consent of the Convener.**

And instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to make any other amendments to the Scheme of Governance which may, in that Chief Officer's opinion, be necessary to reflect the above amendment.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Blake:-

That Council:-

2.1 approves Appendix C, Committee Terms of Reference, with effect from 21 April 2025.;

2.2 agrees to take no action in respect of Appendix D, Powers Delegated to Officers, on officer recommendations but to include the following within the delegated powers for Chief Officer - People and Citizen Services, or elsewhere as appropriate within the Scheme of Governance:- **One -** to approve flexible working requests in accordance with Employment Legislation and the Council's flexible working policy. Under no circumstances will approval be granted for a post holder to work for the Council whilst residing out with the UK. **Two** - that all future decisions concerning dismissal and the offer of re-engagement of staff in order to effect a variation in their contractual terms and conditions are reserved for full council and instructs the Chief Officer - Governance to make any other amendments to the Scheme of Governance which may be necessary to reflect this. **Three -** instruct the Chief Executive to report to Council, on an annual basis, a summary of their achievements that are based on their priorities set by the leader of the council and the Chief Executive's agreed priorities for the year ahead. **Four** - agree that in terms of the post holder known as the Monitoring Officer including any depute instructs the Chief Officer - People and Citizen Services that the specification for the job of Monitoring Officer be changed to ensure it is a requirement that the post holder holds an LLB degree;

2.3 regarding Appendix E, Standing Orders for Council, to take no action on officer recommendations;

2.4 approves Appendix F, Financial Regulations, with effect from 21 April 2025;

2.5 approves Appendix G, Procurement Regulations, with effect from 21 April 2025;

2.6 approves Appendix H, Member - Officer Relations Protocol, with effect from 21 April 2025;

2.7 notes Appendix K, the Councillors' Accessing Information Procedure Note;

2.8 notes that no changes are required to the Local Code of Corporate Governance at this time;

2.9 notes the minutes of the Governance Reference Group of 18 October and 22 November 2024, and 22 January, 19 February and 12 March 2025, as contained at Appendix A;

2.10 notes the cross-party/independent working groups which are in place, including the addition of a Future Libraries Group, as outlined in paragraph 4.1.4; and

2.11 instructs the Chief Officer - Governance and Chief Officer - People and Citizen Services to put in place a programme of officer and elected member training and development on scrutiny, as outlined in paragraph 4.17.

DRAFT

Councillor Kusznir moved as a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Massey:-

That the Council -

1. Agrees to take no action on any of the recommendations because of the proposed changes to the Scheme of Governance which substantially disempower democratically elected Councillors, while empowering Officers at their expense, and which are considered would ultimately lead to a democratic deficit on Aberdeen City Council.
2. Believes it unlawful to grant dictator-esque powers to adjourn requisitioned meetings at the sole discretion of the Convener;
3. Considers it wholly inappropriate to continue with the broad power to make and sign experimental traffic orders given the Administration's bus gates shambles, public opposition to the bus gates and ongoing court proceedings; and
4. Therefore, with great regret declines to proceed with any of the proposed changes because of the substantive negative effect they would have on the authority and power of Councillors to carry out their role.

There being a motion and two amendments, the Council first divided between the two amendments.

On a division, there voted:-

For the amendment by Councillor Malik (11) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment by Councillor Kusznir (10) - Councillors Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Houghton, Kusznir, McLeod, Massey, Nicoll and Mrs Stewart.

Declined to vote (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

The Council then divided between the motion and the amendment by Councillor Malik.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment by Councillor Malik (21) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY - CORS/25/013

11. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Finance which outlined the Council's Treasury Management Policy for 2025/26 to 2027/28 for approval.

The report recommended:-
that the Council approve the Council's Treasury Management Policy, including the Treasury Management Policy Statement, Borrowing Policy, Investment Policy and Counterparty list, for 2025/26 to 2027/28 as detailed at Appendix 1.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the recommendation.

COMMITTEE PLACES - CORS/25/072

12. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Governance which considered the allocation of committee places as a result of a change to the political composition of the Council.

The report recommended:-
that the Council determine the membership number for each of the Council's committees (as listed in section 3.2) and thereafter set the composition for each committee, in terms of Standing Order 47.9.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the following committee places:-

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Independent (x4)	Total
Anti-Poverty and Inequality	5	2	2	0	9
Audit, Risk and Scrutiny	5	2	2	0	9
Communities, Housing and Public Protection	5	2	1	1	9
Education and Children's Services	8	2	2	1	13
Finance and Resources	5	2	2	0	9
Licensing Committee	5	2	1	1	9
Net Zero, Environment and	5	2	1	1	9

DRAFT

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Independent (x4)	Total
Transport					
Pensions	5	2	1	1	9
Planning Development Management	5	2	1	1	9
Staff Governance	5	2	1	1	9
Urgent Business	4	2	1	0	7
Integration Joint Board	3 (plus 2 subs)	1 (plus 1 sub)	0 (plus 1 sub)	0	4 (plus 4 subs)
Total:	60 (plus 2 subs)	23 (plus 1 sub)	15 (plus 1 sub)	7	105 (plus 4 subs)

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025/26 - CORS/25/038

13. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Data Insights which presented the Council Delivery Plan for 2025/26.

The report recommended:-
that the Council -
(a) note the content of the Council Delivery Plan 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 1;
(b) instruct the Chief Executive to realign any of the delivery commitments set out in the Plan that may be required, as a result of budget decisions made at the Council budget meeting, to meet Council's instructions;
(c) instruct all Chief Officers to report performance improvement priorities for 2025/26 and progress towards improvement through the arrangement set out within the Council's Performance Management Framework; and
(d) instruct the Chief Officer - Data Insights (HDRCA) to liaise with University College London's Institute of Health Equity, led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, and Public Health Scotland, who are in partnership with the Council, through the "Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland", on further embedding the wider determinants of health and the application of preventative planning as outlined in the Delivery Plan.

Councillor Allard moved, seconded by Councillor Greig:-
That the Council approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Ali:-
That the Council:-
1. agree recommendations (a) to (c) of the report;
2. agree to instruct the Chief Executive to bring forward the report relating to Statutory Function Review instructed by Council in December 2022 on any specific opportunities proposed to be progressed. Note we are still none the wiser regarding the BBC being in a position to deliver public services for and on behalf of the Council;

3. agree that the Statutory Function Review instructed the Chief Executive to discuss with the Scottish Government opportunities to transfer functions through legislative change; given the Council Delivery Plan 25/26 does not mention anything about this within it, instruct the Chief Executive to report back to Council in April on any opportunities proposed to be progressed;
4. agree despite the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee's best intentions, poverty within the city is on the rise due mainly thanks to SNP austerity with the Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee being reduced to a talking shop rather than a stimulus for change;
5. note improvement projects were established in response to underperformance, on matters including Housing Rent Arrears and Repair and Letting of Empty Housing (Voids);
6. note recommendation (d), the launch of "Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland" with the aim of reducing health inequalities in Aberdeen and two other Scottish local authority areas. Note this is a collaboration of Public Health Scotland (PHS) and Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director of University College London's Institute of Health Equality (IHE) with council and health board;
7. note Public Health Scotland highlight that reducing health inequity requires action on eight key objectives. These are referred to as the Marmot 8. They are to:
    - tackle discrimination and racism, and their outcomes
    - give every child the best start in life
    - enable all children, young people, and adults to maximise their capabilities and control their lives
    - create fair employment and good work for all
    - pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together
    - ensure a healthy standard of living for all
    - create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
    - strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
8. agree the SNP has failed in each of these eight key principles and that the Council Delivery Plan fails the citizens of Aberdeen.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment (21) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Cross, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND - WRITTEN DECISION - COUNCILLOR VAN SWEEDEN - CORS/25/071

14. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Governance which presented the written decision made by the Standards Commission for Scotland following a hearing held on 4 February 2025.

The report recommended:-
that the Council -
(a) consider the content of the written decision; and
(b) note that the Standards Commission for Scotland held that there had been no breach of the Code of Conduct by Councillor van Sweeden.

Councillor Allard moved, seconded by Councillor Greig:-
That the Council approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Tissera moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Watson:-
That the Council:-
(1) note the decision of the Standards Commission for Scotland in relation to the Code of Conduct complaint against Councillor van Sweeden;
(2) agree Dr Lezley Stewart, Standards Commission Member and Chair of the Hearing Panel made the highly unusual statement in a Press Release following the hearing which said amongst other things "*The Standards Commission wishes to emphasise that racism and discrimination are abhorrent, have no place in politics and should not be tolerated. The Standards Commission, and indeed the public, expect politicians, including local councillors, to lead by example and be respectful at all times. This includes refraining from using language, or terminology, that could be perceived as being offensive. The Panel noted that a failure to do so only serves to lower standards of public discourse and encourage the exchange of abuse, rather than reasoned and respectful debate.*" This statement appears to be at odds with the decision made by the Standards Commission Hearing Panel and contrary to the decision taken within the report by the Ethical Standards Commissioner;
(3) agree the Standards Commission requires reform noting that at the time of the hearing the membership of the hearing panel had no representation from minority ethnic backgrounds and that even today there remains no minority ethnic representative on the hearing panel despite a substantial number of councillors from all sides of the political divide being from an ethnic background;
(4) agree that on the two tests of racism Councillor Malik and Councillor Van Sweeden the Standards Commission as a corporate body has failed in its duty to uphold the necessary standards in public life, Councillor Malik being suspended for 1 month overturned by the Sheriff Principal, having considered written submissions, allows the appeal on joint motion; recalls the decision of the commission and Councillor Van Sweeden by issuing a press release stating racism and discrimination are abhorrent, have no place in politics and should not be tolerated yet found against the Ethical Standards Commissioner which said racism was evident; and

(5) instruct the Chief Executive to write to all other 31 local authorities asking for their Council's opinion on the usefulness or otherwise of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and how it relates to robust debate by Councillors within and outwith the democratically elected chamber in which they operate. Once the information is received, further instruct the Chief Executive to forward the responses to the appropriate Scottish government minister.

During the course of debate, Councillor Yuill advised that he had a connection in relation to the item as the Council's appointed member of the Board of NHS Grampian, however having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

At this juncture, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Order 40.2 to extend the length of the meeting in order to conclude the current item of business.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment (15) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

Declined to vote (6) - Councillors Brooks, Cross, Houghton, Kusznir, McLeod and Massey.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the motion.

The Lord Provost advised that the meeting would reconvene within two weeks to consider the remaining items of business.

- DAVID CAMERON, Lord Provost.

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 28 April 2025

MINUTE OF RECONVENED MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost David Cameron, Chairperson;
Depute Provost Steve Delaney; and

COUNCILLORS

GILLIAN AL-SAMARAI
NURUL HOQUE ALI
CHRISTIAN ALLARD
ALISON ALPHONSE
KATE BLAKE
JENNIFER BONSELL
MARIE BOULTON
DESMOND BOUSE
HAZEL CAMERON
DONNA CLARK
JOHN COOKE
NEIL COPLAND
WILLIAM CORMIE
BARNEY CROCKETT
DEREK DAVIDSON
LEE FAIRFULL
EMMA FARQUHAR
GORDON GRAHAM
ROSS GRANT
MARTIN GREIG
DELL HENRICKSON
MICHAEL HUTCHISON
MICHAEL KUSZNIR
GRAEME LAWRENCE
SANDRA MACDONALD
NEIL MacGREGOR
ALEXANDER McLELLAN
CIARAN McRAE
M. TAUQEER MALIK
DUNCAN MASSEY
JESSICA MENNIE
ALEX NICOLL
MIRANDA RADLEY
MRS JENNIFER STEWART
KAIRIN VAN SWEEDEN
LYNN THOMSON
DEENA TISSERA
SIMON WATSON
and
IAN YUILL

Lord Provost David Cameron, in the Chair.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found 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.

DRAFT

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Lord Provost advised that the urgent notice of motion by Councillor Boulton (item 10.2) had been withdrawn.

COUNCIL ANNUAL EFFECTIVENESS REPORT - CORS/24/349

2. The Council had before it a report by the Chief Officer - Governance which presented the annual effectiveness report for Council to enable Members to provide comment on the data contained within.

The report recommended:-

that the Council -

(a) provide comments and observations on the data contained within the Council effectiveness report as appended to the report; and

(b) note that the annual effectiveness reports of the committees had been reported to the various committees from 5 November to 13 December 2024 inclusive.

Councillor Greig moved, seconded by Councillor Allard:-

That the Council approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Grant:-

That the Council -

1. Note the contents of the report;
2. Disagree with the Lord Provost's comments in the introduction in respect of RAAC and Scheme of Governance;
3. Note under Reports and Decisions there is no mention of the number of times Members queried Officers' responsibilities under the Member-Officer Relations Protocol;
4. Note there is also no mention of the number of times officers refused to provide members with written copies of legal advice despite having legislative powers to do so;
5. Agree there is no mention under Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements of Councillor Malik's successful appeal to the Sheriff Principal Grampian Highland and Islands over his unjust suspension by the Standards Commission;
6. Agree under Civic Engagement there is no mention of the times where the SNP/Liberal Democrat Administration voted against allowing deputation voices to be heard especially around library closures and the Bucksburn swimming pool closure: and
7. Note Council Terms of Reference especially point 12 "The approval of an Administration's political priorities." Which underlines Aberdeen Labour's position regarding Officers referring to the Administration as a Partnership when it is an Administration in terms of the Council's own terms of reference.

Councillor Kusznir moved as a second amendment, seconded by Councillor Massey:-

That the Council -

1. Notes the recommendations of the report.
2. Note under Reports and Decisions there are omissions:

a. Items/decisions that led to Judicial Review(s)
b. last-minute decision by the First Minister to freeze council tax (a juxtaposition of item 1 of the ToR (page 72 of the pack), also recognising the fantastic support from the Chief Officer - Finance in helping members with this sudden change.
c. Note also that input by the Aberdeen citizens in the public consultation process were overtaken by this last minute decision recorded in (b).

3. Note the increasing number of council meetings (Section 5, P61/62)
4. Note members' attendance at a council meeting that are split across two days are classed as two separate council meetings when in fact they are an extension of an existing council meeting.
5. Agree that recording would be more accurately portrayed as 0.5per day for meetings extended into 2 days, thus penalising a member just 0.5 if they are not free for the unplanned second day.
6. Agree to modify 'Civic Engagement' to include the number of times the SNP/Lib Dem coalition voted against the public and stakeholders being heard through Deputations.
7. Instruct the Executive Director of Corporate Services to review and annotate the Member Attendance accordingly (in line with 4 and 5 above).

There being a motion and two amendments, the Council first divided between the amendment by Councillor Malik and the amendment by Councillor Kusznir.

On a division, there voted:-

For the amendment by Councillor Malik (12) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment by Councillor Kusznir (6) - Councillors Boulton, Farquhar, Kusznir, Massey, Nicoll and Mrs Stewart.

Declined to vote (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

The Council then divided between the motion and the amendment by Councillor Malik.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Bouse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

For the amendment by Councillor Malik (18) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Crockett, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

The Council resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MACDONALD

3. The Council had before it a notice of motion by Councillor Macdonald in the following terms:-

"That Council:

1. Acknowledges the importance of the United Nations Summit of the Future held on 22 September 2024, when world leaders adopted a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations.
2. Agrees that, by adopting the Pact, countries demonstrate that they are committed to an international system with the United Nations at its centre where Leaders set out a clear vision of a multilateralism that can deliver on its promises, is more representative of today's world and draws on the engagement and expertise of governments, civil society and other key partners.
3. Commends the Aberdeen Branch of the United Nations Association for organising an event to discuss the Pact in the St Nicholas Room, Town House, on 27 March 2025.
4. Endorses the spirit of the Pact for the Future.
5. Instructs the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to bring a report to a future Council meeting outlining what the Council can do to promote the involvement of our young people in expanding and strengthening youth participation in global decision-making."

Councillor Macdonald moved, seconded by Councillor Bonsell:-

That the Council approve the notice of motion.

Councillor Kusznir moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Massey:-

That the Council -

1. Considers that the Pact for the Future is not an appropriate issue for a local authority Notice of Motion;
2. Recognises that foreign affairs is not within the purview of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973; and
3. Therefore will take no action on Cllr Macdonald's Notice of Motion and encourages any Councillor to stand for the House of Commons if they want to pontificate on foreign affairs rather than focus on the issues they actually have responsibility for.

Councillor Greig moved as a second amendment, seconded by Councillor Allard:-

That the Council -

a. Agree parts 1 to 4 of the notice of motion; and
b. Agree 5 as follows: Instructs the Chief Officer - Education and Lifelong Learning to bring a report to a future meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee outlining what the Council can do to promote the involvement of our young people in expanding and strengthening youth participation in global decision-making.

DRAFT

There being a motion and two amendments, the Council first divided between the amendment by Councillor Kusznir and the amendment by Councillor Greig.

On a division, there voted:-

For the amendment by Councillor Kusznir (5) - Councillors Boulton, Farquhar, Kusznir, Massey, and Mrs Stewart.

For the amendment by Councillor Greig (22) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

Declined to vote (13) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Nicoll, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

Absent from the division (1) - Councillor Bouse.

The Council then divided between the motion and the amendment by Councillor Greig.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (12) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment by Councillor Greig (22) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

Declined to vote (6) - Councillors Boulton, Farquhar, Kusznir, Massey, Nicoll and Mrs Stewart.

Absent from the division (1) - Councillor Bouse.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the amendment by Councillor Greig.
- DAVID CAMERON, Lord Provost.

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 28 April 2025

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost David Cameron, Chairperson;
Depute Provost Steve Delaney; and

COUNCILLORS

GILLIAN AL-SAMARAI
NURUL HOQUE ALI
CHRISTIAN ALLARD
ALISON ALPHONSE
KATE BLAKE
JENNIFER BONSELL
MARIE BOULTON
HAZEL CAMERON
DONNA CLARK
JOHN COOKE
NEIL COPLAND
WILLIAM CORMIE
BARNEY CROCKETT
DEREK DAVIDSON
LEE FAIRFULL
EMMA FARQUHAR
GORDON GRAHAM
ROSS GRANT
MARTIN GREIG
DELL HENRICKSON
RYAN HOUGHTON
MICHAEL HUTCHISON
MICHAEL KUSZNIR
GRAEME LAWRENCE
SANDRA MACDONALD
NEIL MacGREGOR
ALEXANDER McLELLAN
CIARAN McRAE
M. TAUQEER MALIK
DUNCAN MASSEY
JESSICA MENNIE
ALEX NICOLL
MIRANDA RADLEY
MRS JENNIFER STEWART
KAIRIN VAN SWEEDEN
LYNN THOMSON
DEENA TISSERA
SIMON WATSON
and
IAN YUILL

Lord Provost David Cameron, in the Chair.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found 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.

DRAFT

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

1. Councillor Grant advised that he had a connection in relation to the item by virtue of his employment by Aberdeen Inspired due to their involvement with Nuart, which was referred to in the amendment, however having applied the objective test he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

Councillors Bonsell and Macdonald advised that they had a connection in relation to the item by virtue of being on the Aberdeen Mela steering group, which was also referred to in the amendment, however having applied the objective test they did not consider that they had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETING

2. The Council had before it the wording of the written request for this special Council meeting which had been signed by 12 members in accordance with Standing Order 8.2.2:-

> "The business to be transacted relates to funding from UK Prosperity Fund and is only being called because the Finance Convener refused to accept an amendment at the last Finance and Resources Committee due to our amendment being with officers 36 minutes after the deadline due to Councillor Malik being on an IJB committee meeting."

Councillor Malik moved, seconded by Councillor Grant:-

That Council:-

(1) Note Parliament introduced Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended to protect Elected Members and the public from Conveners and others who fail to act with integrity and abuse the spirit of Councils' own Standing Orders for their own political ends;

(2) Agree the action by the Convener of Finance and Resources Committee denying Amendments at Committee have consequences for the Administration, one of those actions is to face a special Council meeting whereby 25% of the Members call for a meeting on a matter that should have been dealt with at Committee, thus costing the Council unnecessary time and expense;

(3) Agree the UK Shared Prosperity Fund demonstrates devolution in action whereby the UK government provides money directly to Scottish Councils;

(4) Agree there are many worthy applications for consideration including Aberdeen Arts Centre which applied for one hundred thousand pounds of Culture Investment Funding from the Common Good Fund but were unsuccessful at the Council Budget meeting on Wednesday 5th March 2025;

(5) Agree in recent correspondence with elected members, Castlegate Arts have recognised areas of weaknesses within this application and have explained the mitigatory circumstances around them;

(6) Note recent correspondence from Sharon Robertson, Chair of Castlegate Arts, which made clear that, 'A lack of funding award places the Arts Centre at a very real and significant risk of closure.';

(7) Welcome the Castlegate Arts plans towards 'Building a Sustainable Future' for the Arts Centre and agree that the closure of the Arts Centre would have a significant adverse impact upon Aberdeen's creative and cultural community;

(8) Agree to allocate one hundred thousand pounds from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 25/26 to Castlegate Arts to meet the imminent needs of the Arts Centre and instruct the Chief Officer - City Development and Regeneration to work with Castlegate Arts to help towards compliance with UKSPF requirements; and

(9) Further agree that applications from within the Finance and Resources Committee Convener's own Electoral Ward, namely Tillydrone Community Development Trust and Tillydrone Community Campus - Art for all in Tillydrone, should be supported from the Fund and agree to allocate £160,600 and £42,140 respectively.

Councillor McLellan moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Greig:-

(1) Notes Aberdeen City Council Awarded £1,429,228 through the Cultural Investment Framework as part of the 2025/26 budget (as detailed below);

Catalyst

	Organisation	Award for 2025/26	In Principle Award for 2026/27	In Principle Award for 2027/28
1	Crowhouse Projects	£15,000		
2	Friends of Elphinstone	£12,000		
3	Aberdeen Mela	£15,000	£15,000	
4	Four Pillars (Grampian Pride)	£15,000		
6	Pushing Out the Boat	£5,000		
7	Touch of Love Outreach	£11,228		
	Total Catalyst	**£73,228**	**£15,000**	**£0**

Cultivate & Cornerstone

	Organisation	Award for 2025/26	In Principle Award for 2026/27	In Principle Award for 2027/28
10	Citymoves Dance Agency SCIO	£100,000	£98,000	£95,000
11	Grampian Hospital Art Trust	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
12	Sound Festival	£20,000	£18,000	£18,000
13	Open Road	£16,000	£16,000	£16,000
14	Belmont Community Cinema	£40,000	£40,000	£40,000
15	Jazz Scotland	£16,000	£16,000	£16,000
16	Aberdeen Inspired (Nuart)	£88,000		
18	Peacock Visual Arts	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
20	Aberdeen Performing Arts	£961,000	£913,000	£865,000
	Total Cultivate & Cornerstone	**£1,311,000**	**£1,171,000**	**£1,120,000**

Acorn Programme

		Award for 2025/26	In Principle Award for 2026/27	In Principle Award for 2027/28
	Pilot project to support community groups and individual creatives	**£45,000**		

	Total	**£1,429,228**	**£1,186,000**	**£1,120,000**

(2) Notes the Castlegate Arts unsuccessful application for Culture Investment Framework funding was considered through a fair and transparent process, with the officers recommending not to award funding due to the organisation not meeting investment priorities and the "Following the Public

Pound" guidance, with the final decision being made at the Budget meeting on 5 March 2025;

(3) Notes the Finance and Resources Committee unanimously agreed on 26 March 2025 to allocate £508,000 for Local Business Support and £521,380 for People and Skills from the 2025/26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund;

(4) Notes the competitive application process for allocation of the 2025/26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with approximately £4 million worth of applications received for the Community and Place element, and only £1.2 million of funding remaining to allocate within the programme, and that the Finance and Resources Committee will make the final decision on the applications at its scheduled meeting on 7 May 2025;

(5) Agrees that any proposal to allocate funds directly from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which bypasses this process sets a concerning precedent and is disrespectful to those organisations who have already applied for funding;

(6) Notes that directing funds to specific projects without a clear process undermines objectiveness and fairness and could lead to similar claims from other organisations who were not approved for funding and may risk non-compliance with "Following the Public Pound" guidance and may also create a risk of the Council having to repay some of the money back to the UK Government on the grounds of having awarded money to projects which may not meet UK Shared Prosperity Fund eligibility and criteria;

(7) Acknowledges the funding provided to date by Aberdeen City Council's SNP and Liberal Democrat Partnership in 2024/25:

Communities and Place - 2024/25		
Organisation	**Project**	**UKSPF Award**
ACVO	Aberdeen Third Sector Hub feasibility Study	£60,000
Aberdeen City Council	Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 Culture Programme 24/25	£99,200
Growing2gether	Strengthening Communities by Building Local Skills, Wellbeing and Resilience project	£26,447
Look Again	Aberdeen Independents project	£63,000
Soundfestival	Soundcommunities	£37,000
St Georges Community Centre	Saint Georges Community Centre	£45,228
Port of Aberdeen Trust Port	Tall Ships Community Promotion, which includes volunteer recruitment and engaging young people with sail traineeships;	£108,000
Avenue	Mental Health and Relationship Support for Families and Individuals in Aberdeen	£116,777

DRAFT

Aberdeen Performing Arts	Repointing and Exterior Restorations at His Majesty's Theatre	£91,078.58
Aberdeen City Council	Phase 2 of the Denis Law Trail	£85,000
Belmont Community Cinema	Belmont Community Cinema	£75,000
Cairncry Community Centre	Community Café Refurbishment project	£14,391.60
Granite City Taekwondo	Tillydrone Community Centre Upgrades	£100,000
SHMU	Redevelopment to Station House	£99,954
Local Business Support - 2024/25		
Organisation	**Project**	**UKSPF Award**
Aberdeen City Council	Business Start-up grants	£562,680
Aberdeen City Council	Aberdeen Renewable Energy Groups (AREG)'s Enhancing Offshore Wind Renewables through Digital Innovation	£45,000
Aberdeen City Council	Culture Aberdeen Network Coordination Service	£40,000
Aberdeen City Council	Energy Pilot Project	£137,592
Aberdeen City Council	Learning Journey Support for SMEs	£40,000
Aberdeen City Council	AI Upskilling for SMEs	£48,740
Aberdeen City Council	Tall Ships Creative Makers Programme	£55,000
Aberdeen City Council	Vibrant & Sustainable City Centre Pilot	£100,000
Aberdeen City Council	Freebie Fortnight	£115,000
Aberdeen City Council	Love Local Card	£10,000
Aberdeen City Council	The Travel Trade Tours –Countryside Ranger Service	£10,700

(8) Given the above outlined process for the allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding for 2025/26, take no further action.

DRAFT

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion:- (19) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Crockett, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment:- (22) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the amendment.
- DAVID CAMERON, Lord Provost.

DRAFT

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 12 June 2025

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Sederunt:

Lord Provost David Cameron, Chairperson;
Depute Provost Steve Delaney; and

COUNCILLORS

GILLIAN AL-SAMARAI
CHRISTIAN ALLARD
ALISON ALPHONSE
KATE BLAKE
JENNIFER BONSELL
MARIE BOULTON
DESMOND BOUSE
RICHARD BROOKS
HAZEL CAMERON
DONNA CLARK
JOHN COOKE
NEIL COPLAND
WILLIAM CORMIE
BARNEY CROCKETT
DEREK DAVIDSON
LEE FAIRFULL
EMMA FARQUHAR
GORDON GRAHAM
ROSS GRANT
MARTIN GREIG
DELL HENRICKSON
MICHAEL HUTCHISON
MICHAEL KUSZNIR
GRAEME LAWRENCE
NEIL MacGREGOR
ALEXANDER McLELLAN
KEN McLEOD
CIARAN McRAE
M. TAUQEER MALIK
DUNCAN MASSEY
JESSICA MENNIE
ALEX NICOLL
MIRANDA RADLEY
KAIRIN VAN SWEEDEN
LYNN THOMSON
DEENA TISSERA
and
IAN YUILL

Lord Provost David Cameron, in the Chair.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found 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.

DRAFT

WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETING

1. The Council had before it the wording of the written request for this special Council meeting which had been signed by 12 members in accordance with Standing Order 8.2.2:-

> "The business to be transacted relates to section 62 Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended and section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 as amended."

Councillor Malik moved, seconded by Councillor Tissera:-

That the Council -

1. Notes the Council, in terms of the requisition, is entitled to make its own Standing Orders.
2. Notes the decision by the Convener, Councillor Radley, at the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee who refused to allow a vote on referring the Viability Assessment of Proposals from Owners of Properties with RAAC to the full Council in breach of Standing Order 34.1.
3. Notes this omission was confirmed in writing by the Chief Officer - Governance after the event.
4. Agrees this matter is before Council today not because this matter was not progressed to Council but because the Convener, Councillor Radley, acted out with her powers as SO 36.2 makes it clear matters of competency and relevancy are matters for the Convener UNLESS otherwise specified. Clearly SO 34.1 is otherwise specified.
5. Agrees that Officers as well as Members are guardians of governance and competency within the committee system.
6. Agrees despite Officers taking Members through changes to Standing Orders on 16th April 2025 at Full Council, Officers were not afforded an opportunity to confirm their understanding of the Standing Order nor asked for advice. Aberdeen Labour suggest that Officers should intervene when there is a potential breach of Standing Orders or legislation.
7. Notes the Council in terms of the requisition has powers to advance well-being.
8. Agrees Elected Members were not advised about discretionary powers under section 20 Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 in February 2024 at the Urgent Business Committee meeting and if they had known about these discretionary powers a differing position might have been taken.
9. Agrees to acknowledge the powers available to Council and instructs the Chief Officer - Governance to produce a note as to the legal position regarding the propositions put by the Torry RAAC Campaign Group Management Committee to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 27th May 2025.

Councillor Allard moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Greig:-

That the Council take no action.

After eight Members had spoken, in terms of Standing Order 31.1, Councillor McLellan moved as a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Henrickson:-

That no further debate take place.

DRAFT

On a division, there voted:-

For the procedural motion (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

Against the procedural motion (15) - Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Thomson and Tissera.

Absent from the division (1) - Councillor Kusznir.

The Council resolved:-
to approve the procedural motion and therefore proceed to summing up.

> **In terms of Standing Order 32.8, Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Thomson and Tissera intimated their dissent against the foregoing decision.**

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion (15) - Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Brooks, Crockett, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, McLeod, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Thomson and Tissera.

For the amendment (23) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Buchanan, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

Absent from the division (1) - Councillor Kusznir.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the amendment.

> **In terms of Standing Order 32.8, Councillors Blake, Bonsell, Brooks, Crockett, Graham, Grant, Lawrence, Malik, Nicoll, Thomson and Tissera intimated their dissent against the foregoing decision.**

- DAVID CAMERON, Lord Provost.

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	**COUNCIL BUSINESS PLANNER** The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed by the Council 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	**2nd July 2025**								
4	Treasury Management Strategy - Year-end Review	To update the Council on Treasury Management activities undertaken during financial year 2024/25.	A report is on the agenda	Neil Stewart	Finance	Corporate Services	5 and 6		
5	CPA Annual Outcome Report	To present the annual outcome report for Community Planning Aberdeen.	A report is on the agenda	Allison Swanson, Jade Leyden and Iain Robertson	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	24.11		
6	Locality Plan Annual Reports	To present the annual reports for the North, South and Central localities.	This report is combined with the CPA Annual Outcome Report above.	Allison Swanson, Jade Leyden and Iain Robertson	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	24.11		
7	Population Needs Assessment 2025	To present the Population Needs Assessment for 2025.	A report is on the agenda	Anne McAteer	People and Citizen Services	Corporate Services	24.1		
8	Council Meeting Structure	This report meets the Council's instruction from 16 April 2025 to report back with further proposed revisions concerning meeting structure as well as motions and amendments for requisitioned meetings.	A report is on the agenda	Vikki Cuthbert	Governance	Corporate Services	7		
9	Committee Places	To consider the allocation of committee places following a change to the political composition of the Council.	A report is on the agenda	Martyn Orchard	Governance	Corporate Services	7		
10	Energy Transition Zone - Land at St Fittick's Park & Doonies	At its meeting of 11 September 2023, the Council instructed the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to report the outcome of discussions regarding St Fittick's OP56 and Doonies OP61 sites to the earliest appropriate meeting of Full Council.	A report is on the agenda	Stephen Booth	Corporate Landlord	Families and Communities	Introduction 6		
11	Aberdeen Local Development Plan Evidence Report	To inform Council of the work undertaken to prepare the Evidence Report for the Local Development Plan 2028, and to request approval to send the Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers for consideration through the Gate Check process.	A report is on the agenda	Andrew Brownrigg	Strategic Place Planning	City Regeneration & Environment	11		
12	**20th August 2025**								

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
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**
13	Council Diary 2026	To approve the Council diary for 2026.		Martyn Orchard	Governance	Corporate Services	18		
14	Performance Management Framework 2025/26 Update	To present a revised Performance Management Framework reflecting the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the Council's commissioning intentions, as set out within the Council Delivery Plan 2025/26.		Alex Paterson	Data Insights	Corporate Services	24.12		
15	**1st October 2025**								
16	Council Delivery Plan, Annual Review Report	To present the Council with an annual review report which highlights progress with respect to the Council Delivery Plan previously approved by Council.		Martin Murchie	Data Insights	Corporate Services	13		
17	North East Population Health Alliance - End of Year Two Progress Report	At its meeting of 11 December 2024, the Council instructed a progress report on the second year of the operation of the strategic partnership agreement.		Martin Murchie	Data Insights	Corporate Services	21		
18	Annual Performance Reports - 2024/25 for all Tier 1 ALEOs	To present the annual performance reporting of the Council's four Tier One Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) covering financial year 2024/25: Aberdeen Peforming Arts, Aberdeen Sports Village, Bon Accord Care and Sport Aberdeen.		Craig Innes	Commercial and Procurement	Corporate Services	24.13		
19	30 Year HRA Business Plan	To seek approval of the HRA Business Plan.		Helen Sherrit	Finance	Corporate Services	1		
20	**10th December 2025**								
21	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2026/27	To provide members with information to enable the Council to approve a revenue and capital budget for 2026/27, including the setting of the rents and other charges on the Housing Revenue Account budget for the financial year.	A separate Council meeting is to be arranged for this report in line with the Council decision from April.	Helen Sherrit	Finance	Corporate Services	2		
22	Annual Procurement Report	To present the Annual Procurement Report 2024-2025 to Council.		Mel Mackenzie	Commerical and Procurement	Corporate Services	24.14		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
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**
23	Treasury Management Strategy - Mid-year Review	To update the Council on Treasury Management activities undertaken to date, during financial year 2025/26.		Neil Stewart	Finance	Corporate Services	5 and 6		
24	**Date to be confirmed**								
25	Revised Council Climate Change Plan	At the Council meeting on 3 March 2021, the Council, amongst other things, instructed the Chief Operating Officer to report back to Full Council with a revised 5 year plan in 2025, or earlier if required.	The next update on the plan was due to be March 2025, however Environmental Standards Scotland are due to publish their new Framework for Local Authorities Climate Change Plans in March 2025 once the work of the new Climate Intelligence Unit is completed. While work can be done in advance of the March 2025 date, it is likely that the reporting will have to be done some time in Q3 2025.	David Dunne	Strategic Place Planning	City Regeneration & Environment	21		
26	Drug-checking Pilot	At its meeting of 3 November 2023, the Council approved a notice of motion by Councillor Cooke which instructed the Chief Officer - Health and Social Care Partnership to report back with the results of the Glasgow pilot scheme and collate any available peer reviewed data following 12 months of operation of the facility to inform Council of the progress and set out options for Aberdeen.	The Glasgow pilot scheme has newly commenced operating. A report following 12 months of operation of the facility will likely be presented to Full Council in early 2026.	Fiona Mitchelhill	Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership	Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership	21		

This page is intentionally left blank

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	2 July 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen Local Development Plan – Evidence Report
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/165
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Brownrigg
TERMS OF REFERENCE	11

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Council of the work undertaken to prepare the Evidence Report for the Local Development Plan 2028, and to request approval to send the Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers for consideration through the Gate Check process. During the Gate Check the Evidence Report will be reviewed and assessed by an independent Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government. This will determine if the council has sufficient and appropriate information to prepare the next Local Development Plan. If so, the Planning Authority can then move to the next step which is writing the Proposed Local Development Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:-

2.1. Instruct the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to submit the Evidence Report (Appendix 1), and appropriate supporting documentation, to Scottish Ministers, subject to any necessary minor drafting changes to satisfy the requirements of the Gate Check process.

2.2. Note the outcome of the engagement undertaken on the Evidence Report Topic Papers and, in particular, the areas of agreement and the remaining disputes, as summarised in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.12 below and Sections 5 and 7 of Appendix 1.

2.3. Instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to publish the Evidence Report (Appendix 1) and other technical background documents (subject to any necessary minor drafting changes) (Appendices 2 to 4) which will support the development of the Proposed Local Development Plan on the Council's website as soon as practicable.

2.4. Noting the content of Appendix 4 – Play Sufficiency Assessment, and recognising that play is not only important to children, but to well-being throughout life, instruct the Chief Executive to refresh the existing Aberdeen

Play Strategy 2018 to better emphasise the importance of play from birth to old age, and refer the draft objectives of the refreshed strategy to the 2026/27 budget setting process, alongside any other relevant information on open space provision.

2.5. Authorise the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to respond to any requests for further information or clarification issued by the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division of the Scottish Government during the course of the Gate Check.

2.6. Authorise the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to make any technical amendments to the Evidence Report and supporting documents as a result of the Gate Check process.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Background

3.1. On 19 June 2023 the Aberdeen Local Development Plan (LDP) 2023 was formally adopted by the Council and constituted as part of the statutory Development Plan.

3.2. In August 2024 the Council's Finance & Resources Committee agreed an annual update on the Development Plan Scheme (DPS) - the document which sets out a planning authority's programme for preparing and reviewing their Local Development Plan. The DPS shows a target adoption date for the next Local Development Plan as being in Spring 2028, to align with a requirement from Scottish Government that every planning authority in Scotland should have a new style LDP in place within around 5 years of the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 coming into force.

3.3. The Evidence Report is the first formal stage in the preparation of the next Local Development Plan. A report on beginning the preparation of the Evidence Report was presented to Council at its meeting on 03 July 2024 (CR&E/24/187). The Evidence Report sets out robust data in order to inform the planning authority on its approach to specific issues, and the Report will inform preparation of a 'Proposed Local Development Plan'. It comprises a range of information including research, early engagement and technical reports on a range of topics. The requirement for an Evidence Report stems from Section 16B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. As such, this is the first time Aberdeen City Council has prepared an Evidence Report as part of it's local development plan review process.

Demographic Introduction and Context

3.4. The 'Topic Papers' (explained further in paragraph 3.14 below) form the main content of the Evidence Report, and these are contextualized at the start of the

report by a broad profile of Aberdeen as a place – outlining the City in terms of demographics, the economy, environment and communities and health.

3.5. Section 3 of the Report evaluates whether the current adopted plan, the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023, has delivered on its outcomes and allocations. It identifies lessons to be learnt in the preparation of the next plan, and considers the appropriateness of the previous spatial strategy. This evaluation does not include specific content on policy or spatial strategy matters for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028 – these will be developed at the next stage.

3.6. Section 4 summarises the main issues arising from evidence and key areas of change. It identifies a number of issues and demographic challenges to be addressed in the production of the next Local Development Plan. These very broadly include:

- Aberdeen's demographics, health and ageing population;
- Climate change challenges;
- The development of nature networks and review of the green belt;
- The composition and condition of the housing stock;
- The school estate;
- The transport system and other infrastructure, including energy requirements;
- The city's open spaces, biodiversity and historic environment;
- Aberdeen's cultural assets and the role of the city centre; and,
- Our economic wellbeing and prosperity.

3.7. The current Local Development Plan 2023 was the first plan to group a number of polices under a specific Health and Wellbeing topic area, and the first plan to introduce a Health Impact Assessment, a policy specifically designed to assess the impact of certain new developments on the health of the population.

3.8. In the next Local Development Plan 2028, this initial work looking at Health, and the Nature and Climate emergencies will be much expanded. In particular working with Public Health Colleagues at NHS Grampian, and the Health Determinants Research Collaboration it is intended to take a health in all polices approach. This aims to ensure all polices within the plan look to improve health outcomes wherever possible, and limit any negative impacts where they are identified.

3.9. In this way, the next Local Development Plan has a unique opportunity to both influence, and be developed in the context of, the collaboration announced in February 2025 between Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian and Public Health Scotland and Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director of University College London's Institute of Health Equity. The aim of this collaboration is to strengthen local plans to reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing in communities, thus enabling people to live longer, healthier lives by addressing the root causes of health inequalities and preventing illness before it starts.

Consultation and Engagement

3.10. Work on preparing the Evidence Report commenced in 2024, with stakeholder and public consultation on the Topic Papers, which make up the key part of the report, undertaken in early 2025. Part of this consultation activity was under the umbrella of the Community Planning Aberdeen "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement. In total the Planning Authority received 23 responses to the Topic Papers aspect of the consultation. This response rate may appear low, but it is reflective of the very technical stage in Plan preparation we are at, as well as feedback received from across Scotland that this new stage in local development plan production is not as engaging to local communities as the similar 'Main Issues Report' stage which was required under the previous legislation.

3.11. Section 5 of the Evidence Report outlines the Areas of Agreement / Dispute from the consultation responses. It summarises the key statements of agreement and disputes over the sufficiency of the evidence and the Council's response to these matters. Work has been ongoing to try and resolve as many of the disputes as practicable, however it has not been possible to resolve all disputes, and the reasons behind this are highlighted. The areas of agreement and dispute relating to specific topics are repeated in the Topic Papers.

3.12. Section 6 of the Report sets out legislative requirements, and Section 7 details our Engagement Strategy. The development of this Evidence Report has been aided by a collaborative approach to data and spatial gathering and analysis with Key Agencies and other stakeholders. There has also been consultation and engagement with a wide range of organisations and the community, and has included;

- Engaging internal Council services and Key Agencies, including through the Future Infrastructure Requirements (FIRS) Group.
- Awareness raising and meetings with the development industry and community councils.
- Meetings and awareness raising with the public and equality groups through the Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future consultation, including targeted events and drop in sessions.

Topic Papers

3.13. The second part of the Evidence Report (Sections 8 – 17) contains the Topic Papers which look in detail at 10 different topic areas. The topic papers contain the bulk of the data and cover the following themes:

- Spatial Strategy;
- Delivery of Homes;
- Infrastructure and Communication;
- Sustainable Transport;
- Place;
- Wellbeing of Community;
- Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation;

- Nature and Biodiversity;
- Energy and Resources; and,
- Centres of Business and Culture.

3.14. Finally, Section 18 concludes the Report

Background Documents

3.15. A number of technical background papers have also been produced in order to support the Evidence Report:

- A Draft Strategic Flood Impact Assessment – to identify potential flooding and drainage issues (Appendix 2).

- An update of the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Retail Study has been prepared jointly with Aberdeenshire Council. This study informs our approach to retail planning and the city centre and other retail locations around Aberdeen (Appendix 3).

- Play Sufficiency Assessment – an assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their area (Appendix 4).

3.16. In addition, the Evidence Report also recognises that there are a number of further studies required to support the next stage of plan development. These include (but are not limited to) a Cumulative Transport Assessment, Natural Environment Strategy (including Open Space Strategy, Forestry and Woodland Strategy and Green Belt Review) and Brownfield Urban Capacity Study. A Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Local Development Plan will also be carried out. These studies will be carried out over the coming year and will support the development of the Proposed Local Development Plan.

Next Steps – Gate Check

3.17. Subject to Council approval, Officers now recommend sending the Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers for consideration through the Gate Check process. During the Gate Check the Evidence Report will be reviewed and assessed by an independent Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government.

3.18. Prior to submission, officers will ensure that formatting, graphic alignment, mapping and typographic matters are reviewed and refined, and the document brought together as a comprehensive submission. A list of core documents (currently shown as 'CDXX' in the text) will also be prepared, and the text updated as a result. Other minor drafting changes, for example any typographical errors, will also be reviewed and rectified.

3.19. During the Gate Check, it is normal practice for the Reporter to ask for clarifications and/or further information. This report therefore also seeks authority for the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to respond to any such requests and to make any technical amendments to the submitted documents that may be required.

3.20. Based on a submission to Gate Check this Summer, and the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) meeting their 3-month target to respond, the current LDP programme shows preparation of the Proposed Plan beginning in Autumn 2025, with a draft reported to Council for approval to consult publicly in Autumn 2026. As reported to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee on 10 June 2025, it is officers intention to align the programme of public and stakeholder consultation on the revised draft Local Transport Strategy to happen in tandem with the Proposed Plan consultation in order to give important context on how any impacts (cumulate or otherwise) on the transport network from development proposed in the next Local Development Plan by would be managed / mitigated, e.g. by active travel upgrades or projects such as Aberdeen Rapid Transit.

3.21. Although the Scottish Government expect Evidence Reports to clear Gate Check within 3 months, it should be noted that the timelines for Gate Check are determined by the capacity of the DPEA, and any delays to Gate Check will impact on the local development plan review programme. The DPEA have already intimated to Officers that, due to a number of other local authorities programmed to submit for Gate Check at the same time, it is possible that the 3-month target may be breached. Officers will keep this under review and liaise with the DPEA on timelines once the Evidence Report has been approved for submission.

3.22. It is also worth noting that the Reporter has the power to return the Evidence Report to the Council if it is felt that the report contains insufficient information to enable the Planning Authority to prepare its next local development plan. A number of other local authorities have recently had Evidence Reports returned to them on this basis, such as Glasgow City Council and Fife Council. Officers have reviewed the reasons given by the Reporter in these instances and have also liaised with the DPEA on 'lessons learned' in the run up to finalising the Evidence Report for Aberdeen City Council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The cost of preparing the Evidence Report and other associated documents can be met through the existing Development Plan budget.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Section 16B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, 1997 as amended by the 2019 Act, sets out the requirements for the Evidence Report in preparing a Local Development Plan. In summary, it outlines the need to prepare an Evidence Report and the specific requirements to be included (to cover the matters set out at Section 15(5) of the said 1997 Act). It also requires the Council to seek the views of identified groups including the public at large, children and young people, disabled persons, Gypsies and Travellers, Community Councils and Key Agencies. The Evidence Report sets out the

detailed engagement undertaken for each group and how this has been taken account of in the Evidence Report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Evidence Report is essentially a data and information gathering exercise – policies and proposals will be drawn up at the next stage and presented in the Proposed Local Development Plan. There are therefore no significant environmental implications with regards to the Evidence Report. The Local Development Plan itself will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

7. RISK

7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

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	Not delivering the aims of the City Centre Masterplan, LOIP and Local Development Plan.	Ensure that the Evidence Report is produced timeously, subject to any delays encountered by the Scottish Government in terms of the aforementioned Gate Check.	L	Yes
Compliance	Ensuring compliance with National Planning Framework 4.	Ensure that the Evidence Report is produced timeously, subject to any delays encountered by the Scottish Government in terms of the aforementioned Gate Check.	L	Yes

Operational	Ensuring that the Evidence Report can be timeously published in order to support the new plan process.	Ensure that the Evidence Report is produced timeously, subject to any delays encountered by the Scottish Government in terms of the aforementioned Gate Check.	L	Yes
Financial	Not having an up to date Local, Development Plan could lead to uncertainty at planning application stage and potentially lead to more staff time being spent processing applications.	Ensure the timetable for producing the next LDP remains on course wherever possible.	L	Yes
Reputational	The planning authority tries to keep the LDP up to date to allow for clarity and transparency of the development plan process. Failure to continue this could damage the Council's reputation as a planning authority.	Ensure the timetable for producing the next LDP remains on course, wherever possible.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	Not keeping the LDP up to date opens the possibility of inconsistency in decision making and lower environmental policy standards.	Ensure the timetable for producing the next LDP remains on course, wherever possible.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

Council Delivery Plan 2024	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	Empowering Aberdeen's Communities – the Evidence Report Topic Papers were consulted on as part of the Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future engagement thereby setting out the Council's commitment to working with communities and other entities in its preparation.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The proposals will support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 1 by identifying areas which may be deficient in services and facilities so that these can be addressed in future policies.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 5 by ensuring that children and young people feel listened to in terms of the consultation process in the preparation of a new Local Development Plan. The engagement on the Play Sufficiency Assessment contributes to LOIP Improvement Project Aim 16.1 '100% of decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them by 2026.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Bringing forward the Open Space Strategy and Forestry and Woodland Strategy will support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 15 - addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026.
Regional and City Strategies	The Evidence Report will support the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028 through providing more information on the content of the Plan and ensuring better evidence based policies. It will ensure Aberdeen is an excellent place to live, visit and do business. The Evidence Report makes reference to many regional and city strategies. The Regional Economic Strategy, NHS Strategies and Plans, the LOIP and Locality Plans, Local Housing Strategy and the Regional Transport Strategy are a few examples. This ensures that these and all other such strategies

	can be taken into account in preparing the next Local Development Plan.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	An assessment has been completed and no medium or high negative impacts have been identified that would require mitigation.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required.
Other	Not required.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Full Council Report CR&E/24/187- Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028 Evidence Report. July 3 2024.

10.2 Scottish Government Local Development Planning Guidance https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-development-planning-guidance/documents/…..

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028 Evidence Report (Appendix 1)

11.2 Draft Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix 2)

11.3 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Retail Study (Appendix 3)

11.4 Aberdeen Play Sufficiency Assessment (Appendix 4)

Appendices 1, 3 and 4 can be accessed here - Document Aberdeen Local Development Plan - Evidence Report - 2 July 2025

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Andrew Brownrigg
Title	Team Leader - Development Plan
Email Address	abrownrigg@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	07870 487687

Draft Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Introduction

Aberdeen City Council is required to produce a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) as a supporting document to the Evidence Report for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028 (ALDP2028). The SFRA is intended to provide a broad, map-based overview of the scope and nature of sources of flood risk within a Local Development Plan Area. It will support the ALDP2028 in responding to the spatial implications of 'Policy 22 – Flood risk and water management' as outlined in the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) by promoting avoidance of flooding as a first principle. It will also seek to build resilience to flood risk and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding.

The structure of this document is influenced by SEPA's Guidance for planning authorities on Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, published in October 2023. The SFRA will be developed over two stages as follows:

- Stage 1 – Information gathering on flood risk affecting the development plan or catchment area. This stage will also highlight any gaps in the data that we hold, and how we intend to address them. A map-based assessment will also be prepared.

- Stage 2 – Gap Analysis. This section identifies areas where sufficient data or information may be lacking. It can identify where there are residual uncertainties over flood defences and their current standard. It may also identify instances where the flood mechanism is distant or complex, or instances where site-level flood risk assessments have not successfully identified the problem or otherwise reduced uncertainty.

This document addresses Stages 1 and 2 of the SFRA process.

It should be noted that as the modelling of flood mapping and availability of data is ever-changing, the SFRA is consequently limited to being representative at the time of its production.

The Council's ArcGIS portal, which is accessible by all internal Council services, has a dedicated flooding portal which includes all of SEPA's publicly accessible mapping. A full list of which layers are included can be found in the 'SEPA Flood Hazard Maps' section of this report. The Council has also mapped the location of flood defence schemes, and the location of prior flood studies within the City boundary. These maps are intended for internal use only.

Aberdeen Context

Aberdeen is a predominantly urban Local Authority comprising of a city situated on the north-east coast of Scotland. It has an estimated population of 227,750 across an area

of approximately 70 square miles. Beyond that, it is surrounded by Aberdeenshire Council's administrative area.

It is intersected by two major rivers (the Dee and the Don) which discharge to the North Sea on the eastern coastline. Aberdeen is susceptible to coastal flooding, surface water, and fluvial (river/watercourse) flooding.

According to the National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA) 2018, approximately 15,000 homes are identified as being at medium risk (0.5% or 1 in 200 year event) of flooding in Aberdeen. In addition to this, a further 2000 businesses, leisure facilities or other service sites experience the same level of risk.

A selection of watercourses within Aberdeen includes (but are not limited to):

Table 1 – List of watercourses within Aberdeen City area

Watercourse	Catchment Area	Modelled Length
Auchinyell Burn	Aberdeen City	2.2km
Bucks Burn	Bucksburn	2.7km
Cults Burn	Cults	2.6km
Culter Burn	Peterculter	7.2km
Den Burn & North Burn of Rubislaw	Aberdeen City	7.9km
Devils Den	Aberdeen City	1.6km
Far Burn	Dyce	4.2km
Farrochie Burn	Stonehaven	1.6km
Ferryhill	Aberdeen City	0.7km
Gilcomston Burn	Aberdeen City	5.1km
Glashie Burn	Bridge of Don	3.7km
Green Burn	Bankhead	2.7km
Hol Burn	Aberdeen City	1.7km
Newton Dee Burn	Aberdeen City	3.2km
Powis Burn	Aberdeen City	4.0km
Scatter Burn	Aberdeen City	1.8km
Silver Burn	Bridge of Don	3.8km
West Burn of Rubislaw	Aberdeen City	9.9km

Stage 1 – Information Gathering

This section of the report details the data sources that will be used to inform the SFRA. It will also detail any data sources not used with justification for their exclusion from the SFRA process.

SEPA Flood Hazard Maps

There a 6 main potential sources of flood risk: rivers (fluvial), the sea (coastal), surface water (pluvial), groundwater, drainage and sewers and infrastructure failure (e.g reservoir or canal breaches).

SEPA have produced flood hazard maps detailing perceived flood risk from fluvial (rivers or watercourses), coastal, and surface water flooding events. These are categorised into areas at low (1 in 1000 year event or 0.1% chance), medium (1 in 200 year event or 0.5% chance) and high (1 in 10 year event or 10% chance) likelihoods of flooding. The flood maps have recently been updated for the north-east of Scotland although this does not yet include the coastal maps.

For the purposes of planning, we are chiefly concerned with areas affected by a 0.5% annual probability of flooding (1 in 200 years).

There is over 600km of watercourses (both open and culverted) in Aberdeen City.

The main areas at high flood risk from fluvial flooding in Aberdeen are along the large watercourses, including the River Dee, River Don, Culter burn and the Denburn and the coast and harbour-side area.

Flooding due to rising groundwater is also likely to occur after periods of intense and prolonged rainfall, when the water table rises up from underlying rocks or flowing from springs. Groundwater is generally a contributing factor to flooding rather than the primary source.

Flood Risk Management Maps, which are available online, show the areas identified as being at risk of groundwater flooding., which are available online, show the areas identified as being at risk of groundwater flooding.

The following SEPA mapping layers are included within the Council's ArcGIS Portal and can be seen publicly via SEPA's Flood Maps portal accessible here:

Screenshots of the Council's portal displaying the below layers can be seen in the appendices at the end of this report.

SEPA Mapping Layer
River Flooding High Likelihood
River Flooding Medium Likelihood
River Flooding Low Likelihood
Surface Water and Small Watercourses Flooding High Likelihood
Surface Water and Small Watercourses Flooding Medium Likelihood
Surface Water and Small Watercourses Flooding Low Likelihood
Coastal Flooding High Likelihood
Coastal Flooding Medium Likelihood
Coastal Flooding Low Likelihood
Future Flood Maps River Medium Likelihood

Future Surface Water and Small Watercourses Medium Likelihood
Future Flood Maps Coastal Medium Likelihood

Climate Change Allowances

SEPA's Future Flood Maps are a screening tool to identify areas of flood risk where new development should avoid or where site specific flood risk assessment may be required

SEPA's published guidance 'Climate change allowances for flood risk assessment in land use planning – Version 5' identifies the required climate change allowances that are to be factored in for each of the river basin regions in Scotland.

The Climate Change Allowances indicate how peak rainfall, river flows and sea levels are projected to rise due to climate change, over and above our current understanding of the causes of flooding. Although climate change allowances are provided for the year 2100, this does not affirm that the effects of climate change will not occur prior to this year. Rather, it indicates that increases are starting to be seen now and this will continue into the future.

Aberdeen's Local Development Plan area falls entirely within the North-East Scotland river basin region. The climate change allowances for the North-East Scotland Region is outlined in the table below:

Table 2 – Climate Change Allowance values for each type of allowance

Type of Allowance	Description of Allowance	Value of Allowance
Sea level rise	Cumulative rise from the year 2017 to the year 2100 in metres	0.87m
Peak rainfall intensity	Total change to the year 2100	37%
Peak river flow	Total change to the year 2100	34%

Natural Flood Management Maps

The Natural Flood Management (NFM) maps (found here) identify areas where there are opportunities for alteration or restoration of natural features to help manage flood risk. The maps are of a strategic nature and are primarily to support Flood Risk Management planning decisions at the catchment level. They provide a high-level assessment of those areas within catchments and along coastlines where the implementation of the specified NFM techniques could be most effective and merit further investigation. Five natural flood management maps have been produced: run- off reduction; floodplain storage; sediment management; estuarine surge attenuation; wave energy dissipation.

Whilst we are likely to be supportive of Natural Flood Management proposals in principle, as with any new scheme or development there is the potential it could increase flood risk elsewhere, for example by altering flow paths and/or floodplain storage and conveyance. Any proposals for NFM measures should be supported by an appropriate flood risk assessment.

Flood Defences and Schemes

There are two recorded flood defences within Aberdeen that were included in the former Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database (SFDAD). Selected detail of those flood defences is included in the table below.

Name of Scheme	Fraser Road Flood Prevention Scheme 2002
Scheme Reference ID	40SCH
Watercourse	Gilcomston Burn
Flood Defence Scheme Description	The scheme is designed to mitigate the flooding in the area of Fraser Road from Gilcomston Burn. The operations are divided between two areas, Maberly Street and Westburn Park. At Westburn Park operations include a storage area, channel improvement, bunding and a flood wall. At Maberly street the operations include a box culvert and a flood wall. Information about this scheme was last updated prior to SEPA taking on hosting of the database in 2016. For more up to date information please contact the Local Authority, who are the local flood risk management authority responsible for flood defences in the area.
Type of Flooding Mitigated	Fluvial
Flood Protection Act	Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961
Year of Construction	2002

Name of Scheme	Glashieburn Flood Prevention Scheme 2007
Scheme Reference ID	102SCH
Watercourse	Glashieburn
Flood Defence Scheme Description	The purpose of the scheme is to prevent and mitigate the flooding of Lochside Drive, Aberdeen from the Glashieburn. Works include the construction of a small flood attenuation basin along with associated culverts and screens. In the past 24 years there has been at least 5 reported instances of major flooding at this location. The flooding is attributed to the overloading of a culverted section of the watercourse. Information about this scheme was last updated prior to SEPA taking on hosting of the database in 2016. For more up to date information please contact the Local Authority, who are the local flood risk management authority responsible for flood defences in the area.

Type of Flooding Mitigated	Fluvial
Flood Protection Act	Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961
Year of Construction	2010

The Aberdeen City area also includes the following flood defences and schemes:

Flood Study	**Summary Description**
Coastal Promenade Sea Defences (1898, 1923 and 2006)	The scheme is designed to mitigate the flooding in the area of Aberdeen Beachfront from the North Sea between Footdee and River Dee. It has been elongated and modified. This was developed before an act of Parliament for flood risk was established. In 2006 the beach in front of the sea wall defence was adapted with timber and rock Groynes to reduce sand erosion and exposing the structure to coastal damage.
Fraser Road Flood Prevention Scheme (2002)	The scheme is designed to mitigate the flooding in the area of Fraser Road from Gilcomston Burn. The operations are divided between two areas, Maberly Street and Westburn Park. At Westburn Park operations include a storage area, channel improvement, bunding and a flood wall. At Maberly street the operations include a box culvert and a flood wall. Scheme under Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961
Aberdeen Beach Defences (2006)	To protect the revetments and the area around beach from continued erosion and failure, a beach recharge took place. To ensure the stability of the new beach and to protect the area from further erosion, rock t-head extensions were constructed.
Glashieburn Flood Prevention Scheme 2007 (2010)	The purpose of the scheme is to prevent and mitigate the flooding of Lochside Drive, Aberdeen from the Glashieburn. Works include the construction of a small flood attenuation basin along with associated culverts and screens. Scheme under Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961
Jacks Brae Overflow/spillway structure (2010)	ACC installed an overspill orifice in 2010 on top of the culverted Denburn just downstream of the trash screen at Jack's Brae to act as an emergency overflow.

West Cults Farm (Private Scheme) (2013)	Earth bunds were constructed to prevent river flooding
Stronsay Park Detention Basin (Control Structure) (2015)	The Stronsay Park scheme was designed to store water during storms to protect properties downstream, as well as improve the environment. Stronsay basin holds more than 30,000m3 of water during flood events. The Park acts as an online basin to store water from Denburn by installing a control structure just upstream of Kings Gate.
Leggart Terrace Culvert diversion (2016)	A bypass culvert to increase flood storage capacity between Leggart Terrace and Leggart Avenue via Leggart Place.
David Lloyd (Private Scheme) (2016)	Earth bunds were constructed to prevent river flooding.
Cornhill Road (Westburn Park) Attenuation Storage (2016)	A cellular storage tank has been installed in Westburn Park to alleviate flooding at the Westburn Resource centre.
Victoria Park Attenuation Storage (2016)	A cellular storage tank has been installed in Victoria Park to alleviate flooding at the Westburn Resource centre.
Bridge of Dee Flood Gates (2017)	A manually opening and closing flood gate installed in an existing road underpass at Riverside Drive. The flood gate closes off the underpass to full height to preven the passage of flood water from the River Dee when closed during flood risk events.
Maidencraig Flood Management Wetland Scheme (2019)	A detention pond formed over a flood plain and the Den Burn with a culverted earth bund. The bund carries a 'safe route to school' path and has been designed to hold water back in storm events. This aims to slow the flow & reduce flood risk downstream. Works also include de-culverting tributary between the Lang Stracht and the Den Burn. It was rerouted down the hillside, improvement of cycleways, core paths and lighting, installation of viewing and dipping platforms, sand martin walls etc.

The location of Aberdeen's flood defences are in the process of being plotted within ArcGIS for internal use, and these are expected to be ready by the end of August 2025. The Council is unable to provide modelled flood extents for these defences. In some instances, this is due to the age of the records associated with the schemes, and in others, the Council holds calculation tables rather than mapped shapefiles.

Information on Past Flooding Events

Aberdeen City Council has mapped the location of 88 flooding incidents between the years of 2000 and 2012 on its ArcGIS portal. Any flooding incidents reported to ACC after 2012 are recorded, but are not mapped at present. The data held by ACC is also supplemented by the biennial flood reports that continued until November 2009, and the subsequent Flood Risk Management Strategy for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire that replaced this. The latest of these is the Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028, (published December 2022), which was published in partnership with the following authorities and bodies:

- Aberdeenshire Council
- Aberdeen City Council
- The Moray Council
- Cairngorms National Park Authority
- Scottish Water
- SEPA

The most notable of the flooding events affecting Aberdeen include:

- Historic flood events on the River Dee have been reported in 1789, 1790, 1829, 1873, 1876, 1881, 1882, 1892, 1894, 1909, 1920, 1922, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1938 and 1946. The Den Burn is reported to have flooded in 1869, 1872, and 1874.

- The Bridge of Don area experienced flooding in 2000 and 2001, when problems with the drainage system resulted in ponding. This was exacerbated by gullies surcharging due to the high water level in the Glashieburn and properties in Lochside Drive, Jesmond Drive and Brook Crescent were affected. Regular surcharging of the combined sewer in Jesmond Drive has been reported as has flooding at Ellon Road due to debris accumulation blocking the watercourse.

- In October 2001 there was a surface water flood, which exceeded the capacity of the drainage systems and subsequently affected properties at Berryden Road in Ashgrove, Culter House Road in Milltimber, Hazledene Road in Hazlehead, and Broomhill Avenue. The high water table during this flood also led to groundwater flooding at Craigiebuckler Church in Springfield Road.

- September 2009 – Weeks of solid rain in the North-East resulted in heavy flooding in parts of Aberdeen, many properties affected had previously been flooded, highlighting their vulnerability.

- 25 August 2012 (see Committee Report EPI 12 240, 6 November 2012) - On this date, Aberdeen experienced a localised, intense rainfall event of relatively short duration. It is believed that up to 30mm fell within one hour, meaning the

downpour was at least a 1 in 100 year event. This gave rise to a number of flooding incidents across the city, affecting both commercial and residential properties, as well as disrupting travel. The full Committee Report details all of the recorded flooding incidents for this day.

- November 2012 – The coastal village of Footdee was engulfed in sea foam after intense storms swept Aberdeen. The foam caused a good deal of damage and nuisance, and required a large expenditure on clean-up operations.

- Large parts of Aberdeen were affected by surface water flooding in July 2015. Many manhole covers became dislodged, roads were submerged and Aberdeen airport's terminal building was flooded. Many roads were affected by flooding, including Market Street, Guild Street and Holburn Street. Cars on Polmuir Road started to float due to the depth of the water. A nursery had to be evacuated due to flooding in its basement.

- December 2015 - January 2016 – Storm Frank caused extensive flood damage to housing and other properties throughout North-East Scotland. Areas especially affected on the River Don include Kemnay, Inverurie, Kintore and into Aberdeen including Riverside Drive and the Grandholm area. On the River Dee, Ballater was particularly affected.

- Large parts of Aberdeen were affected by surface water flooding in August 2020. (Merchant Quarter, Golf Rd, Holburn Street, Jesmond Drive, Polmuir Rd, Kings Street, Langstracht, Virginia Street, South College Street, George Street etc)

- Large parts of Aberdeen were affected by surface water flooding in November 2022. (Merchant Quarter, Golf Rd, Holburn Street, Jesmond Drive, Polmuir Rd, Kings Street, Langstracht, Virginia Street, South College Street, George Street etc)

- November 2022 – River Dee Flooding affected Bridge of Dee area, Inchgarth Rd, Maryculter bridge closure etc)

- Storm Babet (Oct 2023) - Culter Burn Flooding affected Millside and The Paddock

Dynamic Coast

A mapping tool which includes national-scale maps that help to identify areas of land that may be susceptible to coastal erosion. It includes the projected extent of erosion based on high emissions scenarios by the year 2050 and 2100 along the coastline which factors in historic rates of erosion and projections for future sea level rise.

The presence of coastal defences and groynes along a sizeable section of Aberdeen's beach means that the anticipated impacts are likely to be greatest to the north of the mouth of the River Don. In particular, land to the east of the Royal Aberdeen Golf Course, Murcar Links Golf Course and land to the south-east and east of Blackdog are expected to be the most severely impacted by coastal erosion. There are also modest areas of potential impact to the east of Balnagask Golf Course. The mapping can be viewed using this link.

Reservoir Inundation

The Reservoir (Scotland) Act 2011 updated the regulatory regime for the management, alteration and construction of controlled reservoirs in Scotland. Controlled Reservoirs are those which are capable of retaining 10,000m^3 or more of water above the natural levels of any part of the surrounding land.

SEPA maintains a register of all such controlled reservoirs which includes details of the National Grid map reference, the cubic capacity of the reservoir and the risk designation.

The risk designation is associated with the perceived impact an uncontrolled release of water below the reservoir would have including impacts upon homes, businesses, communities, cultural heritage, and the environment. Although such instances are anticipated to be unlikely, the scale of the potential impact is graded at either low, medium, or high.

Below is a list of the reservoirs that are in Aberdeen, although a significantly larger portion of the Invercannie and Loch of Skene Reservoir areas fall within Aberdeenshire.

Table 3 – List of reservoirs within or partially within Aberdeen City area

Name of Reservoir	Local Authority Area	Risk Designation
Parkhill House Reservoir	Aberdeen	Low
Mill Pond Reservoir	Aberdeen	High
Loch of Skene	Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire	High
Invercannie Reservoir 2 (East)	Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire	High
Invercannie Reservoir 1 (West)	Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire	High
Murtle Den Reservoir	Aberdeen	High
Inchgarth Reservoir	Aberdeen	High
Mannofield 1	Aberdeen	High
Mannofield 2	Aberdeen	High
Slopefield Reservoir	Aberdeen	High

Flood Risk Management Planning

Flood Risk Management Plans seek to reduce the risk of flooding and assist with the preparation and protection of individuals and communities within Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) and throughout the Local Plan District (LPD). These documents are instrumental in implementing the requirements of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and help ensure that each authority fulfils its flood management duties under this act.

The LPD that covers Aberdeen is the North-East Local Plan District. Aberdeenshire Council is the lead authority in the preparation of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP), supported by other local authorities including Aberdeen City Council and The Moray Council within the partnership. Other contributing Responsible Authorities include Cairngorms National Park Authority, Forestry Scotland, Scottish Water, and SEPA.

PVAs are those where the highest flood risk currently exists or is likely to occur in future. Awareness of the PVAs enables local authorities such as Aberdeen City Council to recognise the risk of flooding to the public, communities, infrastructure, businesses and the environment. This in turn informs future decisions and strategies on how to protect those assets and prioritise where work could be of most benefit.

The designation of PVAs is derived from the National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA) 2018. A review of the NFRA was undertaken in 2024 which determined that the content of the 2018 assessment remained relevant. The FRMP is in its second cycle which covers a six-year period from 2022-2028.

There are four PVAs within Aberdeen, all of which are included within the North-East Local Plan District. These include:

- 02/06/15 (Aberdeen City – North)
- 02/06/18 (Aberdeen City – South)
- 02/06/19 (Peterculter)
- 02/06/25 (Cove and Nigg Bay)

Table 4 - Table showing the number of people at risk of flooding identified through the NFRA.

PVA	Area	Number of people/homes/businesses at risk	Number of people/homes/businesses at risk by the 2080s due to climate change
Aberdeen City - North	Bridge of Don	7,600 people 4,200 homes/businesses	11,000 people 6,200 homes/businesses
	Dyce	670 people 610 homes/businesses	1,100 people 870 homes/businesses
	Kingswells (North)	100 people 50 homes/businesses	130 people 70 homes/businesses

Aberdeen City - South	Aberdeen Central	23,000 people 14,000 homes/businesses	28,000 people 16,000 homes/businesses
Peterculter	Peterculter	790 people 430 homes/businesses	910 people 510 homes/businesses
Cove and Nigg Bay	Cove Bay	260 people 150 homes/businesses	340 people 190 homes/businesses
	Nigg Bay	90 people 90 homes/businesses	120 people 110 homes/businesses

Council Flood Studies

Flood studies are technical investigations that observe the behaviour of flooding within a given area in order to help identify a suite, (where applicable), of potential mitigation options. Aberdeen City Council has a series of flood studies that have been conducted or are programmed to be undertaken in future. A list of these is included below:

Flood Study	Description
River Dee Flood Study (2004)	The joint River Dee study with Aberdeenshire Council in 2004 was to determine the individual, and combined, flood mechanisms of the River Dee and Crynoch Burn by producing a computational hydraulic model of the river system.
Integrated Catchment Model (2015)	An integrated catchment study covering the Aberdeen catchment was carried out to support the surface water management planning process in Aberdeen, Westhill, and Stonehaven. The Study is a joint project with Scottish Water and Aberdeenshire Council. The study has improved knowledge and understanding of surface water flood risk and interactions between the above ground and below ground drainage network e.g. with the sewer network, watercourses and the sea.
Inchgarth Road Flood Study (2017)	The study assesses the options to mitigate fluvial flood risk at Inchgarth Road (Option 1: Bund improvement and culvert extension, Option 2: Reinforced concrete sheet piled flood wall, Option 3: Property level protection). It was recommended PLP as the most viable option along with upgrading the trash screen of Cults Burn.
Merchant Quarter Flood Study – ICS Optioneering Study (2017)	The joint Merchant Quarter (MQ) study with Scottish Water (SW) identified options to reduce the risk of surface water and sewer flooding in the MQ area. Due to the scale and cost of opportunities, these options were recommended to be developed in further detail in

	phases. SW have developed detailed design of an option to reduce sewer flooding; however this did not address the residual surface water flooding. SW & ACC work together to seek opportunities to manage surface water.
Footdee Coastal Flood Study (2018)	The study looked at the risk of wave overtopping within the area. The study identified a preferred option, however it will be considered further as part of a wider coastal protection study.
Preliminary study to undertake a strategic overview of the coastal protection between Footdee and Blackdog (2019)	Aberdeen City Council commissioned a preliminary study to undertake a strategic overview of the coastal protection being undertaken by the Council along the frontage of Aberdeen between Footdee and Blackdog. The aim was to improve understanding of how the shoreline may develop in the future and identify any management needs. A detailed flood study may be required. In line with recommendations of the study, a shoreline management plan should be developed.
Jesmond Drive Optioneering Flood Study (2021)	The joint Jesmond Drive Flood Study with Scottish Water identifies potential options to reduce surface water and sewer flooding through the integrated catchment study optioneering project. The study did not identify any cost-beneficial options. The study recommended that further investigation into the catchment scale strategy is carried out, with the inclusion of the option developed through the study in the strategy. SW and ACC will use the study to inform future strategic planning.
Culter Burn Flood Alleviation Scheme – Hydraulic & Feasibility Study (2019)	A flood alleviation scheme feasibility study was conducted to identify a list of flood alleviation options to reduce the risk of flooding to residential properties at both The Paddock and Millside. None of the options where considered cost beneficial. It was recommended that further survey is undertaken, and suitable rainfall level & flow monitoring equipment is installed to verify the findings and to increase the confidence of the model so it can be better utilised to inform future options.
Culter Burn Addendum (2024)	The report acts as an addendum to the previous 2019 Hydraulic Modelling & Feasibility Study report in order to assess if by separating Millside and the Paddock options, a viable solution could be found for either area.

	No funding has been secured. At Millside no isolated options were shown to provide viable solutions to solve flooding. For the Paddock a combination of a flood wall to the northwest and a flap valve on the discharge sewer outlet did show flood reduction could be achieved.
Den Burn Flood Study (2021, 2022 & 2024)	Den Burn Valley flood study has been completed along with a geomorphology appraisal study to reduce flood risk. The study did not identify any significant flooding reduction benefits but identifies environmental and socioeconomic impacts & benefits. SEPA & ACC are working together for the Denburn restoration; however, the project is now postponed. There are 3 reports: Hydraulic report was completed in August 2022, Geomorphology report in October 2021 & Concept Design in August 2024.

Two further studies are ongoing. These include:

- Coastal Climate Adaptation Plans (CCAP) (ongoing)

Coastal Change Adaptation Plans are intended to set out how places will adapt to climate challenges which are anticipated in the coming years. They may include information on land required for future action, or land use change.

Aberdeen City Council commissioned a CCAP in 2025 covering the entire frontage of coastline between Blackdog and Cove.

- Sustainable Growth Agreement (SGA) (ongoing)

ACC is working in partnership under a Sustainable Growth Agreement (SGA) between Scottish Water and SEPA to trial a new approach to managing storm water in Aberdeen. The SGA is a City Scale Trial Project. This work is still ongoing.

As outlined within the introduction of this report, the location of these flood studies are plotted within the Council's ArcGIS mapping software for internal viewing only. They are not to be used to predict flood risk for any individual building or property.

Surface Water Management Plans

Under the Local Plan, Aberdeen City Council will be continuing to develop the Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) in consultation with SEPA and Scottish Water.

The following locations may progress to the next stage of current flood studies:

- Merchant Quarter
- Jesmond Drive

Other SWMPs identified within the North-East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (accessed here), and are listed below:

- Aberdeen Central
- Bridge of Don
- Cove Bay
- Dyce
- Jesmond Drive
- Kingswells (North)
- Merchant Quarter
- Nigg Bay

Coastal Change Adaptation Plan

Coastal Change Adaptation Plans are intended to set out how places will adapt to climate challenges which are anticipated in the coming years. They may include information on land required for future action, or land use change.

There is a reference to a Shoreline Management Plan (Coastal Adaptive Plan) as part of Action ID 41209 of the LFRMP, which specified an indicative delivery timescale of 2022-2034. This refers to a preliminary study to undertake "a strategic overview of the coastal protection being undertaken by the Council along the frontage of Aberdeen between Footdee and Blackdog."

An additional reference is made to Shoreline Management Plan (Coastal Adaptation Plan) as part of Action ID 41309 with an indicative delivery timescale of between 2022-2036.

Shoreline Management Plans have since been replaced by the Coastal Climate Adaptation Plans (CCAP) . Aberdeen City Council commissioned a CCAP in 2025 covering the entire frontage of coastline between Blackdog and Cove.

Section 16 Assessment of risk from the sewer network maps

SEPA's 'Guidance for planning authorities on Strategic Flood Assessment' states that these maps "largely mirror the SEPA pluvial flood hazard maps (particularly for bigger return periods), so this mapped data should only be used by local authorities for an internal sense check to identify areas of misalignment, which could be worthy of further investigation."

Stage 2 - Gap Analysis

SEPA Flood Hazard Maps

Evidence Gap

There are limitations in terms of the accuracy where flood defences, hydraulic structures, culverts or bridges are present due to these not being accounted for. The maps are best suited to high-level strategic use, but less well-suited to informing decisions for specific sites.

Future Flood Maps may also underestimate the future river and coastal flood risk in the area due to the smaller allowances for climate change and sea level rise than that which applies to the North-East Local Plan District in SEPA's Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessment in Land Use Planning (Version 5).

Action

Site-specific FRAs may be required and this would be decided in accordance with Aberdeen Planning Guidance 2023: Flooding, Drainage and Water Quality. Detail of when FRAs are required are outlined within Pages 12-13 of that guidance which can be accessed here.

Climate Change Allowances

Evidence Gap

Climate Change Allowances identified in the Future Flood Maps are not as up-to-date as the allowances identified within the Climate Change Allowances Guidance. The maps will often utilise smaller allowances than specified within the Guidance.

Action

The Council will utilise the allowances specified within the guidance when considering sites that are identified toward the outer edges of "flood extents where climate change increases in flooding could cause inundation in areas not currently shown to be at risk."

Natural Flood Management Maps

Evidence Gap

The maps are not detailed enough to be suitable for site specific assessments, and are therefore of limited use.

Action

Natural Flood Risk Management opportunities will instead by identified through the Strategic Environmental Assessment, and the use of a combination of other tools such as flood studies, local knowledge, river basin management plans and targeted flood risk assessments.

Flood Defences and Schemes

Evidence Gap

The SFDAD database was scheduled for closure in April 2025 and its ongoing accessibility is uncertain. Aberdeen City Council has submitted a request for the data held on its assets prior to any future shutdown of SFDAD.

Action

Aberdeen City Council will manage the data on its flood defences in the absence of the SFDAD database. Flood defence locations have now been plotted. Where possible, flood extents for these will be plotted for future flood defences in addition to the location of the structure itself.

Dynamic Coast

Evidence Gap

There is currently no Coastal Change Adaptation Plan in place.

Action

The data available in Dynamic Coast is suitable for regional scale assessments and can help inform the future production of a Coastal Climate Adaptation Plan. A Coastal Climate Adaptation Plan has been commissioned by Aberdeen City Council in 2025.

Reservoir Inundation

Evidence Gap

SEPA's Guidance for Planning Authorities on Strategic Flood Risk Assessment specifies that the purpose of the inundation maps is "only to inform the assignment of risk designations and they were not designed for other purposes, such as land use planning." It is "not currently possible assess the probability of an uncontrolled release of water in a manner consistent with the requirements of NPF4 for development to be free of flood risk up to the 0.5% probability (including allowance of climate change). Furthermore, the probability of failure of a reservoir structure managed under the 2011 Act is considered to be so low that it is beyond the scope of risk considered within NPF4."

Action

The Council will consider reservoir inundation data on a case-by-case basis, where deemed appropriate, taking account of local circumstances.

Potentially Vulnerable Areas

Evidence Gap

There may be actions identified for specific PVAs that are not actioned or completed within the projected timescales necessary for being accounted for in the production of the Local Development Plan. This may be due to ACC not being the lead on the project, a lack of secured funding to progress the works, or other similar constraint to progress.

Action

Site specific Flood Risk Assessments will be required in the circumstances described in the action for SEPA Flood Hazard Maps.

Council Flood Studies

Evidence Gap

A number of Flood Studies involve collaborative work between agencies such as Scottish Water, SEPA, and ACC (among others). Delays in progressing some Council Flood Studies can occur where ACC is not acting as lead on the project, a lack of secured funding to progress works, or other similar constraints. Some of these studies may not be completed during the timescales of the production of the Local Development Plan as a result of such constraints.

Action

Site specific Flood Risk Assessments will be required in the circumstances described in the action for SEPA Flood Hazard Maps. Flood Study areas have been plotted within the Council's ArcGIS mapping portal for internal viewing only. Any future studies will be added to the portal accordingly.

Surface Water Management Plans

Evidence Gap

There is potential for specific actions prescribed within an SWMP to fail to be implemented, or fail to be published, within the timescales of the preparation of the Local Development Plan.

Action

Site specific Flood Risk Assessments will be required in the circumstances described in the action for SEPA Flood Hazard Maps.

Coastal Change Adaptation Plan

Evidence Gap

There is currently no Coastal Change Adaptation Plan in place.

Action

A Coastal Climate Adaptation Plan was commissioned by Aberdeen City Council in 2025 covering the entire frontage of the coastline between Blackdog to Cove.

SFRA Maps

Section 16 Assessment of risk from the sewer network maps

Evidence Gap

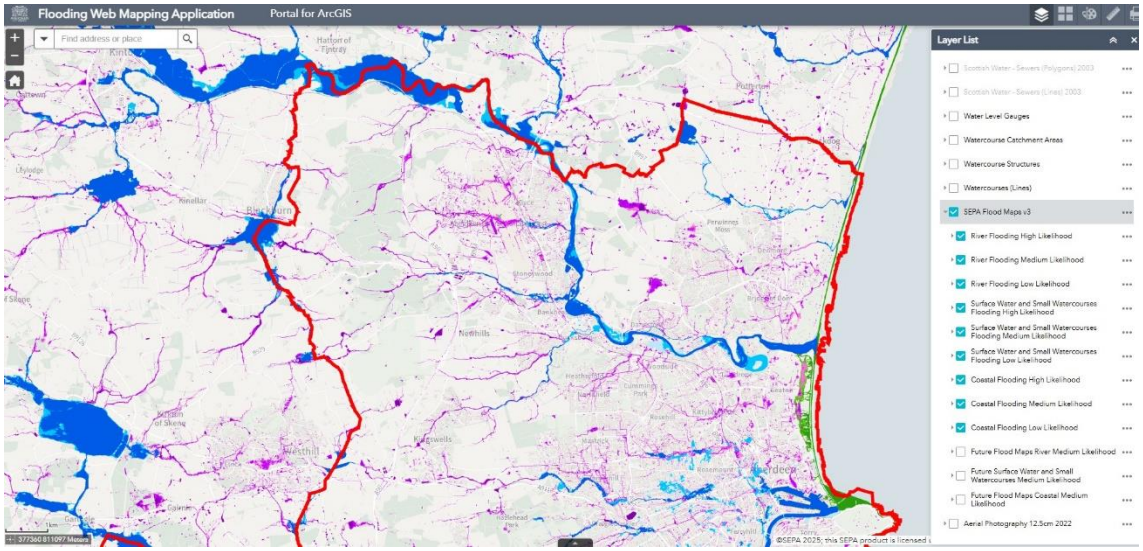
SEPA's 'Guidance for planning authorities on Strategic Flood Assessment' states that these maps "largely mirror the SEPA pluvial flood hazard maps (particularly for bigger return periods), so this mapped data should only be used by local authorities for an internal sense check to identify areas of misalignment, which could be worthy of further investigation."

Action

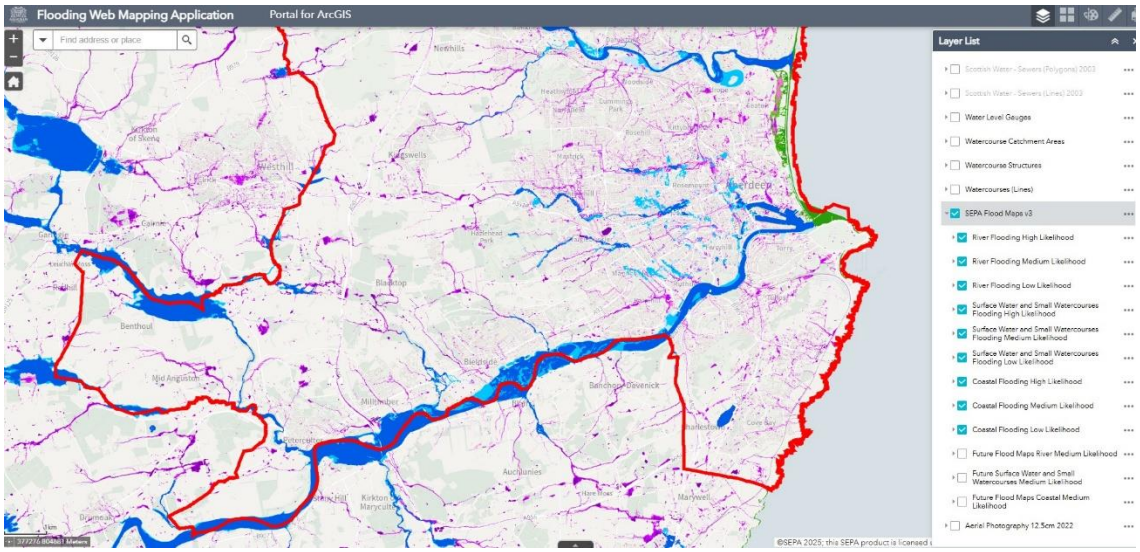
ACC would utilise SEPA's pluvial flood hazard maps as specified above. However, no such data will be published within this SFRA because existing data sharing agreements preclude ACC making this data publicly visible.

Appendices

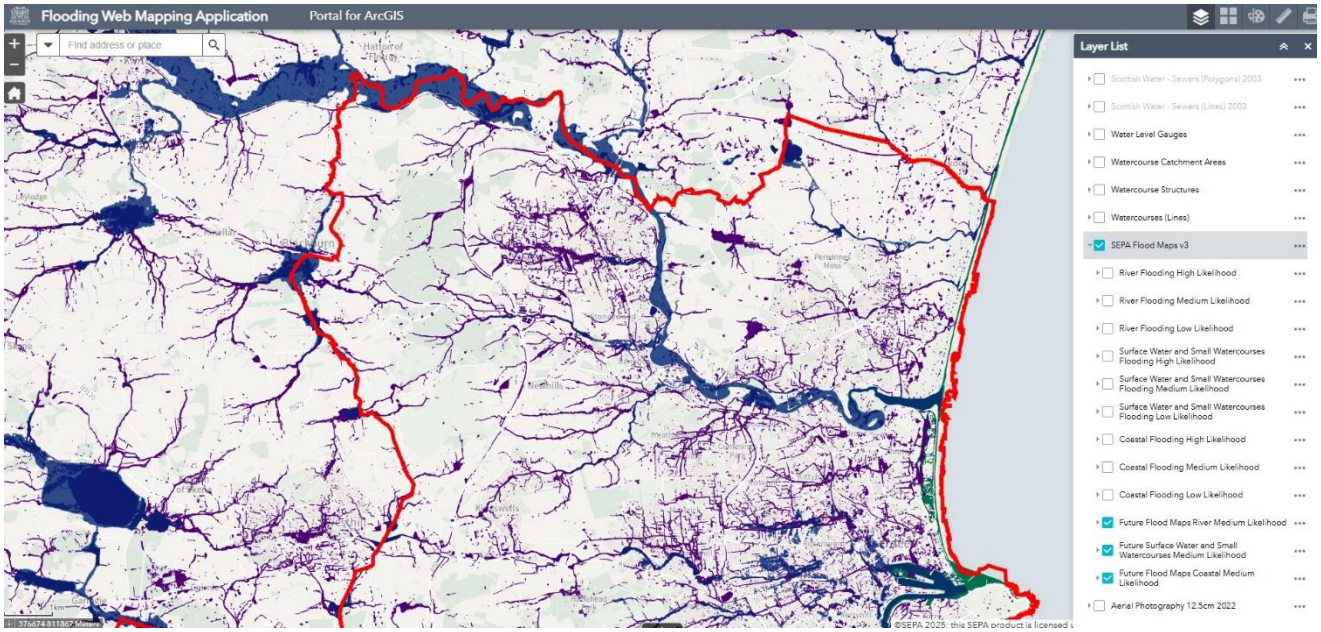
Map 1 – Northern/Central Aberdeen – SEPA High/Medium/Low Risk of Surface/River/Coastal Flooding



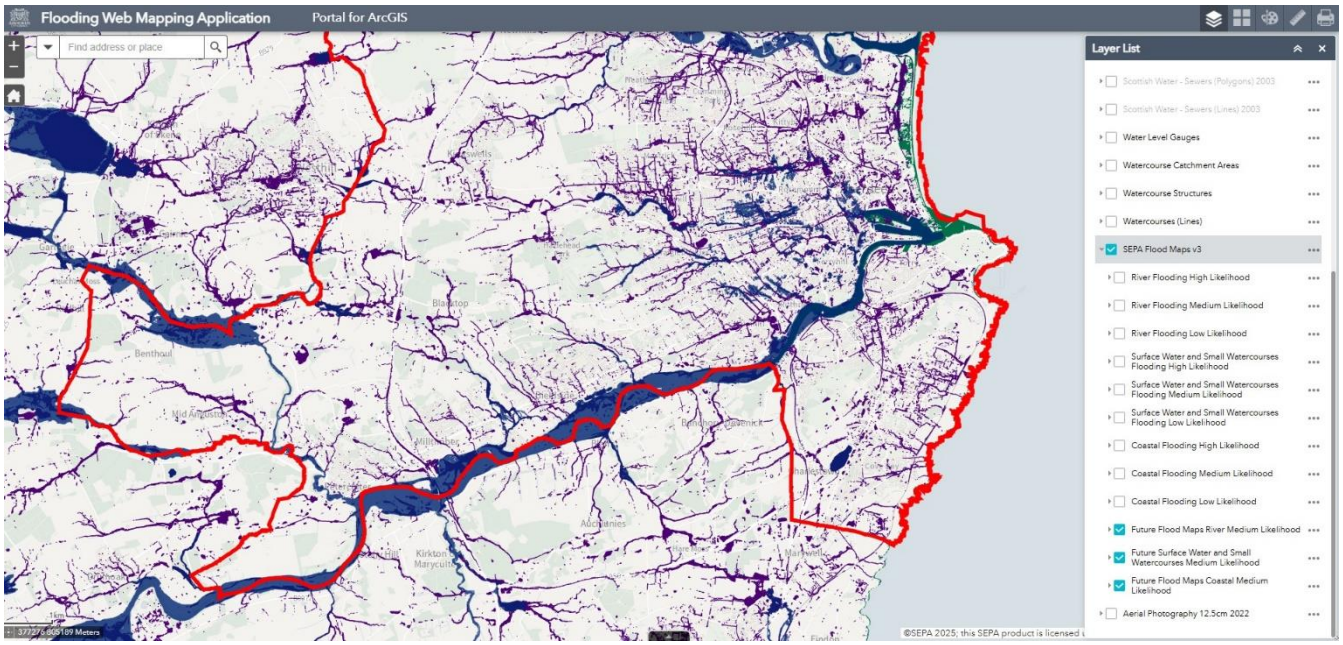
Map 2 – Southern Aberdeen/Central Aberdeen – SEPA High/Medium/Low Risk of Surface/River/Coastal Flooding



Map 3 – Northern Aberdeen/Central Aberdeen (Future Flood Maps - River/Surface Water and Small Watercourses/Coastal Flooding – Medium Likelihood)



Map 4 – Southern Aberdeen/Central Aberdeen (Future Flood Maps - River/Surface Water and Small Watercourses/Coastal Flooding – Medium Likelihood)



This page is intentionally left blank

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	2 July 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Committee Places
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/166
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Vikki Cuthbert
REPORT AUTHOR	Martyn Orchard
TERMS OF REFERENCE	7

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the allocation of committee places as a result of a change to the political composition of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:-

2.1 determine the membership number for each of the Council's committees (as listed in section 3.1) and thereafter set the composition for each committee, in terms of Standing Order 47.9.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 At the Council meeting of 16 April 2025, the following allocation of committee places was agreed:-

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Independent (x4)	Total
Anti-Poverty and Inequality	5	2	2	0	9
Audit, Risk and Scrutiny	5	2	2	0	9
Communities, Housing and Public Protection	5	2	1	1	9
Education and Children's Services	8	2	2	1	13
Finance and Resources	5	2	2	0	9
Licensing Committee	5	2	1	1	9

Committee	Partnership	Labour	Conservative	Independent (x4)	Total
Net Zero, Environment and Transport	5	2	1	1	9
Pensions	5	2	1	1	9
Planning Development Management	5	2	1	1	9
Staff Governance	5	2	1	1	9
Urgent Business	4	2	1	0	7
Integration Joint Board	3 (plus 2 subs)	1 (plus 1 sub)	0 (plus 1 sub)	0	4 (plus 4 subs)
Total:	60 (plus 2 subs)	23 (plus 1 sub)	15 (plus 1 sub)	7	105 (plus 4 subs)

3.2 There has been a change to the political composition of the Council since then, with Councillor Massey having resigned from the Conservatives and become a Reform UK Councillor.

3.3 Councillor Massey previously sat on three committees as a Conservative:- Audit, Risk and Scrutiny, Net Zero, Environment and Transport and Pensions. These committee places have reverted to the Conservatives and Councillor Massey does not currently sit on any committees.

3.4 The Council is therefore requested to consider the allocation of committee places in light of the change to the political composition of the Council, noting that the composition in the table at 3.1 above is the current composition for members to review rather than a proposal from officers. This is consistent with previous reports regarding committee places. The wider issue was also the subject of discussion at the Governance Reference Group meeting on 12 March 2025, where there was agreement that officers should not recommend specific allocations as it was a matter for Council to determine. Standing Order 47.9 was subsequently amended to state that "*Such a report will recommend that the Council set the membership for each Committee but will not recommend any particular compositions or numbers for Committees*".

3.5 The Council has traditionally followed the principles of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 when allocating committee places. These principles are:-

(a) not all the seats on the body are to be allocated to the same political group;

(b) the majority of the seats on the body are to be allocated to the group having a majority of seats on the Council; and

(c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on ordinary committees which are allocated to each group bears the same proportion

to the total number of seats on those committees as the number of seats held by the group on the Council does to the whole membership of the Council.

3.6 Section 15 is not in force in Scotland. However, the Council has sought to give effect to the principles through Standing Order 47.9 which states that "*The Council will set the membership for each Committee and, in doing so, should have regard to the political composition of the Council*".

3.7 The membership of the Council is currently:-

Conservative	6 members
Independent	4 members
Labour	11 members
Liberal Democrat	4 members
Reform UK	1 member
SNP	19 members

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As noted above, section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 is not in force in Scotland. However, the Council has sought to give effect to the relevant principles through its Standing Orders.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. RISK

7.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

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	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compliance	Council must comply with the Scheme of Governance	The recommendations comply with the Scheme of Governance	L	Yes
Operational	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reputational	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A

8. OUTCOMES

The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Vikki Cuthbert, Interim Chief Officer - Governance (Assurance) on 3 June 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Previous reports to Council on committee places:-

- Committee Places April 2025
- Committee Places December 2024

- Committee Places December 2023
- Committee Places August 2023
- Committee Places April 2023

11. APPENDICES

None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Martyn Orchard
Title	Committee Lead
Email Address	morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	01224 067598

This page is intentionally left blank

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	2 July 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Council Meeting Structure
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/164
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Vikki Cuthbert and Alan Thomson, Interim Chief Officer – Governance
REPORT AUTHOR	Vikki Cuthbert and Alan Thomson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	17

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report meets the Council's instruction from 16 April 2025 to report back with further proposed revisions concerning meeting structure as well as motions and amendments for requisitioned meetings.

1.2 The report also proposes changes to the Terms of Reference to align all procurement reporting through the Finance and Resources Committee, provides assurance in relation to the Council's Local Code of Governance following revision of guidance for local authorities, and seeks an instruction in response to recommendations made by Audit Scotland in the annual audit report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:-

2.1 considers the options, including purposes, risks and mitigations, set out in Appendix A;

2.2 determines which, if any, of these options to implement;

2.3 instructs the Chief Officer – Governance to make:

(i) any amendments to the Standing Orders which are necessary to implement the determination made under recommendation 2.2, and
(ii) any amendments to other Scheme of Governance documents which are necessary to reflect the Standing Orders as so amended;

2.4 delegates power to the Chief Officer – Governance to, following consultation with the Co-Leaders, bring the Standing Orders (and any other Scheme of Governance documents) as so amended into force on 10 August 2025 prior to the next Council meeting; and instructs that Chief Officer to thereafter circulate

the relevant documents (with tracked changes) to all members of Council for information;

2.5 approves that, with effect from 3 July 2025, the Terms of Reference be amended by deletion of:

(i) "*to approve annual procurement workplans, reflecting the LOIP, the Population Needs Assessment, the Council's commissioning intentions, the Council's service standards, the views of customers and citizens, and the best evidence of effective interventions to ensure a preventative focus on demand reduction*"; and

(ii) "*to receive an annual procurement performance report to enable scrutiny of performance*";

from the Aberdeen City Council section of that document and addition of that wording to the Finance and Resources Committee section thereof; instructs the Chief Officer – Governance to make any other amendments to Scheme of Governance documents which are necessary to reflect the said amendments to the Terms of Reference and delegates power to that Chief Officer to, following consultation with the Co-Leaders, bring such other amendments into force as soon as practicable; and instructs that Chief Officer to thereafter circulate the relevant documents (with tracked changes) to all members of Council for information;

2.6 for the reasons set out in the "Scheme of Governance Reviews" section of this report, agrees that no further reviews of the Standing Orders and Terms of Reference shall take place before the next local government elections in 2027, subject of course to exercise of the Chief Officer – Governance's existing delegated powers (under the Scheme of Governance) to amend the Council's Scheme of Governance documentation and subject also to that Chief Officer concluding that an earlier review is necessary;

2.7 Instruct the Chief Officer – Governance, to give consideration to the two Audit Scotland recommendations noted in paragraph 3.13 and to provide a service update to Council by December 2025; and

2.8 notes that the interim Chief Officer – Governance has reviewed the revised CIPFA guidance for local authorities on their Local Code of Governance; and agrees that no further changes are required to the Council's Local Code to give effect to this guidance at this time.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Council instructed officers to report back to this meeting with further proposed revisions concerning meeting structure and motions and amendments for requisitioned meetings, utilising further input from the Governance Reference Group. These proposals are intended to address the additional number of adjourned, reconvened and requisitioned meetings, particularly the impact these have on the Council's ability to conclude business, the associated costs,

and the impact on officer and elected member time. These proposals relate only to meetings of Council – not to meetings of committees or sub-committees.

3.2 The Governance Reference Group has met on two occasions and discussed options for consideration, falling under two main headings:

1. Questions and debate at Council meetings
2. Timescales for submission and circulation of motions and amendments for requisitioned Council meetings.

Questions and Debate

3.3 Currently, Standing Orders make provision for questions to be asked of officers as part of an item on the agenda, with no set limitations on the number of questions or the time spent on questions (the only exception being that questions cannot be asked on proposed budgets). Members are also required "wherever reasonably possible" to approach officers in advance with any questions they may have. Questions are then managed by the Convener under the relevant Standing Orders. Following questions, motions and amendments are moved and debate follows, prior to a vote. During this part of the meeting, there is no reliance on officers other than those supporting the meeting itself.

3.4 The Governance Reference Group recognised that considerable time can be spent on both questions to officers and debate at Council meetings and that there is a wish to structure these meetings in a more efficient way, specifically with the following objectives in mind:-

- Release officers to their other duties when they are not required to input to the meeting
- Allow sufficient time for members to ask questions and undertake adequate scrutiny
- Provide clear timings for when votes will be taken.

3.5 Options for delivering on these objectives were discussed within the Governance Reference Group and are set out in Appendix A. Officers consider that it is feasible to separate out question sessions from debate. There are several ways of achieving this and Council is asked to determine which option(s), if any, it wishes to select and to instruct officers to amend the Standing Orders (and, if necessary, other Scheme of Governance documents) accordingly.

Requisitioned Meetings

3.6 There is provision in the Standing Orders for a quarter of members to call a special meeting of Council, which reflects the statutory provision contained within paragraph 1(4) of Schedule 7 to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, referred to as a requisitioned meeting. Thirteen such meetings have taken place in the last 12 months. Currently, the timescales for motions and amendments for such meetings are as per a normal scheduled meeting – motions must be submitted by noon on the second working day before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 29.1, and circulated by 4pm on the working day before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 29.4. There

is no timescale stipulated for the submission of amendments, however these cannot be submitted until after the motion has been circulated as the content of the motion is required to inform an amendment. This generally results in amendments being drafted, reviewed and circulated on the day of the meeting which can cause delays for members and cause meetings to take longer than necessary. This could be better managed by stipulating timescales in Standing Orders, to which end two feasible options are set out in Appendix A.

3.7 Council is asked to determine which option, if any, it wishes to select and to instruct officers to amend the Standing Orders (and, if necessary, other Scheme of Governance documents) accordingly.

Terms of Reference – Procurement

3.8 It is recommended that the Terms of Reference be amended so that the remits "*to receive an annual procurement performance report to enable scrutiny of performance*" and "*to approve annual procurement workplans…*" are no longer reserved to Full Council and instead form part of the remit of the Finance and Resources Committee, with the Chief Officer – Governance being instructed to make any other amendments to Scheme of Governance documents which are necessary to reflect the said amendments.

3.9 The Finance and Resources Committee has purposes to "*approve and monitor financial strategies, budgets and financial performance in light of available funding*", scrutinise performance, and set budgets to ensure best value and delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes. Its remit includes approval of procurement activity. The annual procurement performance report outlines how procurement activity in the preceding annual period delivers best value against budgets for contracts. It is therefore considered that giving that Committee oversight of annual procurement performance reports, and power to approve annual procurement workplans, would align well with its purpose and remit.

Scheme of Governance Reviews

3.10 External Audit have signed off on the Council's governance arrangements during annual and thematic Best Value audits which demonstrates our adherence to CIPFA's principles of good governance. A substantial number of changes have been made to the Standing Orders in recent times and it is considered appropriate to allow these changes to 'bed in'. It is therefore proposed that no further reviews of the Standing Orders and Terms of Reference take place before the next local government elections in 2027, subject to exercise of the Chief Officer – Governance's existing delegated powers (under the Scheme of Governance) to amend the Council's Scheme of Governance documentation – e.g. by making amendments of a minor nature, to reflect the law or to make corrections. However if that Chief Officer was to conclude for any reason that an earlier review of the Standing Orders and/or Terms of Reference was necessary, such a review would be progressed and reported to Council as required.

3.11 In May 2025, CIPFA and SOLACE published updated guidance for Councils on evaluating their governance arrangements. This is done through the Annual Governance Statement which is included in the annual audited accounts and which has as its basis the Local Code of Governance. The Local Code forms part of the Scheme of Governance. Officers have reviewed the updated guidance and are comfortable that our existing Local Code, last revised in August 2024, does not require further revisions.

3.12 It is, however, intended that the Powers Delegated to Officers, Procurement Regulations and Financial Regulations will continue to be reviewed by officers annually and that proposed amended versions of these documents will continue to be brought to Full Council for approval each year – assuming that amendments to these documents are considered necessary or expedient and cannot be made in terms of the existing delegated powers of the Chief Officer – Governance. These documents are very operational in nature and it is to be expected that new legislation, guidance and codes of practice (and changes thereto), and indeed officers' experience of working in accordance with these documents, are likely to require or make advisable the annual amendment of these documents. It is anticipated that such a report would be brought to Full Council in August 2026.

3.13 Audit Scotland made the following recommendations in the action plan 2025/26 in the External Audit Annual Report 2025/26 at Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee on 26th June 2025:

- Governance Reference Group - The council may wish to consider having an officer facilitate the Governance Reference Group meetings instead of an elected member acting as chair; and

- Consultation with elected members - It would be more transparent if criteria were developed to provide a framework for officers in considering the circumstances when consultation and/or a report to elected members would be appropriate in respect of delegated matters deemed to be politically sensitive.

It is proposed that these recommendations are considered by the Chief Officer – Governance and a Service Update provided to Council on any subsequent action taken or required.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Approving changes to Council meeting structures will help to reduce the costs associated with additional and lengthy meetings. Webcasting all Council and Committee meetings costs £26,961 annually and this is based on 120 live webcast hours each year as per the terms of the contract. However, we have gone significantly over our webcasting hours in each of the last two years. In 2023/24, we were 80 hours over and in 2024/25, we were 93 hours over. At a cost of £68.68 per hour, this has cost the Council an additional £11,882 over 2 years.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Standing Orders are designed to assist the Council in complying with its statutory duties and functions whilst also being consistent with the CIPFA principles of good governance against which the Council must provide an Annual Governance Statement as part of its annual accounts. The Standing Orders form part of the Scheme of Governance which supports the Council's CIPFA Governance Mark of Excellence accreditation.

6.2 Section 62 of, and Schedule 7 to, the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 empower the Council to make, vary or revoke standing orders for meetings of Council, committees and sub-committees.

6.3 Section 56 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 provides that the Council may arrange for the discharge of any of its functions, subject to some exceptions, by a committee or sub-committee. These are set out in the Committee Terms of Reference.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications associated with this report.

8. RISK

8.1 The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

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	No direct risks	N/A	L	Yes
Compliance	Failure to update the Scheme of Governance and implement the necessary changes could expose the Council to risk in terms of	Approval of the proposals and adherence to the specified legislation ensures accountability. The Powers Delegated to Officers, Procurement Regulations and Financial Regulations will continue to be reviewed annually. If it becomes necessary to review the Standing	L	Yes

	complying with the law.	Orders or Terms of Reference before the next local government elections, officers will do so and report to Full Council as required. Review of all proposals by Internal and External Audit		
Operational	No direct risk	Adherence to the Scheme of Governance protects employees in undertaking their roles, as well as the organisation's buildings, plant and equipment.	L	Yes
Financial	No direct risks	The Scheme of Governance itself mitigates against the risk of poor financial management, poor value for money, fraud and financial loss.	L	Yes
Reputational	Failure to update the Scheme of Governance and make other necessary changes could present a reputational risk to the Council.	Consultation has been undertaken with officers and elected members and recommended proposals have regard to that process	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No direct risks		L	Yes

9. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The proposals in the report have no direct impact on the Policy Statement

Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 The proposals in the report have no direct impact on the LOIP stretch outcomes.	
Regional and City Strategies	The proposals in the report have no direct impact on Regional and City Strategies.

10. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	None

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

12. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Options for full Council meetings

13. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Vikki Cuthbert and Alan Thomson
Title	Interim Chief Officer – Governance
Email Address	vcuthbert@aberdeencity.gov.uk alathomson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

APPENDIX A - Standing Orders for Meetings of Full Council – Assessment of Options

Questions at meetings – current Standing Orders

16.1 Subject to Standing Orders 12.14, 16.2 and 16.3, any Member will be entitled to attend any Committee or Sub-Committee meeting of which they are not a member and will be entitled to ask questions and address the meeting prior to motions and amendments being moved, such address to be for a maximum of 5 minutes.

24.1 The Convener may identify that a report requires introduction from an officer, or a representative of an external organisation, following which, Members will be given the opportunity to ask questions of officers or an external representative. Any introduction and questions for an external representative should be undertaken prior to asking questions of officers.

24.2 To promote the effective management of the meeting, Members must (wherever reasonably possible) seek clarification or advice on any points from officers, and submit questions, in advance of the meeting.

24.3 When, in the opinion of the Convener, Members have had a reasonable opportunity to ask questions, the Convener will move to determination of the matter.

26.2 Any Member wishing to speak at any meeting will address the Convener and restrict their remarks to the item of business before the meeting through:-

26.2.1 Asking questions, which can include asking questions of officers on a motion or amendment before it is moved, except where these are proposing budgets.

	Option	Purpose of change	Officer assessment of risk (e.g. Legal, Procedural, Reputational, Operational)	Management of change	Feasibility of implementation
1.	Questions to officers or external representatives to be permitted only during a separate question session,	Streamlining of meetings and finishing meetings in one day.	This option is considered low risk and this model is in place in at least one other local authority.	Ensure that a webcast of the question session is available for members to watch	Feasible.

	Option	Purpose of change	Officer assessment of risk (e.g. Legal, Procedural, Reputational, Operational)	Management of change	Feasibility of implementation
	either as a morning session or on a separate day.	To set aside a specific session for questions by members which need not be attended by all officers.	Separating out questions could make the debate harder to follow but this seems relatively minor. There is a slight risk that members could be criticised if they do not attend for questions prior to voting on a matter, however there is currently no requirement for members to ask questions in a meeting and they can be absent from a meeting in the lead up to a vote. They can continue to submit questions to officers prior to the meeting.	before decision if they are unable to attend, and for members of the public. Continue providing the opportunity to ask questions/receive individual briefings prior to the meeting. Sessions would also be minuted and attendance recorded. Convener training to ensure that session is restricted to questions only. If held on a separate day to the remainder of the meeting, ensure that Standing Orders harmonise with the submission of motions and amendments, i.e. the day before the meeting both members and officers are busy	

	Option	Purpose of change	Officer assessment of risk (e.g. Legal, Procedural, Reputational, Operational)	Management of change	Feasibility of implementation
				finalising motions and amendments. Deputations could be taken during the question session. Meetings to be held in public to evidence public scrutiny.	
2.	Remove ability to ask questions on reports during meetings entirely.	Streamlining of meetings and finishing meetings in one day.	Lack of public scrutiny. Risk that members may be required to vote on matters without having all the information they need.	Submit questions to officers prior to the meeting.	Difficult to implement due to concerns about lack of scrutiny in public
3.	Restrict the number of questions per group/independent member	To prevent meetings from overrunning due to questions and to encourage questions being asked of officers prior to meetings.	Risk of additional requisitioned meetings. Risk that members may be required to vote on matters without having all the information they need.	Members have the opportunity to ask questions before meetings.	Difficult to implement due to the risk of unequal treatment of members.

	Option	Purpose of change	Officer assessment of risk (e.g. Legal, Procedural, Reputational, Operational)	Management of change	Feasibility of implementation
4.	Set a time limit for questions on an item with this to be managed through Lord Provost.	Streamlining of meetings and finishing meetings in one day.	Risk of additional requisitioned meetings. Risk that members may be required to vote on matters without having all the information they need.	Members have the opportunity to ask questions before meetings. Needs to be carefully managed so every group, or independent member, gets an opportunity to ask questions.	Difficult to implement due to the risk of unequal treatment of members.

Debate and Voting – current Standing Orders

26.1 If consensus cannot be reached on an item, the order of debate will be as follows:-

26.1.1 Motion moved and seconded

26.1.2 Amendment(s) moved and seconded

26.1.3 Debate

26.1.4 Summing up for the amendment(s)

26.1.5 Summing up for the motion

26.1.6 Vote

30. TIME ALLOWED FOR SPEAKING

30.1 Moving a motion or amendment – 10 minutes

30.2 Seconding a motion or amendment – 5 minutes

30.3 Speaking in debate – 5 minutes

30.4 Summing up – 5 minutes

30.5 Moving a Council budget – 30 minutes

30.6 Seconding a Council budget – 10 minutes

30.7 Summing up a Council budget – 10 minutes

	Option	Purpose of change	Officer assessment of risk (e.g. Legal, Procedural, Reputational, Operational)	Management of change	Feasibility of implementation
5.	Reduce the timings (i.e. maximum number of minutes) for moving motions/amendments, seconding,	To reduce the amount of time being spent in debate during	This is considered to be low risk.	None required.	Feasible.

	Option	Purpose of change	Officer assessment of risk (e.g. Legal, Procedural, Reputational, Operational)	Management of change	Feasibility of implementation
	speaking in debate and summing up - e.g. from 10/5/5/5 to 7/4/3/3 or 5/5/5/5	meetings, so as to shorten meetings.	7/4/3/3 would save more time and give the mover more time to speak.		
6.	Debate during afternoon session with only minimal officers in attendance.	To free up officer time when no input is required from them.	No risks other than those identified at 1. above.	As per 1. above.	Feasible.
7a.	Within afternoon session, debate each item in order and vote on each item (or reach consensus) upon the conclusion of each debate.	To provide a clear schedule for when debate and votes will take place.	No risks identified but may not achieve the purpose of ensuring all business is dealt with in a single sitting.	Convener and Clerk to provide clarity to the meeting before any votes take place.	Feasible.
7b	Within afternoon session debate/discuss items one after the other and batch all votes at a specified time - e.g. 4pm. In addition reduce the timings for moving motions/ amendments, seconding and summing up to **one minute** in each case.	To provide a clear schedule for when debate and votes will take place and to ensure that all items are dealt with in a single sitting. This operates in at least one other local authority and has reduced the length of meetings.	Risk of the vote becoming detached from the debate which could lead to confusion amongst members on what they are voting for. Risk that members cannot cover all their points in one minute.	Convener and Clerk to provide clarity to the meeting before any votes take place.	Feasible.
8	Additional powers for Convener to extend or reduce timings.	To provide some discretion to Conveners if flexibility is required.	Risk of challenge to Conveners in meetings/disruption to meetings including	None identified.	Feasible

	Option	Purpose of change	Officer assessment of risk (e.g. Legal, Procedural, Reputational, Operational)	Management of change	Feasibility of implementation
			procedural motions to suspend SOs.		
9	Require those wishing to speak in debate to provide prior notice e.g. one hour before the meeting.	To provide a clear schedule for when debate and votes will take place.	Risk that members will want to join debate after hearing from another member, leading to disruption to meetings including procedural motions to suspend SOs.	Communications to members.	Difficult to implement due to the likelihood that members will wish to respond in the meeting.
10	Explore alternative options for electronic voting as part of chamber refurbishment	As part of chamber refurbishment, officers are liaising with partners in terms of the options for electronic voting to speed up the voting process in relation to hybrid meetings. This will likely include enhanced utilisation of Microsoft Teams for those members taking part remotely.	Failure of technology, although this is inherent in any option which utilises technology. A contingency plan would be required for such an eventuality.	Communication to members, including any training as required	Feasible

Requisitioned Council Meetings

	Option	Purpose of change	Officer assessment of risk (e.g. Legal, Procedural, Reputational, Operational)	Management of change	Feasibility of implementation
11.	Draft motion to be submitted at the same time as the written request, and finalised on either the first or second working day thereafter. Draft amendments to be submitted on or before the second working day before the meeting and circulated by 4pm on the working day before the meeting.	To better manage the process around requisitioned meetings.	None identified.	It is realistic to require a motion to be prepared at the same time as the written request. Motion must be relevant to the business of the meeting. The motion need not be signed (nor agreed to) by all the requisitioning members.	Feasible.
12.	Draft motion to be submitted no later than the first working day after submission of the written request, and finalised on either the first or second working day after submission of the draft motion. Draft amendments to be submitted on or before the second working day before the meeting and circulated by 4pm on the working day before the meeting.	To better manage the process around requisitioned meetings.	None identified.	As above.	Feasible.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Full Council
DATE	2 July 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2025
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/162
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald, Corporate Services
CHIEF OFFICER	Isla Newcombe, Chief Officer – People and Citizen Services
REPORT AUTHOR	Anne McAteer, Research Officer
TERMS OF REFERENCE	24.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents the 2025 Population Needs Assessment (PNA) 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 development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council :-

2.1 note the Population Needs Assessment 2025 as contained at appendix 1.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 In 2023, Community Planning Aberdeen published a Population Needs Assessment to provide a comprehensive picture of Aberdeen City as seen through a broad range of data sets. The document was used as the evidence base for identifying the shared priorities for public services in Aberdeen and updating the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 approved in April 2024 for the last time before 2026 which marks the end of the current plans' 10 year timeframe of 2016-2026. A new Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans are to be developed for 2026-2036 in order to continue to meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

3.2 Over the last year the Community Planning Partnership has been working towards the improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan with a view to improve outcomes for the people of Aberdeen.

POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2025

3.3 The revised Population Needs Assessment for 2025, appendix 1, provides an updated evidence base for the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and underpinning Locality Plans.

3.4 The Population Needs Assessment is a systematic process for gathering and analysing data and information about the wellbeing and needs of people and communities across Aberdeen. It helps determine the gaps between current and desired outcomes and is used to identify priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen that are included in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

3.5 The layout of the Population Needs Assessment has been updated and is structured around 5 themes which reflect the Social Determinants of Health. The Social Determinants of Health contribute to the unfair and avoidable differences in outcomes seen across the city of Aberdeen. Social and economic factors, health behaviours, access to health services and the physical environment in which people live all contribute to shaping people's health. Each section covers data relating to the themes as follows:

- **Children, families and lifelong learning**
  - Give every child the best start in life
  - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives

- **Economic stability**
  - Create fair employment and good work for all

- **Communities and housing**
  - Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities

- **Neighbourhood and environment**
  - Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

- **Health and Social Care**
  - Ensure healthy standard of living for all
  - Strengthen the role and impact of health prevention

3.6 Public Health Grampian in partnership with the Health Determinants Research Collaboration and Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland have reviewed the data sets included to increase understanding of the levels of inequality that exist and provide a common descriptor of vulnerability across the City.

3.7 As in previous years, the Population Needs Assessment has been aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Goals 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 our Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

NEXT STEPS

3.8 The revised Population Needs Assessment for 2025 provides an updated evidence base for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36. The Population Needs Assessment (PNA) is a key source of data for all community planning partners to utilise in their own organisations to inform their individual strategic plans. This includes 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 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 Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group as an accurate reflection of needs across the City based on the data currently available.

Environment / Climate			

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	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.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.
Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.
Regional and City Strategies	The revised Population Needs Assessment provides an updated evidence base for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 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	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Isla Newcombe on 28 May 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2023

10.2 Online Outcomes Framework
https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/outcomesframework/

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2025

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Anne McAteer
Title	Research Officer
Email Address	amcateer@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	01224 522182

This page is intentionally left blank

Population Needs Assessment 2025

Community Planning Aberdeen

Contents

Executive Summary 6

Summary of Priorities and Risks 6

1. Introduction 12

1.1. What is a Population Needs Assessment? 12

1.1.1. Data used and limitations 12

1.1.2. Consultation 13

1.1.3. Layout 13

1.1.4. Sustainable Development Goals 14

2. Demographic overview 15

2.1. Population 15

2.1.1. Current population 15

2.1.2. Population change and migration 16

2.2. Population projections 18

2.3. Population Profile 20

2.3.1. Age structure 20

2.3.2. Ethnicity 20

2.3.3. Census population overview 21

2.4. Births 25

2.5. Deaths 25

2.6. Households 26

3. Children, Families and Lifelong Learning 31

3.1. Give every child the best start in life 32

3.1.1. Early years 32

3.1.2. Child health 35

3.1.3. Smoking, alcohol, and drug use 37

3.2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives 39

3.2.1. Looked after children 39

3.2.2. Mental health and wellbeing 42

3.2.3. School and Educational Outcomes 45

3.2.4. Juvenile crime 49

4. Economic Stability 52

4.1. Create fair employment and good work for all 52

4.1.1. Economy 52

4.1.2. Businesses 54

4.1.3. Labour market 55
4.1.4. Earnings 64
4.2. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all 65
4.2.1. Poverty 65
5. Communities and Housing 79
5.1. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities 79
5.1.1. Our Place 79
5.1.2. Community empowerment 79
5.1.3. Housing 84
5.1.4. Homelessness 86
6. Neighbourhood and environment 88
6.1. Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together 88
6.1.1. Your neighbourhood 88
6.1.2. Environment – climate change 91
6.1.3. Environment - nature 95
6.1.4. Household waste 98
6.1.5. Sustainable travel 99
..... 102
7. Health and Social Care 102
7.1. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention 102
7.1.1. Estimated life expectancy at birth 102
7.1.2. Healthy life expectancy 104
7.1.3. Disability/health 105
7.1.4. Health behaviours 105
7.1.5. Mental health 110
7.1.6. Screening and flu vaccines 112
7.1.7. Disease prevalence 113
7.1.8. Key diseases 114
7.1.9. Hospitalisations 116
7.1.10. Social care services/care homes 118
7.1.11. Looking After Own Health and Wellbeing 119
7.2. Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes 120
7.3. Crime 120
7.3.1. Justice Social Work 122
7.3.2. Safety 123

Appendix 1: An interpretation of the PNA through the lens of the UN Sustainable Appendix Development Goals 126
References 132

Executive Summary

The Population Needs Assessment 2025 helps Community Planning Aberdeen and partner organisations identify, understand and respond to emerging needs and changes in the City's population. The impact of current challenges, including the transition away from the oil and gas industry, an aging population, increasing fuel poverty, and rising costs of living, particularly impacting low-income families, are clearly evident in the data.

Key points highlighted through the PNA and related analysis are:

- Like the rest of the UK, inflationary pressures due to high energy prices have had a negative impact on the cost of living . Aberdeen has been particularly impacted with average earnings in 2024 only growing by 3% in real terms, slower than the rates in Scotland (4.3%).

- The impact of the cost of living crisis has been, and will continue to be, felt unequally across the City, contributing to greater levels of poverty, inequality and associated vulnerabilities.

- A decrease in younger age groups are projected. The largest projected population increase is for men aged 75. Rates of people who are economically active is highest in the 25-34 year (86.7%) and lowest in the 16-24 year age group (62.3%).

- The city is projected to have the slowest economic growth of any UK city, with an average annual GVA growth of less than 1%, but Aberdeen benefits from strong economic foundations and is supported by investment in key infrastructure and a focus on skills, energy transition and diversification.

- Aberdeen is making progress towards its net zero targets, but there's still a long way to go. The city is aiming for net zero emissions by 2045, and various initiatives are underway to achieve this, including investments in net zero technology and infrastructure.

Analysis of the data has identified **emerging priorities** that we need to focus on in our future plans for improvement, as well as **acute** (immediate and severe) or **chronic** (persistent and recurring) **risks** which pose threats and uncertainties to our ability to realise our ambitions for improvement.

The priorities and risks are summarised below. The challenge for Community Planning Aberdeen and partner organisations is for us is to focus resources and efforts on making changes that can have the biggest impact on priority areas, at the same time as managing and reducing the likelihood of harm.

Summary of Priorities and Risks

Population Demographics

The City's population is projected to increase modestly at 1.1%. This increase is expected due to inward migration, primarily coming from overseas and younger age groups, which will offset a natural decline resulting from more deaths than births. In 2023 the number of births (2092) was lower than the number of deaths (2252). Decreases are projected in the 0-14 and 15-29 age groups. The largest projected population increase (26.2%) is for men aged 75+ years by 2028.

The impact of population decline can be significant including pressure on public services, labour shortages and reduced economic activity. Ensuring Aberdeen is a city which attracts people to live and work should be a priority.

The age-standardised rate of deaths per 100,000 in the least deprived areas of the city (SIMD 5) was 61.6 compared with a rate of 229.8 in the most deprived areas of the City (SIMD 1). Addressing the underlying inequality which drives health inequality remains a key priority.

(The risks highlighted and considered throughout this section reflect the UK Cabinet Office, Government Office for Science "Chronic Risks 2024".)

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Social	Impacts from demographic change	• Exacerbated long-term public service pressures • Labour shortages due to workforce contraction driven by an increasingly ageing population • Reduction of tax base & economic activity
	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable persons	• Declining health and life expectancy among vulnerable groups
	Disinformation and misinformation	• Undermining government policies and activities

Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Giving children the best start in life is a "given" priority for ongoing action. However, based on these data, the levels of variation, often associated with deprivation across the city, requires closer consideration:

- Ensuring maternal health is an important first step in promoting infant health, across the city there is evidence for clear variation in maternal and infant health associated with deprivation in relation to smoking in pregnancy, maternal obesity, and breastfeeding. Ensuring that current and new work in each of these areas will be effective in reducing these local inequalities remains a priority.
- The increasing rate of infant deaths in Aberdeen City requires further consideration. The most recent rate of 4.2/1000 livebirths in 2019-2023 is higher than the Scottish rate (3.5/1000 livebirths), and is an increase over the rate of 2.5/1000 livebirth reported for 2016-2020.

- Ensuring we reach childhood immunisation targets and we deliver developmental checks remain important. For example, the proportion of children with one or more developmental concern varies from 1% to 18%.
- The data suggest that childhood obesity across the city is returning to pre-COVID levels. However, across the city there is clear variation in the proportion of children described as having a "healthy weight" associated with deprivation that must be addressed. Such variation is also seen in relation to the oral health of the city's children.
- Across the city, the data suggest that levels of smoking, alcohol use, and drug use in school children are low. This needs to be maintained.
- Levels of mental health and wellbeing in children remains an area that requires a continued focus with 1 in 5 P6 & P7 and 1 in 3 S1-6 children being assessed as experiencing low mood. Also of concern is the increase in the suicide rate amongst young people aged 11 to 15 years which has increase from 6.2/100,000 population in 2016-20 to 8.2/100,000 for 2018-2022.
- Data on educational achievement against expected levels shows variation by deprivation. In Aberdeen City, in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Societal	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable persons	• Increasing rates of food insecurity • Declining mental health and wellbeing, particularly among younger people • Declining health and life expectancy among vulnerable groups • Worse educational outcomes for children and young people
	Disinformation and misinformation	• Undermining government policies and activities • Inciting violence and hate crime • Reduced trust in institutions
Technology and Cyber Security Risks	Impacts from increasing reliance on digital platforms	• Digital exclusion and increased inequality • Physical and mental health impacts from prolonged use
Security	Changes in the nature of serious and organised crime	• Child sexual abuse; • Modern slavery and human trafficking; • Illegal drugs.

Economic Stability

The overall data on the economic position presents a positive picture, but the data also show how not everyone in the City is benefitting from the economic potential:

- The data provides an updated picture on local social and economic inequalities, which determine wider lived experiences such as health. Place based approaches to reducing experiencing inequalities over time must remain a priority, seeking to reduce both the absolute and relative inequalities across the City.
- One in seven households in Aberdeen have no one working within them, which equates to 13,700 workless households. The data highlights that economic inactivity for people from ethnic minorities is more pronounced. Anchor organisations can play a part in terms of improving the numbers of under-represented groups in public sector employment, and continuing to expand the Real Living Wage programme, particularly within food, catering and accommodation sectors, where there are often higher numbers of people from ethnic minorities and younger people employed.
- Households with a low income are a concern, not least for the 12% of such households where some 3,600 children aged 15 years and under reside. Supporting such households through employability support, provision of free/subsidised childcare/access to community pantries are areas for further development.
- We must seek to understand and mitigate emerging risks to economic activity and employment within the city from both the use of technology and from demographic change.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Economic	Skill shortages and mis matches	• Increased unemployment • Lower wages • Recruitment challenges for engineering and technology vacancies • Regional inequality
Social	Impacts from demographic change	• Labour shortages due to workforce contraction driven by an increasingly ageing population • Reduction of tax base & economic activity
Technology and Cyber Security Risks	Impacts from use and capability of artificial intelligence (AI)	• AI-powered attacks (cyber or physical) • Exacerbates skill shortage in cyber and technology sector • Displacement and surveillance of workers • Exacerbates biases leading to inequality and polarisation

Communities and Housing

There is a continuing need to ensure that people and place are at the heart of our population need assessment: The following issues can be considered priorities:

- Social isolation and loneliness can have tangible impacts on health and wellbeing. In recent City Voice surveys participants responded to questions on social interaction, involvement in the community and influence and control. The results highlight opportunities for to enable this.

- Housing can also significantly impact on health and wellbeing. Negative impacts are likely to be more prevalent and severe in households living in poverty. Managing household expenses is also an area for prioritisation. The survey data from the City highlight that fuel and food poverty continue to be issues for many people, especially those who live with a disability, are in single households, or are from a minority community. The data identify 13 priority locations which should be the focus for developing place-based approaches to improving access to affordable food, fuel, and transport.
- Homelessness continues to be a challenge with almost 2,000 people affected by homeless applications received in 2023/24, of which almost 600 were children.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Societal	Impacts from demographic change	• Exacerbated long-term public service pressures • Reliance on unpaid care, impacting carers
	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable persons	• Increasing rates of food insecurity • Declining mental health and wellbeing, particularly among younger people • Declining health and life expectancy among vulnerable groups
	Disinformation and misinformation	• Undermining government policies and activities • Inciting violence and hate crime • Reduced trust in institutions

Neighbourhood and Environment

The Paris Climate Change Declaration was clear that there can be no planetary health without human health. Within the context of the Population health assessment, the data highlight the following priority areas:

- Many of the areas that are associated with climate resilience are a focus for environmental sustainability, notably in relation to green-space, transport, air and water quality, waste management, and land use. In all of these areas the potential for human health co-benefits have been identified and the meaningful delivery of such co-benefits needs to be maximised.
- The potential for climate change to increase the impact of social and economic inequalities – leading to wider health inequalities – needs to be understood more clearly and reflected in work to move beyond mitigation of the impact of greenhouses gases (delivering net zero) and into adapting systems, services, and places that are adapted to the future climate.
- There is a clear design for place-based approaches to creating climate resilience, especially in the context of flood prevention, water quality, air quality, and dealing with extreme weather events. These are areas that should be being progressed on multi-agency basis in line with the Scottish National Adaptation Plan.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Environmental	Climate change	• Water and food insecurity • Storm and flooding damage to homes and critical infrastructure

		• Tipping points lead to cascading interconnected environmental system failures • Sea level rise • Displacement of people
	Bio diversity loss	• Infectious disease outbreak • Food shortages • Ecosystem collapse • Reduced environmental capabilities to mitigate the effects of climate change and pollution.
	Pollution and environmental degradation	• Surge in non-communicable diseases due to air pollution • Sudden loss of ecosystem services • Increased disease burden in humans, plants and wildlife, leading to impacts on food supply • Species extinctions / Ecosystem collapse • Economic decline: nature degradation could reduce UK GDP due to higher healthcare costs and lower agricultural yields

Health and Social Care

- Across Scotland, life expectancy (LE) is stalling, and healthy life expectancy (HLE) is declining. Aberdeen is not immune from these changes with the most recent data suggesting that LE for Aberdeen City in 2019-21 was 76.9 years, of which HLE was 60.2 years. Variations across the population are noted, showing the close link there is to deprivation and both LE and HLE. At present our focus is on improving HLE, but do not take account of the effects of inequality in both LE and HLE. Addressing the social and economic factors that drive inequality should become a more urgent focus for our work
- This relationship between the wider social and economic determinants that drive the inequalities that create health inequality is a factor in all the data presented in relation to poor mental health associated with higher rates of prescribing, hospitalisations for mental illness, and for suicides. Taking a more preventative, population health approach to promoting and protecting mental health and wellbeing needs to be considered alongside addressing the wider social and economic determinants of mental health.
- Similarly, inequalities underpin many of the specific diseases explored in the data whether it is cancer, heart disease, or respiratory disease. Clearly there is an element of addressing the types of behaviours that are associated with health risks - smoking, obesity and physical inactivity – which contribute to such diseases and looking to preventative programmes such as cancer screening and primary care opportunistic screening, but we also need to be moving beyond a health behaviour approach alone and considering how we can support the role of place and whole-systems approaches to ensure a focus health equity as a determinant of poor health.
- Caring for older people or those with longer term conditions is also highlighted as a priority need within the presented data. Again, preventative approaches that operate across the life course to promote active ageing and support greater self-management and care amongst those with long term needs need to be further developed.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Societal	Impacts from demographic change	• Exacerbated long-term public service pressures • Reliance on unpaid care, impacting carers • Pressure on adult social care
	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable persons	• Increasing rates of food insecurity • Declining mental health and wellbeing, particularly among younger people • Declining health and life expectancy among vulnerable groups
	Disinformation and misinformation	• Undermining government policies and activities • Inciting violence and hate crime • Reduced trust in institutions

How we will use this data

The data will be used to identify priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen and partner organisations that will form the basis of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36, Locality Plans for North, South and Central 2026-36 and the underpinning strategies.

1. Introduction

1.1. What is a Population Needs Assessment?

The Population Needs Assessment (PNA) 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 Population Needs Assessment 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.

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 Population Needs Assessment will update the information provided in the Population Needs Assessment which was carried out in 2023.

Whilst it is intended that the Population Needs Assessment 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.

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.

1.1.1. 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, Office for National Statistics 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 ±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.

1.1.2. 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.

1.1.3. Layout

The layout is structured around 5 themes which reflect the Social Determinants of Health. The social determinants of health contribute to the unfair and avoidable differences in outcomes seen across the city of Aberdeen. Social and economic factors, health behaviours, access to health services and the physical environment in which people live all contribute to shaping people's health.

Each section will cover data relating to the themes as follows:

- **Children, families and lifelong learning**
  - Give every child the best start in life
  - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- **Economic stability**
  - Create fair employment and good work for all
- **Communities and housing**
  - Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- **Neighbourhood and environment**
  - Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together
- **Health and Social Care**
  - Ensure healthy standard of living for all
  - Strengthen the role and impact of health prevention

The first section, however, will provide a demographic overview of the City.

1.1.4. 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 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and there is alignment with Scotland's National Performance Framework . The 17 Sustainable Development Goals 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 Population Needs Assessment through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals is shown in Appendix 1. The Sustainable Development Goals covered by the themes are shown at the end of each section.

2. Demographic overview

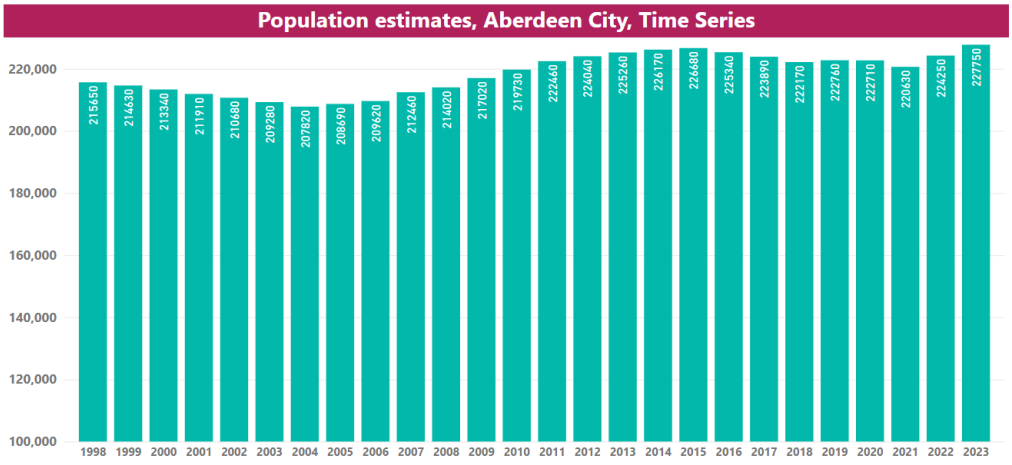
2.1. Population

2.1.1. Current population

Population: At 30th June 2023, Aberdeen City had an estimated population of 227,750 . 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 (116,284) than males (111,466) in the city with females making up 51.1% of the population. Between 2013 and 2023, the population in Aberdeen City grew by 1.1% (from 225,260) compared to an increase of 3.3% for Scotland as a whole. (Normally mid-year population estimates are released in April each year, but the estimates for 2024 have been delayed and are not due until July 2025).

As yet, 2023 population estimates are not available for smaller areas of the city. However, based on 2022 mid-year estimates, the population varies considerably by neighbourhood, ranging from a low of 1,725 in Cummings Park to a high of 12,263 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield .

Population trends: Following an 11-year period of year-on-year increases, Aberdeen's population peaked in 2015 (226,170) and decreased in each of the 3 subsequent years before increasing again between 2018 (222,170) and 2019 (222,760). The population fell again in 2021 to 220,630 – its lowest level since 2010 (219,730). (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 rise.) In the two years from 2021 to 2023 the population has increased by 7,120 and is now at its highest ever level. (Note: following the 2022 Census, rebased population estimates for 2011 to 2021 were published and differ from those previously published by National Records of Scotland.)

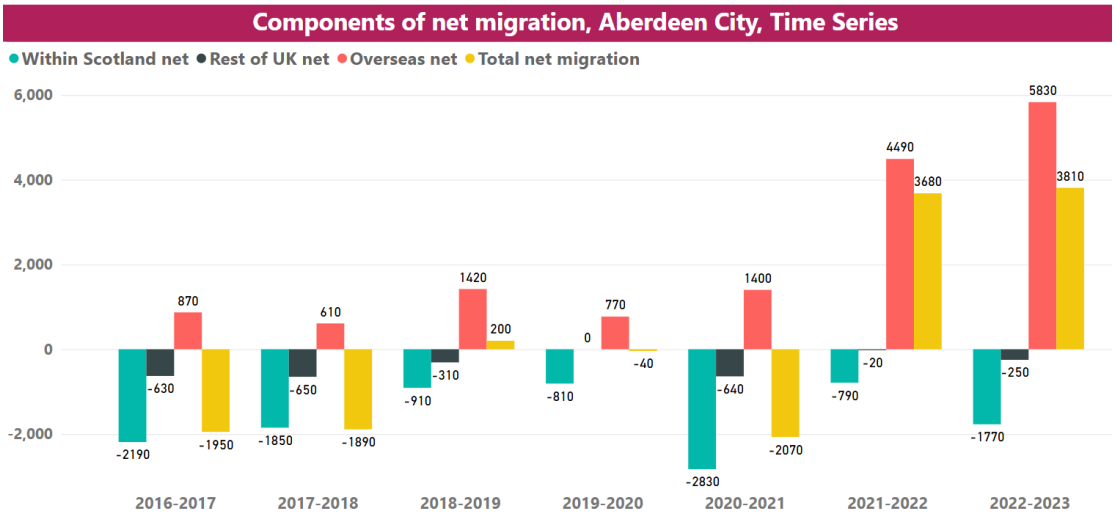


Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Estimates Time Series Data. Updated January 2025.
Note: Rebased population estimates for 2011 - 2021 were published in July 2024, so the population estimates for the years 2011-2021 will differ from those previously published here. Population figures for 2022 were revised in October 2024 so will differ from those published previously. In January 2025, the rebased population estimates published in July 2024 were amended. This chart presents these amended figures.

2.1.2. Population change and migration

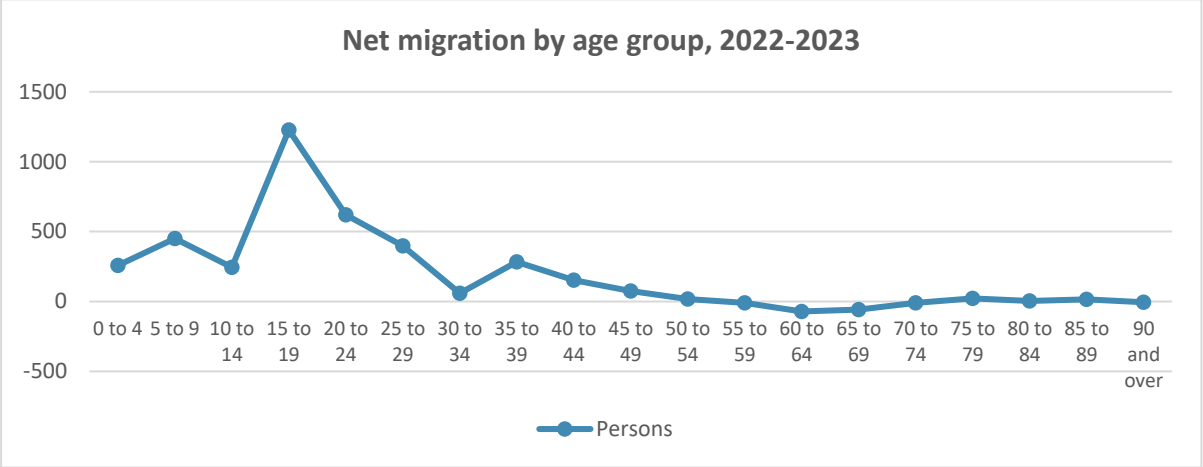
Population change: Population change is driven by two main components: 1) natural change (births minus deaths) and (2) net migration (the sum of migration to/from Scotland and internal migration). It also includes other changes (e.g. changes in prisoner and armed forces population) although these tend to make up a much smaller proportion of changes. Over the last two years, natural change has been negative (474 more deaths than births) with the increase in population between 2021 and 2023 in Aberdeen City being driven by positive net migration – in particular by overseas migration.

In 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, both within Scotland net migration and rest of UK net migration were negative, however these were offset by the relatively high levels of positive overseas net migration (4,490 in 2021-2022 and 5,830 in 2022-23) .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-year population estimates, Scotland. Updated January 2025. Note: migration figures were changed following the amended re-base of population estimates which were published in January 2025. This chart shows the amended figures.

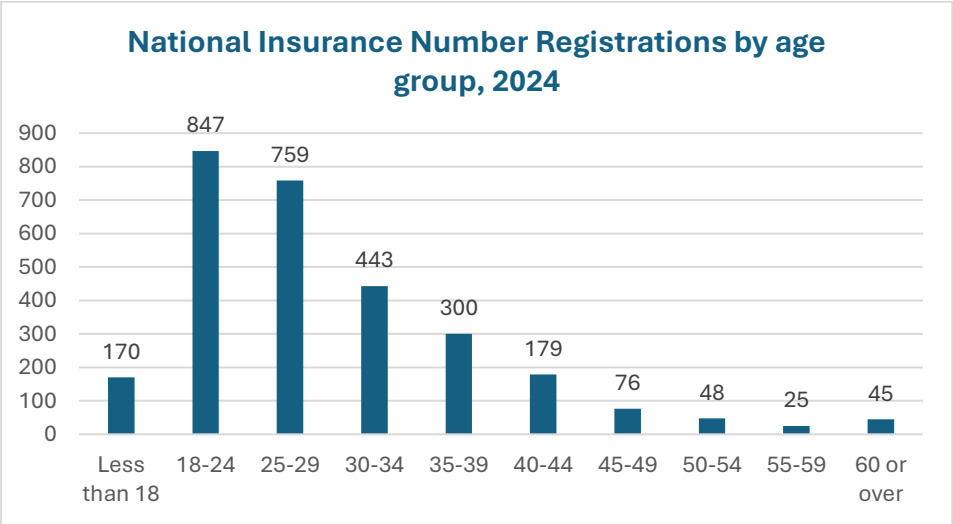
Migration to the City varies by age with most movement being in younger adults. In 2022-23, positive net migration was highest in the 15-19 and 20-24 year old age groups. The chart below shows net migration to the City by 5-year age groups .



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 2022-23 show that the highest levels of movement for Aberdeen were between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (3,024 out and 2,358 in, giving a net of -666), Aberdeen City and Edinburgh (898 out and 466 in, giving a net of -432) and Aberdeen City and Glasgow (701 out and 386 in, giving a net of -315). 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 Highland (417 in and 288 out, giving a net of 129), Moray (237 in and 152 out, giving a net of 85) .

National Insurance Number Registrations (NINOs): These statistics show the number of adult overseas nationals registering for a National Insurance Number in order to work or to claim benefits/tax credits or apply for a student loan in the UK. In 2024 there were 2,893 National Insurance Number registrations in Aberdeen City, down from 4,885 in 2023 and 7,709 in 2022. In 2024 the most common age group for those registering for a National Insurance Number was 18-24 years .



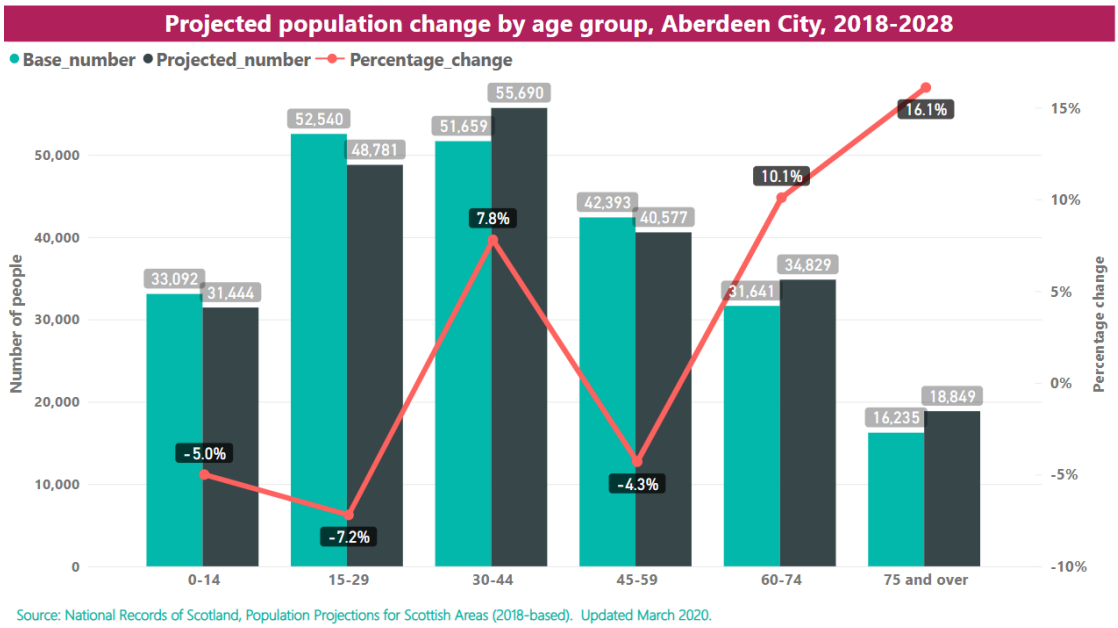
Source: Stat-Xplore: NINO Registrations to Adult Overseas Nationals Entering the UK.

2.2. Population projections

Population projections: Population projections are now very dated with the most recent being 2018-based (published in 2020). The 2018 base population for Aberdeen City at the time of publication was 227,560. However, rebased population figures published in January 2025 put the estimated population at 222,170 in 2018, so it is possible that the existing projections may not accurately reflect Aberdeen's population going forward. Newer projections (based on Census data) are not expected to be available until Summer 2025. The 2018-based population projections are given below.

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 .

Projected change by age group: The projected change is not consistent across all age groups. In Aberdeen City, decreases are projected in the 0-14 year age group (-5.0%), the 15-19 year age group (-7.2%) and in the 45-59 year age group (-4.3%). 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, 30-44 years is projected to be the largest age group with the 75+ years group projected to remain the smallest group .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based). Updated March 2020.

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. When looked at by age group, the largest percentage increase is projected for males aged 75 years and over .

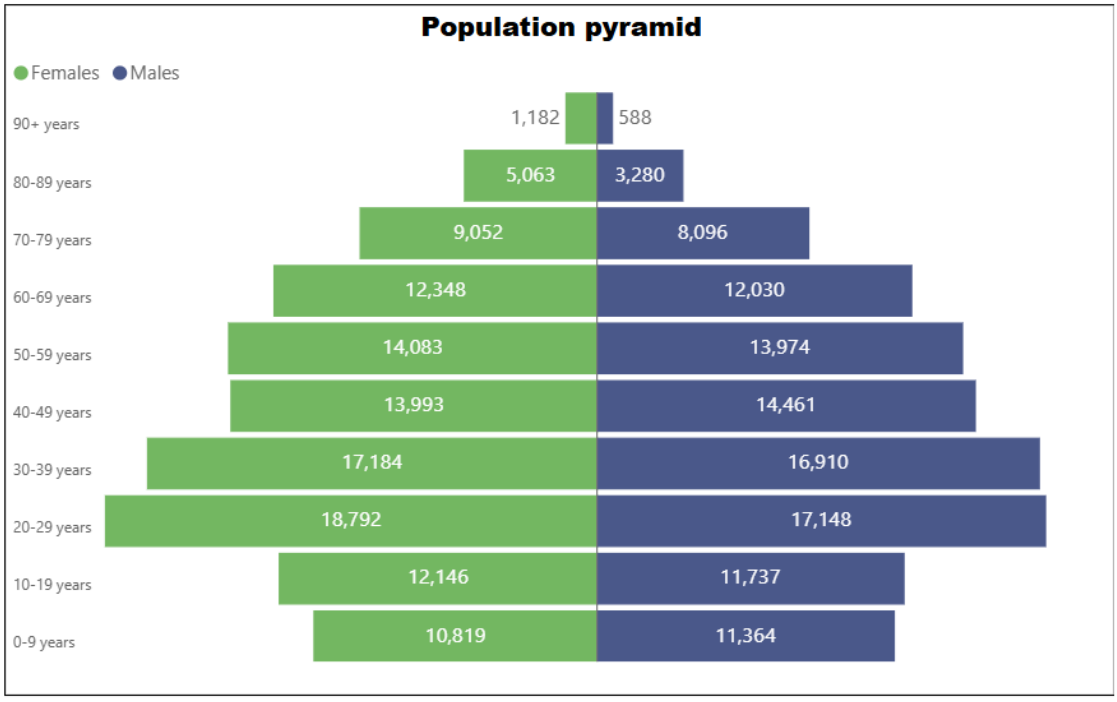
Projected change by gender by age group					
	Age group	**2018**	**2028**	**Change**	**Percentage Change**
Males	0-14	16900	16215	-685	-4.1%
	15-29	26086	24198	-1888	-7.2%
	30-44	27153	30079	2926	10.8%
	45-59	21077	20400	-677	-3.2%
	60-74	15615	17044	1429	9.2%
	75 & over	6421	8104	1683	26.2%
	All ages	113252	116040	2788	2.5%
Females	0-14	16192	15229	-963	-5.9%
	15-29	26454	24583	-1871	-7.1%
	30-44	24506	25611	1105	4.5%
	45-59	21316	20177	-1139	-5.3%
	60-74	16026	17785	1759	11.0%
	75 & over	9814	10745	931	9.5%
	All ages	114308	114130	-178	-0.2%
All	0-14	33092	31444	-1648	-5.0%
	15-29	52540	48781	-3759	-7.2%
	30-44	51659	55690	4031	7.8%
	45-59	42393	40577	-1816	-4.3%
	60-74	31641	34829	3188	10.1%
	75 & over	16235	18849	2614	16.1%
	All ages	227560	230170	2610	1.1%

Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Projections for Scottish Areas

2.3. Population Profile

2.3.1. Age structure

Age structure: Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen has a relatively young population. In 2023, the median age in Aberdeen was 38.7 years compared to 42.9 years for Scotland. Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen city has a higher proportion of working age people[1] (67.7% compared to 64.7%) and a lower proportion of people of pensionable age (16.1% compared to 19%). The proportion of people aged under 16 years was similar in Aberdeen City and Scotland (16.2% compared to 16.3%) . Within Aberdeen, however, the age structure varies considerably by neighbourhood. The proportion of children (0-15 years) ranges from 7% in Seaton and Old Aberdeen to 26% in Middlefield. The proportion of 16-64 year-olds ranges from 57% in Balgownie & Donmouth and Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber to 87% in Old Aberdeen and the proportion of people aged 65+ years ranges from 6% in Old Aberdeen to 28% in Balgownie & Donmouth . The population pyramid for Aberdeen City showing the distribution by 10-year age groups is given below.

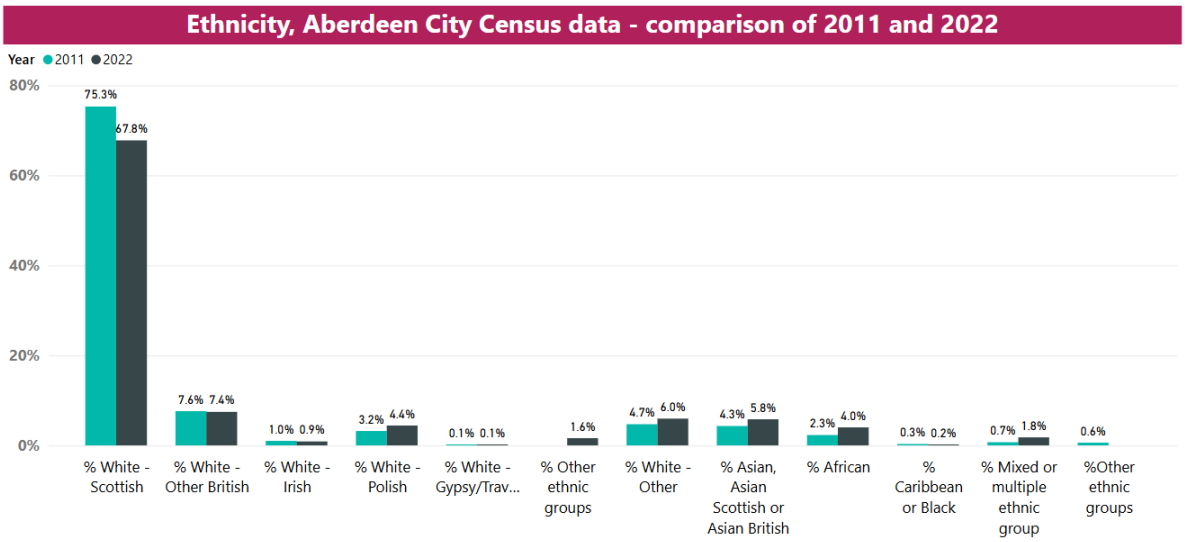


2.3.2. Ethnicity

Ethnicity: Aberdeen City has a diverse population. The most recent figures are from the 2022 Census. At March 2022, 67.8% of the city's population identified as White-Scottish

[1] Working age at 30 June 2023 is defined as people aged 16 to 65 years. Pensionable age at 30 June 2023 was 66 years.

compared to 77.7% for Scotland as a whole. Other White ethnic groups (White Other British, White Irish, White Polish, White Gypsy/Traveller and Other White) made up 18.8% of the population of the city (compared to 15.2% for Scotland) giving a total of 86.6% who identified as 'White'. Other ethnic groups made up 13.4% of the city's population compared to 7.1% for Scotland. Compared to 2011, the proportion on non-white ethnic groups has increased (from 8.2% in 2011).



Source: Scotland's Census. Updated May 2024

2.3.3. Census population overview

The Table below gives an overview of the population of Aberdeen City compared to Scotland from Census data.

2022 Census	Aberdeen City	Scotland
Sex		
Male	48.8%	48.6%
Female	51.2%	51.4%
Age Group		
0-15 years	15.7%	16.4%
16-24 years	13.4%	10.7%
25-44 years	29.4%	25.3%
45-64 years	24.4%	27.6%
65+ years	17.1%	20.0%
Ethnicity		
White: White Scottish	67.8%	77.7%
White: Other White British	7.4%	9.4%
White: Other White	11.3%	5.8%
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	1.8%	1.1%
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	5.8%	3.9%

African: African, African Scottish or African British	4.0%	1.1%
Caribbean or Black	0.2%	0.1%
Other ethnic group	1.6%	0.9%
Country of birth		
Europe: United Kingdom: England	7.4%	9.3%
Europe: United Kingdom: Northern Ireland	0.5%	0.7%
Europe: United Kingdom: Scotland	70.7%	79.4%
Europe: United Kingdom: Wales	0.3%	0.3%
Europe: United Kingdom: UK part not specified	0.0%	0.0%
Europe: Channel Islands and Isle of Man	0.0%	0.0%
Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Republic of Ireland	0.5%	0.4%
Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Other member countries in March 2022	8.8%	3.9%
Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Other EU accession countries March 2022	0.1%	0.1%
Europe: Other Europe: Non-EU countries	0.6%	0.3%
Africa	3.9%	1.3%
Middle East and Asia	5.3%	3.0%
The Americas and the Caribbean	1.6%	0.9%
Antarctica and Oceania and Other	0.3%	0.3%
Length of residence in the UK		
Born in the UK	78.9%	89.8%
Less than 2 years	4.6%	1.7%
2 years or more and less than 5 years	3.3%	1.5%
5 years or more and less than 10 years	4.2%	1.9%
10 years or more	9.0%	5.1%
General health		
Very good	49.2%	48.0%
Good	32.9%	30.9%
Fair	12.7%	14.2%
Bad	4.1%	5.3%
Very bad	1.1%	1.6%

Limiting illness		
Yes, limited a lot	8.1%	10.8%
Yes, limited a little	12.1%	13.3%
No	79.8%	75.9%
UK Armed forces veteran		
Not applicable (aged less than 16)	15.7%	16.4%
UK Armed Forces veteran	2.5%	3.2%
Not a UK Armed Forces veteran	81.8%	80.4%
Sexual orientation (16+ years)		
Heterosexual/Straight	87.3%	87.8%
Gay or Lesbian	1.9%	1.8%
Bisexual	2.6%	1.8%
Other sexual orientation	0.7%	0.5%
Not answered	7.5%	8.2%
Trans status or history (16+ years)		
No: Not trans and does not have a trans history	94.3%	93.6%
Yes: Trans or has a trans history	0.6%	0.4%
Not answered	5.1%	5.9%
Economically active (16+ years)		
Economically active - Employee	53.9%	50.6%
Economically active - Self-employed	6.1%	7.6%
Economically active - Unemployed	4.1%	2.6%
Economically inactive	35.8%	39.1%
Highest qualification		
Not applicable (aged less than 16)	15.7%	16.4%
No qualifications	10.6%	13.9%
Lower school qualifications	15.7%	15.8%
Upper school qualifications	9.6%	9.3%
Apprenticeship qualifications	5.9%	6.4%
Further Education and sub-degree Higher Education qualifications incl. HNC/HNDs	10.5%	11.1%
Degree level qualifications or above Education qualifications not already mentioned	32.1%	27.1%

(including foreign qualifications)		
National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC) (16+ years)		
Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	13.3%	12.1%
Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	20.1%	21.1%
Intermediate occupations	11.0%	11.7%
Small employers and own account workers	5.9%	8.0%
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6.9%	7.1%
Semi-routine occupations	10.2%	11.2%
Routine occupations	13.1%	13.5%
Never worked and long-term unemployed	5.7%	6.8%
Full-time students	13.8%	8.5%
Household tenure		
Owned: Owned outright	25.5%	29.6%
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	32.7%	35.7%
Owned: Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	0.4%	0.2%
Owned: Shared Equity (e.g. LIFT or Help-to-Buy)	0.8%	0.6%
Social Rented: Council (LA) or Housing Association/ Registered Social Landlord	20.5%	20.3%
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	18.8%	12.0%
Private rented: Other	0.3%	0.5%
Lives Rent Free	1.0%	1.2%

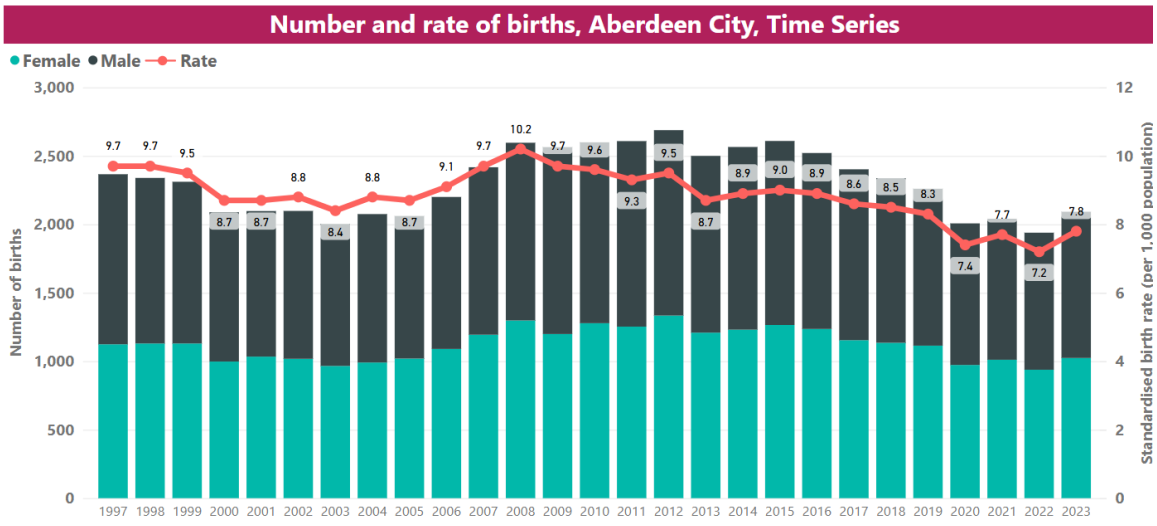
Source: Scotland's Census 2022

A more complete and granular exploration of Census Data for Aberdeen City can be found here: Aberdeen and North East - Output Area Atlas - Community Planning Aberdeen

2.4. Births

Births: In 2023 there were 2,092 births in Aberdeen City – up from 1,939 in 2022. Of these births, 1,024 (48.9%) were female and 1,068 (51.1%) were male. The standardised birth rate was 7.8 per 1,000 population (compared to 8.4 for Scotland as a whole) and is the fourth lowest rate in Scotland, with the lowest being City of Edinburgh at 6.2 per 1,000 population. In 2023, the general fertility rate[2] was 41.8 in Aberdeen City compared to 44.8 in Scotland. Fertility rates varied by aged group, being lowest in the 15-19 age group at 6.0 per 1,000 population and highest in the 30-34 year age group at 87.8 per 1,000 population. The total fertility rate[3] was 1.21 in Aberdeen compared to 1.30 in Scotland .

The most common age group for mothers is 30-34 years (773 births) and the least common age group for mothers is 0-19 years (40 births). 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 77% and 41% respectively) and the number of births to women aged 35-39 years and 40 years and increasing by (by 52% and 152% respectively – although the actual number of births to women aged 40 and over is still relatively low at 116 in 2023) . The number of births varies across the city. The Intermediate Zone with the highest number of births in 2023 was Kingswells (87 births) and the Intermediate Zone with the lowest number of births was West End North (17 births). The rate of births (crude rate per 1,000 population) ranged from a low of 4.7 in West End North to a high of 14.9 in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber West.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Births Time Series Data. Updated July 2024.

2.5. Deaths

[2] Total live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, inclusive.
[3] The average number of children (per woman) that would be born to a cohort of women if they experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the age-specific fertility rates of the year in question.

Deaths: In 2023 there were 2,255 deaths in Aberdeen City – a slight increase from 2,248 deaths in 2022. Of these deaths, 1,124 (49.8%) were female and 1,131 (50.2%) were male. The age-standardised death rate was 11.4 per 1,000 population compared to 11.6 in Scotland. The highest number of total deaths were in the 80-89 years age group (671 deaths). For females, the most common age group for deaths was 90+ years (293 deaths) and for males the most common age group was 75-79 years (182 deaths) .

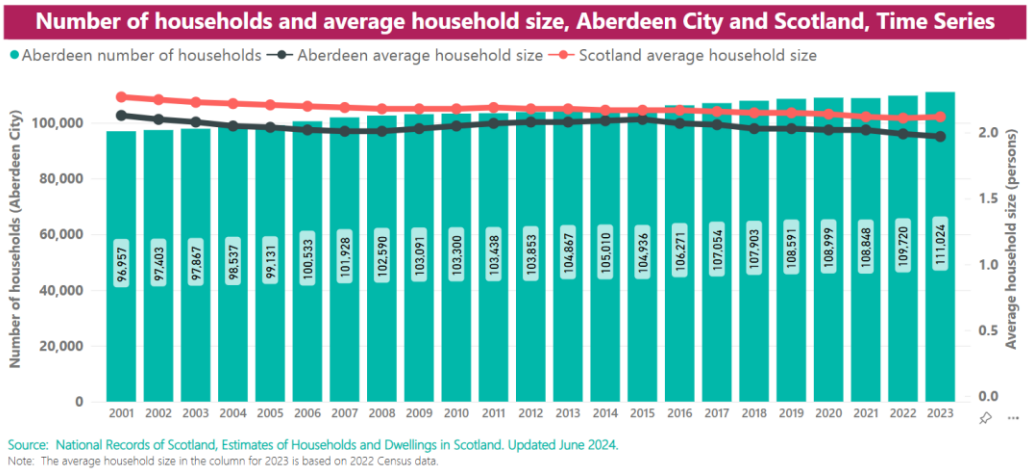
Death rates vary across the city. Based on Intermediate Zones, the most recent data is for 2021-2023 (3-year aggregate). Age-sex standardised rates range from a high of 2,188 per 100,000 population in City Centre East to a low of 720 in West End North. The equivalent rate for Aberdeen City is 1,144.

Under 75 mortality rates: In 2023, the age-standardised mortality rate for under 75s was 448 per 100,000 population which is slightly higher than the rate for Scotland (441.5) and the rate for 2022 (also 441.5). Under 75 mortality rates were higher for males (550.2) than females (348.0). While the rate for females was lower than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 354.7, the rate for males was higher than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 534.2 .

Early deaths (15-44 years, all causes): In 2021-2023, the rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) for early deaths in Aberdeen City was 106 which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 112. This rate varied by deprivation, being highest in the most deprived areas. The rate for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1 (most deprived) was 229.8 per 100,000 population compared to a rate of 61.6 for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate for early deaths varies across the City (intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 28 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 263 per 100,000 population in Woodside .

2.6. Households

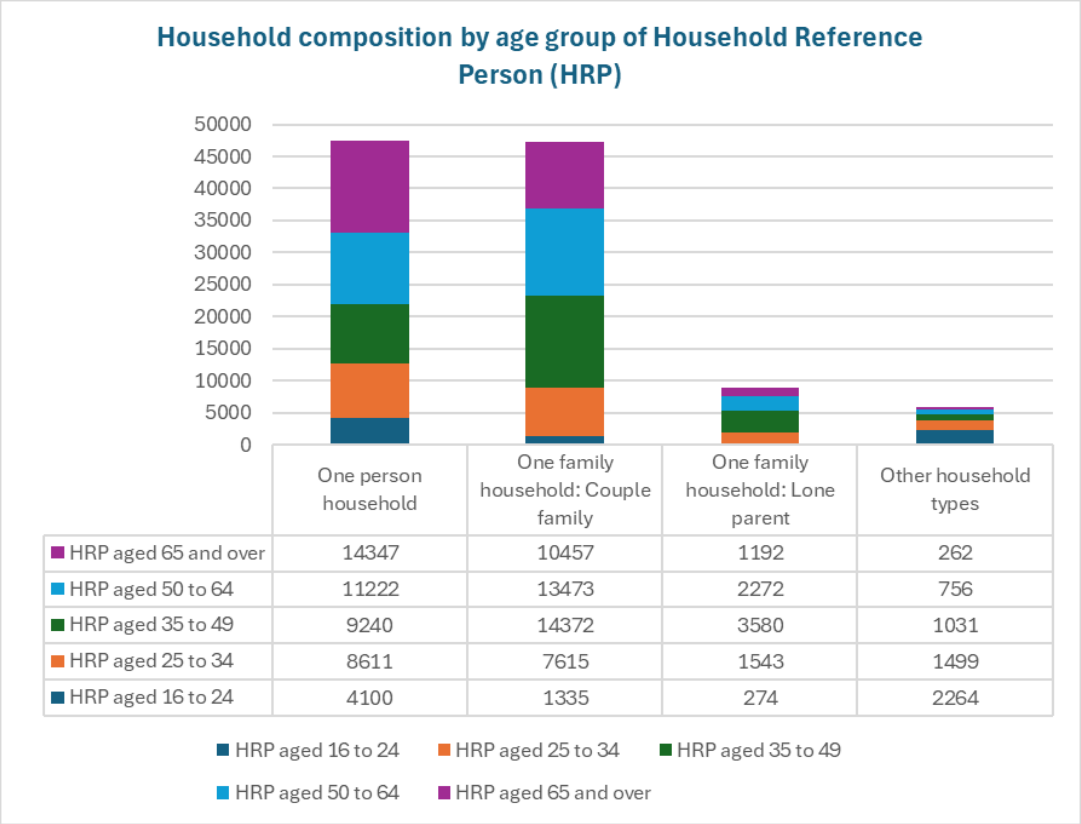
Households: In 2023, there were 111,024 households in Aberdeen City – up from 109,720 households in 2022. Since 2002, the number of households in Aberdeen has increased by 13.4% (133,157 households) which is similar to the rate for Scotland of 13.6%. In 2022, the average household size was 1.97 compared to 2.12 for Scotland. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, average household sizes have decreased over the past 20 years (from 2.13 and 2.27 respectively in 2001) .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland. Updated June 2024.
Note: The average household size in the column for 2023 is based on 2022 Census data.

Households Census data: At the time of the Census in 2022 there were 109,445 households in Aberdeen City. Of these, 43.4% were one person households, 43.2% were 'Couple family' households, 8.1% were lone parent households and 5.3% were other household types. Further breakdown on household composition is available by the age group of the Household Reference Person (HRP). For one person households, the most common age group was 65 years and over (30.2%) followed by 50-64 years (23.6%). The table below gives the percentage of each age group within each household composition type and the chart beneath gives the total number of households in each household composition type by age group of the Household Reference Person.

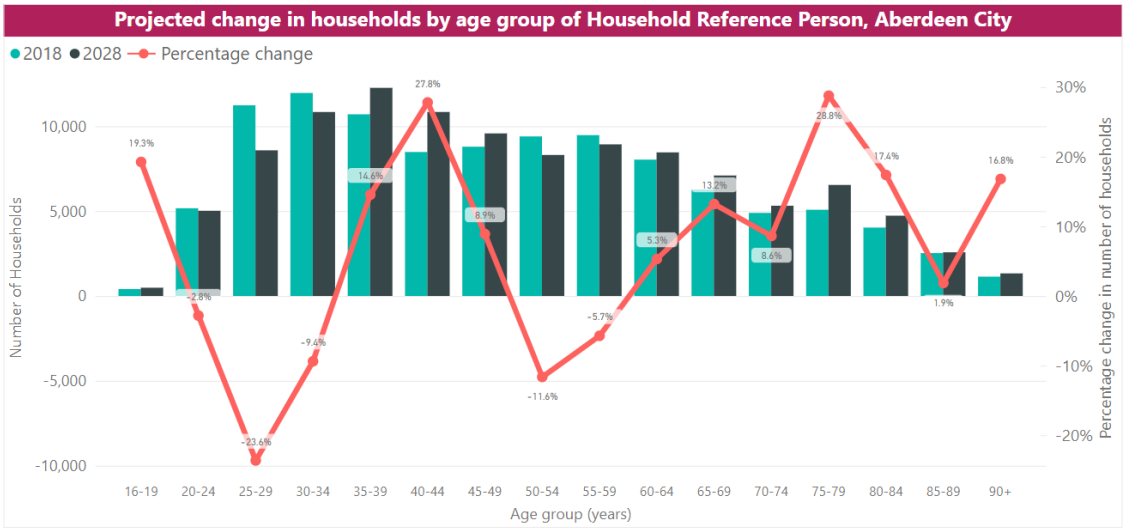
	One person household	One family household: Couple family	One family household: Lone parent	Other household types
HRP aged 16 to 24	8.6%	2.8%	3.1%	39.0%
HRP aged 25 to 34	18.1%	16.1%	17.4%	25.8%
HRP aged 35 to 49	19.4%	30.4%	40.4%	17.7%
HRP aged 50 to 64	23.6%	28.5%	25.6%	13.0%
HRP aged 65 and over	30.2%	22.1%	13.5%	4.5%



	One person household	One family household: Couple family	One family household: Lone parent	Other household types
HRP aged 65 and over	14347	10457	1192	262
HRP aged 50 to 64	11222	13473	2272	756
HRP aged 35 to 49	9240	14372	3580	1031
HRP aged 25 to 34	8611	7615	1543	1499
HRP aged 16 to 24	4100	1335	274	2264

Household projections: As with the population projections, the most recent household projections are 2018-based and so relatively dated. New projections are not expected until Summer 2025.

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 .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Household Projections for Scotland. Updated September 2020.

Emerging priorities

The demographic data is – as is often the case – the most difficult to interpret. In the context of community planning, the key features seem to be:

- The recent increase in overall population, but that this associated more with inward migration into Aberdeen than as a result of natural changes such as births and deaths. It is also interesting that the inward migration is primarily due to people from overseas coming to Aberdeen who tend to be from younger age groups.
- The population is projected to only increase modestly (1.1%) between 2018 and 2028. Of this the main components is expected to be due to migration.
- It should be noted that the age profile of the population is projected to see reductions in the proportion of younger men and women aged 0-14 years and 15 to 29 years. Most striking is the 26.2% increase in the population of men aged over 75 years by 2028. A similar increase is not observed for women (9.5%).
- Between 1997 and 2023 the birthrate in the city fell from 9.7/1000 population to 7.2/1000. In 2023 there were a total of 2092 births. This can be compared to 2252 deaths in the same year, meaning that for 2023 at least the number of births was lower

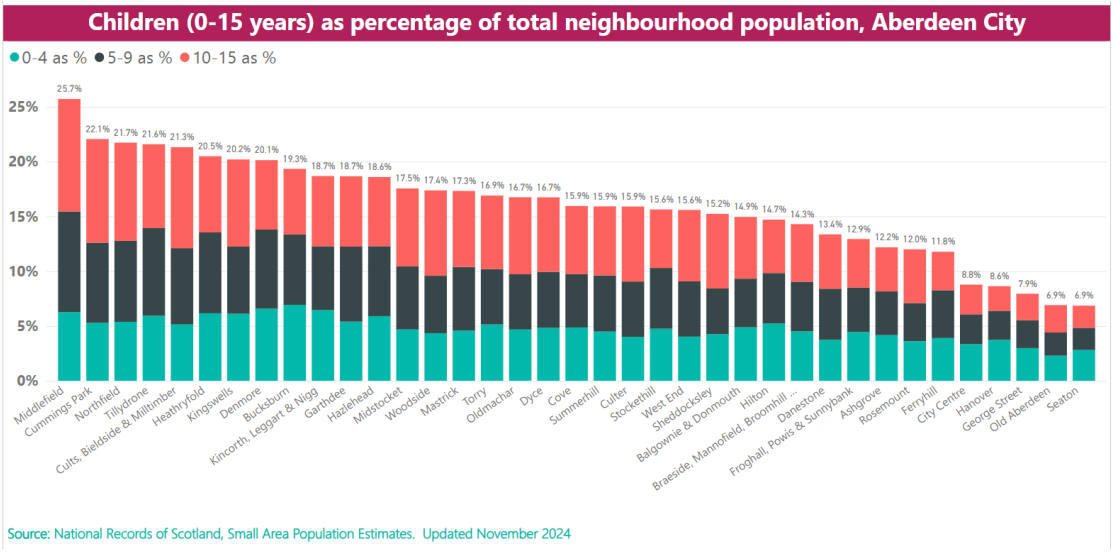
than the number of deaths. This is a feature of the population that needs careful monitoring.

- For 2021-2023, the all-cause rate for deaths amongst people aged between 15 and 44 years is lower in Aberdeen City than for Scotland as a whole. However, this masks a clear variation associated with deprivation across the city. The age-standardised rate of deaths per 100,000 in the least deprived areas of the city (SIMD 5) was 61.6 compared with a rate of 229.8 in the most deprived areas of the City (SIMD 1). Addressing the underlying inequality which drives health inequality remains a key priority.
- Household composition has an impact on a range of factors associated with how services are delivered. In this context, the data are highlighting that over half of single occupant households are associated with people aged over 50.

3. Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Ensuring that a child's life 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 principal care givers – will have a direct impact on the future and lifelong physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. Early action can help to reduce health inequality.

Child population: In 2023, there were 36,898 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City – 16.2 % of the city's population . The number and proportion of children varies by neighbourhood (2022-based). In terms of numbers, Old Aberdeen has the smallest child population (229) while Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber has the largest (2,570). The City Centre has the smallest proportion of children (6.9% of the population of the neighbourhood) and Middlefield the largest (25.7%) .

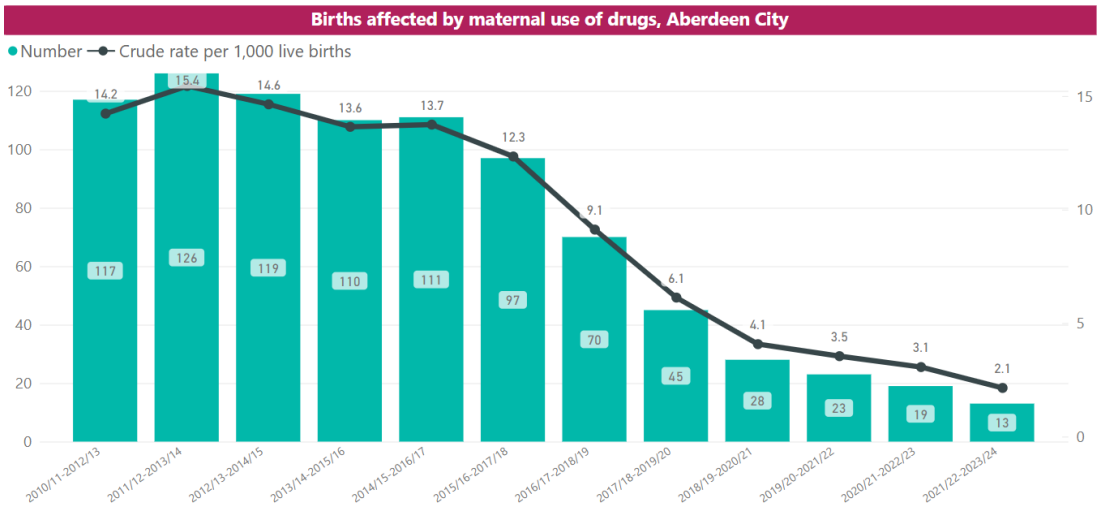


3.1. Give every child the best start in life

3.1.1. Early years

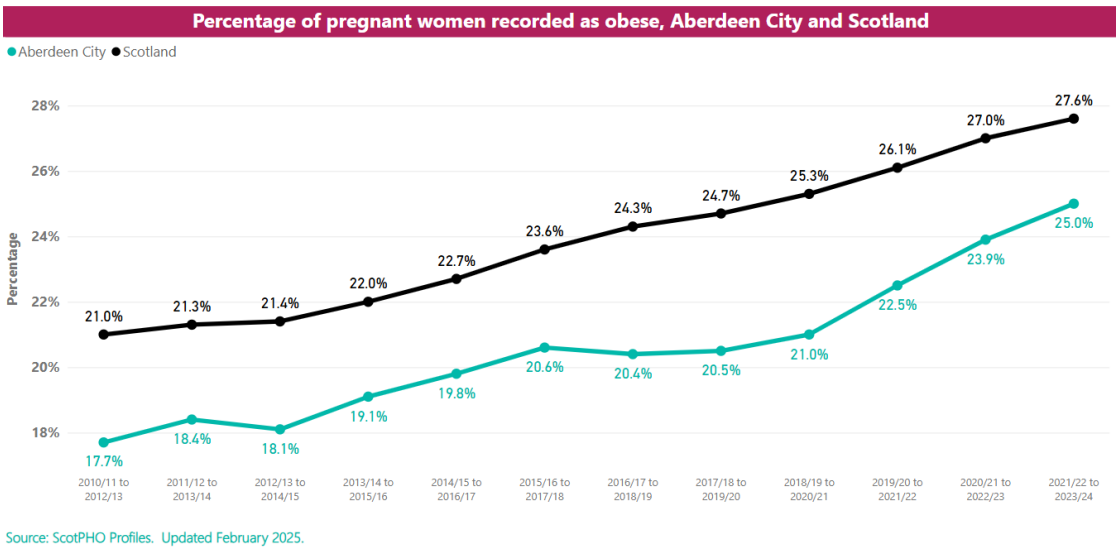
Smoking during pregnancy : In 2021-2023 (3-year aggregate), 9.6% of women in the City with a known smoking status were recorded as a 'current smoker' at their first antenatal appointment. Rates of smoking during pregnancy are slightly lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (10.7%) and have decreased gradually over the past few years (Note – new data collection method means that recent figures are not directly comparable with previous years). Rates are highest in the most deprived areas (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1) at 25% compared to 2.8% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates of smoking during pregnancy vary across the City (HSC localities, 2019/20-2021/22) at 10.9% in Aberdeen South, 12.2% in Aberdeen North and 13.1% in Aberdeen Central .

Maternities with drug use: In the period 2021/22-2023/24 there were 121 maternities with drug misuse recorded. This is equivalent to a rate of 20.2 (crude rate per 1,000 maternities) which is higher than the rate for Scotland of 17.9 . In the same period there were 13 babies affected by maternal use of drugs, equivalent to a rate of 2.1 (crude rate per 1,000 live births). The rate of babies affected by maternal use of drugs has fallen substantially in recent years .



Source: Public Heath Scotland, Babies affected by maternal use of drugs by Council Areas. Updated January 2025.
Note: number is the total number over the 3-year period.

Maternal obesity: In 2021/22 to 2023/24, 25% of pregnant women in Aberdeen City were recorded as obese (Body Mass Index (BMI) 30 and over) at their antenatal booking – lower than the rate for Scotland of 27.5%. Rates of maternal obesity have been increasing in both Aberdeen and Scotland. Rates of maternal obesity vary by deprivation being highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 (most deprived) at 32.7% and lowest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 5 (least deprived) at 19.8%. Rates varied by Intermediate Zone being from a low of 10.4% in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 42.9% in Cummings Park .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles. Updated February 2025.

Healthy birth weight : In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 82% of babies born in Aberdeen City (full-term singleton births) were a healthy birth weight compared to 80.9% 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 72.5% in Danestone to a high of 91.4% in City Centre East .

Premature births: In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 8.7% of births in Aberdeen City were premature, slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 8.3%. The rate of premature births varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 3.2% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 15.9% in Summerhill .

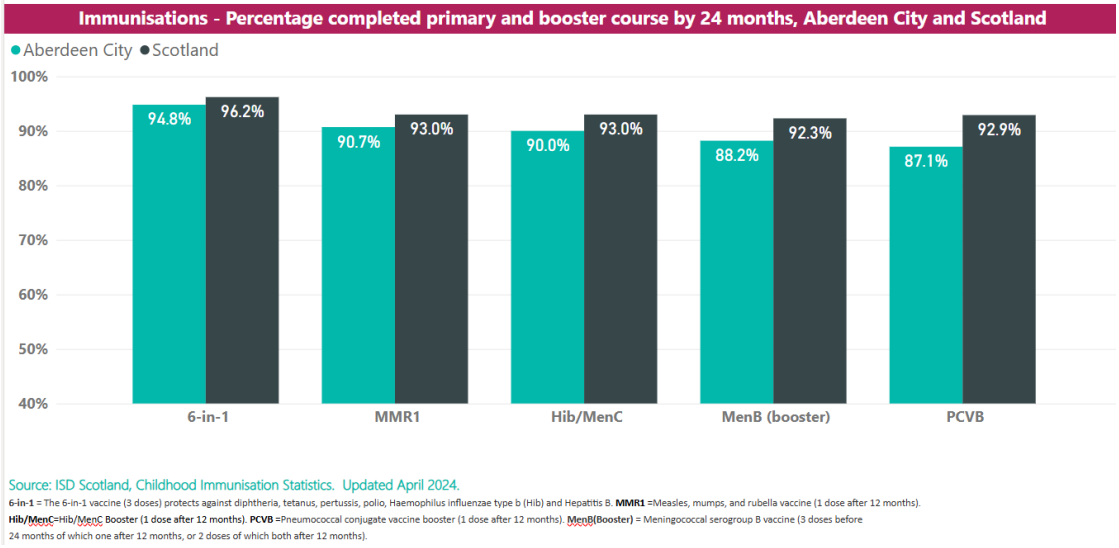
Infant deaths : In 2019-2023 the rate (crude rate per 1,000 live births) of infant deaths (age 0-1 years) in Aberdeen City was 4.2 – higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.5. In Aberdeen City the rate of infant deaths has increased in each of the last 3 data periods (from 2.5 in 2016-2020) .

Breast-feeding : In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 43% 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 32.3%. 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 16.5% in Northfield to a high of 73.6% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East .

Exposure to second-hand smoke : In 2020/21 to 2022/23 (3-year aggregate), 8% of babies were reported as being exposed to second-hand smoke at their 6-8 week review. This is higher than the rate for Scotland of 6.4%. The percentage of babies exposed to second-hand smoke has remained fairly static in Aberdeen in the last few periods while in Scotland the rate has continued to decrease .

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 2023, rates of babies who have completed the primary and booster courses for these immunisations by 24 months were lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland and lower than the 95% target . Uptake of immunisation varies by Intermediate Zone. In 2021-23, percentage uptake of 6-in-1 vaccine at 24 months ranged from 76.4% in City Centre West to 99% in Culter and

uptake of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) ranged from 69% in City Centre East to 98% in Oldmachar West. The equivalent rates for Aberdeen City (i.e. 2021-2023) were 95.1% for 6 in 1 vaccine and 90.1 for Measles, Mumps and Rubella .

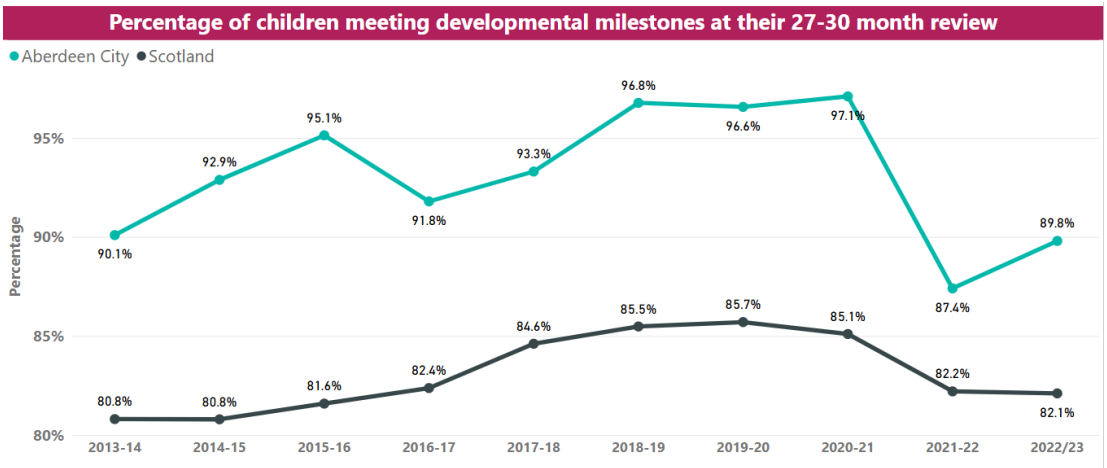


Source: ISD Scotland, Childhood Immunisation Statistics. Updated April 2024.

6-in-1 = The 6-in-1 vaccine (3 doses) protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and Hepatitis B. **MMR1** =Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (1 dose after 12 months). **Hib/MenC**=Hib/MenC Booster (1 dose after 12 months). **PCVB** =Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine booster (1 dose after 12 months). **MenB(Booster)** = Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (3 doses before 24 months of which one after 12 months, or 2 doses of which both after 12 months).

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). In 2022/23, 89.8% of children reviewed had no concerns identified at the review – lower than the figure of 97.1% in 2020-21 but slightly higher than 87.4% in 2021-22 . In 2022/23, 67.4% of children who were eligible for the 27-30 month review received a review - down from 78% in 2021/22.

In 2020/21-2022/23, the percentage of children with one or more developmental concern varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 1% in Braeside, Mannofield & Broomfield East to a high of 18% in George Street .



Source: Improvement Service, Local Government Benchmarking Framework. Updated May 2024.

Note: In 2019/20 there were changes to how the measure is presented (now includes % which had no concerns across all domains + the % with no concerns recorded but some domains incomplete/missing) so data for previous years has been amended.

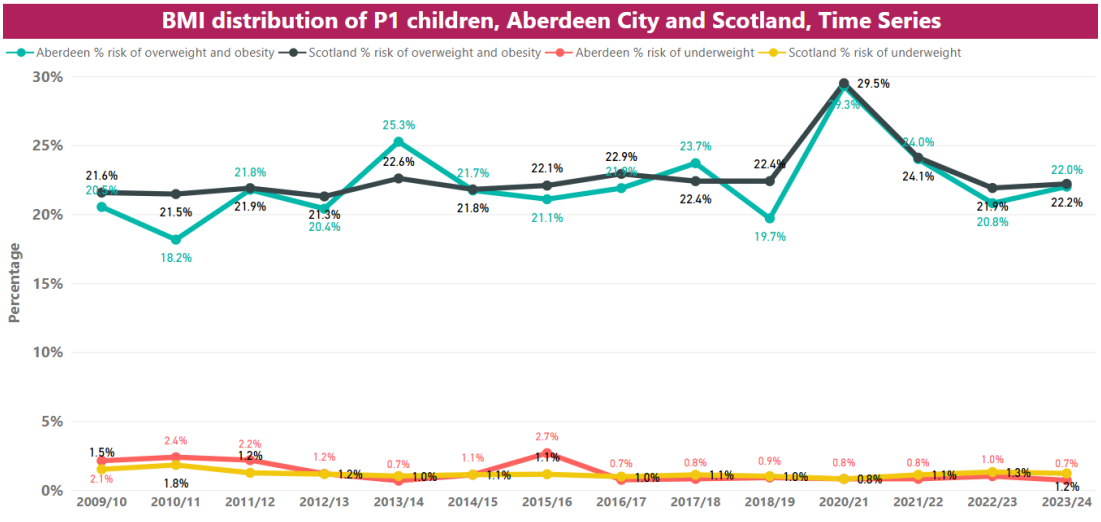
Unintentional injury in children under 5 years: In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 126 emergency hospital admissions for unintentional injury in children under 5 years (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 1,162 per 100,000 population – higher than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 916 but lower than the rate of 1,257 for the previous period .

3.1.2. Child health

Healthy weight/Body Mass Index (BMI) : In 2023/24, valid height and weight measurements were recorded for 1,995 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen City. Of these, 77.3% were classified as 'healthy weight' (Body Mass Index greater than 2nd centile and less than 85th centile) – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland of 76.5% - with 11.7% being classified at risk of overweight (Body Mass Index >85th and <95th centile) and 10.5% being classified at risk of obesity (Body Mass Index >=95th centile) giving a total of 22% being classified at risk of overweight and obesity (Body Mass Index >=85th centile) .

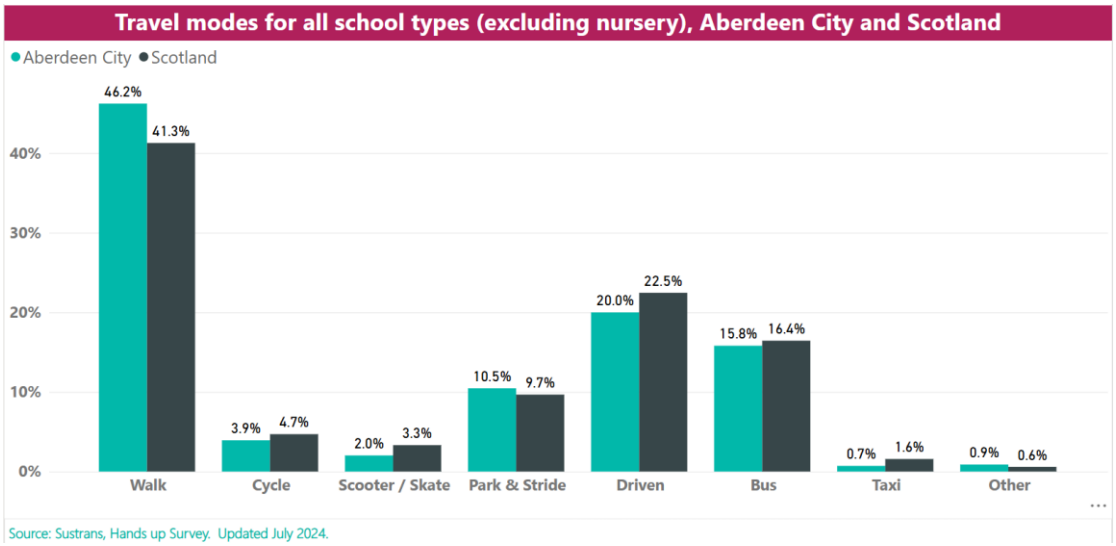
In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the percentage of Primary 1 children classified as being at risk of overweight and obesity (Body Mass Index greater than or equal to 85th centile) spiked in the immediate post-COVID-19 period (from 19.7% in 2018/19 to 29.2% in 2020/21 for Aberdeen City). In 2021/22,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

In 2023/24 the percentage of Primary 1 children classified as 'healthy weight' varied by deprivation in Aberdeen City from 72.9% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1 (most deprived) to 82% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) . Based on 2021/22 data, the percentage of Primary 1 children who were a healthy weight varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from 50% in Seaton to 100% in City Centre East and City Centre West (with the equivalent rate for Aberdeen City of 75.3%) .



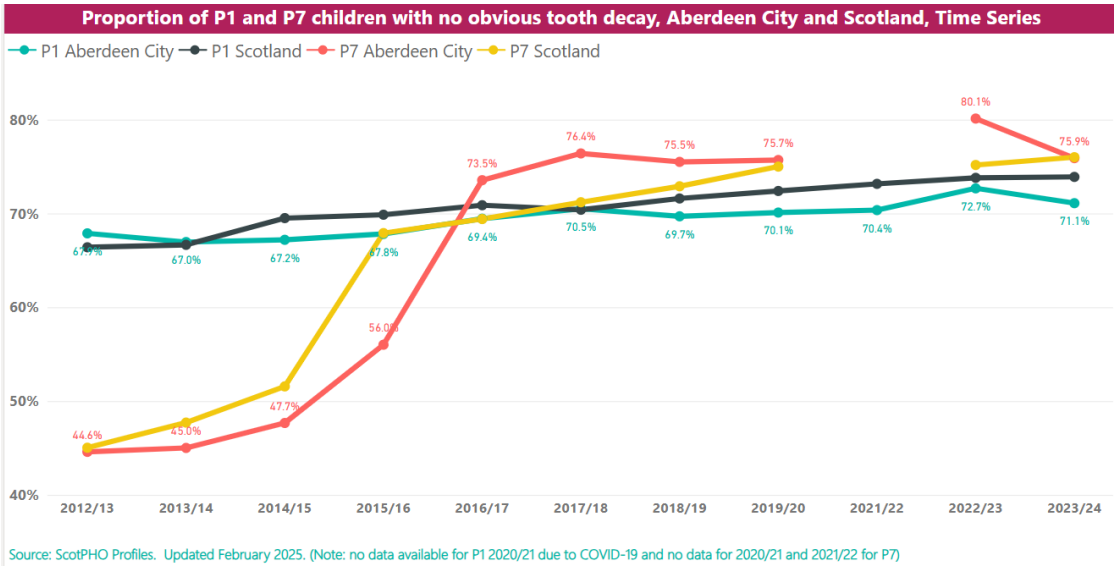
Source: ISD Scotland, Primary 1 Body Mass Index Statistics. Updated February 2025. ((Note data for 2019/20 is not available due to school closures related to COVID-19.)

Active travel to school: In 2023, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (46.2%), followed by being driven (20%) and bus (15.8%). Mode of travel varied by type of school. Walking was the most common mode of travel for both primary (52.5%) and secondary (41.8%) pupils, while nursery children were most commonly driven to school (48.7%) with 36.6% walking. Pupils at SEN schools most commonly travelled by 'other' means (86.2%). The most common modes of travel for pupils at independent schools were bus (34.4%) and Park & Stride (29.4%). While still relatively high, the proportion of children who walk to school has fallen since 2020, from 50.7% to 46.2% .



Dental health: In 2023/24, 71.1% of Primary 1 pupils in Aberdeen had no obvious tooth decay – lower than the average rate for Scotland of 73.9% and lower than the rate for 2022.23 of 72.7%. The rate varied by deprivation, being lowest for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 56.9% and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 80.4%. Across the City (Intermediate Zones), the proportion of P1 pupils with no obvious tooth decay ranged from a low of 39.1% in City Centre West to a high of 89.5% in both Midstocket and Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield North.

In 2023/24 the proportion of P7 children with no obvious tooth decay was 75.9% similar to 76% in Scotland but lower than the rate of 80.1% in 2022/23. Again, there was variation by deprivation (63% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 and 84.4% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5) and variation across the City with proportions ranging from a low of 50% in Dyce to a high of 100% in Hanover North .



Uptake of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in S3 girls : In 2021/22-2023/24, 81.5% (3-year rolling average percentage) of S3 girls had their Human Papillomavirus vaccine – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland (83.1%) and but higher than the rate for 2021/22-2022/23 of 79.2%. Rates of the vaccine uptake varied by deprivation, being lowest at 68% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 89.4%. Across the city (Intermediate zones) rates ranged from a low of 59.6% in Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank to a high of 97.6% in Braeside, Mannofield and Seafield East .

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 43.6 per 1,000 population (crude rate per 1,000 females aged 5-19 years) in 2010-2012 to 19.8 in 2020-2022 – lower than the rate for Scotland of 23.6. The rate of teenage pregnancies varies by deprivation from a high of 40.1 per 1,000 females age 15-19 years in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) to a low of 14 in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) . Data on teenage pregnancies is no longer available by Intermediate Zone, but is given by Health and Social Care localities (HSC). Rates in Aberdeen South and Aberdeen Central are similar (21 and 22 per 1,000 population) and are highest in Aberdeen North at 35 per 1,000 population. 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 1.6 per 1,000 in 2020/22 .

3.1.3. Smoking, alcohol, and drug use

Data on smoking, alcohol and drug use/misuse is available from the Physical Wellbeing Survey . 9,031 learners from P5-S6 completed the Physical wellbeing survey in November 2024, this is a slight decrease from 9,916 in November 2023 but an overall increase of 2,753 (43.9%) since the first survey carried out in March 2022.

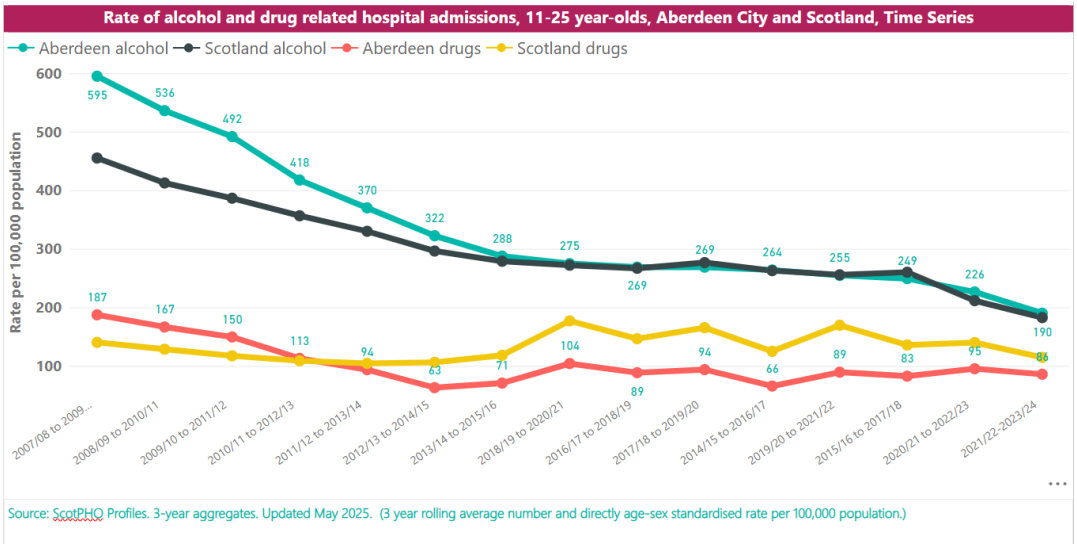
Smoking: In November 2024, of those pupils that answered 'Have you ever tried smoking cigarettes or e-cigarettes' (9,031) 6.2% (566) of learners reported that they have tried smoking (either cigarettes or e-cigarettes) – a slight reduction since the previous survey in November 2023 (7.8%). 1.4% (128) 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. In November 24 88.4% (7,987) of the 9,031 learners who answered the related question stated that they had never had a drink of alcohol . From November 2023 there has been a decrease from 76 to 59 learners who state that they get drunk weekly, with Cider, Spirits and Alcopops highlighted as those most often selected for regular consumption.

Drugs: of the 9,031 pupils that answered the question 'Have you ever taken illegal drugs…' Most (8,843) of learners stated that they had never used drugs, however 2.1% (188) of learners reported that they have taken illegal drugs, drugs formerly known as legal highs, solvents or prescription drugs that were not prescribed for them. 26 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 2021/22-2023/24 the rate (per 100,000 population) of alcohol-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 190.1 compared to 182.6 in Scotland. In the same period, the rate of drug-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 86 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City – lower than the rate of 115 in Scotland.

.

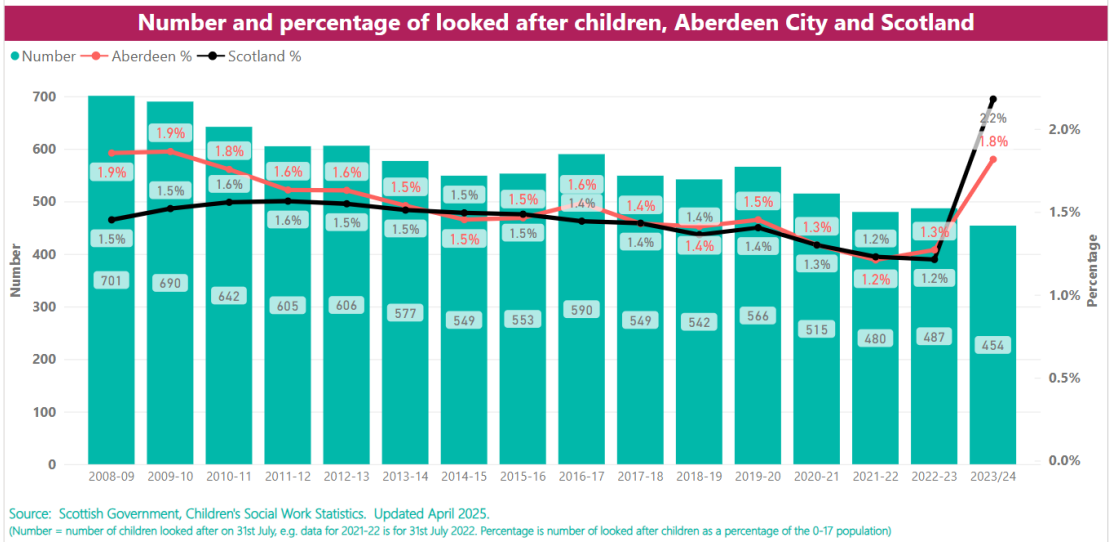


3.2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives

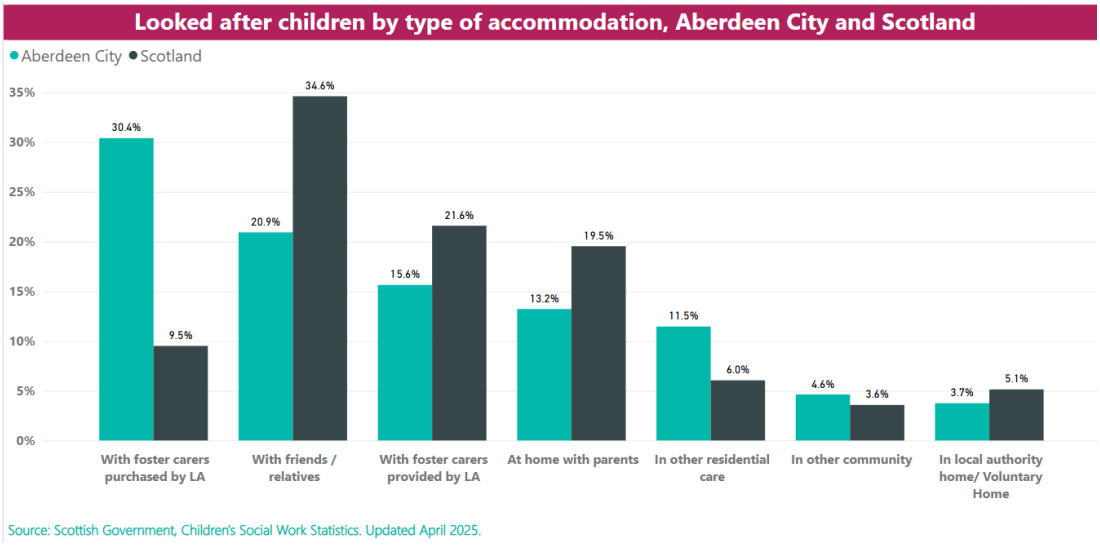
3.2.1. Looked after children

Looked after children (LAC): Between 1/08/2023 and 31/07/2024, there were 143 children starting to be looked after and 176 ceasing to be looked after. On 31st July 2024 there were 454 looked after children in Aberdeen City (down from the revised figure of 487 in 2023) – equivalent to 1.8% of the 0-17 years population compared to 2.2% for Scotland. Most (60.1%) looked after children in Aberdeen City are boys, and 18.7% are under 5 years old. 4.8% of looked after children are known to be from an ethnic minority group and 18.3% are known to have a disability. 16.3% of LAC are 16 years year or over .

In 2024, 5 children were admitted to secure care during the year (up from 1 in 2023 and 2 in 2022) .



Accommodation: At 31st July 2024, foster care was the most common setting for looked after children in Aberdeen City (46%). At 34.1%, the proportion of looked after children in kinship care (at home with parents or with friends/relatives) was lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (54.1%) . In 2022-23, 18.4% of looked after children had more than 1 placement in the past year – higher than the rate for Scotland of 17.2% .

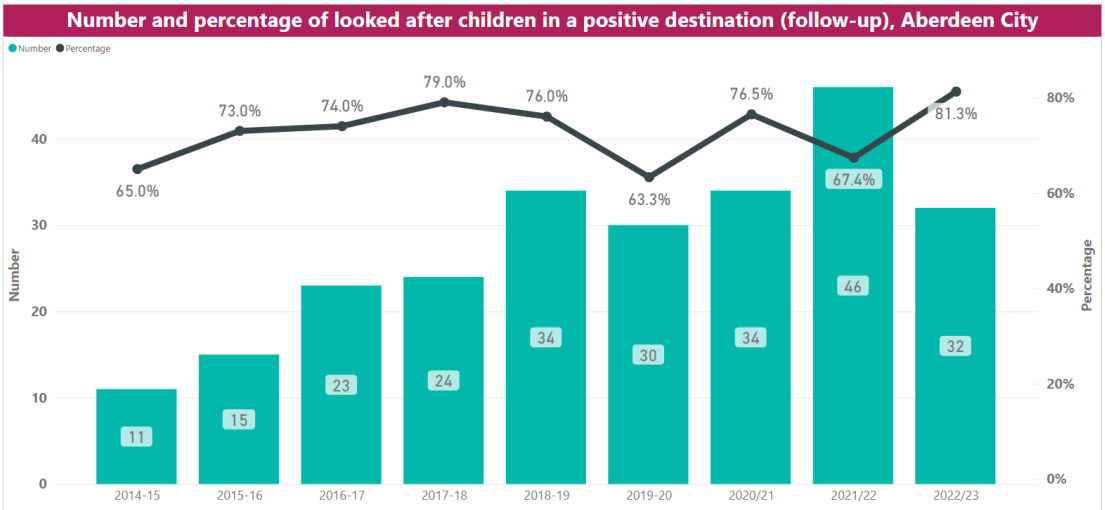


Source: Scottish Government, Children's Social Work Statistics. Updated April 2025.

Looked After Children educational outcomes: In 2022/23, 68.8% of looked after children in Aberdeen City left school with 1 or more qualification at Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) level 4 – lower than the rate for Scotland of 75.7% and lower than the rate of 76.1% in 2021/22 . The equivalent rate for all pupils (at publicly funded schools) was 87% in 2022/23 and 86% in 2023/24 .

Attendance and exclusion data is only available every 2 years. In 2022/23 the attendance rates for looked after children in Aberdeen City was 88.4% compared to 84.4% for Scotland. The exclusion rate (per 1,000 pupils who were looked after) was 164 in Aberdeen City compared to 96.9 in Scotland .

Looked After Children positive destinations: In 2022/23, 81.3% 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 71.1% in Scotland and higher than the rate for 2021/22 of 67.4%. This is lower than the rate for all children of 90.1% (2022/23) .



Source: Scottish Government, Education Outcomes for Looked After Children. Updated August 2024.

Bright Spots: 'Bright Spots' is a research and service improvement project set up by Corum Voice to understand what is important to children in care and care leavers to share leaning about what makes life good for them by measuring subjective wellbeing. Two cohorts were surveyed. The 'Your Life Your Care' survey was presented to 345 children/young people aged 4 – 17 years, and 'Your Life Beyond Care' to 227 young people aged 16 – 26 years. A small selection of the initial findings and areas for improvement is given below.

Your Life Your Care

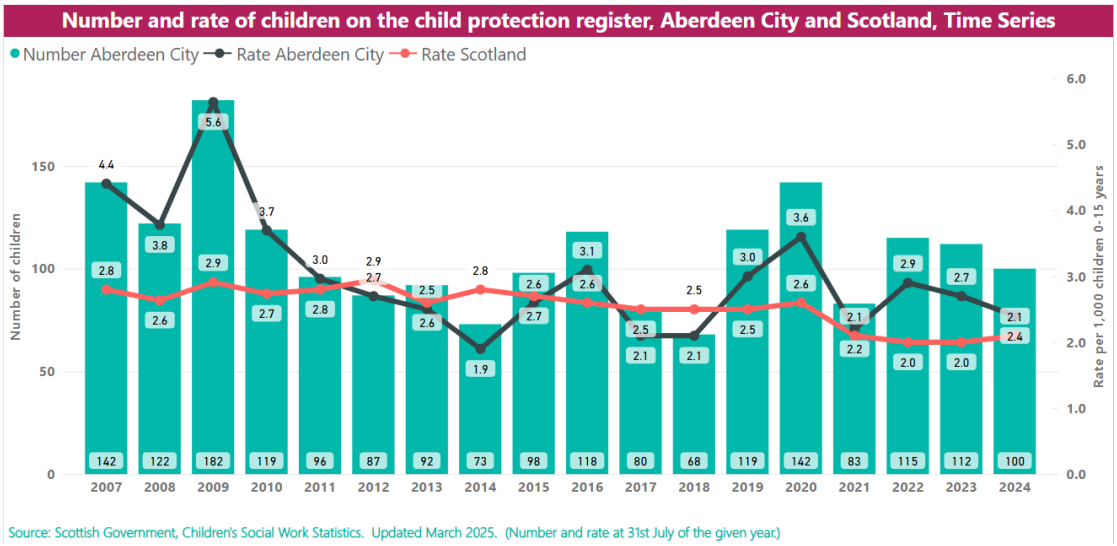
- More than half of children and young people (11- 17yrs) in Aberdeen had the same social worker over the last year.
- Six out of seven (86%) children and young people in care (8-17yrs) felt their lives were getting better.
- Fewer children and young people in Aberdeen had received an explanation about why they were in care compared to the comparator group.
- The percentage of Care Experienced Young People (11-17yrs) reporting they had with a really good friend was lower than the general population (91% to 97%).

Your Life Beyond Care

- More than nine in ten of care leavers (92%) who answered felt that they had a person who they trusted, who helped them and stuck by them no matter what.
- Two-thirds (66%) of comments about Youth Team Workers or Social Workers were very positive.
- One in five (22%) care leavers felt lonely 'often/always', over twice the rate for young people in the general population.
- One in three (30%) care leavers did not 'always' feel safe in their home and 36% did not 'always' feel safe in their neighbourhood. 41% did not 'always' feel settled in their home.

Child protection: At 31st July 2024, there were 100 children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) in Aberdeen City – down from 112 in 2023. The rate of children on the Child Protection Register (per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years) was 2.4 compared to 2.1 in Scotland . The most common concerns identified at case conferences of children who were on the child protection register at 31st July 2024 were neglect (49), parental substance use (35) emotional abuse (30) and parent ill health (29). (*Note: Child protection concern categories as defined in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - updated 2023, which includes a more detailed list of concern categories compared to those included in previous versions of these statistics. Multiple concerns can be recorded rather than just the main category of concern. Parental substance use refers to cases where both parental drug use and parental alcohol use have been identified as a concern.)*

In 2022/23, 4.1% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months – lower than the rate in 2021/22 of 18.2%. In Scotland 5.6% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months .



3.2.2. Mental health and wellbeing

Information on mental health and wellbeing is informed by the SHINE Mental Health Surveys which have been conducted each year since 2022 with the most recent survey undertaken in Autumn 2024 . Overall, across P6 to S6, 65% of pupils in these year groups in the local authority took part in the SHINE survey. Among, P6 and P7, 80% of pupils took part in the survey and 59% of secondary school pupils took part in the survey.

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 (FAS) – low/medium/high) and gender (boy/girl/did not disclose) impacts wellbeing in the 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. Below is a brief overview of some of the measures.

Primary 6 & 7

In Autumn 2024, 3,471 pupils from P6 and P7 completed this survey with 75 pupils not providing details of their gender and 4 pupils not identifying their year group. Incomplete responses meant that the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) score was not able to be calculated for 606 (17.5%) of primary pupils.

General health and wellbeing: Overall, 85% of P6 & P7 pupils reported that their health was 'excellent or good'. The percentage varied by Family Affluence (from 80% with low family affluence to 93% for those with high family affluence) and gender (71% for those who did not disclose their gender, 86% for boys and 85% for girls).

Overall, 61% of the primary pupils reported 'always or often feeling confident'. The proportion of pupils reporting always or often feeling confident was highest in the high family affluence group (69% compared to 63% medium affluence and 51% low family affluence). Boys were more likely than girls to report always or often feeling confident

(68% compared to 54%). Only 38% of those who did not disclose their gender reported always or often feeling confident.

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. Low levels of happiness was most commonly reported for 'Appearance' (13%) and 'School' (10%).

With the exception of 'school' where there was no significant difference between groups, pupils in the lowest family affluence group were more likely to report low levels of happiness across all life domains than their more affluent peers. For example, 20% of those in the low affluence group reported low happiness with their appearance compared to 8% in the high affluence group and 9% in the low affluence group reported low levels of happiness with life as a whole compared to 4% in the high affluence group. Similarly, when looked at by gender, a higher proportion of those who did not disclose their gender than either boys or girls reported low happiness for all domains (with the exception of 'things you have' which was similar across all gender groups). In particular, 39% of those who did not disclose their gender had low levels of happiness with 'appearance', 25% had low levels of happiness with 'health' and 24% had low levels of happiness with school. There were also differences between boys and girls. For example, girls were more likely than boys to have low levels of happiness with 'appearance' (16% compared to 10%) and friendships (7% compared to 4%).

World Health Organisation (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, 22% of those in P6 & 7 showed evidence of low mood and 6% were at risk of depression. Again this differed by family affluence with 28% of pupils from the low affluence group reporting low mood compared with 20% in the medium affluence group and 16% of those in the most affluent group. Additionally, the percentage at risk of depression was highest in the least affluent group (10%) compared to the most affluent group (4%). These also varied by gender with girls being more likely to report low mood than boys (24% compared to 20%) and risk of depression (7% compared to 6%). Both low mood and at risk of depression were highest for those who did not disclose their gender (45% for low mood and 17% for at risk of depression).

Secondary 1-6

In Autumn 2024, 6,453 learners from S1-S6 completed the secondary survey with 173 learners choosing not to provide details of their gender. Incomplete responses meant that the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) score was not able to be calculated for 1,131 (17.5%) of secondary school pupils due to incomplete responses to the Family Affluence Scale questions.

General health and wellbeing: 81% of learners in S1-6 reported that their general health was 'excellent or good'. Reporting good or excellent health was also associated with family affluence with 88% of secondary pupils in the high family affluence group rating their health as good or excellent compared with 82% in the medium family affluence

group and 71% of those in the low family affluence group. There were also differences by gender with only 56% of those who did not disclose reporting excellent or good health (compared to 78% of girls and 84% of boys).

Overall, 45% of pupils in S1-S6 reported 'always or often feeling confident'. This varied by family affluence ranging from 37% in the low family affluence group to 53% in the high family affluence group. A higher proportion of boys (68%) than girls (54%) reported always or often feeling confident. Only 38% of those who did not disclose their gender reported always or often feeling confident.

17% of secondary pupils reported 'feeling lonely all or most of the time'. Those in the low family affluence group were more likely to report feeling lonely (22% compared to 16% medium affluence and 11% high affluence). Those who did not disclose their gender (40%) were more likely to report feeling lonely than either girls (20%) or boys (13%). This group was also more likely to 'self-harm' (40% compared to 17% of girls and 13% of boys). Those is the low family affluence group (19%) were also more likely to self-harm than either the medium affluence group (15%) or the high affluence group (11%).

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). Secondary school learners were positive about many aspects of their lives. Low levels of happiness were most commonly reported for 'Appearance' (19%), 'School' (16%) and 'Future' (10%).

In all domains, those in the low affluence group were more likely to report low happiness than those in both the medium and high affluence groups. Similarly, those who did not disclose their gender were more likely than either boys or girls to report low happiness across all domains. This was highest for 'appearance' (47% in the gender not disclosed group reported low happiness with appearance). There were also differences between boys and girls with girls being more likely than boys to report low levels of happiness across all almost all domains (with the exception of 'things you have'). Again, this was highest for 'appearance' (25% of girls reporting low happiness compared with 13% of boys).

World Health Organisation (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. Overall, 32% of S1-6 learners self-rated below the 50-score threshold indicating low mood and 11% below 28 indicating risk of depression. Those in the low family affluence group were more likely than those in the higher affluence groups to report both low mood and risk of depression. Those who did not disclose their gender were more likely to report both low mood and risk of depression than either boys or girls, and girls were more likely than boys to report both.

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 (88.5%), at home (96.7%) and in school (82.2%), 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. 71.7% positively shared that they always did. 3.7% (336) 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 National Health Service (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 September, there were 3,823 referrals received in Grampian Health Board, of which 3,046 (79.7%) were accepted. At the end of September 2024, there were 480 patients waiting to be seen. Of these 446 (92.9%) had been waiting less than 18 weeks (target period) .

Deaths from suicide 11-25 years: In 2018-2022 the rate (crude rate per 100,000 population) of deaths from suicide in people aged 11-25 years was 8.2 in Aberdeen City – lower than the rate for Scotland of 10.9 but higher than the rates of 7.2 in 2017-2021 and 6.2 in 2016-2020 .

3.2.3. School and Educational Outcomes

Early Learning and childcare: In 2024 there were 94 early learning and childcare centres in Aberdeen City (not including childminders) of which 51 were local authority centres and 43 were partnership centres. A total of 3,657 children were registered at the centres. There were 158 2 year-olds registered (40% of eligible 2 year-olds and 7% of all 2 year-olds), and 3,095 3 & 4 year-olds registered (97% of eligible 3 and 4 year-olds). There were also 404 deferred entries (children who are eligible to attend primary school but have deferred entry to remain in funded early learning and childcare) which is equivalent to 38% of those eligible to defer .

School and pupil numbers: In 2024 there were 14,968 primary school pupils and 11,209 secondary school pupils in Aberdeen City. There were also 128 pupils enrolled in Special Schools. The total number of pupils was 26,305. In 2024 there were 110 primary school pupils and 688 secondary school pupils with a known local authority of residence who attended school out with their local authority of residence .

Additional support needs/disability: In 2024, 36.6% (5,473) of primary pupils and 48.1% (5,386) of secondary pupils had additional support needs (up from 35.1% and 46% respectively in 2023). The most common reason for support for both primary and secondary pupils was English as an additional language with this reason being given for 45% of primary pupils with additional support needs and 33.9% of secondary pupils with additional support needs. (In 2024, 23.6% (6,198) of all pupils did not have English as their main home language. The five main home languages (other than English) are Polish, Arabic, Russian, Urdu and Ukrainian.) The next most common reason for additional support needs in both primary and secondary pupils was 'social, emotional and

behavioural difficulty' at 23.3% for primary pupils with additional support needs and 22.6% for secondary pupils with additional support needs. In 2024, 588 primary pupils and 488 secondary pupils had autistic spectrum disorder .

In 2023, 507 school pupils were assessed (400) and/or declared (80) as having a disability. This is equivalent to a rate of 18.2 per 1,000 pupils which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 37.1 per 1,000 pupils .

Free school meals (FSM): In 2024, 76.7% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were registered for Free School Meals in mainstream local authority schools – down slightly from 77.1% in 2023. (Note: from the beginning of the 2022/23 school year all pupils up to and including P5 were eligible for Free School Meals under the universal provision. In 2024, 19.2% of P6 and 17.1% of P7 pupils were registered for Free School Meals.) At secondary school level, 15.5% of pupils were registered for Free School Meals – down from 18.2% in 2023 and 16.6% in 2022. Since 2022, all pupils at special schools are eligible for Free School Meals .

Information on the uptake of Free School Meals is available from the Healthy Living Survey. On survey day in February 2024, a total of 8,150 primary school pupils had a free school meal (7,632 in P1-5 and 518 in P6-7), equivalent to 74.5% of all those registered and present on survey day (up from 72.3% in 2023). In secondary schools, a total of 676 free school meals were taken (49.7% of those registered and present on survey day – down from 56.5% in 2023).

Attendance: Percentage attendance is calculated in relation to the total number of possible attendances (half-days). In 2023/224, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 92.9% and for secondary schools the rate was 89.7%. Overall attendance rate for the city was 91.6% compared to 90.3% for Scotland. The attendance rate varied by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and was lowest for those in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 87.6% and highest in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 93.8%. Percentage attendance was also lower for pupils who were registered[4] for Free School Meals at 83.5% compared to 92.1% for those not registered .

Persistent absence: Information is also available on the percentage of persistent absence (10% or more sessions missed). In 2024, the rate of persistent absence was 27.5% for Aberdeen City compared to 31.4% for Scotland. Rates of persistent absence were higher for secondary schools (33.6%) than for primary schools (23.3%) or special schools (29.9%). While the overall rate is lower than 2022/23 (29.2%), it is higher than the preceding years (18.9% in 2020/21 and 20.6% in 2018/19) .

Exclusions: In 2022/23 there were 646 cases of exclusion in Aberdeen City (73 in Primary Schools and 573 in Secondary schools) – up from 408 in 2020/21. This is equivalent to a rate of 25.7 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. The rate of exclusions was higher in secondary schools (54.9) than in primary schools (5.0). The total number of pupils excluded was 408 (up from 294 in 2020/21) of which 48 were in Primary schools and 360 were in Secondary schools).

[4] Excludes pupils in the cohorts receiving universal provision of free school meals: P1-P5 and Special School pupils.

The number of pupils excluded varied by deprivation (based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles) being highest in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 33.4 per 1,000 pupils and lowest in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 7.4 per 1,000 pupils. There were also differences in the number of pupils excluded depending on whether or not they were registered for Free School Meals. The rate for those who were registered for Free School Meals was 51.7 per 1,000 pupils compared to a rate of 20.3 per 1,000 pupils for those not registered .

Eco-Schools: 107 Aberdeen schools (including nurseries and private schools) are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and 18 have achieved green flag status. A further five establishments have submitted a draft action plan to Keep Scotland Beautiful during 2024 meaning they are working towards their green flag award .

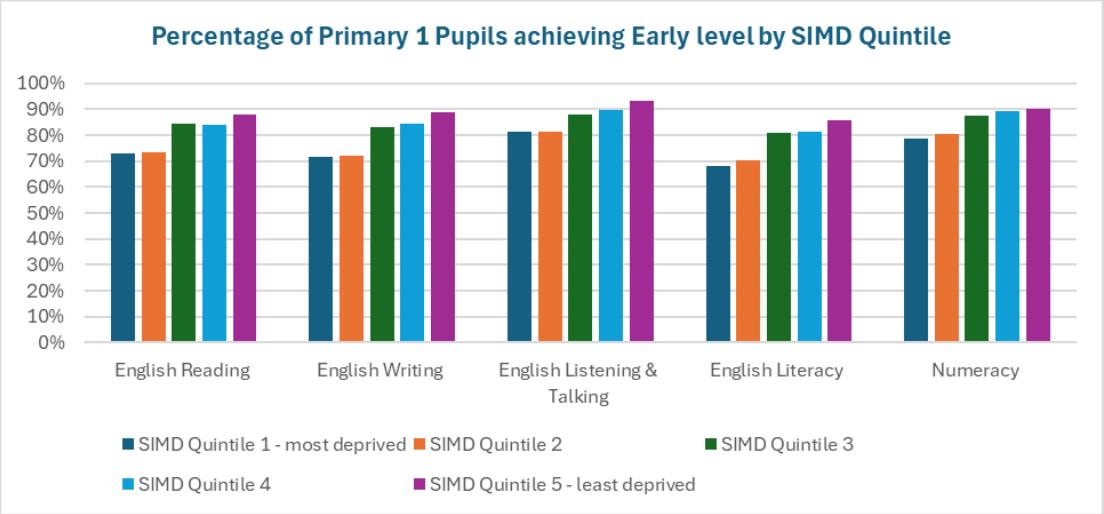
Attainment

Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels (ACEL): 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. Achievement levels for 2023/24 for primary children are given in the table below. To allow easy (and crude) comparison with rates for Scotland, where Aberdeen is higher than Scotland the figure is shaded green and where it is lower it is shaded red .

Percentage of pupils achieving expected levels 2023/24				
		P1	P4	P7
		Early Level	First Level	Second Level
Reading	Aberdeen City	81%	76%	81%
	Scotland	81%	79%	81%
Writing	Aberdeen City	81%	71%	77%
	Scotland	79%	74%	76%
Listening and talking	Aberdeen City	87%	87%	85%
	Scotland	87%	87%	91%
Literacy	Aberdeen City	78%	67%	75%
	Scotland	77%	71%	74%
Numeracy	Aberdeen City	86%	74%	77%
	Scotland	85%	78%	78%

Source: Scottish Government, Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels 2023-24

Achievement of expected levels varies by deprivation. In Aberdeen City in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%. As an example, the chart below shows the percentage of Primary 1 pupils achieving Early level in each of the five areas .



Source: Scottish Government: Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels, 2023-24

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Literacy and Numeracy: In 2023/24, 84% of school leavers achieved literacy and numeracy at level 4 or better (compared to 87% in 2022/23) and 65% achieved literacy and numeracy at level 5 or better (compared to 62% in 2022/23) . In 2023/24, 66% of pupils gained 5+ awards at level 5 – up from 63% in 2022/23 .

Vocational and technical qualifications: Information is also available on the number of secondary and special school leavers attaining vocational and technical ('skills-based') qualifications and awards at Scottish Credit and Qualifications (SCQF) levels. In 2023-24, 41% of leavers achieved 1+ qualification at level 4 or better and 37% achieved 1+ qualification at level 5 or better. This is slightly higher than the respective rates for Scotland of 40.6% and 35% respectively and higher than the rates for 2022-23 of 34% and 31% respectively .

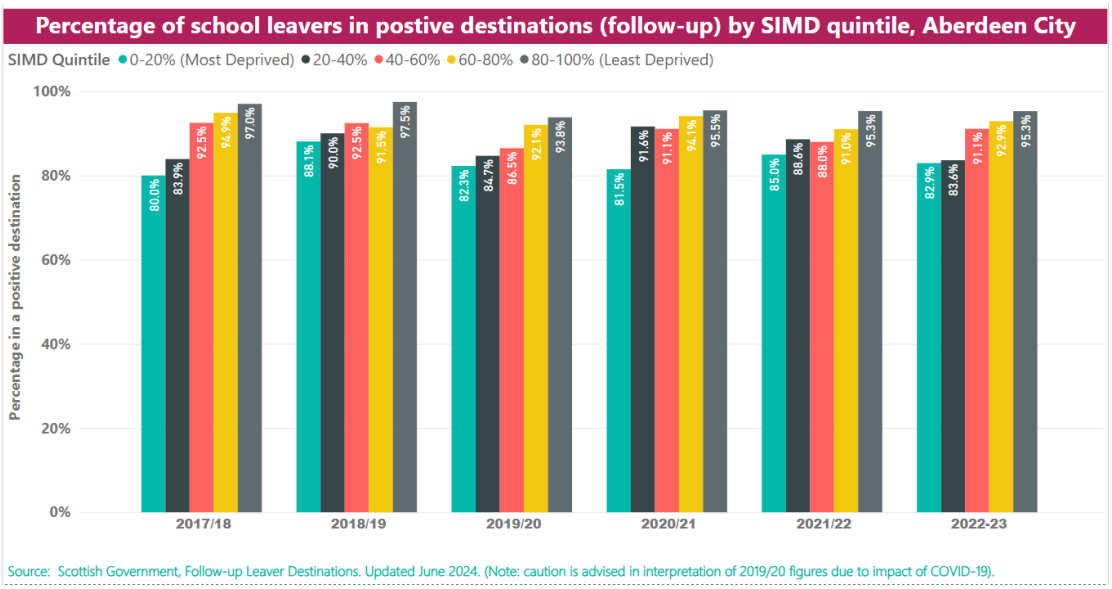
Overall average total tariff : In 2023-24 the overall average total tariff for Aberdeen City was 893 which is slightly higher than the score for 2022-23 of 882 but lower than the score for Scotland of 918 and family group average of 1,058. The average total tariff varied by deprivation, being lowest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 481 and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 1,198 .

Positive initial destinations: In 2023/24, 93.6% of school leavers had an positive initial destination, the same as the rate for 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 95.7%. The equivalent rate for school leavers with additional support needs was lower at 89.4%, down slightly from 91.6% in 2022/23 .

Follow-up destinations for school leavers are for outcomes approximately 9 months after the end of the school year. In 2022/23, 90.1% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, down slightly from 90.8% in 2021/22 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 92.8%. The most common destinations were higher education (40.8% of school leavers), further education (24.2%) and employment (23%) .

The percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination varied by deprivation (based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) with 82.9% of school leavers in the most

deprived quintile having a positive destination compared to 95.3% of those in the least deprived quintile .



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 2024, 90.1% of 16-19 year olds were participating in education, employment or training – similar to 90.2% in 2022/23 .

Participation of Disabled Young People: In 2024, 86.8% of those identified as disabled were participating in education, employment or training – down from 89.4% in 2023. The participation rate for those identified as disabled is lower than participation among non-disabled young people who in 2024 had 90.3% participation rates .

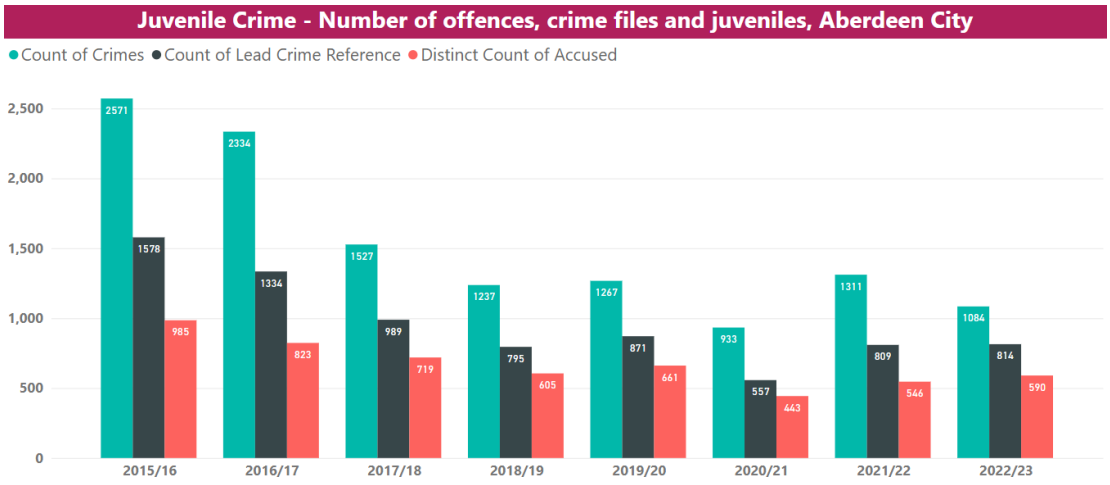
Participation levels in the 20% Most Deprived Communities: In 2024, participation rates were lower for those in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) than for those in the 20% least deprived areas (95.9%) .

Foundation apprenticeships (FAs): The most recent data was published in March 2023. At that date, six cohorts of pupils had participated in FAs (SCQF L6). In 2021/23 there were 117 enrolments for Cohort 6 and there were 15 FAs in training, down from 112 in the previous period .

3.2.4. Juvenile crime

Juvenile crime: In 2022/23, 590 young people (under 18 years) were identified as an accused – up from 546 in 2021/22. In the same period, the total number of Crimes decreased from 1,311 to 1,084 and the number of Lead Crime Reports increased from 809 to 814. Individuals aged 17 years have committed most offences each year for the last four years. Prior to this, in 2018/19, more offences were committed by 15 year olds

and 16 year olds. Most (71.5%) individuals identified as accused were male. In 2022/23 the most common crime group was Miscellaneous Offences, followed by Dishonesty .



Source: Police Scotland, Comparative Report on Juvenile Offenders, Aberdeen City Local Authority Area. Updated October 2024. Note: Data for previous years was revised in the 2022/23 report and may be different to that previously published.

Anti-social behaviour: In 2024, a total of 3,303 Youth Anti-social Behaviour calls were reported to the Police – down from 3,470 in 2023 .

Referred to Children's Reporter on offence grounds: in 2023/24 there were 253 young people referred to the Children's Reporter, with 121 being referred on offence grounds – up from 112 in 2022/23. In 2023/24, 85 young people were jointly reported to the Children's Reporter and the Procurator Fiscal, up from 69 in 2022/23 .

Diversion from prosecution: In 2023/24, 52 16-17 year-olds were diverted from prosecution – up from 47 in 2022/23 .

Justice Social Work Reports for 16-17 year olds: In 2023/24 there were 12 Justice Social Work reports submitted for 16-17 year olds in Aberdeen City, down from 13 in 2022/23 .

Emerging priorities

Giving children the best start in life is a "given" priority for ongoing action. However, based on these data, the levels of variation, often associated with deprivation across the city, requires closer consideration:

- Ensuring maternal health is an important first step in promoting infant health, across the city there is evidence for clear variation in maternal and infant health associated with deprivation in relation to smoking in pregnancy, maternal obesity, and breastfeeding. Ensuring that current and new work in each of these areas will be effective in reducing these local inequalities remains a priority.
- The increasing rate of infant deaths in Aberdeen City requires further consideration. The most recent rate of 4.2/1000 livebirths in 2019-2023 is higher than the Scottish rate

(3.5/1000 livebirths), and is an increase over the rate of 2.5/1000 livebirth reported for 2016-2020.

- Ensuring we reach childhood immunisation targets and we deliver developmental checks remain important. For example, the proportion of children with one or more developmental concern varies from 1% to 18%.
- The data suggest that childhood obesity across the city is returning to pre-COVID levels. However, across the city there is clear variation in the proportion of children described as having a "healthy weight" associated with deprivation that must be addressed. Such variation is also seen in relation to the oral health of the city's children.
- Across the city, the data suggest that levels of smoking, alcohol use, and drug use in school children are low. This needs to be maintained.
- Levels of mental health and wellbeing in children remains an area that requires a continued focus with 1 in 5 P6 & P7 and 1 in 3 S1-6 children being assessed as experiencing low mood. Also of concern is the increase in the suicide rate amongst young people aged 11 to 15 years which has increase from 6.2/100,000 population in 2016-20 to 8.2/100,000 for 2018-2022.
- Data on educational achievement against expected levels shows variation by deprivation. In Aberdeen City, in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%.

4. Economic Stability

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 well-being. Simply put, people who experience economic inequalities have poorer health and well-being. People who are economically secure have better health and wellbeing.

4.1. Create fair employment and good work for all

4.1.1. 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 2024, Scotland's economy is estimated to have grown by 1.1% compared to 2023, with the UK GDP growing by 0.9% over the same period. 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. Aberdeen, was particularly negatively impacted, with average earnings in 2024 only growing by 3% in real terms, slower than the rates in Scotland (4.3%) and the UK (3.6%). However, despite these challenges, average earnings in Aberdeen still outpace the Scottish and UK averages. Looking ahead, Skills Development Scotland forecasts that Aberdeen's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 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%.

Gross Value Added (GVA): In 2022 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a Gross Value Added per head of £36,748 (constant prices) showing an increase from 2021 (£32,826) and the 2020 low of £31,405. Gross Value Added per head in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire peaked in 2014 at £37,711.

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 Gross Value Added per head in the North East was more than 30% higher than the Scottish and UK average. In 2022 Gross Value Added per head in the North East was 17% higher than Scottish average and 10% 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 2024 there were 3,710 growth sector enterprises in Aberdeen City with 45.9% being financial and business services. Since 2019 the number of growth sector enterprises has decreased by 1,150 (23.7%). In 2023, total employment in growth sector enterprises was 55,170 – the same as in 2022 and up from 53,630 in 2021. This is lower than the 2019 figure of 60,890 .

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 22,000 in 2022. 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 190,000 international visitors in 2023, with over 1,300,000 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 . Additionally a report from Global Tourism Solutions shows the region attracted more than three million staying visitors in 2023, up 32.7% on 2022. In 2025, Aberdeen is expecting a surge in cruise tourism, with around 40,000 guests visiting the city between April and September due to an increase in cruise calls, with the Port of Aberdeen hosting 63 cruise calls during the season, a nearly 30% increase compared to previous years.

Air passengers: In 2024 there were 2.3 million terminal passengers through Aberdeen Airport. This is up from 2.23 million in 2023 and 1.96 million in 2022, but lower than the 2.91 million passengers in 2019 .

Rail passengers: In 2023-24 there were 2,287,858 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), but higher than 2022-23 figure of 1,961,414.

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.

4.1.2. Businesses

Business Outlook: The North East of Scotland stands as a thriving hub for business activity, boasting over 20% of Scotland's leading businesses. The North East of Scotland has over 21,500 businesses in 2023, although this number has been decreasing in recent year from a high of over 24,500 in 2015, but the region still has large companies including FirstGroup, Abrdn, Karro Food, Balmoral Group, Chivas Brothers, Enquest, and Wood, that 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. Emphasising 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. However, the latest Fraser of Allander Scottish Business Monitor report (Q4 2024) reveals that business sentiment has dropped to its lowest level out with the pandemic, reflecting the uncertainty across the UK at the moment.

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%. The next revaluation date is April 2026, with the rates being set based on market conditions in April 1st 2025.

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 2024 there were 7,860 enterprises and 10,455 local units in Aberdeen City [5]. This is up from 7,705 enterprises and 10,300 local units in 2023. In 2024, most enerprises (85.1%) were classified as Micro (employing up to 9 people), 11.3% were small (10 to 49 people), 2.% were medium (50 to 249 people) and 0.7% were large (employing over 250 people) .

Business births and deaths: In 2023 there were 875 new businesses in Aberdeen City – down slightly increase from 895 in 2022. Between 2015 and 2019, the number of business births each year was broadly stable (between 1065 and 1100) before dropping in 2020 to 830 and staying between 860 and 895 in the three years since. In 2023 there were 920 business deaths – lower than 1,200 in 2022. One-year survival rates of 2022 business

[5] 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.

births was 89.4% in Aberdeen compared to 92.5% in Scotland. Five-year survival rates of 2018 business births was 39.7% in Aberdeen compared to 39.8% in Scotland .

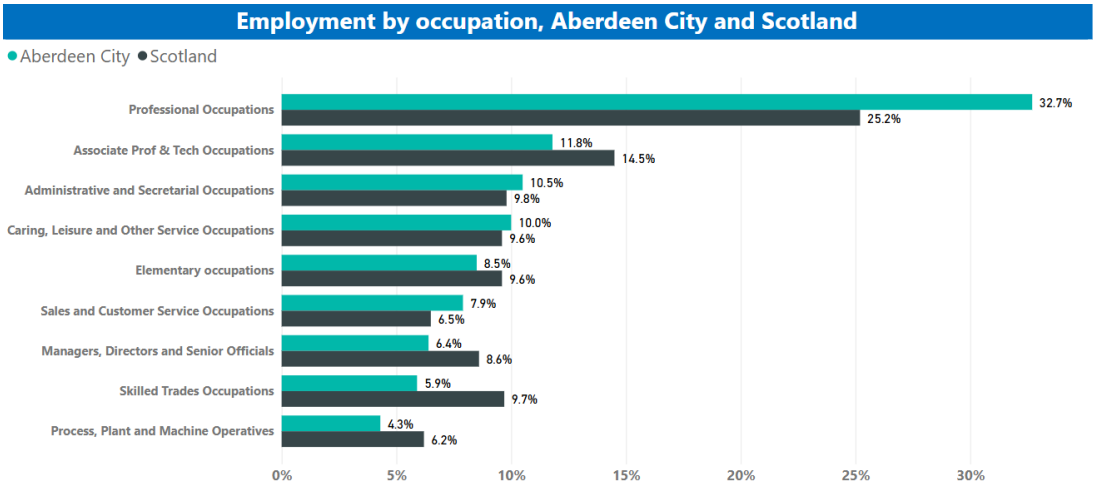
Business Gateway start-ups: In 2023-24 there were 389 Business Gateway Start-ups – down from 411 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 17.1 per 10,000 population – higher than the rate for Scotland of 13.6 per 10,000 population .

4.1.3. 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%. Both have since recovered, with employment hitting 77.4% in 2024 and economic inactivity reaching 18.8% both of which outperform against the Scottish and UK averages. 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, 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.

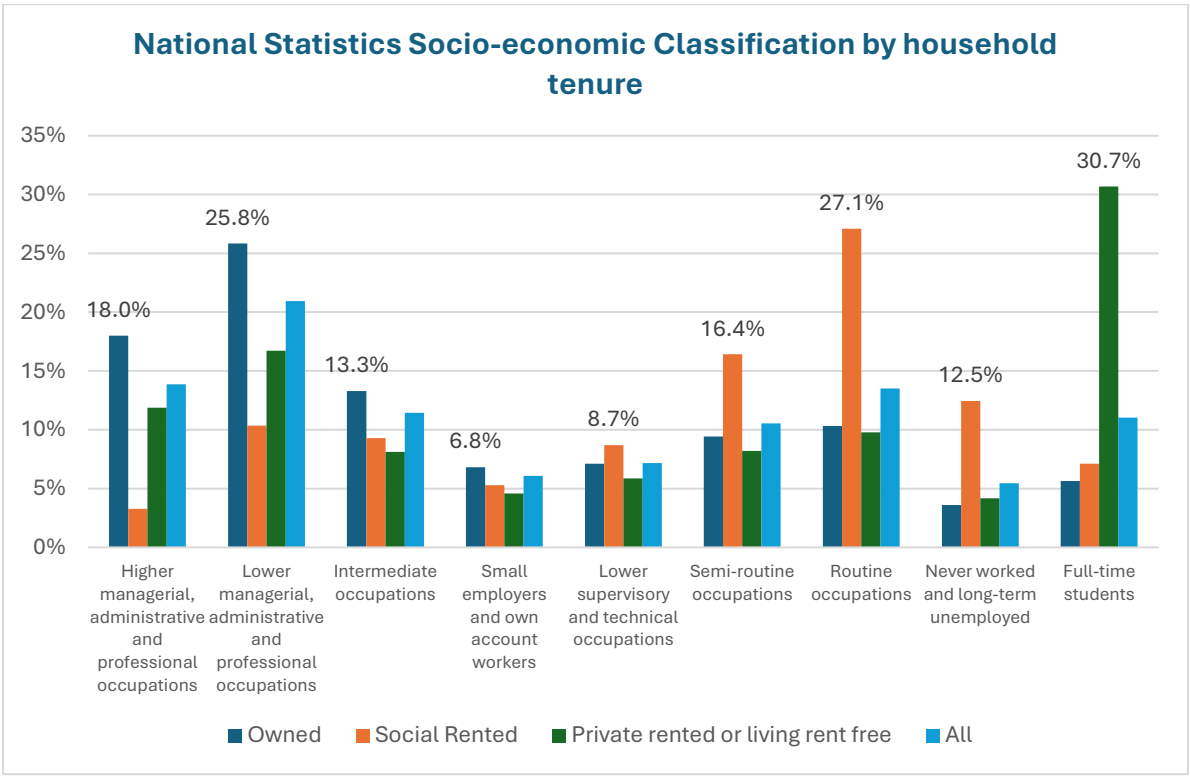
Employment and employment sectors: In 2023, there were an estimated 159,000 jobs in Aberdeen City (up from 158,000 in 2022) of which 109,000 (68.6%) were full time and 50,000 (31.4%) were part-time. The most common sectors/industries were Human Health and Social Work Activities (17.6 % of jobs), Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (12.6%), Mining and Quarrying (12.6%) and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (10.7%) .

Employment by occupation: In the year January 2024-December 2024, almost a third (32.7%) of those in employment in Aberdeen City were in Professional Occupations compared to 25.2% in Scotland. Associate Professional and Technical Occupations was the next largest group in Aberdeen at 11.8% compared to 14.5% in Scotland. The proportion of those in Elementary Occupations was 8.5% compared to 9.6% in Scotland. .



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated April 2025. (Percentage is a proportion of all persons in employment. Note: 0% indicates sample too small for a reliable estimate.)

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC): The NS-SeC is an occupational classification system that provides an indication of socio-economic position based on occupation. Based on Census data, the most common National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (10 groups) for people (16+ years) in Aberdeen City was Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations (20.9% of people aged 16+ years). The proportion of people (16+ years) in each of the classifications varied by household tenure. The chart below shows the proportion of people from each household tenure type in each of the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification groups (percentage figures are given for the highest percentage in each classification).



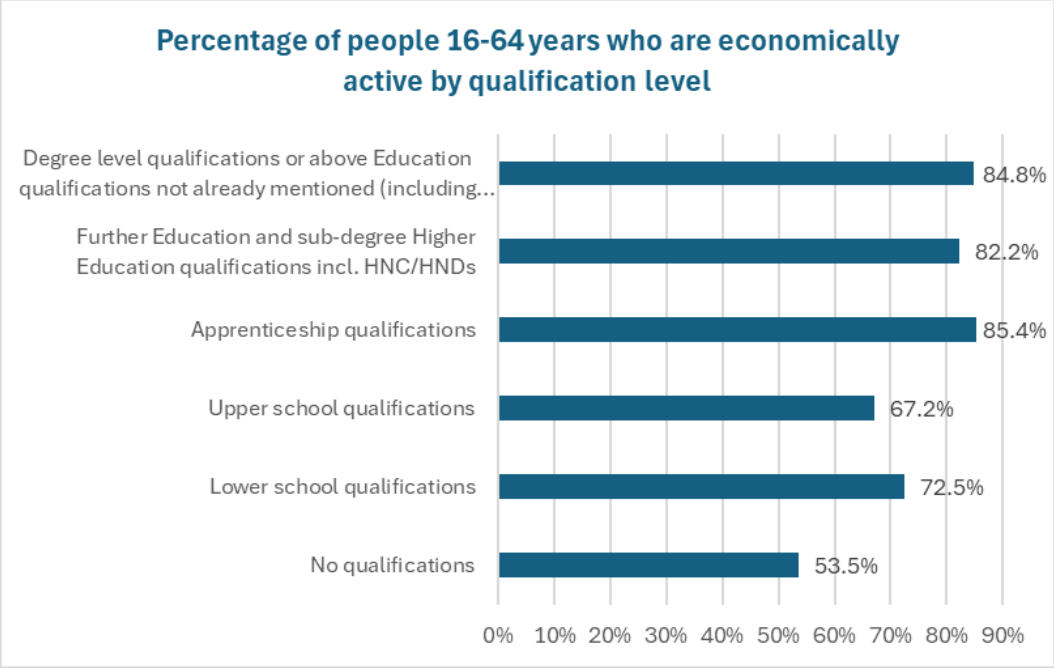
Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

Economic activity[6]**:** In the year from January 2024-December 2024, 78.4% of Aberdeen's working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active, higher than the rate for Scotland of 77% but lower than the rate of 81.2% in October 2023-September 2024. A higher proportion of males (81.7%) than females (75.4%) were economically active. The proportion of males and females who are economically active is higher in Aberdeen than in Scotland at 80% for males and 74.1% for females in Scotland.

Economic inactivity: In the year from January 2024-December 2024, 21.6% of Aberdeen's working age population were economically inactive compared to 23% in Scotland and up from 18.8% in the period October 2023-September 2024. Of of those who were economically inactive, 38.1% were students, 16.5% were looking after family/home, 15.9% were long-term sick, and 11.7% were retired. Most (86.6%) of those who were economically inactive did not want a job. The economic inactivity rate for ethnic minorities (16-64 years) was higher than the overall rate at 28.5% .

Economic activity Census data: Information on economic activity is also available from the Census. In 2022, 77.7% of people aged 16-64 were economically active in Aberdeen City. Rates of people who were **economically active** varied by age group, being highest in the 25-34 year (86.7%) and 35-49 year (86.2%) age groups. In the 50-64 year age group, 72.1% were economically active. The rate was lowest in the 16-24 year age group where 62.3% were economically active.

Based on Census data, economic activity also varied by qualification level, with a larger proportion of those with higher levels of qualifications being economically active compared to those with lower qualifications or no qualifications.

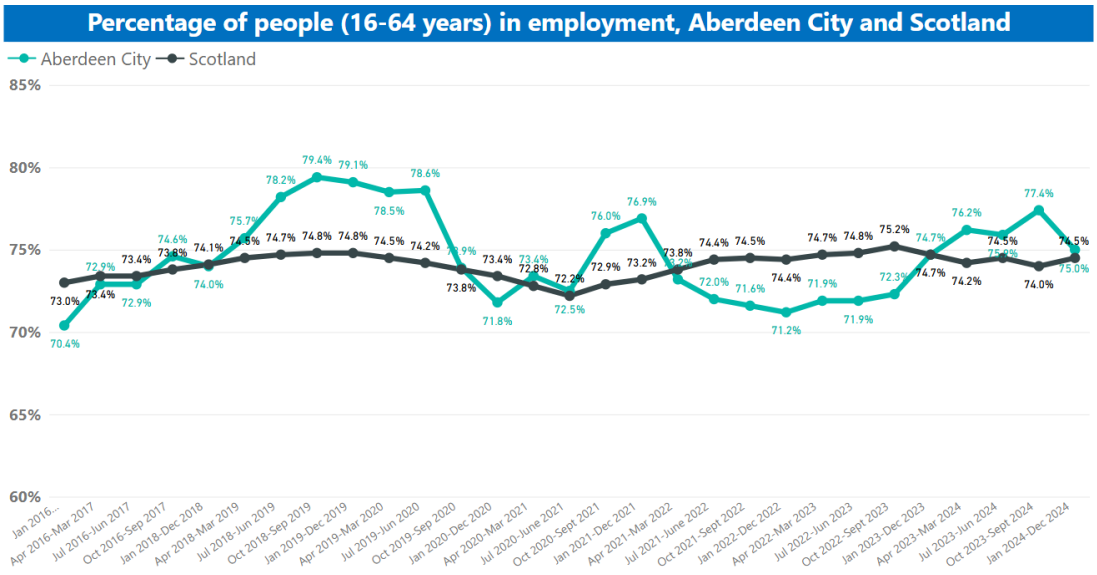


Source: Scotland's Census 2022

[6] 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.

The Census also allows us to explore economic activity by some health-related indicators. The overall rate for **economic inactivity** for people aged 16-64 years was 22.3%. For those who reported having a long-term illness that limited their activities (either a little or a lot) the rate was 48.3% compared to 17.2% for those who did not report having a long-term limiting illness .

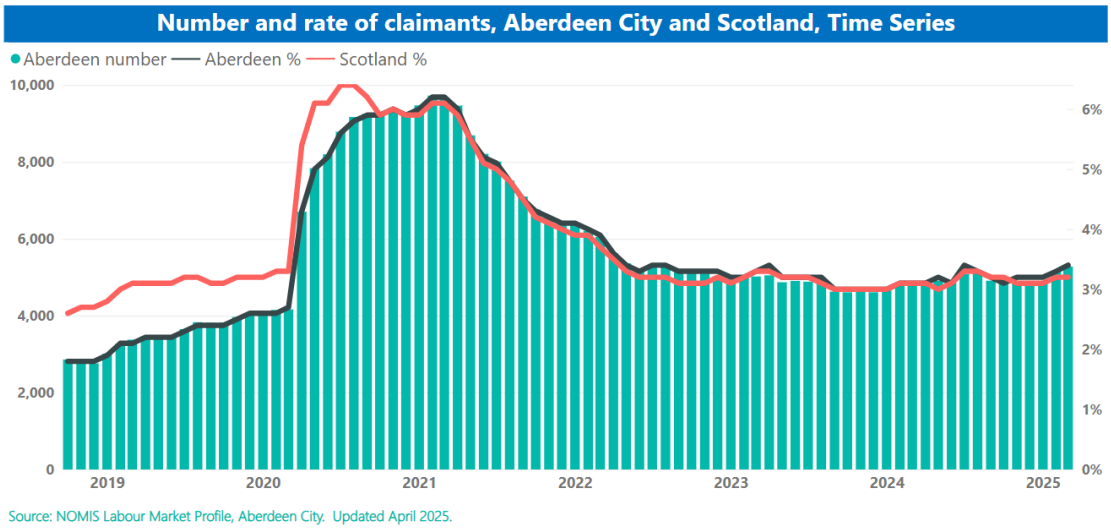
Employment rate: In the same period (January 2024-December 2024), 75% of Aberdeen City's working age population were in employment compared to 74.5% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate for October 2023-September 2024 which at 77.4% was the highest rate since July 2019-June 2020 when it was 78.6%. A higher proportion of males (77.8%) than females (72.7%) were in employment. These rates were slightly higher than the respective rates for Scotland of 77% and 72.1%. At 65.2%, the employment rate for ethnic minorities was lower than the overall rate. This is slightly higher than the corresponding rate for Scotland of 64.9% and higher than the rate for the previous period (October 2023-September 2024) of 63.7%



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated April 2025.

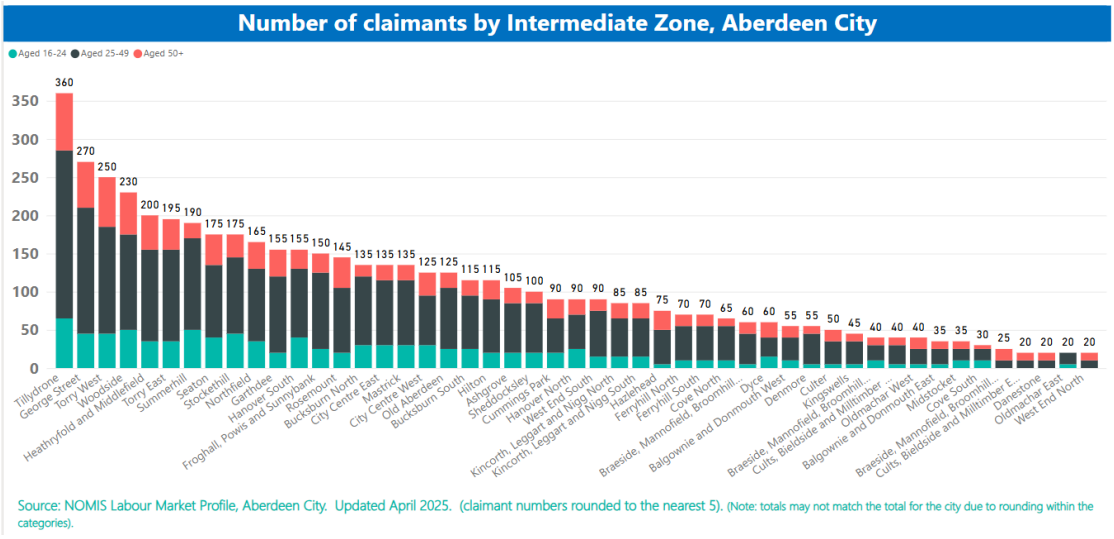
Claimant count[7]**:** In March 2025 there were 5,275 claimants in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 3.4% compared to 3.2% in Scotland. More claimants in Aberdeen City were male (3,115) than female (2,165) and most (3,155) were aged 25-49 years. 985 claimants were aged 16-24 years and 1,35 claimants were aged 50+ years .

[7] Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed.



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated April 2025.

The number of claimants varies across the City (Intermediate Zones), being highest in Tillydrone (360 claimants) and lowest in West End North (20 claimants) .



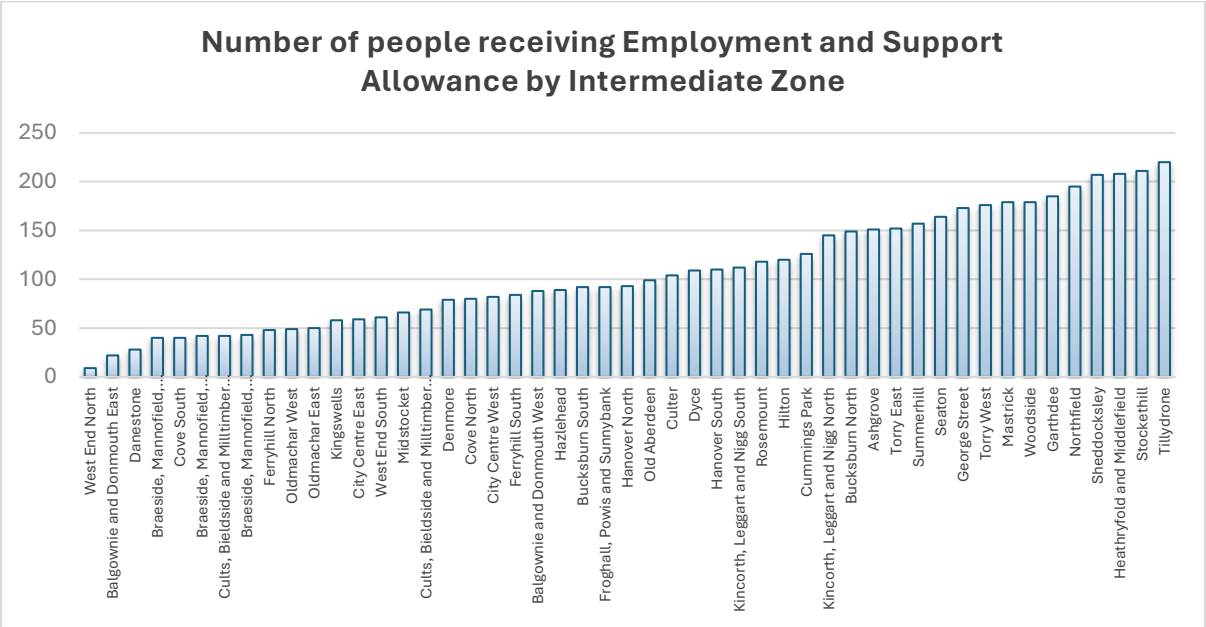
Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated April 2025. (claimant numbers rounded to the nearest 5). (Note: totals may not match the total for the city due to rounding within the categories).

Unemployment (model-based): In the year from January 2024-December 2024, the (model-based) unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 3.7% - higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.2% but lower than the rate for the same period last year of 4.3% .

Employability pipeline: In 2023-24 there were 477 unemployed people assisted into work from council employability programmes – up from 430 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to to a rate of 8.2% (of the number of unemployed people based on the model-based unemployment count) compared to a rate of 12.1% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate of 9.3% in 2022-23 .

Workless households: In January to December 2023 there were an estimated 13,700 workless households (i.e. households where no-one aged 16 years or over is in employment) in Aberdeen City – an decrease from 15,200 in 2022. This is equivalent to 16.2% of all households compared to 17.4% in Scotland. In Scotland (no data available for Aberdeen City), it is estimated that 10.7% of children are in workless households .

Employment and support allowance (ESA): Employment and support allowance is an income benefit for people who are below pension age and unable to work due to a health condition or disability. In November 2024 there were 5,275 people in Aberdeen City receiving Employment and support allowance. The number of people receiving Employment and support allowance varied by Intermediate Zone ranging from a low of 9 in West End North to a high of 220 in Tillydrone.

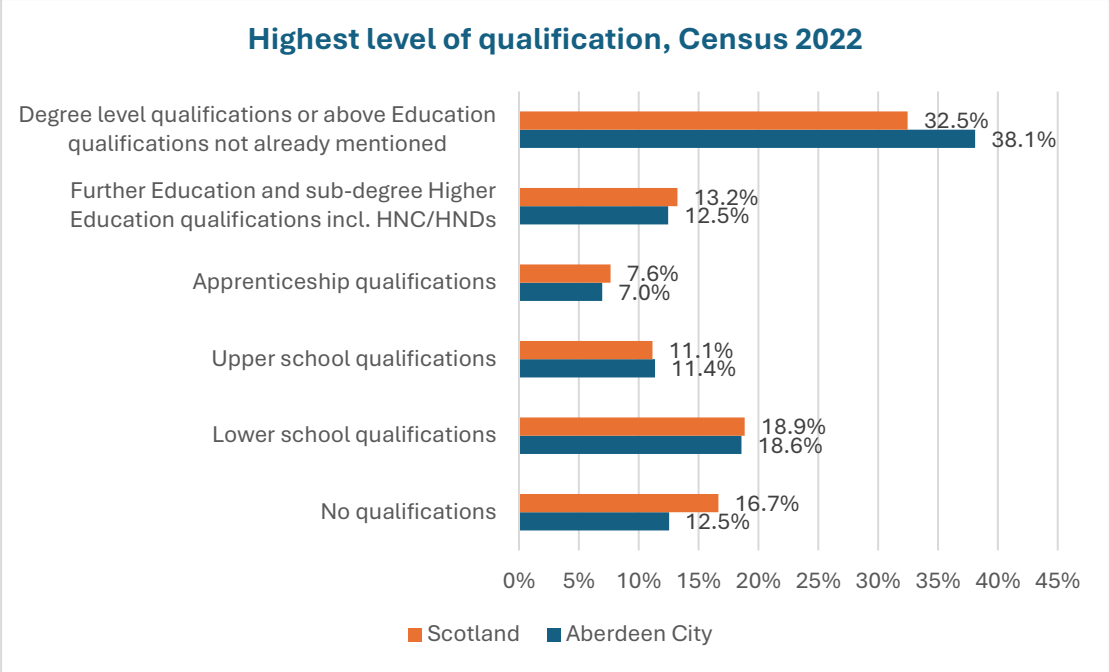


Source: Stat-Xplore, Employment and Support Allowance dataset

Job density: In 2022 there were an estimated 172,000 jobs in the City – equivalent to 1.11 jobs per person aged 16-64 years (compared to 0.81 for Scotland) .

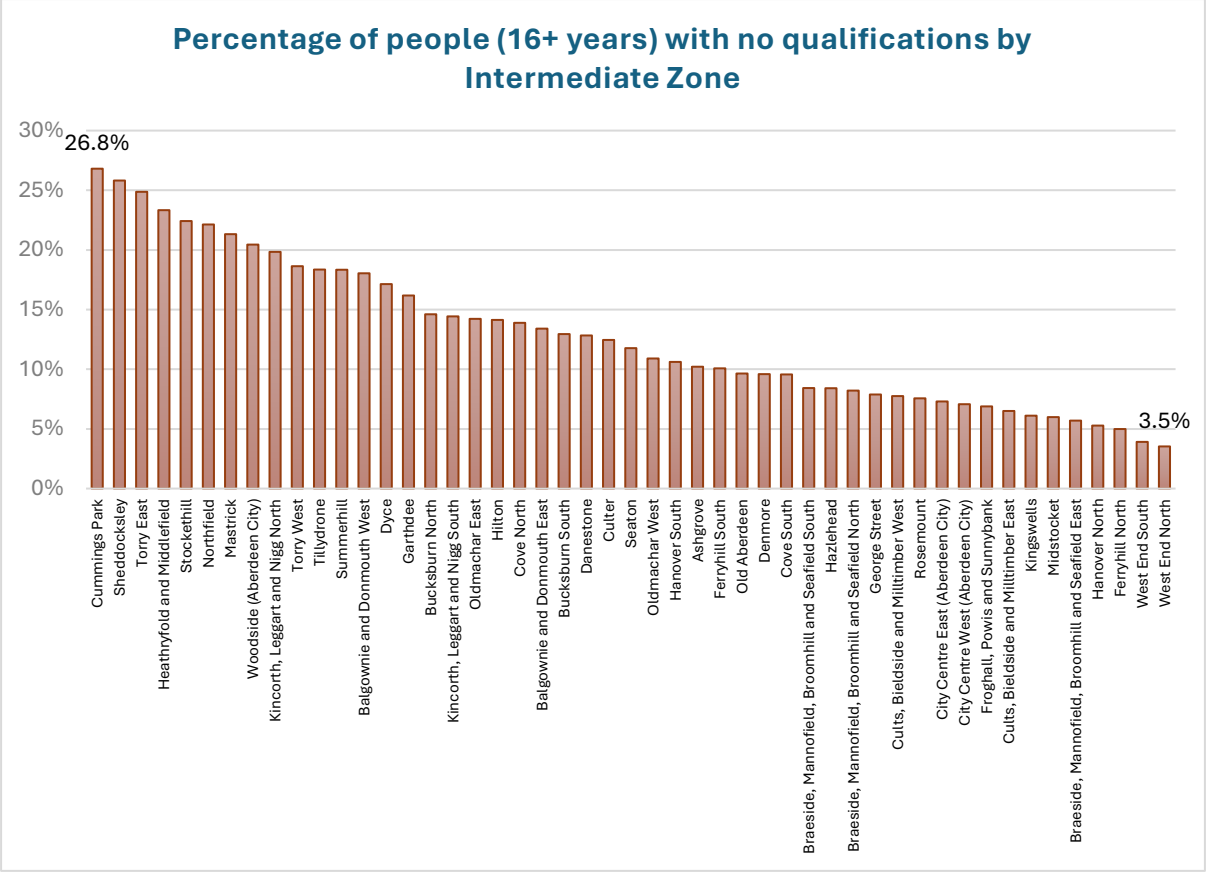
Qualifications: In January to December 2024, compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City had a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to Registered Qualifications Framework (RQF) 4 and above (63.6% in Aberdeen and 54.5% in Scotland). (Registered Qualifications Framework 4 and above being HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent) .

Highest qualification Census 2022: Data on the highest level of qualification is available from the Census and similarly shows that a higher proportion of people (16+ years) are qualified to degree level or above in Aberdeen City (38.1%) than in Scotland (32.5%) with the proportion of people with no qualifications being lower in Aberdeen City (12.5%) than in Scotland (16.7%). Proportions with other levels of qualifications were broadly similar in Aberdeen and Scotland .



Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

Highest qualification by Intermediate Zone Census 2022: Qualification levels varied across the City (Intermediate Zones). For example, the percentage of those (16+ years) qualified to a degree level or above ranged from a low of 15.9% in Sheddocksley to a high of 66.9% in West End North. Conversley, the proportion of adults with no qualifications ranged from a high of 26.8% in Cummings Park to a low of 3.5% in West End North. The chart below shows the percentage of people (16+ years) with no qualifications by Intermediate Zone .



Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

Modern appenticeships: In 2023-24, there were 746 starts, up from 700 in 2022-23 . In 2024-25 Q3, there were 1,254 Modern Apprenticeships currently in training (compared to 1,072 in 2023-24 Q3). The percentage of leavers successfully achieving a Modern Apprenticeship increased from 73.9% in 2023-24 Q3 to 75.8% in 2024-25 Q3 .

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

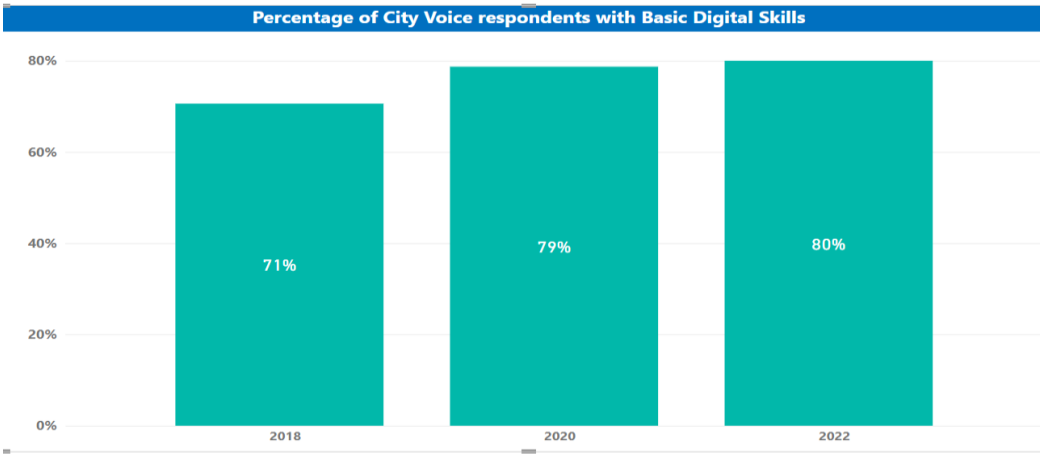
Digital skills: The digital technology sector is growing rapidly and is a key contributor to economic growth – creating an unprecedented demand for skills with employers across all sectors. Skills Development Scotland reports than annual vacancies in ICT in Scotland are projected to average 15,600 per 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 .

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 . In Scotland, 79% of those undertaking Computing Science courses were males and in 2017, only 23% of digital technology roles were held by women .

According to the Department for Digital, Culture and Sport, 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" .

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. Based on results from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 91% of households in Aberdeen City had home internet access.

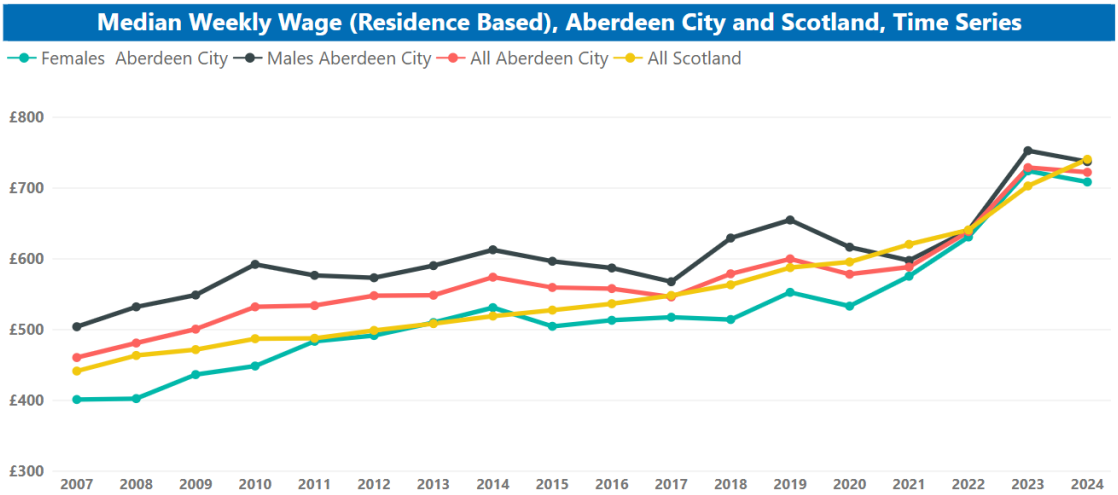
A series of questions relating to digital technology have been asked in the City Voice survey. In December 2022 (City Voice 46), when asked about access to digital tools, 79% of City Voice respondents reported having access to a laptop or PC, 88% to a smart phone and 68% to a tablet. Overall, 96% of 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 (similar to the findings from the Scottish Household Survey for 2023). 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 .



Source: City Voice, percentage of respondents who answered 'I can do this' to each of the foundation skills. (Note: the questions asked in 2018 were slightly different to those asked in subsequent years so results are not directly comparable.) Updated January 2023.

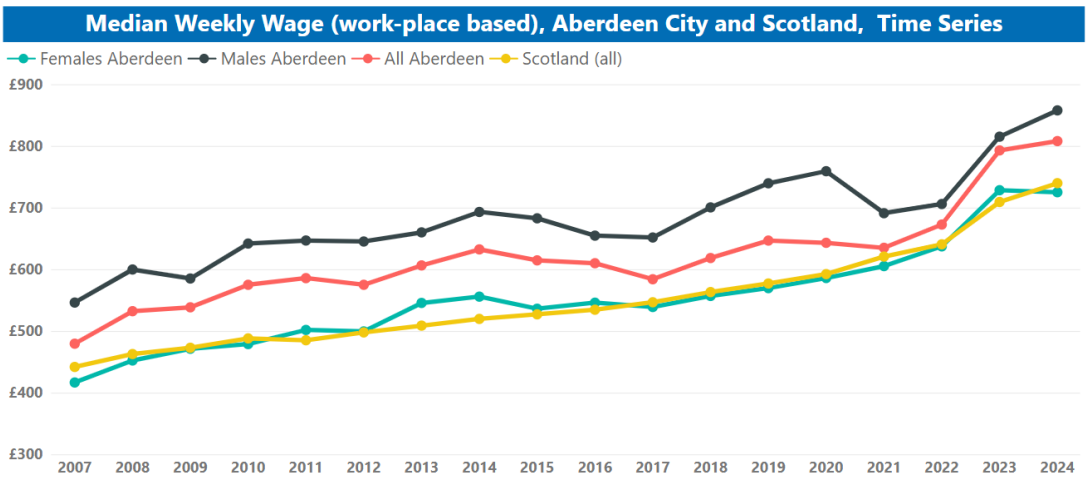
4.1.4. Earnings

Average weekly wage by place of residence: In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers **living** in Aberdeen City was £721.70 – lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £740.00. As in Scotland, the median weekly pay was higher for males (£736.70) than for females (£708.00). The gap between male and female wages has closed somewhat in recent years – in 2019 the difference in average weekly wage between males and females living in Aberdeen City was £102.20 compared to £28.70 in 2024. While male full-time workers living in Aberdeen City earned less than those in Scotland (£767.70), female full-time workers earned more (£701 in Scotland). The average weekly wage increased between 2020 and 2023, before dropping slightly in 2024 .



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated December 2024.

Average weekly wage by place of work: In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers **working** in Aberdeen City was £807.90 – higher than the equivalent for Scotland of £739.70. As in Scotland, the median weekly pay was higher for males (£857.70) than for females (£725.00) – a difference of £132.70 (down from £170 in 2019) .



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated December 2024.

Living Wage: In 2024 an estimated 10% of employees in Aberdeen City were earning less than the Real Living Wage compared to 11.4% in Scotland and up from 8.4% in 2023 and

6.9% in 2022 . In December 2024, there were 110 employers in Aberdeen City who were signed up to the Real Living Wage – up from 100 in January 2024 .

4.2. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all

4.2.1. Poverty

Cost of living crisis overview: While most households in Scotland will be affected by increases in the cost of living, a report by the Scottish Government suggests that low income households are particularly adversely affected with particular groups being most adversely affected. This includes women, disabled people, ethnic minorities, rural households, larger households, young people, students and carers, lone parents and single person households, households in receipt of income related benefits, people narrowly ineligible for benefits and people with no recourse to public funds .

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:

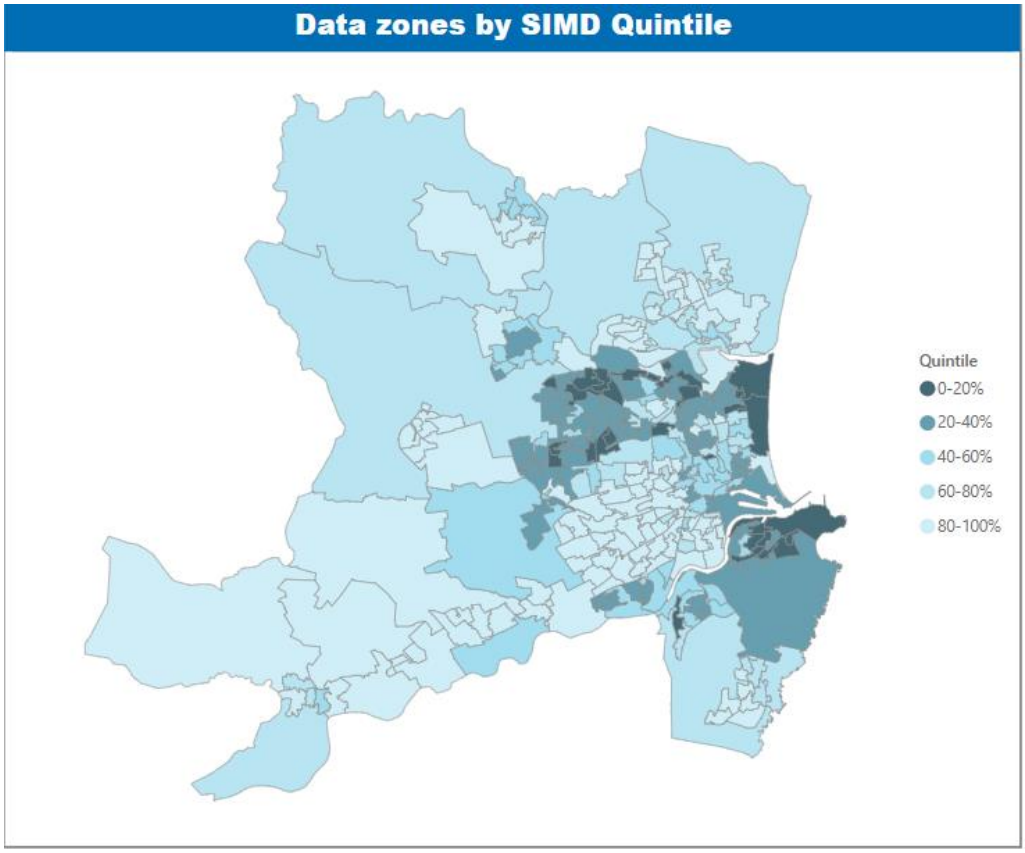
- Increased financial advice provision
- Increased support through Scottish Welfare Fund
- Procurment of suitable food to increase supply of emergency food
- Provision of fuel vouchers
- Provision of Warm Spaces during the winter period to alleviate cost of heating homes

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. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks all data zones in Scotland from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,976).

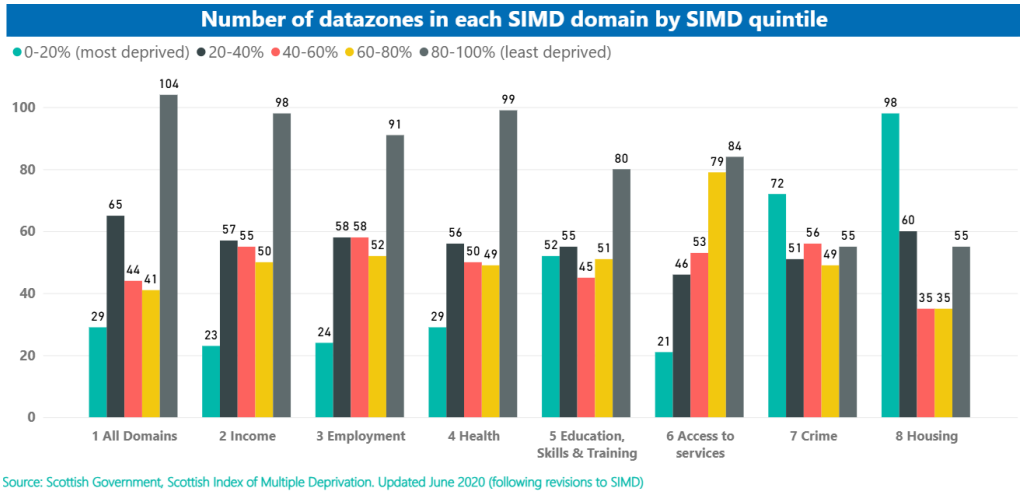
The most recent Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation release was in 2020. Based on overall rankings of deprivation (i.e. All Domains), Aberdeen City's position worsened between 2016 and 2020. The number of datazones in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 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 . At mid-2022, there were 20,893 people in Aberdeen living in the 20% most deprived areas, of which 3,770 were children . (It should be noted that Scottish Index of Multiple

Deprivation 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.)

The map below shows the distribution of datazones by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles based on the overall rankings (all domains) and the chart beneath shows the number of datazones in each quintile for each of the individual domains.



Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020V2



Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Updated June 2020 (following revisions to SIMD)

Relative poverty Scotland: Each year the Scottish Government produces a report on Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland (based on the Family Resources Survey).

In 2021-24 an estimated 20% of people in Scotland were living in relative poverty (below 60% of median income) after housing costs. Before housing costs, an estimated 18% of people were living in poverty. A third of people in poverty live in households that lack high food security. In 2021-24, 61% of working-age adults in relative poverty after housing costs were living in a household where someone was in paid work.

Child poverty in Scotland: In 2021-24 an estimated 23% of children[8] in Scotland (240,000 children each year) were living in relative poverty after housing costs. Before housing costs, it is estimated that 22% of children (220,000 children each year) were in relative poverty. While the poverty risk is lower for children in working households compared to those in non-working households, not all work pays enough to ensure the household is above the poverty threshold. In 2021-24 it is estimated that 75% of children in relative poverty were living in working households . A child poverty summary, based on single year data, is also available. Compared with the previous year's statistics, relative child poverty in 2023-24 reduced from 26% to 22% in Scotland while absolute child poverty fell from 23% to 17% .

Note: The Family Resources Survey provides information only at a national level. This means that alternative data sources used for local child poverty are not directly comparable with official poverty estimates for Scotland.

Child Poverty Aberdeen City: There are two main sources of information on Child Poverty in Aberdeen City. One is the 'Children in Low Income Families' dataset produced by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) which gives the number of children living in low income **before housing** costs. The other is 'Local Child Poverty' statistics produced by End Child Poverty which gives figures on the number and percentage of children living in poverty **after housing costs**. (These are based on the Children in low income families local area statistics produced by the Department of Work and Pensions, but with additional analyses to estimate the effect of housing costs on child poverty in local areas .)

Children in relative low income families: The most recent data is for financial year 2023/24. (Note: Changes to the way these statistics are produced were introduced for 2023/24 [9]. As a result, the back series of figures have been revised so may differ from those previously published.)

Provisional data for 2023/24 estimates that 5,615 children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative low income families[10] - down from the revised figure of 6,163 in 2022/23. In

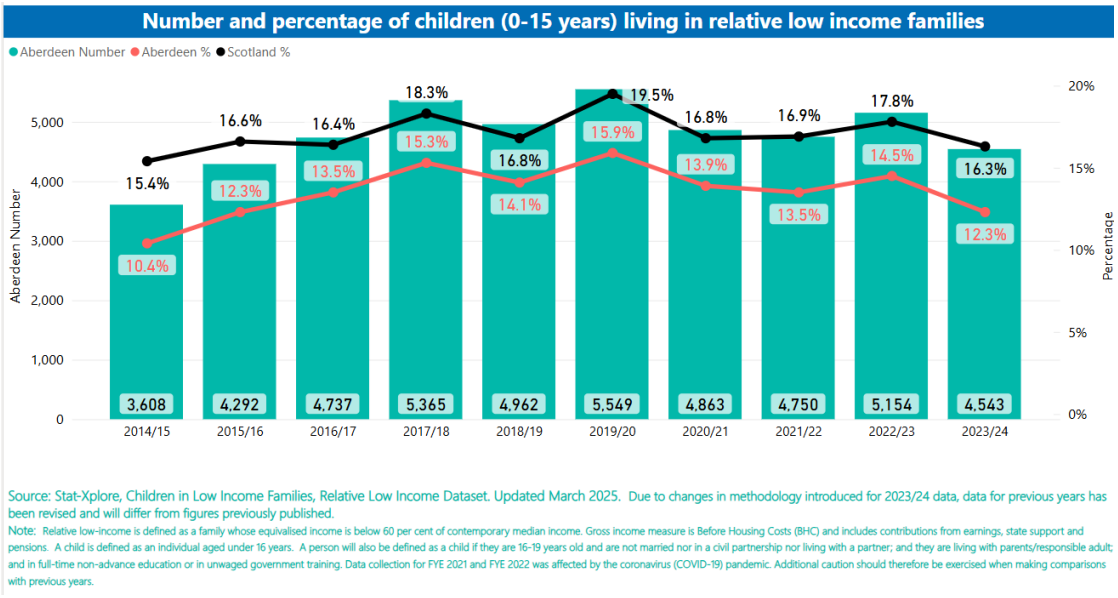
[8] 'Child' refers to a dependent child. A dependent child is a person aged 0-15, or a person aged 16-19 and: not married nor in a Civil Partnership nor living with a partner, and living with their parents, and in full-time non-advance education or in unwaged government training.

[9] Following the successful completion of discovery work and a period of user engagement, this release calibrates figures to HBAI single-year UK estimates (not regional estimates) and imputes receipt of Scottish Child Payments for eligible households so it is included as an income stream. Consequently, there are revisions to the back-series at UK, regional and local area level. Children in low income families: local area statistics - GOV.UK

[10] 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

2023/24, two thirds (66.7%) of children in relative low income families were in working families and almost a quarter (23.2%) were under 5 years old. Most (58.2%) children living in relative low income families were in lone parent families.

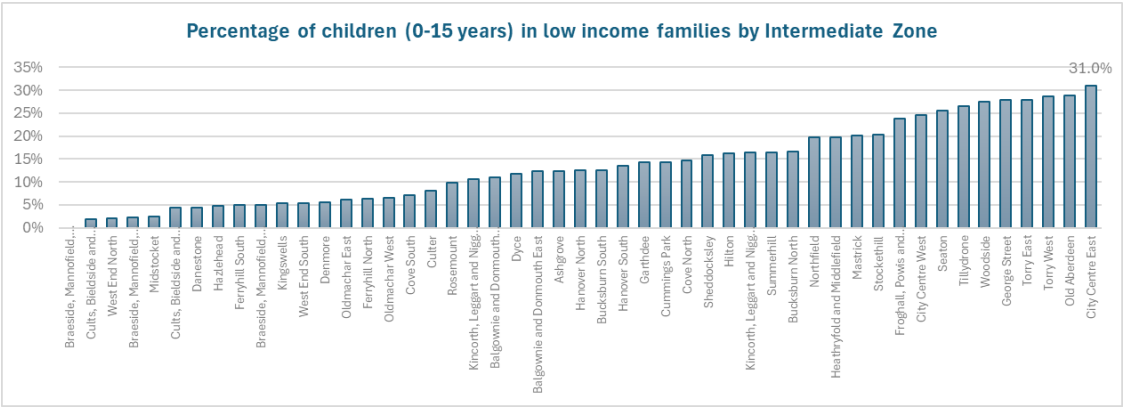
The total for 2023/24 of 5,615 includes 1,071 dependent 16-19 year-olds (see note 9). Overall there were 4,543 children aged 0-15 years in Relative low income families. This is equivalent to 12.3% of the 0-15 years population (down from 14.5% in 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 16.3%) . (Note: it is not possible to get an overall percentage for all children in low income families due to the complexity of identifying 16-19 year-olds defined as child dependents.)



Source: Stat-Xplore, Children in Low Income Families, Relative Low Income Dataset. Updated March 2025. Due to changes in methodology introduced for 2023/24 data, data for previous years has been revised and will differ from figures previously published.

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.

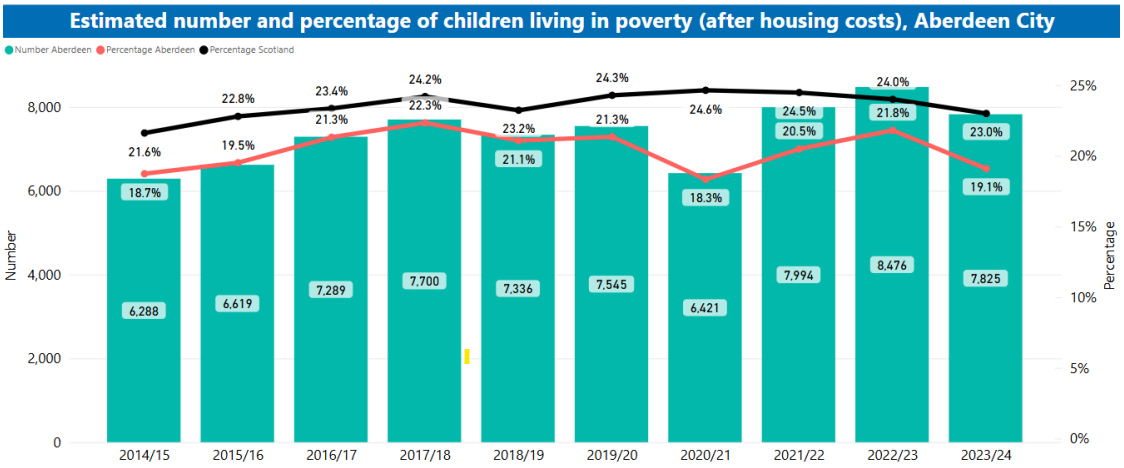
The number of children (0-15 years and dependent 16-19 year-olds) in relative low income families varies across the city (intermediate zones) ranging from a low of 5 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 347 in Tillydrone. The percentage of 0-15 year-olds in low income families ranges from 0% in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield South to 31% in City Centre East.



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.

Absolute low income: Department of Work and Pensions also provide information on the number of children in absolute low income families. Absolute low income is defined as family in low income before housing costs in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. In 2023/24 there were 3,633 children (0-15 years) in absolute low income. This is equivalent to to a rate of 9.8% (down from 11.5% in 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 13.2%) .

Child poverty: These figures come from research published by the End Child Poverty coalition. The most recent data is for 2023/24. End Child Poverty reported that in 2023/24 an estimated 7,825 children (0-15 years or 16-19 and in full-time education) in Aberdeen City were living relative in poverty **after housing costs**. This is equivalent to 19.1% of children compared to 23% for Scotland and 21.8% in 2022/23 .



Source: End Child Poverty, Local Child Poverty Statistics. Updated June 2025. (A child is defined as aged 0-15, or aged 16-19 and in full-time education.) Poverty is defined as being in a household with an income below 60% of the contemporary median income, after housing costs. Note: These statistics are calibrated to regional 2-year average rates from HBAI. Due to sampling issues during 2021/22 related to the Covide-19 pandemic, additional caution may be required in interpreting the statistics for FYE 2021, 2022 and 2023 particularly when making comparisons with previous years.

(Note: Data collection for Financial Year End 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.)

Gender based poverty: Information on the impact of the cost of living is available from the Aberdeen Gender Inequality and Poverty Report produced by the Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) . The report states that "*Issues such as austerity, wage stagnation, rising inflation, and the Covid-19 pandemic, all impact women due to pre-existing structural inequalities. Rising costs have hit individuals on the lowest incomes the hardest. This disproportionately affects women as they are more likely to experience poverty throughout their lifetime with lower levels of savings and wealth in comparison to men as well as being unable to increase paid work due to caring responsibilities. Particular groups of women are hit hardest such as disabled women, ethnic minority households, single parents, survivors of abuse, women with no recourse to public funds, and those with caring responsibilities.*"

As part of the broader research done to inform the report, an online community survey was conducted in November-December 2024. This received 262 responses from across Aberdeen. Of these, 82% were female, 15% were male, 2% were trans or non-binary and 1% preferred not to say. A range of additional demographic information was collected

including: household make-up; employment status; employment sector; household income; age-group; ethnicity; immigration status; recourse to public funds; disability and sexual orientation.

When asked, about a third of respondents stated they were struggling to manage everyday household expenditure. This increased for single parents, disabled, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and single households and decreased for male respondents (the men who took the survey tended to have higher incomes, were more likely to work full time and in the private sector. They were less likely to be disabled and there were no single parents). The tables below give an overview of responses for all respondents and then broken down by household groups.

How are you managing household expenses (responses based on those who have the costs).

Household expense	**Yes, I struggle to manage these costs**	**No, but I have had to make changes to other areas of household spending**	**No, I am able to manage this household cost**
Food (255)	30%	39%	31%
Energy (248)	38%	39%	23%
Housing (229)	31%	36%	33%
Transport (219)	24%	33%	43%
Broadband (237)	23%	32%	45%
Other Household Costs (244)	33%	37%	30%
Childcare (41)	54%	34%	22%

Percentage of men and women who are struggling to manage household bills

Household Expense	**Women**	**Men**
Food	29%	20%
Energy	39%	24%
Housing	32%	20%
Transport	24%	14%
Broadband	23%	16%
Other household costs	35%	19%

Percentage of different household groups who are struggling to manage household bills

Household Expense	**Disabled people**	**Single households**	**Single parents**	**BME**
Food	37%	37%	69%	33%
Energy	48%	43%	54%	50%
Housing	38%	34%	66%	46%
Transport	40%	34%	50%	24%
Broadband	33%	31%	38%	23%
Other household costs	50%	43%	54%	35%

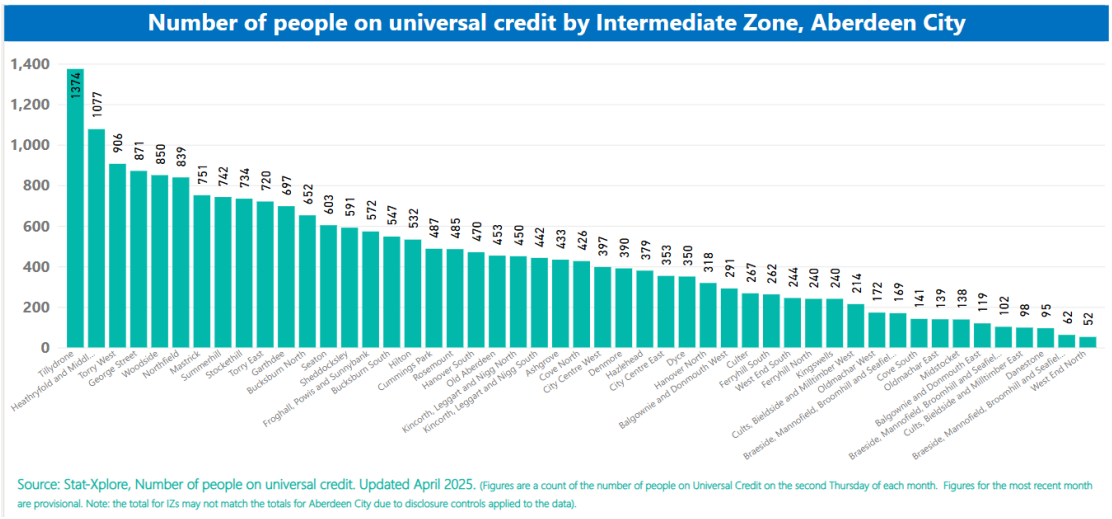
Percentage of different household groups using strategies to manage household bills. Respondents stated that in order to manage costs in the last 12 months they had:

Strategy	All	Disabled people	Single parents	Single households	BME households
Cut back on food expenditure	61%	67%	85%	65%	82%
Not put the heating on	56%	68%	77%	65%	64%
Not going to the dentist	24%	37%	23%	33%	25%
Cutting back on journeys	35%	43%	54%	29%	32%
Cutting back on eating out	61%	69%	77%	59%	64%
Cancelling tv subscriptions/broadband	28%	37%	38%	22%	36%
Using savings	54%	54%	30%	55%	54%
Taking on debt	18%	26%	54%	13%	25%
Not replacing clothes/shoes for myself	49%	60%	85%	54%	40%
Taking on more hours at work	12%	4%	15%	9%	21%
Doing more unpaid care work	3%	1%	0	1%	7%

Strategies used by different groups reflect the options available to them to manage household costs. For example, disabled people are often unable to increase their income by taking on more hours at work as this is not an option open to them, which explains why they use other options at higher levels. For single parents, the use of savings is lower as many women do not have access to savings due to lower levels of wealth.

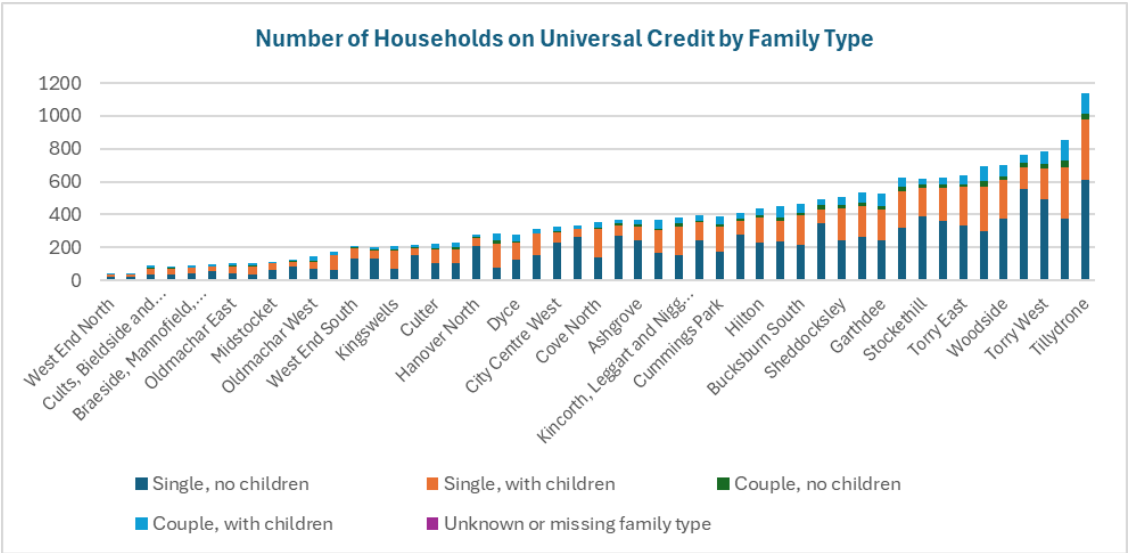
Respondents outlined various impacts of the high cost of living on them. 50% say their financial situation has impacted on their mental health, 29% their physical health, 37% worry about their security in retirement.

Universal credit (people)**:** In March 2025 there were 21,923 people on Universal Credit in Aberdeen City – up from 21,385 in February (however as people may be transferring to Universal Credit from the old system, caution is advised in interpretting figures as increases may be due to this). In February 2025, 33.7% (7,212) of those on Universal Credit were in employment . The number of people on Universal Credit varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 52 in West End North to a high of 1,374 in Tillydrone. (Note: the total for Intermediate Zones may not match the totals for Aberdeen City due to disclosure controls applied to the data.)



Source: Stat-Xplore, Number of people on universal credit. Updated April 2025. (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).

Households on Universal Credit: In November 2024, there were 18,187 households on Universal Credit – ranging from a low of 41 households in West End North to a high of 1,135 households in Tillydrone. Of the 18,187 households on Universal Credit, 7,656 (42.1%) had children with over three quarters (76.1%, n= 5,824) of these being 'single with children' families. The percentage of households on Universal Credit that had children, ranged from 17.3% in City Centre East to 67.9% in Denmore.



Source: Stat-Xplore: Households on Universal Credit

How the household is managing financially: Questions about how the household is managing financially are asked in the Scottish Household Survey. In 2023 49% of households were managing well in Aberdeen City compared to 52% in Scotland as a whole. The proportion managing well has dropped from 55% in 2019 (and from the highest level of 66% in 2014 and 2015) .

Savings: The Scottish Household Survey also includes a question about savings. In 2023, 69% of respondents reported that they or their partners had savings and 20%

reported that they had no savings. The most recent comparable data is for 2019. At that point, 82% of respondents reported that they or their partner had savings and 15% reported that they had no savings.

Food security: Questions around Food Security have been asked in a number of City Voice surveys – most recently in May 2024 (City Voice 50). 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 May 2024, 20.7% of respondents reported they ate only a few kinds of food, 13.6% that they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 13.3% that they ate less than they thought they should and 9.4% that they were worried they would not have enough food to eat. Since 2020, 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 9.5% to 20.7%) .

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:

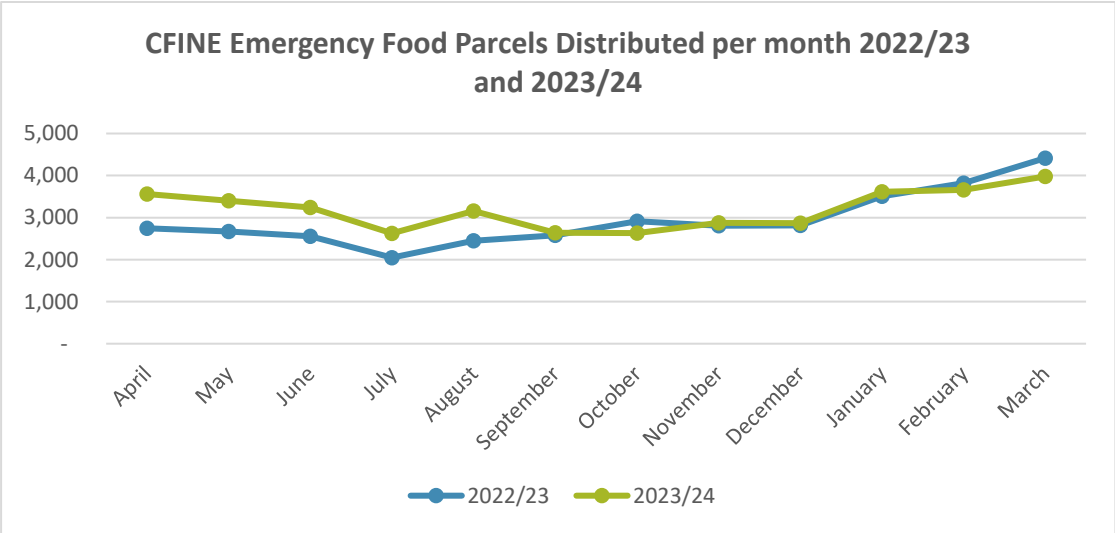
Source: City Voice. Updated July 2024.

Questions relating to food security are also asked in the Scottish Health Survey. In 2019-2023, 12% of people in Aberdeen City said they were worried they would run out of food

compared to 11% for Scotland and an increase from 8% when this was first asked in 2016-19 .

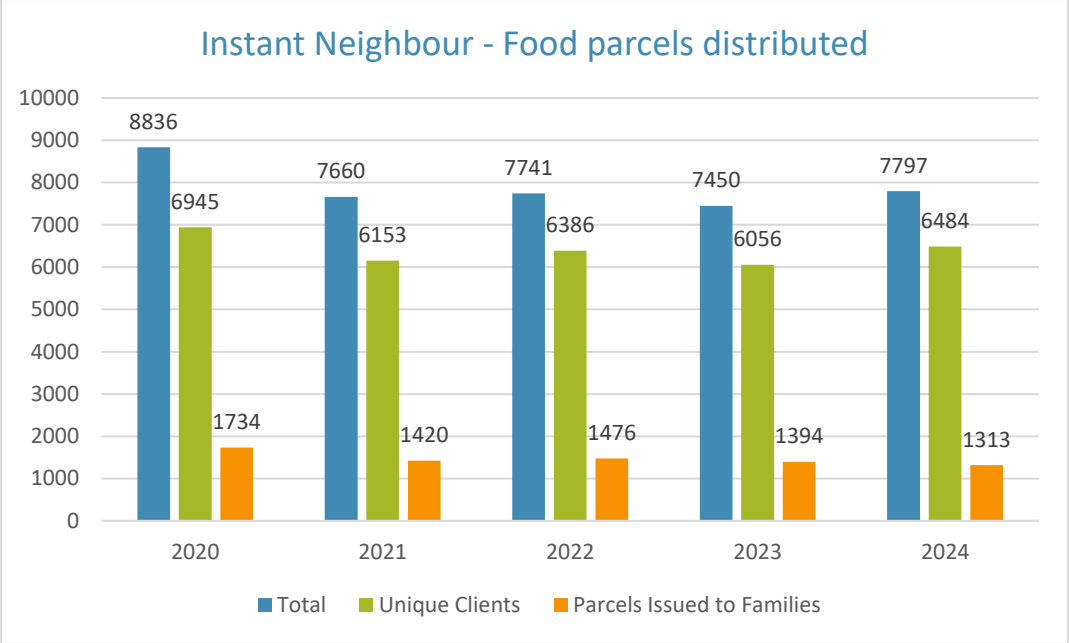
Foodbank use: There is currently no single source of data on foodbank use in Aberdeen City. Data for this document has been provided by three independent organisations (CFINE, Trussel Trust, and Instant Neighbour) who provide emergency food parcels in Aberdeen City. Across these three organisations, 55,522 parcels were distributed in 2023/24 – up from 53,495 in 2022/23 (an increase of 2,027). This averages 4,627 parcels every month in 2023/24 compared to 4,458 per month in 2022/23.

CFINE: In 2023/24 CFINE distributed 38,235 emergency food parcels – up from 35,307 in 2022/23. This is an average of 3,186 per month (up from an average of 2,942 per month in 2022/23). The monthly distribution of emergency food parcels increased in the first three months of 2024, peaking in March when 3,978 parcels were distributed.

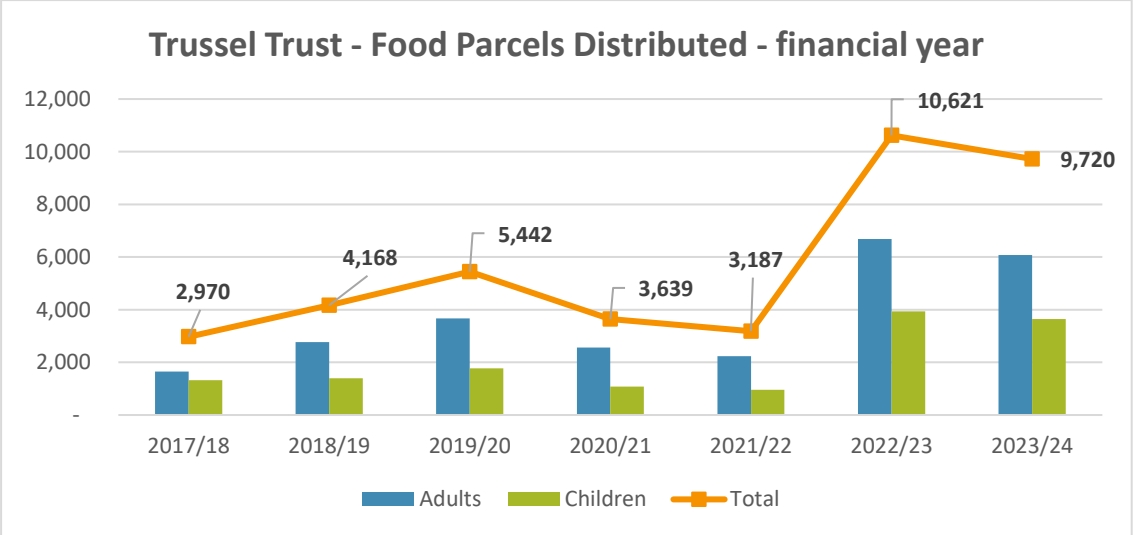


Instant Neighbour: In the calendar year 2024, Instant Neighbour distributed 7,797 (average of 650 per month) food parcels with 1,313 of these being distributed to families. 606 clients were newly registered in 2024. Most clients visited the foodbank once in a month (unique clients) with the remainder visiting more than once. Around 7,600 parcels a year were distributed in both 2022 and 2023.

On average there were 150 food parcels distributed in a week during 2024 – a marked increase on the average of 143 in 2023. 7 more food parcels a week equates to at least 49kg more food being distributed a week.



Trussell Trust: The Trussell Trust publishes data on the number of food parcels distributed by their network in each Local Authority. In the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, there 9,720 parcels distributed in Aberdeen City – down from the peak of 10,621 in 2022/23, but over three times higher than the number distributed in 2021/22 (3,187). Of the parcels distributed in 2023/24, over a third (37.5%, n=3,647) were to children. More recent data shows that 3,599 food parcels were distributed by Trussell in Aberdeen in the first half of 2024/25 (1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024). Of these, 1,154 (32.1%) were to children and 2,445 were to adults .



Source: Trussell Trust

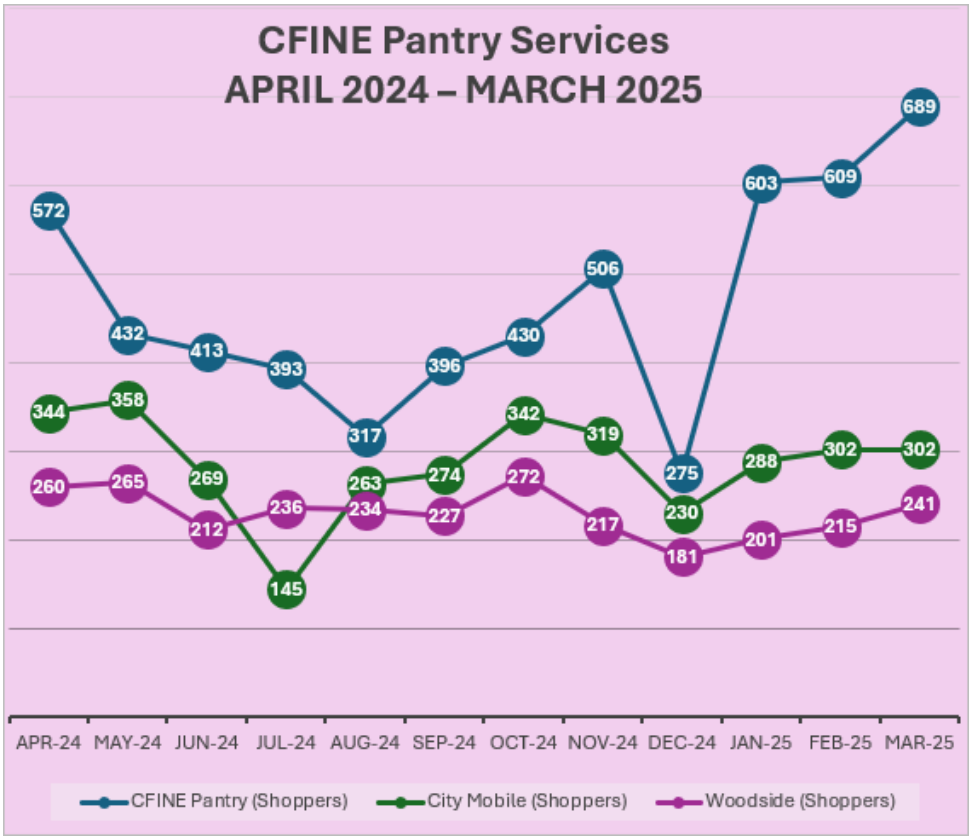
Community Pantries: Mitigating food poverty through increased memberships of community pantries was highlighted as an area where people could be offered dignity and choice rather than the foodbank offer of crisis provision. Since last reported figures March 2023, to accommodate the ever increasing need for membership, the Static CFINE

pantry service has developed to open 4 days a weeks and the Mobile pantry van now serves 12 locations in the City's priority neighbourhoods at Middlefield, Sheddocksley, Kincorth, Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton, Northfield, Quaryhill, Bucksburn, Hilton, Inchgarth and Dyce. Woodside Pantry membership is monitored and recorded in the pantry total figures and receives the bulk of their food delivery via FareShare Surplus and FareShare retail , manage by CFINE.

To reflect the true pantry figures we record and report member's attendance, not membership numbers alone. Members do not always attend weekly, indeed the mobile locations are mostly fortnightly, but the pantry must be attended at least once in any 4 week period. There is currently a waiting list for all pantries, and we are making changes to accommodate more members each day.

Attendance Figures for March 2025 by Pantry, CFINE 689, City Mobile 302 and Woodside 241 giving a total of 1,232

Membership figures March 2025 by pantry, CFINE 300, Mobile Pantry 190 and Woodside 80 giving a total of 570. The chart below shows annual attendance figures by pantry.



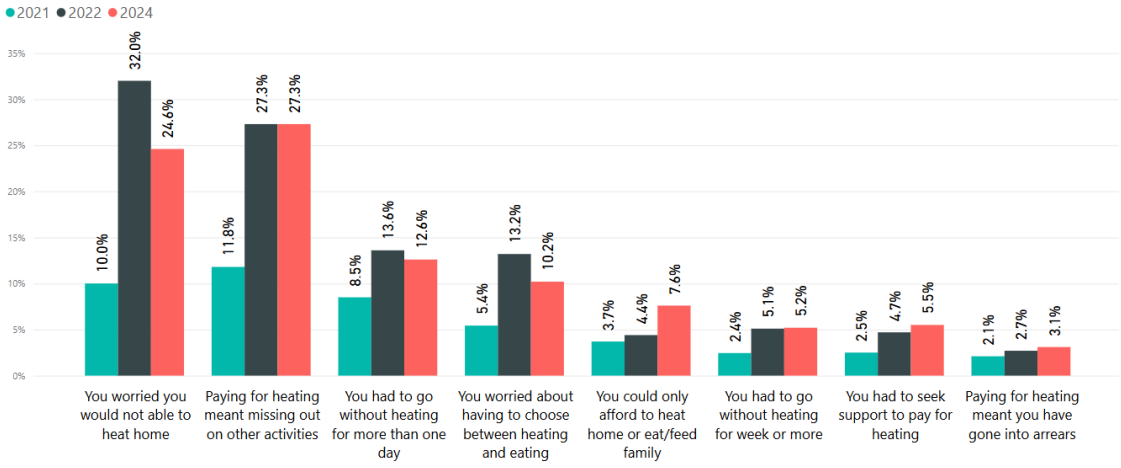
Allotments: The allotment waiting list continues to grow: 793 households were waiting in 2021, by March 2023 this had risen to 1,047 households and by September 2024 it had risen again to 1,251 households. There are currently 573 Aberdeen City allotment plots .

Fuel poverty: Official statistics for fuel poverty are now very 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 poverty[11] – up from 23% in 2016-18 and higher that 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 .

A series of questions around ability to heat your home were asked in City Voice 45 (August 2021), City Voice 46 (December 2022) and, most recently, City Voice 50 (May 2024). In May 2024, a quarter (24.6%) of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – down from 32% in December 2022 but considerably higher than when the quesitons were first asked in 2021 (10%). Over a quarter of respondents (27.3%) said that paying for heating meant missing out on other activities (compared to 11.8% in 2021) .

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 July 2024.

[11] A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, total fuel costs necessary for the home are more that 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.

Emerging priorities

The overall data on the economic position presents a positive picture, but the data also show how not everyone in the City is benefitting from the economic potential:

- The data provide an updated picture on local social and economic inequalities, which determine wider lived experiences such as health. Place based approaches to reducing experiencing inequalities over time must remain a priority, seeking to reduce both the absolute and relative inequalities across the City.
- One in seven households in Aberdeen have no one working within them, which equates to 13,700 workless households. The data highlight that economic inactivity for people from ethnic minorities is more pronounced. Anchor organisations can play a part in terms of improving the numbers of under-represented groups in public sector employment, and continuing to expand the Real Living Wage programme, particularly within food, catering and accommodation sectors, where there are often higher numbers of people from ethnic minorities and younger people employed.
- Households with a low income are a concern, not least for the 12% of such households where some 3,600 children aged 15 years and under reside. Supporting such households through employability support, provision of free/subsidised childcare/access to community pantries are areas for further development.
- We must seek to understand and mitigate emerging risks to economic activity and employment within the city from both the use of technology and from demographic change.

5. Communities and Housing

The “place” of Aberdeen is both the buildings, streets and spaces that make up the physical environment around us, and our “communities”, the people, social groups, and the support networks that make up our social environment.

5.1. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities

5.1.1. Our Place

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.

5.1.2. Community empowerment

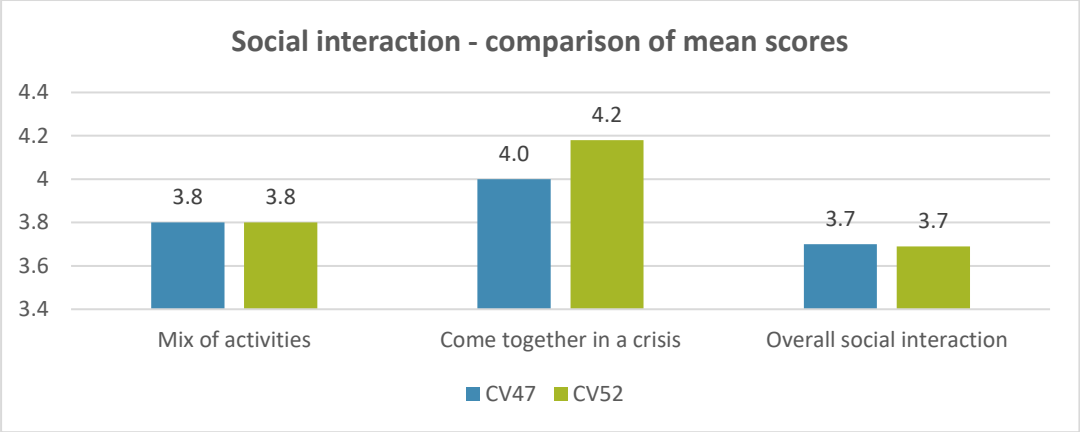
Following the publication of the Community Empowerment Strategy by Community Planning Aberdeen’s Community Empowerment Group, two Community Empowerment editions of the City Voice have been undertaken. The first of these was in June 2023 (City Voice 47) and the second in December 2024 (City Voice 52). These asked panellists about current involvement and empowerment in their communities. Some of the questions were inspired by the Place Standard which is a recognised framework used for assessing places. The full reports for City Voice 47 and City Voice 52 can be found here . A brief summary comparing results from both surveys is given below.

Social interaction: The first set of questions asked participants about different aspects of social interaction in their neighbourhood, with respondents 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 (a higher score = a more positive response).

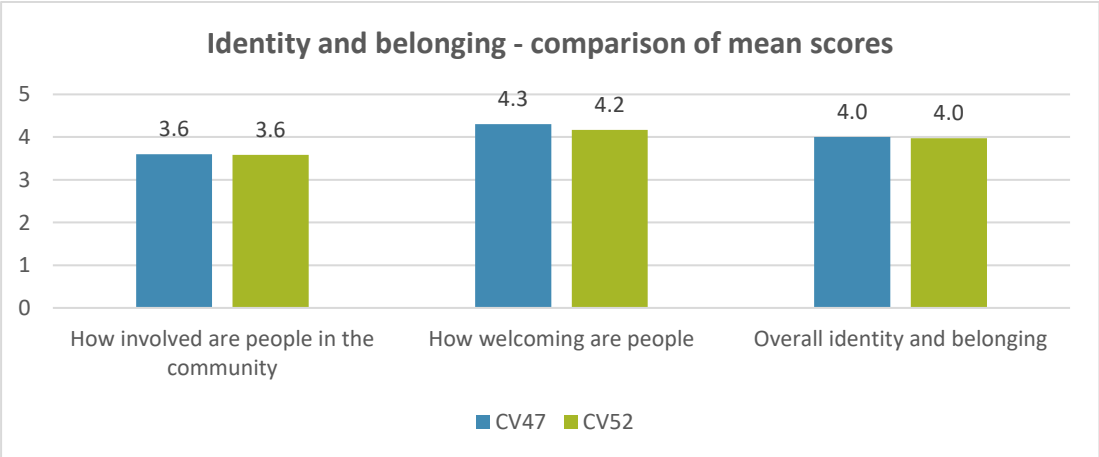
In City Voice 52, the highest scoring response was for **would people come together in a crisis** with a mean score of 4.2 with **is there a mix of activities** scoring lower at 3.8. The mean score for **overall, how would you rate opportunities for social interaction** was 3.7.

Comparison of results shows the mean scores for questions were very similar in City Voice 47 and City Voice 52, with the response to **would people come together in a crisis** increasing slightly from 4.0 to 4.2 and scores for the other two questions unchanged.



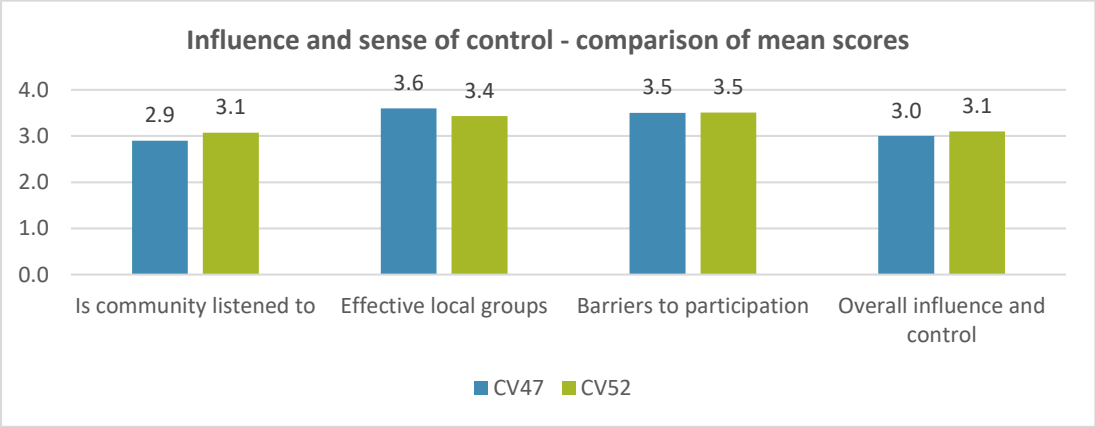
Identity and belonging: The next set of questions asked to what extent their neighbourhood has a positive identity that supports a strong sense of belonging. In City Voice 52 the highest scoring response was for **how welcoming are people in this** place which had a mean score of 4.2. The lowest scoring was **how involved are people in the** community which had a mean score of 3.6. The mean score for **overall, how strong is the sense of identity and belonging** was 4.0.

As with the previous set of questions, the mean scores for each question were very similar in both surveys, with the response to **how welcoming are people in this place** decreasing slightly from 4.3 to 4.2 and scores for the other two questions unchanged.

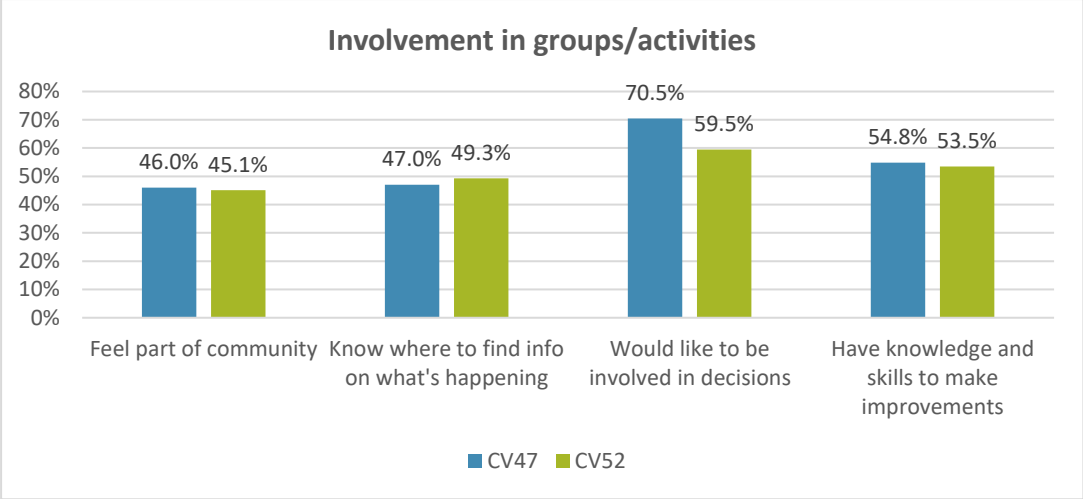


Influence and control: This set of questions was around whether people felt listened to and included in decision-making when things happen in their neighbourhood. On the whole the mean scores in this section were lower than in the previous two sections. The most positive response was for **are there barriers to participation for some people** which had a mean score of 3.5, followed by **are there effective local groups** with a mean score of 3.4. Both **is the community listened to** and **overall, do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better** had a mean score of 3.1.

Again the mean scores were broadly similar across both surveys, with responses to **is the community listened to** increasing slightly from 2.9 to 3.1 and **overall, do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better** increasing from 3.0 to 3.1. The score for **are there effective local groups** fell slightly from 3.6 to 3.4 and the score for **are there barriers to participation for some people** remaining the same at 3.5.



Involvement in community groups: In this section of the questionnaire, panellists were asked to rate their agreement with a range of statements relating to involvement in community groups or activities. In City Voice 52, agreement was highest for **I would like to be involved in decisions which affect my community** with 59.5% of respondents agreeing with this statement. Over half of respondents (53.5%) agreed with the statement that they have the **knowledge and skills to work with others to make improvements in the community** and just under half (49.3%) agreed that they **know where to find information about what is happening within my community.** At 45.1%, levels of agreement were lowest for **I feel part of the community where I live.** On the whole, the proportion of respondents who agreed with the statements is similar in both questionnaires. The exception is in the percentage who agreed that they **would like to be involved in decisions which affect their community** which has fallen from 70.5% in City Voice 47 to 59.5% in this most recent survey.

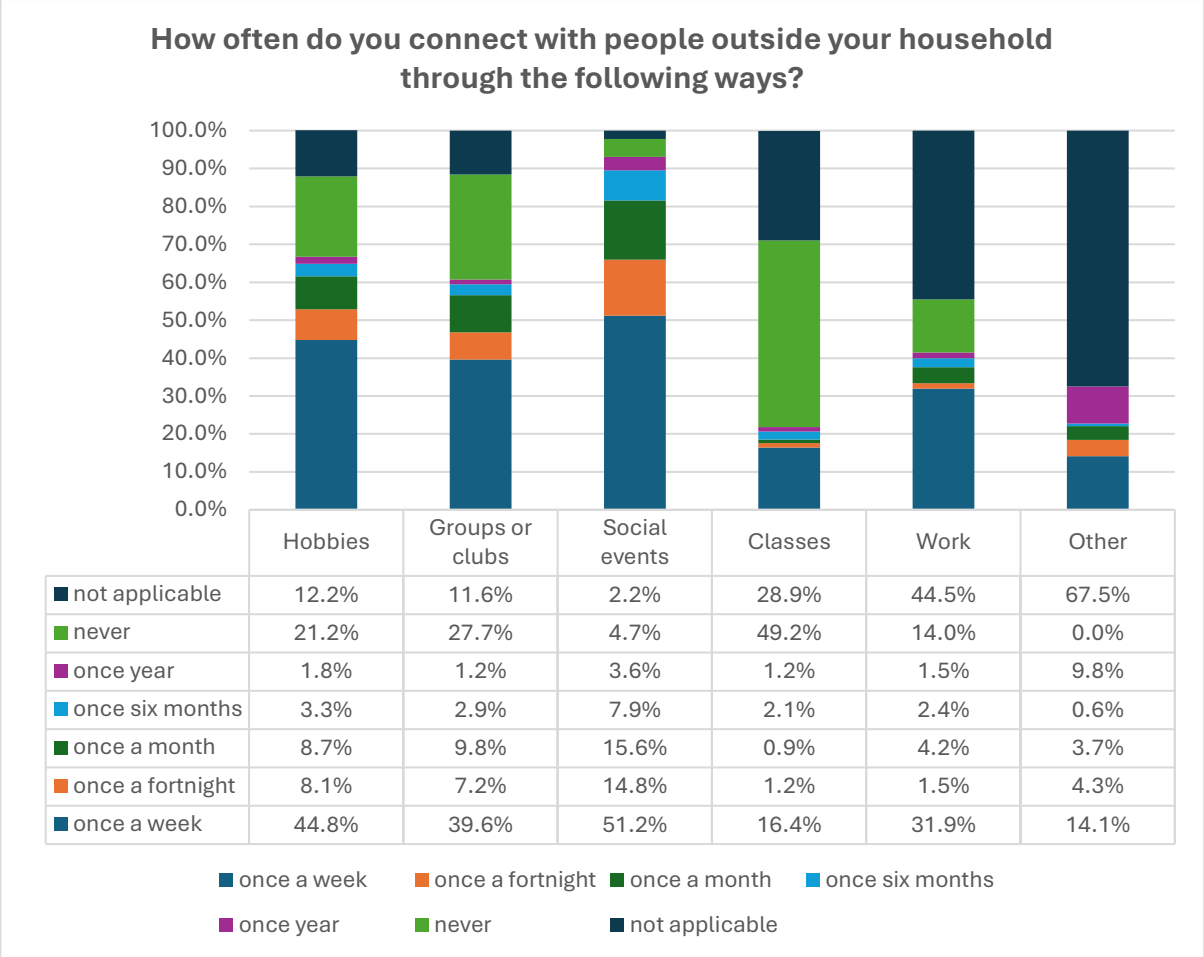


Socially connected: A set of questions about being socially connected was included in City Voice 49. Participants were asked **how often they connected with people outside their household** through a number of different ways:

- hobbies
- groups or clubs
- social events (e.g. meeting with friends/family)
- classes (e.g. evening classes)
- work
- other

Social events (e.g. meeting up with friends/family) was the most commonly chosen frequent way of connecting with people outside of the household with over half (51.2%) of respondents meeting other people **at least once a week** and 81.6% meeting other people at least **once a month.** The next most commonly reported frequent ways of meeting people outside the household were **hobbies** (44.8% at least once a week), **groups or clubs** (39.6% at least once a week) and **work** (31.9% at least once a week).

Overall, 82.3% of respondents reported meeting people outside of their household through at least one of the activities at least once a week, suggesting that just under a fifth of respondents connected with others outside of their household less frequently than once a week. The most commonly chosen factors for limiting social activity were disability or mobility (17.7% of respondents), unaware of what is available in local area (16.1%), confidence (15.6%) and funds or costs (14.5%).



	Hobbies	Groups or clubs	Social events	Classes	Work	Other
not applicable	12.2%	11.6%	2.2%	28.9%	44.5%	67.5%
never	21.2%	27.7%	4.7%	49.2%	14.0%	0.0%
once year	1.8%	1.2%	3.6%	1.2%	1.5%	9.8%
once six months	3.3%	2.9%	7.9%	2.1%	2.4%	0.6%
once a month	8.7%	9.8%	15.6%	0.9%	4.2%	3.7%
once a fortnight	8.1%	7.2%	14.8%	1.2%	1.5%	4.3%
once a week	44.8%	39.6%	51.2%	16.4%	31.9%	14.1%

Bases: Hobbies = 335, Groups or clubs = 346, Social events = 365, Classes = 329, Work = 335, Other = 163

Volunteering: Data from the Scottish Household Survey estimates that 16% of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in 2023 – this is down from 22% in 2022 and 25% in 2021. In Scotland there was a similar drop in levels of volunteering – from 22% in 2022 to 18% in 2023 .

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) reports that there are over 80,700 volunteers in Aberdeen who regularly give their time in support of local communities, contributing an incredible 6.2 million hours of help every year, making a positive difference to all aspects of life, people and communities across our city . Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations logged 10,882 volunteer interactions during the year. Youth volunteering is a great strength in Aberdeen, with 3,129 young people (age 12-25 years) undertaking Saltire Awards for volunteering (locality breakdown: Central: 787, North: 1397 and South: 945 people).

There are challenges both locally and nationally in sustaining volunteering levels, particularly due to the impact of the ongoing cost of living crisis and additional pressures voluntary and community groups face, with it noted by Volunteer Scotland that 'many voluntary sector organisations have experienced a ‘perfect storm’ of increased demand, rising costs and stagnating income, and individuals have less time and finance which is

reducing their capacity to volunteer' and also 'residual, longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on formal volunteering participation'.

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 and the subsequent "Roadmap for digital and data, 2022 to 2025" . 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 .

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.

5.1.3. Housing

Dwellings: In 2023 there were 124,369 dwellings in Aberdeen City – an increase of 1,006 (0.8%) on the number of dwellings in 2022 (123,363). Since 2013, the number of dwellings has increased by 11,656 (10.3%). The number of dwellings varies by neighbourhood from 724 in Cummings Park to 6,691 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield. Most (58.9%) are in Council Tax bands A-C, with 26.2% being in bands D-E and 14.9% being in bands G-H . 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, Bieldside & Milltimber, 67% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands F-H .

40.5% of dwellings have a single adult discount with the proportion of dwellings with these discounts ranging from a low of 24.7% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber to a high of 50.8% in Woodside. 6.8% of dwellings have 'occupied exemptions' (e.g. student households), with the highest levels of exemptions being in Old Aberdeen (34%), George Street (32%), Seaton (28%) and Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank (19%) .

Second homes account for less than 1% of all dwellings in the City (n=686) and in 2023 there were 7,790 vacant dwellings (6.3% of all dwellings) – down from 8,121 in 2022. The

percentage of vacant dwellings ranges from a low of 2% in Old Machar to a high of 11.9% in Garthdee.

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 . Data from the 2022 Census shows that 49.7% of occupied households were living in whole houses or bungalows (12.6% detached, 21.2% semi-detached and 16% terraced) with 50.2% of households living in flats.

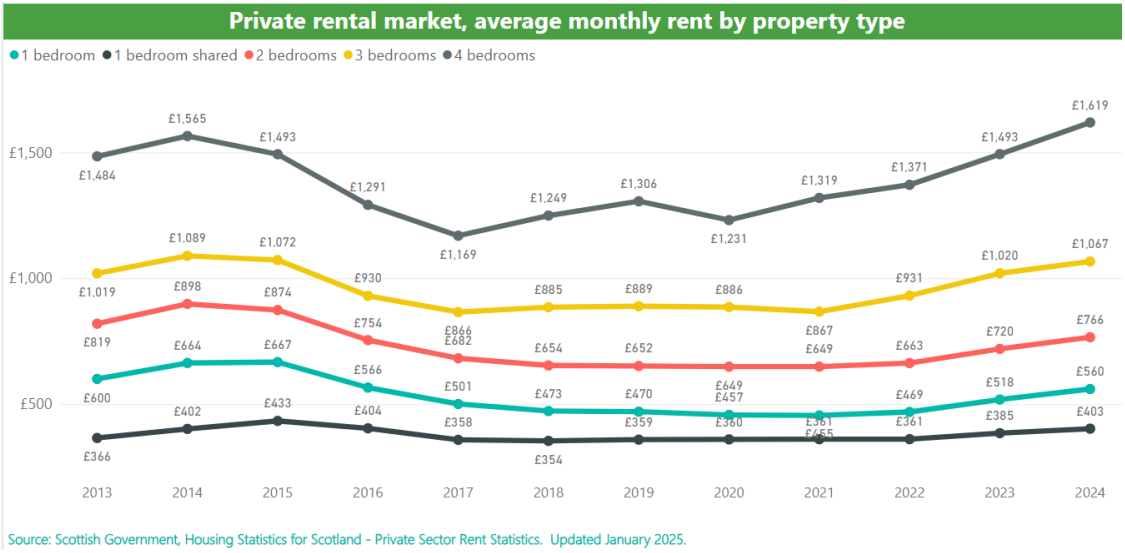
At the time of the 2022 Census, 56.5 % of occupied households in the City were owned (28.7% owned outright and 26.7% with a mortgage or loan) , 22.4% were socially rented, 19.8% were privately rented and 1.3% were rent-free. Tenure varied by Intermediate Zone. Ownership (either outright or with a mortgage) was lowest in Seaton at 22.8% and highest in Oldmachar East at 91.2%. Less than 1% of households were socially rented in Danestone compared to 62.5% in Torry East. City Centre East had the highest percentage of privately rented households (55.8%) and Northfield the lowest (3.3%) .

Housing stock: In Aberdeen City in 2024 the Local Authority's housing stock totalled 23,255 – up from 22,772 in 2023. Of the Council stock, 17,732 (76.3%) were flats and 5,532 (23.7%) were houses. Since 2014, the total housing stock owned by the Council has decreased by 3.4% - from 22,496 . At 31st March 2023 there were 3,720 applicants on the waiting list and 1,774 on the transfer list for housing.

Supply of new housing: In 2023-24, 1,089 new houses were supplied in Aberdeen City. Of these, 509 were private sector new builds, 387 were local authority new builds and 193 were housing association new builds .

Supported housing: A range of supported housing is provided by the Local Authority. In 2023, housing for older people included 110 very sheltered, and 1,873 sheltered dwellings (of which 223 are wheelchair adapted) and 1,533 medium dependency. Some 3,516 dwellings have been fitting with a community alarm. Housing for people with physical disabilities included 448 dwellings adapted for wheelchair use, 830 for ambulant disabled and 1,902 with other adaptions .

Private rental sector: In 2024, the average monthly rent in Aberdeen City and Shire (Broad Rental Market Area) was £560 for a one-bedroomed property, £766 for a 2-bedroomed property, £1,067 for a 3-bedroomed property and £1,619 for a 4-bedroomed property. These were higher than the average rents in 2023 with the largest increase being in 4-bedroomed properties which increased from £1,493 in 2023 . With the exception of 4-bedroomed properties, rents are lower than their 2015 peak.



House sales: In 2024, the average (mean) purchase price for a residential property in Aberdeen City was £181,008 – up from £178,726 in 2023. (The median price was £146,000.) This is still lower than the 2015 peak of £223,986. The number of properties sold increased from 4,132 in 2023 to 4,461 in 2024 .

5.1.4. Homelessness

Homeless applications: In Aberdeen City in 2023-24, there were 1,763 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation, of which 1,270 were assessed as homeless. There were 1,970 people (of which 596 were children) associated with the applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. The number of applications is similar to the figure for 2022-23 (1,772) and up from 1,404 in 2021-22. In the first two quarters of 2024-25 there have been 889 applications .

In 2023-24 there were 50 applications were at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping the night before their application, and 95 where at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping in the 3 months prior to their application. 483 of the households assessed as homeless had at least one identified support need (up from 449 the previous year).

At 31st March 2024, 442 households were in temporary accommodation (up from 399 in March 2023), 90 of these households had either pregnant women or children in them (up from 45 in March 2023) with a total of 175 children in temporary accommodation (up from 85 in March 2023) .

Youth homelessness: In 2023-24, there were 481 youth homelessness applications (up from 470 in 2022-23) of which 351 were assessed as homeless .

Prison homelessness: In 2023-24 there were 30 applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from – down from 45 in 2022-23 .

Emerging priorities

There is a continuing need to ensure that people and place are at the heart of our population need assessment: The following issues can be considered priorities:

- Social isolation and loneliness can have tangible impacts on health and wellbeing. In recent City Voice surveys participants responded to questions on social interaction, involvement in the community and influence and control. The results highlight opportunities for to enable this.
- Housing can also significantly impact on health and wellbeing. Negative impacts are likely to be more prevalent and severe in households living in poverty. Managing household expenses is also an area for prioritisation. The survey data from the City highlight that fuel and food poverty continue to be issues for many people, especially those who live with a disability, are in single households, or are from a minority community. The data identify 13 priority locations which should be the focus for developing place-based approaches to improving access to affordable food, fuel, and transport.
- Homelessness continues to be a challenge with almost 2,000 people affected by homeless applications received in 2023/24, of which almost 600 were children.

6. Neighbourhood and environment

Both the very local and the wider physical environment are important in creating health and sustaining wellbeing for individuals, for families and for communities. Local issues which impact on health include, air quality; the location, quality and accessibility of green spaces; walkability and transport, particularly in support of active travel; and the physical appearance of localities, such as litter and poor or derelict buildings, which can impact on mental health. Climate change will continue to impact our communities through direct effects including increased mortality and ill-health associated with excess heat and cold and loss associated with flooding and other extreme weather events

6.1. Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

6.1.1. Your neighbourhood

A series of questions about 'Your Neighbourhood' has been asked in the City Voice, most recently in City Voice 51. These questions are based on the Place Standard format which provides a framework for asking about places – covering both physical and social aspects of a place. Participants were asked to answer the questions with their **local neighbourhood** in mind (while everyone will have their own idea about what a local neighbourhood is, for the purpose of these questions we suggested an area within a 15-minute walk from home would be relevant). The questions covered 14 themes:

- **Moving around :** Can you easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?
- **Public transport:** Does public transport meet your needs?
- **Traffic and parking:** Do traffic and parking arrangements allow you to move around safely and meet your needs?
- **Streets and spaces:** Do streets and spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?
- **Green space:** Can you regularly experience good quality natural space? This includes a wide variety of environments from parks and woodlands to green space alongside paths and streets.
- **Play and leisure:** Do you have access to a range of space and opportunities for play and leisure activities?
- **Services and amenities:** Do services and amenities (e.g. healthcare, schools, libraries, shops and restaurants) meet your needs?
- **Work and local economy:** Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality jobs?

- **Housing and community:** Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?
- **Social interaction:** Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?
- **Identity and belonging:** Does your neighbourhood have a positive identity and do you feel that you belong?
- **Feeling safe:** Do you feel safe in your neighbourhood?
- **Care and maintenance:** Are buildings and spaces well cared for?
- **Influence and sense of control:** Do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?

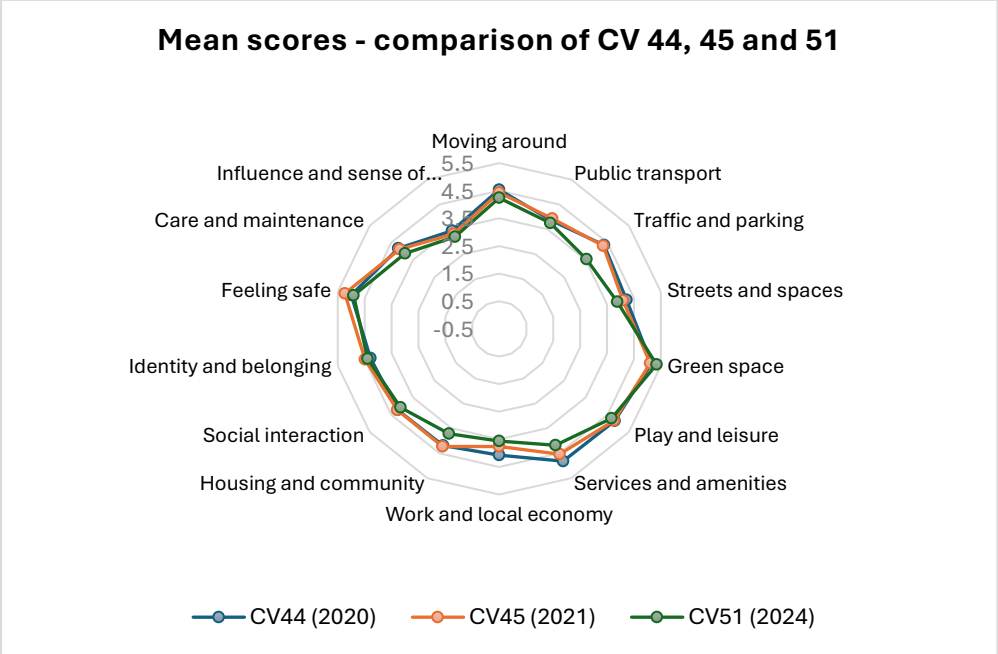
For each of the 14 topics, participants were asked to give a score on a scale of 1-7, where 1 = lots of room for improvement and 7 = very little room for improvement. Mean scores are calculated for each topic with a higher mean score indicates a better rating.

In the most recent City Voice survey that included these questions (City Voice 51, August 2024), **green space** and **feeling safe** were the highest scoring topics with mean scores of 5.3 and 4.9 respectively followed by **play and leisure** (4.7). The lowest scoring topics were **influence and sense of control** (mean score of 3.2), **traffic and parking** (3.5) and **work and local economy** (3.6). The table below shows the mean scores for all indicators from highest to lowest.

Topics	Mean scores
Green space	5.3
Feeling safe	4.9
Play and leisure	4.7
Identity and belonging	4.4
Moving around	4.2
Services and amenities	4.2
Social interaction	4.1
Streets and spaces	3.9
Care and maintenance	3.9
Public transport	3.8
Housing and community	3.7
Work and local economy	3.6
Traffic and parking	3.5
Influence and sense of control	3.2

The same set of questions have been asked in previous City Voice questionnaires. On the whole, responses show a broadly similar pattern each time these questions have been asked, with most of the changes being relatively small. The most notable change is in relation to **traffic and parking** where the mean score has fallen from 4.4 in CV44 (2020) to 3.5 in City Voice 51 (2024). With the exceptions of **green space** and **identity and belonging**, mean scores for all of the topics have fallen since the questions were asked

in CV44 (2020). The chart below shows mean scores across these three City Voice questionnaires with the table giving a more detailed comparison, highlighting the differences in scores between City Voice 44 (2020) and City Voice 51 (2024).



	CV44 (2020)	CV45 (2021)	CV51 (2024)	Difference between CV44 and CV51
Moving around	4.5	4.4	4.2	-0.3
Public transport	3.9	3.9	3.8	-0.1
Traffic and parking	4.4	4.3	3.5	-0.8
Streets and spaces	4.2	4.1	3.9	-0.4
Green space	5.2	5.1	5.3	0.2
Play and leisure	4.9	4.8	4.7	-0.1
Services and amenities	4.8	4.5	4.2	-0.6
Work and local economy	4.1	3.8	3.6	-0.5
Housing and community	4.2	4.2	3.7	-0.5
Social interaction	4.2	4.2	4.1	-0.1
Identity and belonging	4.3	4.5	4.4	0.1
Feeling safe	5.0	5.2	4.9	-0.1
Care and maintenance	4.2	4.1	3.9	-0.3
Influence and sense of control	3.4	3.3	3.2	-0.2

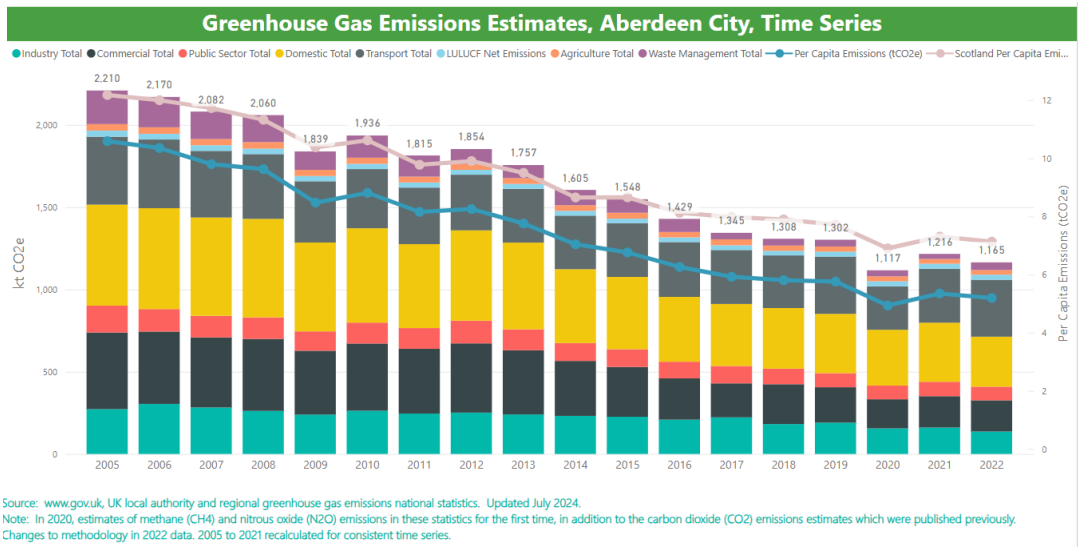
More recently (May 2025) the Place Standard was used in our public engagement to inform the development of the LOIP and locality plans. A summary table showing the overall results is given below and the full report can be found here: https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/YPYPYF-Full-Engagement-Draft-020625.pdf

	1 (Very bad)	2	3	4	5	6	7 (Excellent)	Mean	Base
Moving around	9.1%	10.2%	12.2%	26.6%	21.0%	16.3%	4.6%	4.1	1,256
Public Transport	9.4%	12.0%	22.6%	23.6%	18.6%	9.0%	4.7%	3.8	1,263
Traffic and Parking	14.8%	15.9%	18.2%	27.7%	15.4%	4.8%	3.2%	3.4	1,059
Streets and Spaces	7.5%	12.6%	16.6%	26.3%	21.7%	11.5%	3.9%	3.9	1,098
Natural Spaces	3.4%	3.0%	7.7%	17.9%	26.6%	28.6%	12.9%	5.0	1,252
Play and Recreation	4.7%	8.1%	14.8%	24.5%	26.7%	14.3%	6.9%	4.3	1,048
Facilities and Services	7.3%	7.3%	13.1%	30.3%	23.3%	14.2%	4.5%	4.2	1,144
Work and Local Economy	8.1%	11.2%	19.2%	32.0%	19.9%	7.9%	1.7%	3.7	990
Housing and Community	7.6%	8.8%	14.6%	24.5%	24.1%	14.8%	5.6%	4.2	1,033
Social Interaction	5.5%	8.6%	14.9%	26.4%	28.1%	11.3%	5.2%	4.2	1,087
Identity and Belonging	6.4%	9.2%	13.2%	30.5%	21.9%	13.1%	5.6%	4.1	998
Feeling Safe	7.3%	7.1%	14.3%	30.5%	19.6%	15.9%	5.3%	4.2	1,219
Care and Maintenance	10.1%	10.5%	17.6%	25.0%	22.8%	11.0%	2.9%	3.8	1,006
Influence and Sense of Control	17.8%	13.1%	18.8%	27.7%	14.7%	5.5%	2.4%	3.3	951

6.1.2. 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 2022, Greenhouse Gas emissions estimates totalled 1,165 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO2e) for Aberdeen City – down from 1,216 in 2021. Transport was the single largest contributor (29.7% of all greenhouse gas emissions) followed by domestic use (26.1%). In 2022 per capita emissions were lower in Aberdeen City (5.2 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e)) than in Scotland (7.1 tCO2e) .



Source: www.gov.uk, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics. Updated July 2024.
Note: In 2020, estimates of methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) emissions in these statistics for the first time, in addition to the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates which were published previously. Changes to methodology in 2022 data. 2005 to 2021 recalculated for consistent time series.

Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) emissions: In 2022 carbon dioxide emissions in Aberdeen totalled 1,063 kilotonnes (kt) (down 44.3% since 2005) – down from 1,128 in 2021. Since 2005, per capita carbon dioxide emissions have fallen in both Aberdeen and Scotland, mostly due to the greening of the electricity grid, and the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap has put in place a local commitment to meeting the Scottish Government target of Net Zero Emissions by 2045. In 2022, per capita levels were similar in Aberdeen (4.74 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e)) and Scotland (4.81 tCO2e) .

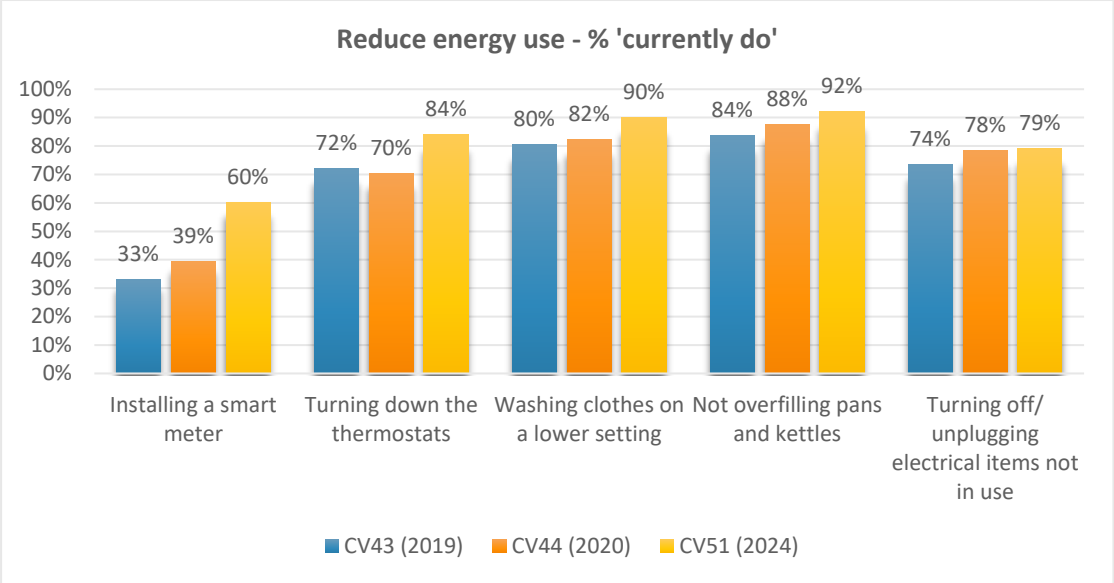
Carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of local authorities: alongside the full dataset, a subset dataset is also published which gives carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities (e.g. excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways, land-use, livestock and soils). In 2022, carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of local authorities totalled 999.5 kilotonnes – down from 1,044.8 kilotonnes in 2021.

Public Sector carbon dioxide emissions: In 2022, Public Sector carbon dioxide emissions totalled 81 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO2e) – down from 85 in 2021. Public Sector Gas made up 76.5% of emissions.

Renewable energy: In 2023, Aberdeen City had 3,679 renewable energy installations (3,663 of which were photovoltaics) compared to 2,845 in 2022 and 789 in 2014 (2014 is the first year of data available). The installed capacity (Megawatts) was 80.9 megawatts in 2023 compared to 67.5 in 2022 and 10.3 in 2014. Renewable energy generation was 13,098 Megawatt-hours (MWh) in 2023 – compared to 11,690 Megawatt-hours in 2022.

Reducing energy use and demand: Questions around reducing energy use and demand have been asked in the City Voice, most recently in August 2024. 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 or installing smart meters. Other ways of reducing energy use identified by respondents included drying clothes outside, using an air fryer instead of an oven, only heating the rooms that are used most, and wearing extra layers of clothing. Most respondents also reported that they currently are, or would be prepared to, undertake actions which would reduce energy demand, e.g. install energy saving lightbulbs, upgrade

to 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 (57.4%) reported either they were not prepared to do this, or that this option was not applicable (e.g. those living in rented accommodation).



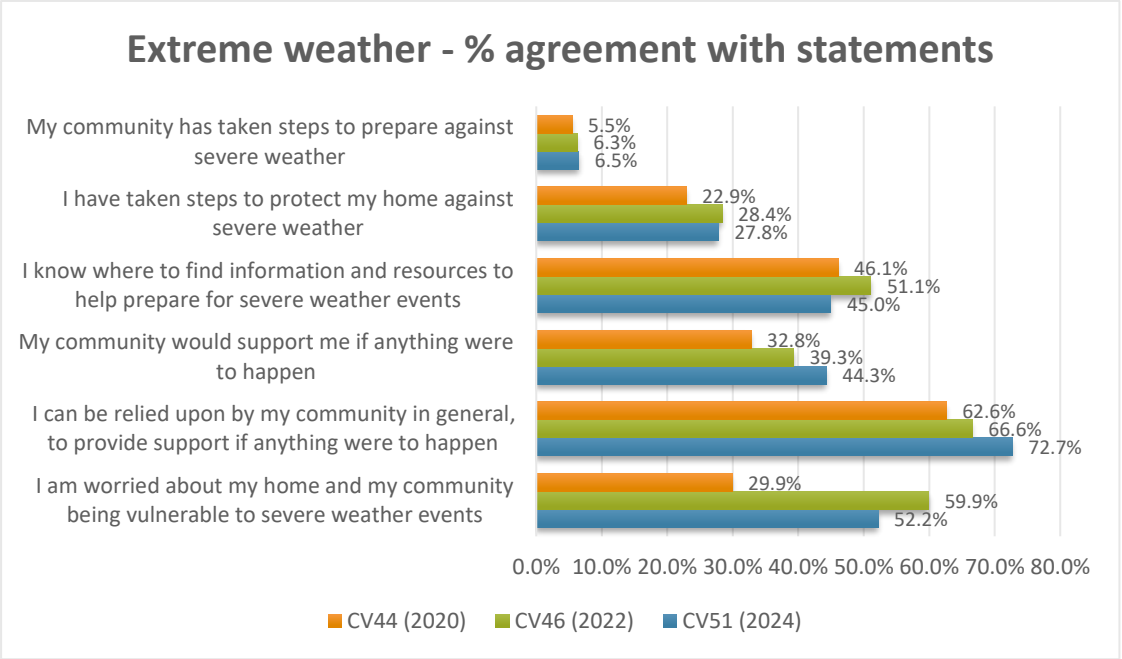
Climate Emergency Declaration: In March 2023, Aberdeen City Council added its voice to the growing number of local authorities around the world to have responded to the global climate change and nature loss crises by declaring a climate and nature emergency. Details of the declaration are available in 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 Local Climate Impact Profile 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 2023 Scottish Household Survey estimate that 73% of people in Aberdeen City see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem – up from 68% in 2012 .

Extreme weather readiness: Questions about readiness for extreme weather events have been asked in City Voice, most recently in August 2024. Over half (52.2%) of respondents agreed (either strongly agree or agree) that they were worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather events, considerably higher than the response to when this question was asked 2020 (29.9%), but slightly lower than when asked in 2022 (59.9%). While 72.7% of respondents agreed that they could be relied upon to by their neighbours or community to provide support if anything were to happen, only 44.3% agreed that their community would support them if anything were to happen. Less than half (45%) of respondents said they would know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events. Over a quarter (27.8%) of respondents reported they had taken steps to protect their home against severe weather and only 6.5% 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 (45.5% of respondents) .



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. Scottish Environment Protection Agency (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 Scottish Environment Protection Agency 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.

6.1.3. Environment - nature

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.

Protected Land: 21.3% of land in Aberdeen City is protected for nature.

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 United Nations 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.

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)*.

Questions about greenspace have also been asked in the City Voice. In August 2024, 74.5% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with overall greenspace in the City – up from 64.5% in March 2020 – and two-thirds of respondents (66.7%) said they would like to see more green spaces managed for nature. When asked what they felt were the most important benefits of good quality green spaces, the benefits most commonly identified by respondents were improving mental health (57.9%) and making space for nature (52.5%) followed by space for children to play (43.7%). Over 90% of respondents agreed both that it was important for people to have access to nature in their neighbourhoods and that spending time in nature was important for their own personal wellbeing .

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 crawl 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. Volunteering is an important function of the Aberdeen B-Lines – 167 local volunteers helped with 73 hours of volunteer events. Volunteering and being in nature is an excellent way to improve wellbeing by being active, improving mental health, socialising and working as a team to do something positive for the environment.

Woodland: Aberdeen has 2,410 hectares of woodland - 13% of Aberdeen City'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. Aberdeen City currently has 164 Tree Preservation Orders covering an area of 300 hectares, protecting selected trees and woodlands whose removal would significantly impact the amenity of an area.

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.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (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 .

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 'poor' 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 2023, 2020 and 2019.

Name	2023	2020	2019
South Mundurno Burn	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Den Burn	Poor ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Don - Dyce to tidal limit	Bad	Bad	Bad
Bucks Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential
River Don - Inverurie to Dyce	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Black Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Dee - Banchory to Peterculter	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Culter Burn	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Gormack Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
Leuchar Burn	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential
Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn	Poor ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
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

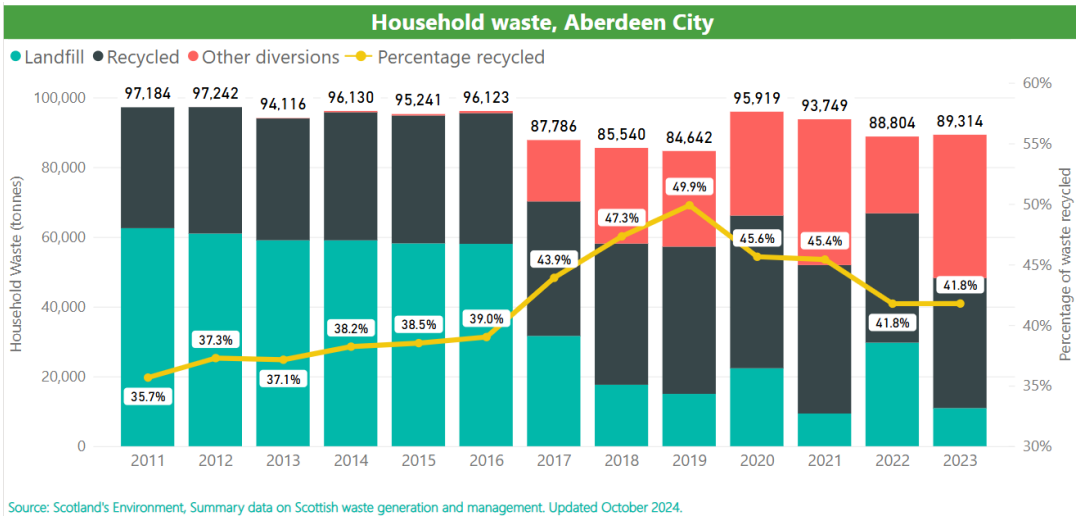
Domestic water supply: The River Dee and its tributaries, together with a number of private water supplies, provide a domestic water supply for the whole of Aberdeen City and over half of Aberdeenshire. Over 300,000 people drink water supplied by the River Dee each day . Climate change is likely to bring more uncertainty and may exert pressure in areas that have not yet experienced water scarcity. Scottish Environment Protection Agency are responsible for the forecast, monitoring and report of the situation facing Scotland's water resources and produces a during the summer months .

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 44 Local Nature Conservation Sites. Approximately 21.3% of our land is protected for wildlife. Aberdeen City Council 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.

6.1.4. Household waste

In 2023, 89,314 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 10,930 in 2023. 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 2023, 41.8% of household waste was recycled (slightly less than the previous year) and 12.2% was sent to landfill. Other diversions accounted for 46% of household waste. The carbon impact of household waste was 219,570 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO2e) in 2023, down from 227,310 in 2022 .

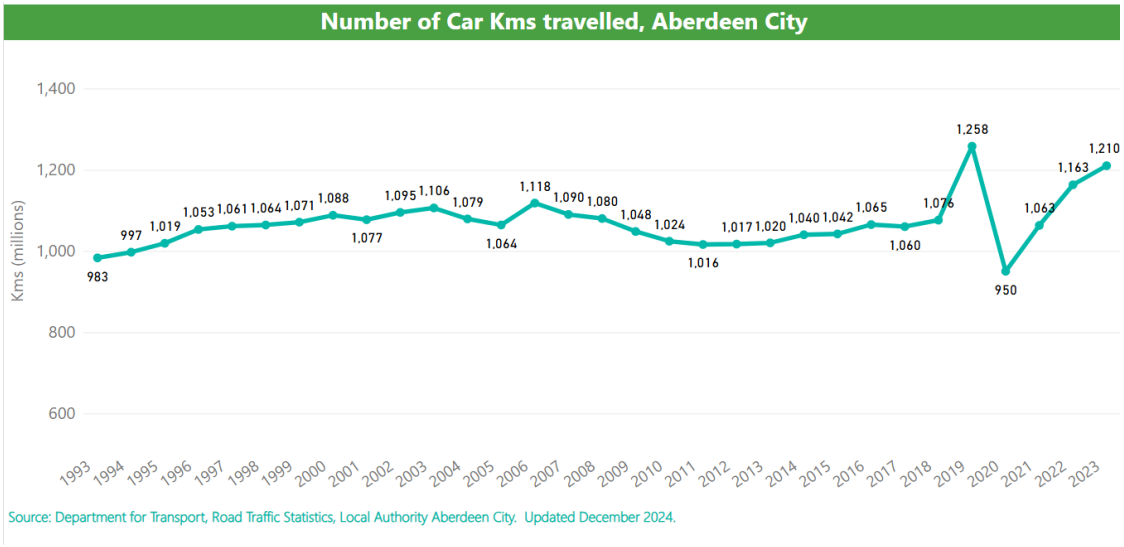


Source: Scotland's Environment, Summary data on Scottish waste generation and management. Updated October 2024.

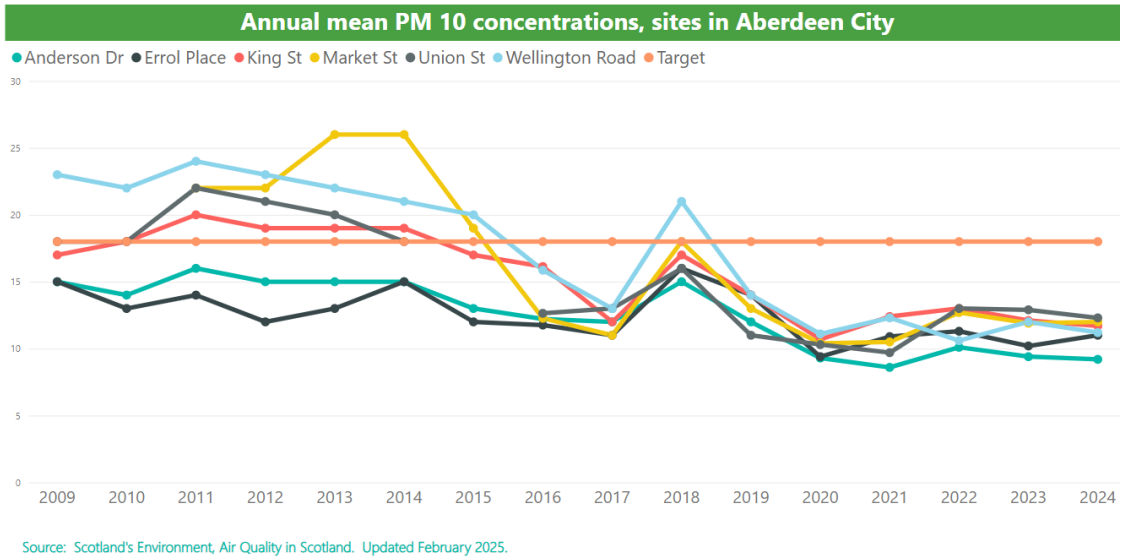
6.1.5. Sustainable travel

Active travel: In 2023 an estimated 13% of people in Aberdeen City used active travel (walking or cycling) to get to work or education. This is down from 14% in 2022 . In 2023, 30% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (up from 28% in 2022) and 1% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (down from 2% in 2022). Driving a car was the most common main mode of travel at 45% . In 2023, most City Voice respondents (80.6%) reported walking as one mode of travel and 16.3% reported they cycled as one mode of travel (December 2023) .

Car Kms travelled: In 2023, a total of 1,210 million kms were travelled by car and taxi in Aberdeen City – up from 1,163 million kms in 2022 .



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



Electric Vehicles: In 2024/25 there were 149 public chargepoint sockets installed by the Council in order to encourage the use of electric vehicles - up from 79 in 2022/23, 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.

Emerging priorities

The Paris Climate Change Declaration was clear that there can be no planetary health without human health. Within the context of the Population health assessment, the data highlight the following priority areas:

- Many of the areas that are associated with climate resilience are a focus for environmental sustainability, notably in relation to green-space, transport, air and water quality, waste management, and land use. In all of these areas the potential for human health co-benefits have been identified and the meaningful delivery of such co-benefits needs to be maximised.
- The potential for climate change to increase the impact of social and economic inequalities – leading to wider health inequalities – needs to be understood more clearly and reflected in work to move beyond mitigation of the impact of greenhouses gases (delivering net zero) and into adapting systems, services, and places that are adapted to the future climate.
- There is a clear design for place-based approaches to creating climate resilience, especially in the context of flood prevention, water quality, air quality, and dealing with extreme weather events. These are areas that should be being progressed on multi-agency basis in line with the Scottish National Adaptation Plan.

7. Health and Social Care

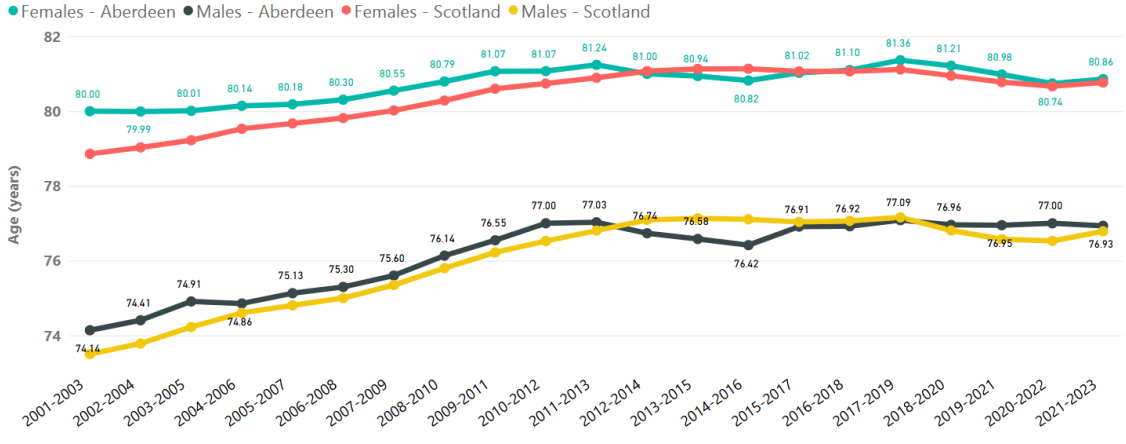
7.1. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

7.1.1. Estimated life expectancy at birth

Estimated life expectancy: National Records of Scotland provide Life Expectancy estimates. These are 'period' life expectancy and are calculated assuming that mortality rates for each age group are constant throughout a person's life. Period life expectancy is often described as how long a baby born now could expect to live if they experienced today's mortality rates throughout their lifetime. While it is unlikely that this would be the case, is it a useful measure of population health at a point in time and is useful for comparing trends over time.

In general, Life Expectancy (LE) at birth is higher for females than for males. In 2021-23 in Aberdeen City Life Expectancy at birth was estimated to be 80.9 years for women and 76.9 years for men, i.e. on average, a baby girl born in Aberdeen City in 2021-2023 could expect to live for 80.9 years while a baby boy born in Aberdeen City in the same period could expect to live for 76.9 years. The estimated Life Expectancy at birth for both females and males is similar to that for Scotland (80.8 years and 76.8 years respectively). 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.

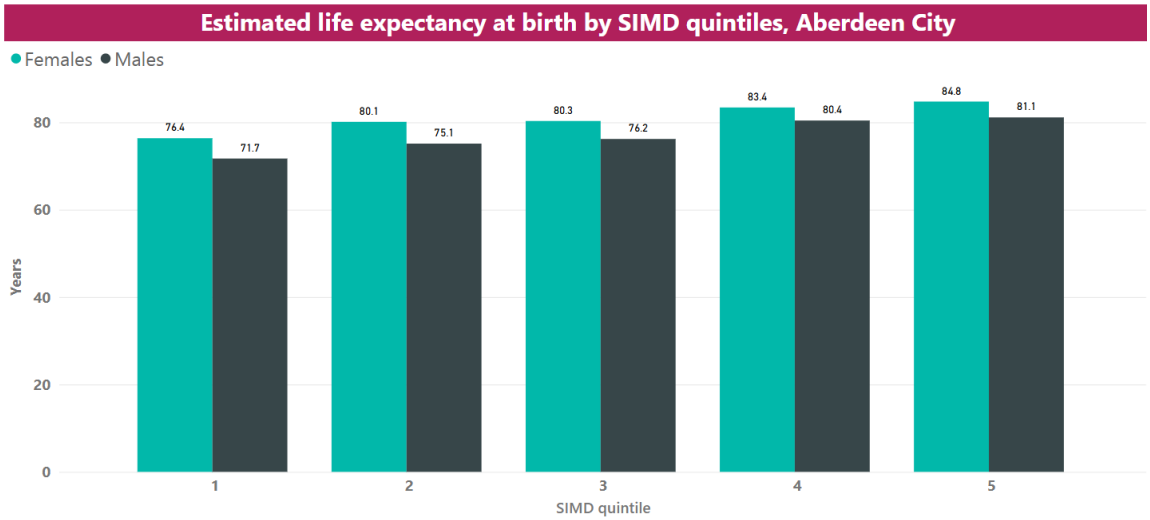
Estimated life expectancy at birth for Males and Females, Aberdeen City and Scotland, Time Series



Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland. Updated October 2024. (Note: figures for 2009-2011 to 2020-2022 were revised to take account of the rebased mid-year population estimates for 2011-2021 published in 2024.)

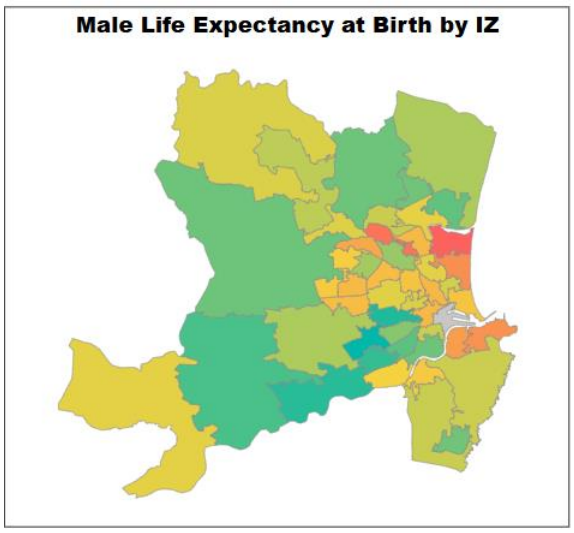
Estimated life expectancy by deprivation: Estimated life expectancy is strongly associated with deprivation. In Aberdeen City in 2019-2023, estimated life expectancy

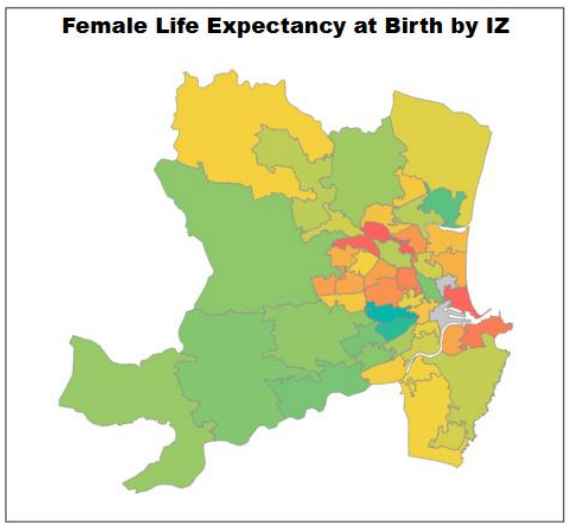
for males in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 71.7 years compared to 81.1 years for males in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) – **a difference of 9.5 years.** For females, estimated life expectancy for females in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 was 76.4 years compared to 84.8 years for females in quintile 5 - **a difference of 8.4 years** . Comparison with data from 2013-2017 shows that the gap in estimated life expectancy between most and least deprived quintiles in Aberdeen City has decreased slightly for males (previously 9.7 years) and increased for females (previously 7.4 years).



Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland. Updated October 2024. SIMD 1 = most deprived and SIMD 5 = least deprived.

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 2019-2023 (5-year average). For males, estimated LE at birth ranges from a low of 68.1 years in Old Aberdeen to a high of 84.2 years in Braeside, Mannofield and Broomhill & Seafield North – a difference of 13.7 years. For females it ranges from a low of 74.4 years in Woodside to a high of 88.1 years in West End North – a difference of 13.7 years .

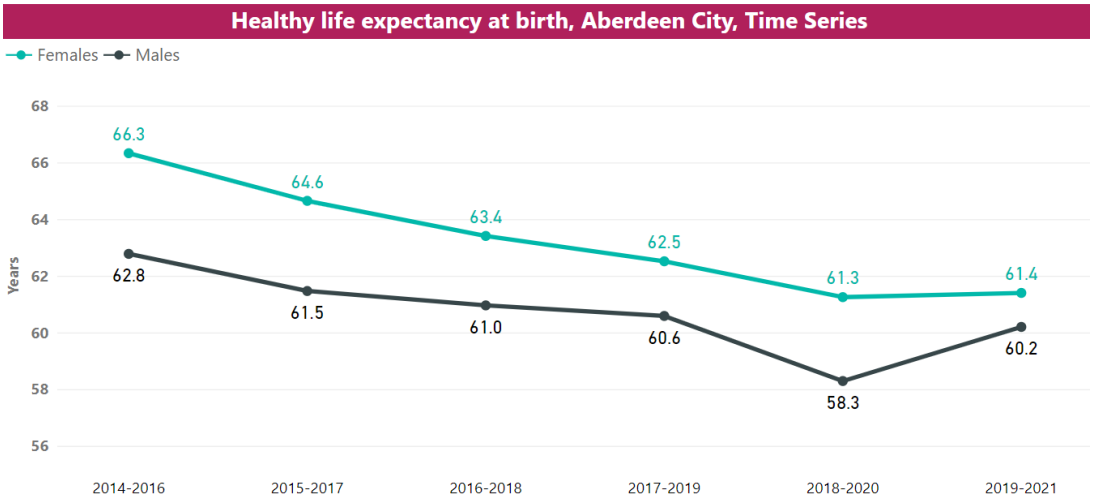




Source: ScotPHO profiles.

7.1.2. 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[12]. The most recent data on HLE is for 2019-21. 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 good' 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 good 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 good' 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 good health. So while on average females have a higher life expectancy than males, they also spend a higher proportion of their lives in 'not good 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 'not good' health compared to around 15% in the least deprived areas .



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

[12] Healthy life expectancy uses the sample population and death inputs as life expectancy. In addition, it requires survey data from which to estimate prevalence of good health. These data come from the general health question in the Annual Population survey which asks: How is your health in general; would you say it was…. Very Good; Good; Fair; Bad or Very Bad. Healthy life expectancy is defined as the number of years that someone could expect to spend in 'good' or 'very good' health. Source: National Records of Scotland: Methodology Guide

7.1.3. 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 (most recent report 2019).

At the time of the Census in 2022, 20.2% of Aberdeen City's population reported having a long-term illness that limited their abilities either a little (12.1%) or a lot (8.1%) compared to 24.1% in Scotland. The proportion of people saying they had a long-term illness that limited their abilities (a lot or a little combined) varied by age group, and was lowest in the 0-15 year group at 6.5% and highest in the 65+ years group at 47.8% (see table below) . The overall Census figure of 20.2% was lower than the similar indicator in the Scottish Health Survey (2019-2023) where 30% reported having a limiting long-term illness in Aberdeen City (compared to 36% in Scotland). A further 10% reported having a non-limiting long-term condition (compared to 12% in Scotland) .

In the Census, 82.1% of the city's population reported having good (32.9%) or very good (49.2%) general health compared to 78.8% for Scotland as a whole. The percentage rating their health as 'good' (i.e. good and very good combined) varied by age group, decreasing with increasing age. It was highest for 0-15 year-olds at 97.5% and lowest for those aged 65 years and over at 58.5% (see table below) . A similar question is asked in the Scottish Health survey. In 2019-2023, the percentage rating their health as good was slightly lower than the Census at 78% (compared to 72% for Scotland) .

	Percentage of people with an illness that limited their abilities	Percentage of people rating health as 'good'
Aged 0 to 15	6.5%	97.5%
Aged 16 to 24	13.2%	91.4%
Aged 25 to 34	11.7%	89.6%
Aged 35 to 49	14.7%	85.2%
Aged 50 to 64	24.8%	74.6%
Aged 65 and over	47.4%	58.5%

Source: Scotland's Census 2022

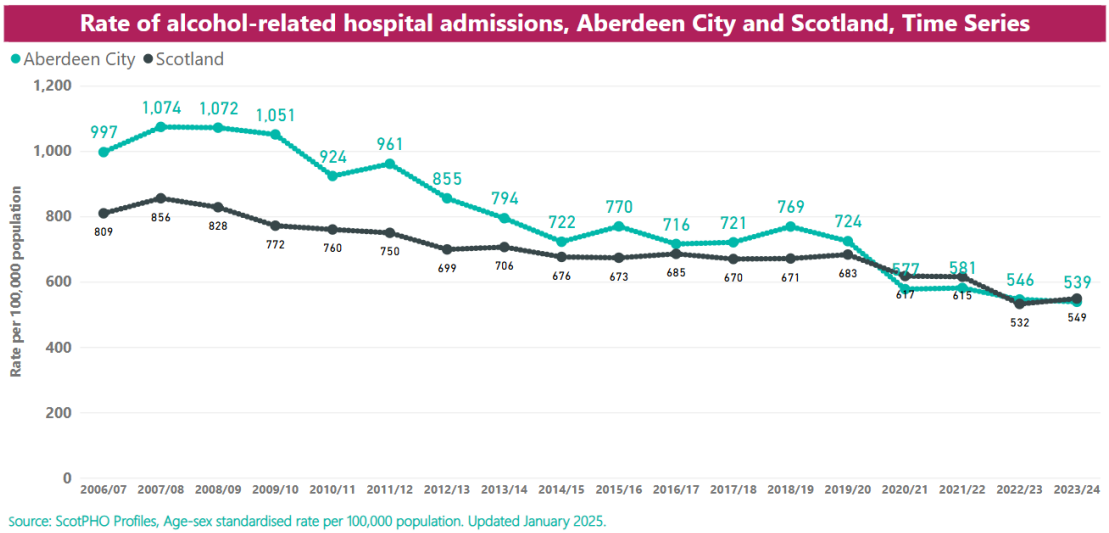
7.1.4. Health behaviours

Alcohol: In the period 2019-23, 23% 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 22% and from the rate in 2018-2022 of 22% . (Note: data for 2018-2022 and 2019-2023 does not include data for 2020 due to COVID-19.)

Questions relating to alcohol consumption were asked in City Voice 49 (February 2024). When asked if they knew the maximum number of units of alcohol recommended over a

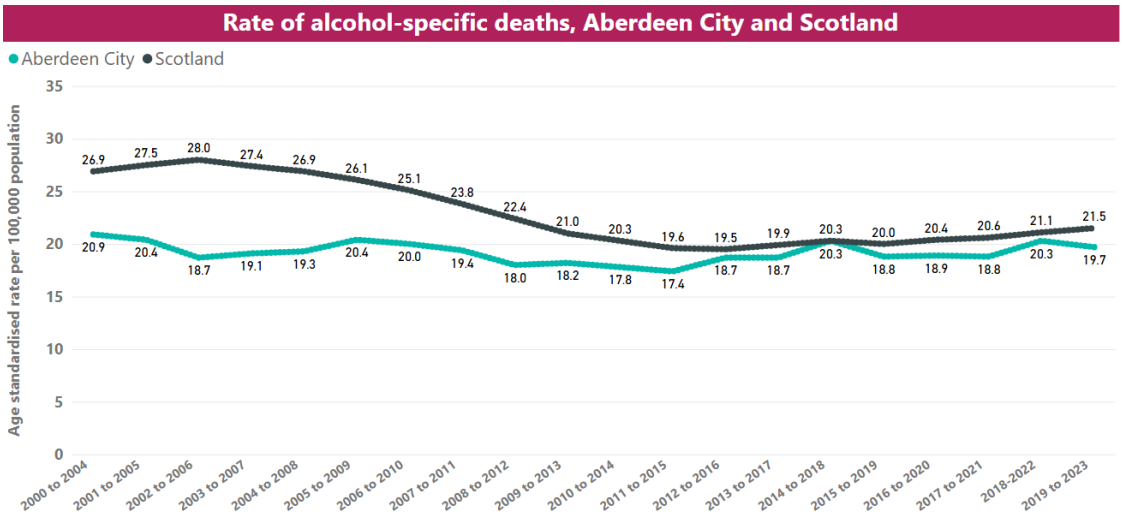
week, less than half (48.6%) of respondents correctly choose 14 units. The next most common response was don't know at 24.6% . These results are similar to when these questions were asked in the City Voice previously (December 2022) – responses of 46.7% and 25.9% respectively.

Alcohol-related hospital admissions: In 2023/24 there were 1,170 alcohol-related hospital admissions in Aberdeen City – equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 538.5 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 548.5. Alcohol-related hospital admissions were highest for those in the most deprived areas at 1,044.2 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 300.7 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). Across the City (Intermediate Zones), the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions ranged from a low of 32.3 in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 1,432 per 100,000 population in Torry West .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles, Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Updated January 2025.

Alcohol-specific deaths: In 2023 there were 45 alcohol-specific deaths in Aberdeen City – down from 49 deaths in 2022. 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 2019-23 this figure was 40.6 – lower than the figure of 41.8 in 2018-22. The rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths in 2019-23 was 19.7 per 100,000 population – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.5, and lower than the rate for 2018-22 of 20.3 per 100,000 population. Rates of alcohol-specific deaths are higher for those in deprived areas. In Aberdeen City in 2019-23, the rate (age-sex standardised) for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 40.4 per 100,000 population compared to 10.5 per 100,000 population for quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates of alcohol-related deaths vary across the city (Health and Social Care (HSC) localities, 2019-23 data) at 13.9 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen North, 14.4 in Aberdeen South and 34.1 in Aberdeen Central .

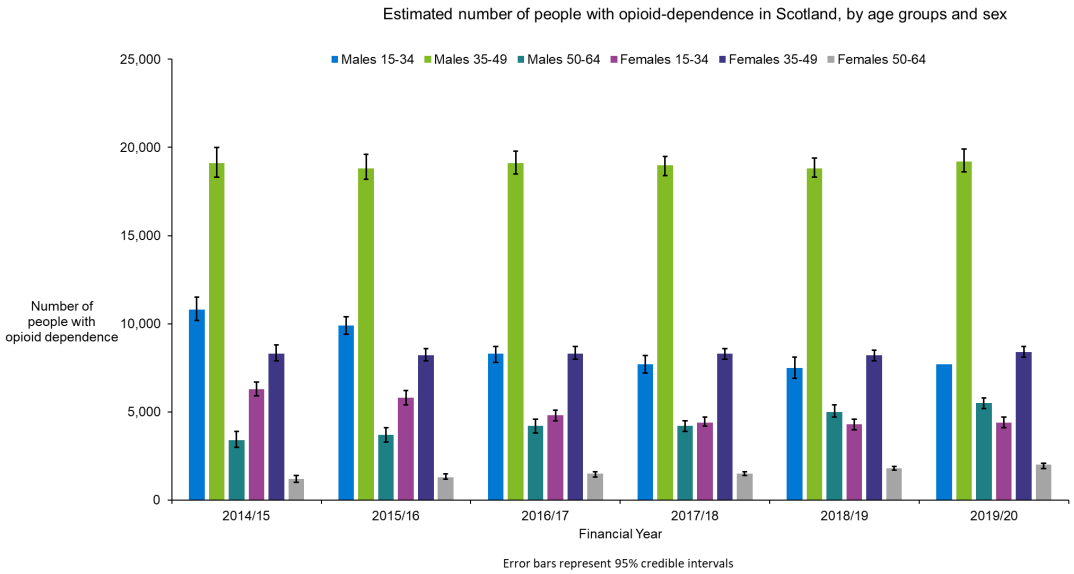


Source: NRS, Alcohol-specific deaths, Age-standardised rate per 100,000 population, 5-year averages. Updated September 2024.

Alcohol Treatment Services: In Q2 2024/25, 89 people accessed specialist alcohol treatment services, up from 82 in Q1 2024/25. Median length of wait was 14 days .

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. Estimated prevalence of problem drug use was higher in males (2.0%) than females (0.9%).

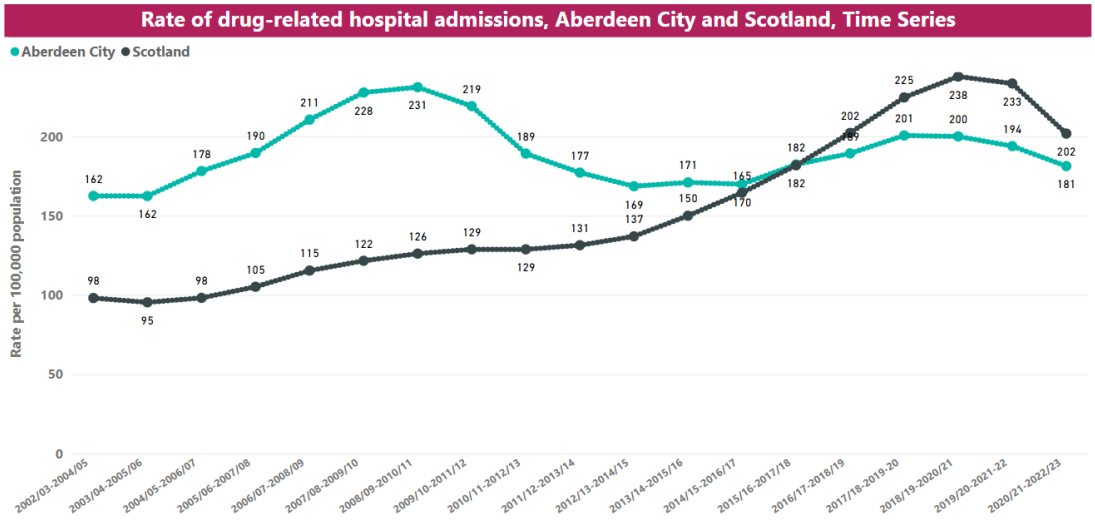
More recent data at Scotland level estimates that in 2019/20, 47,100 people (aged 15 to 64 years) in Scotland were dependent on opioids (1.32%) – with a higher number of males (32,300) than females (14,700) being dependent. Prevalence is highest in the 35-49 year age group .



Source: Public Health Scotland

Drug-related hospital admissions: In 2020/21-2022/23 there were 411 drug-related hospital admissions (3-year rolling average number) in Aberdeen which is equivalent to a

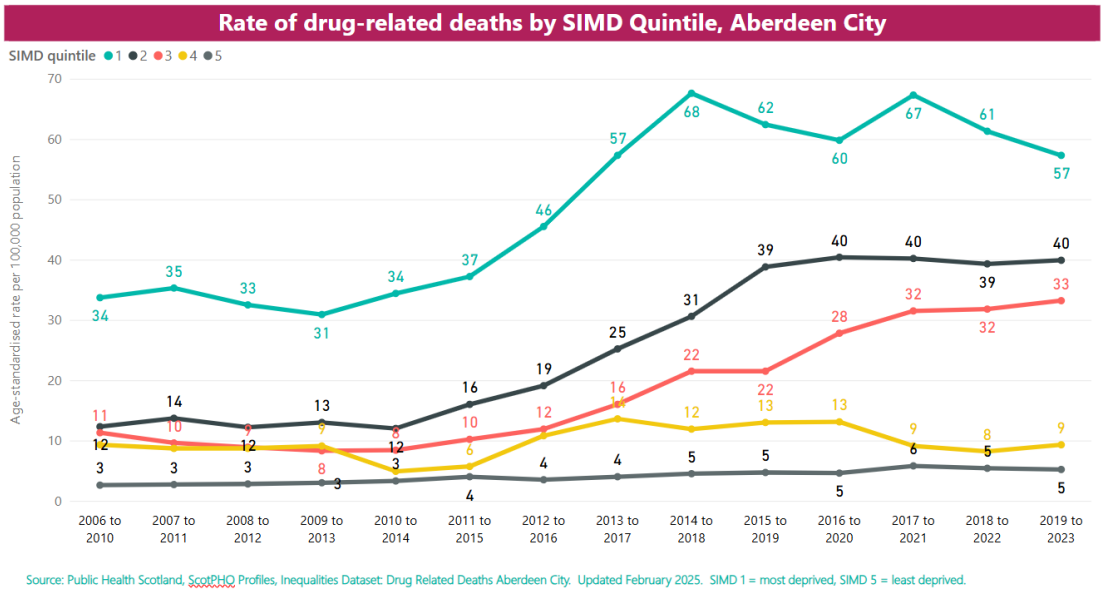
rate (age-sex standardised) of 181.3 per 100,000 population, compared to 201.8 per 100,000 population in Scotland. Following a period of increasing drug-related hospital admissions, the rate has decreased slightly in the past three periods – from 200.6 in 2017/18-2019/21. Based on 2018/19-2020/21 data, rates of drug-related hospital admissions were higher for those in deprived areas at 532 per 100,000 population for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 39.9 in quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate of drug related hospital admissions varies (Health and Social Care localities) from 118 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, to 163 in Aberdeen North and 248.5 in Aberdeen Central .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles, 3-year rolling average and directly age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Updated October 2024.

Drug-related deaths: In 2023 there were 54 drug-related deaths in Aberdeen City – up from 42 deaths in 2022. Of the 54 deaths in 2023, 36 were males and 18 were females. 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 2019-2023, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 23.7 deaths per 100,000 population. This is similar to the rate for Scotland (23.6 per 100,000 population) and the same as the rate for 2018-2022. In Aberdeen City, drug-related deaths were highest in the 45-54 year age group and the 35-44 year-old age group (with 61.5 and 57.1 per 100,000 population respectively in 2019-2023) .

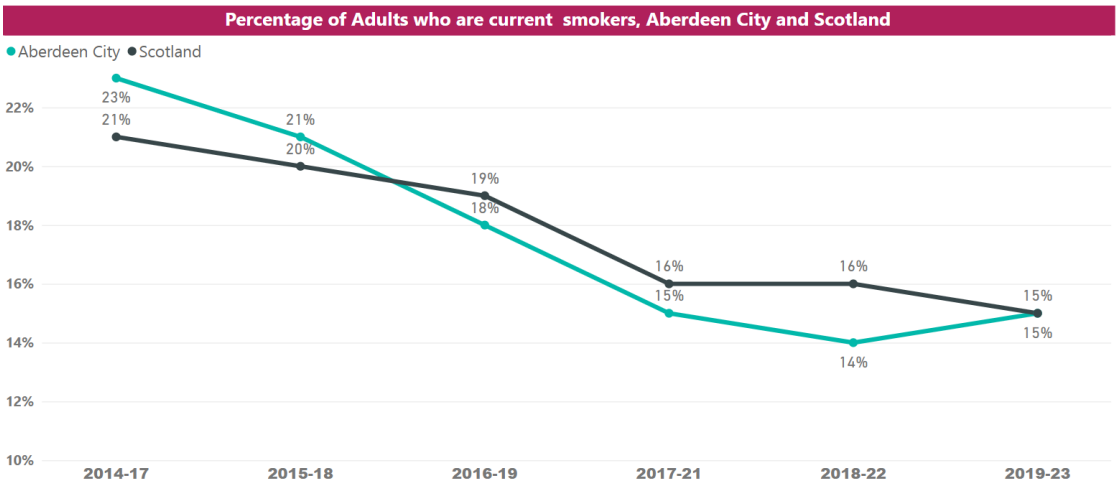
The rate of drug-related deaths is higher for those living in deprived areas. In Aberdeen City in 2019-2023, the rate (age-sex standardised) of drug related deaths for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 57.3 per 100,000 population compared to 5.2 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived) .



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. There has been an 11% decrease in the total number of naloxone kits issued in Aberdeen from 2023/24 to 2024/25, (1,407 to 1,250). Of the 1,250 kits issued in 2024/25, 77% were issued to Persons at Risk, a 2% reduction from 2023/24. In 2024/25, 12% of kits were supplied due to the previous kit being used, this a 7% increase from 2022/23. From 2022/23 to 2023/24 we saw an increase in supply in Central (12%) and South (7%) Localities, with a slight decrease of 2% in North. However in 2024/25 we saw a slight decrease of 5% (23) in Central, and 27% (51) decrease in South, however a 3% (5) increase in North.

Drug Treatment Services: In Quarter 2 2024/2025, 109 people accessed specialist drug treatment services, down from 113 in Quarter 1. Median length of wait was 4 days .

Smoking: In the period 2019-2023, an estimated 15% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers – the same rate as Scotland. A higher proportion of males (17%) than females (13%) were smokers. The percentage of adults who are current smokers has decreased from 23% in 2014-17. It is estimated that 7% of adults use e-cigarettes (7% males, 7% females) – up from 5% in 2018-2022 . (Note: data for 2019-2023 does not include 2020 data due to COVID-19).



Source: Scottish Health Survey: Results for local Areas, Updated November 2024. Note: Data for 2020 is not included in data for 2017-21, 2018-22 or 2019-23.

Obesity: The most recent data on Body Mass Index (BMI) is from 2016-19 (changes in data collection methods for 2021 and 2023 due to COVID-19 mean that Body Mass Index data is not available for 2017-2021, 2018-2022 or 2019-23 for local authority areas). In 2016-19 it was estimated that 23% of the City's adult population was obese (classified as a Body Mass Index of 30+). This was lower than the rate for Scotland of 29% and a decrease from 25% in 2014-17. In 2023, in Scotland it was estimated that 32% of the population was obese .

Physical activity: In the period 2019-2023, 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 65% for Scotland. 21% percent had low or very low levels of physical activity and 9% had some activity .

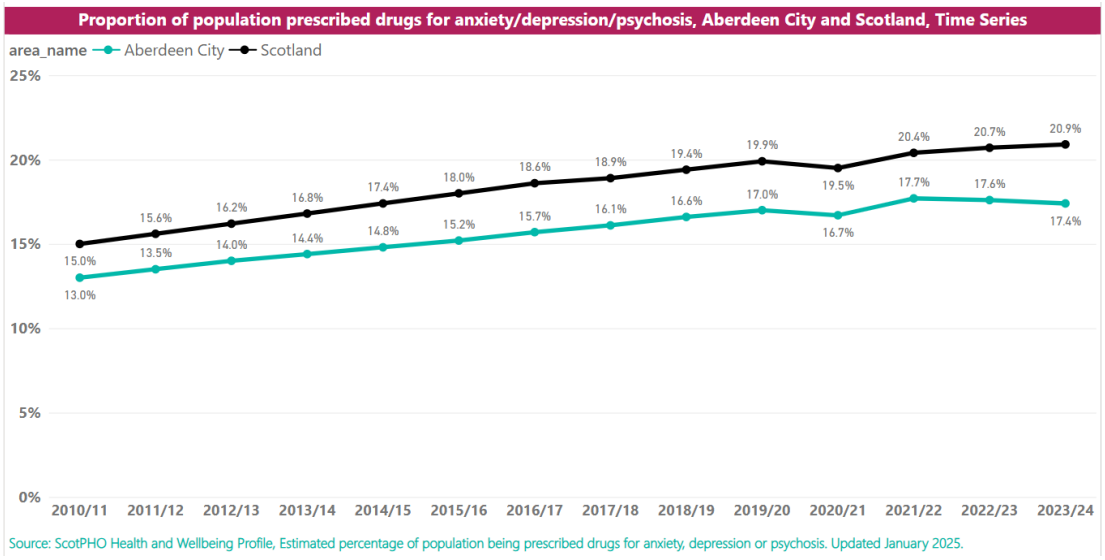
Based on data from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 87% of adults in Aberdeen City had taken part in some form of physical activity (including walking) in the previous month. When walking was excluded, the proportion dropped to 53%. The most common activities were walking (at least 30 minutes) at 79%, multi-gym/weight training at 22%, and running/jogging at 14% .

7.1.5. Mental health

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 . In 2023, Dementia and Alzheimer's disease were the leading cause of death for females in Aberdeen City (13.4% of all female deaths) and the second most common cause of death for males (7% of all male deaths) [13] .

[13] 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,

Prescriptions for anxiety/depression/psychosis: In 2023/24, 39,713 people in Aberdeen City were prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. This is equivalent to 17.4% of the population – lower than the proportion for Scotland of 20.9%. Although the rate for Aberdeen City has fallen slightly from a high of 17.7% in 2021/22, the proportion of people receiving prescriptions for these conditions has increased in recent years, from 13% (28,630 people) in 2010/11. In 2023/24, a higher proportion of those from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) were prescribed (23.8%) than those in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 14.3%. The proportion of people prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis varied by Health and Social Care locality, at 15.9% in Aberdeen Central, 16.9% in Aberdeen South and 20.5% in Aberdeen North .

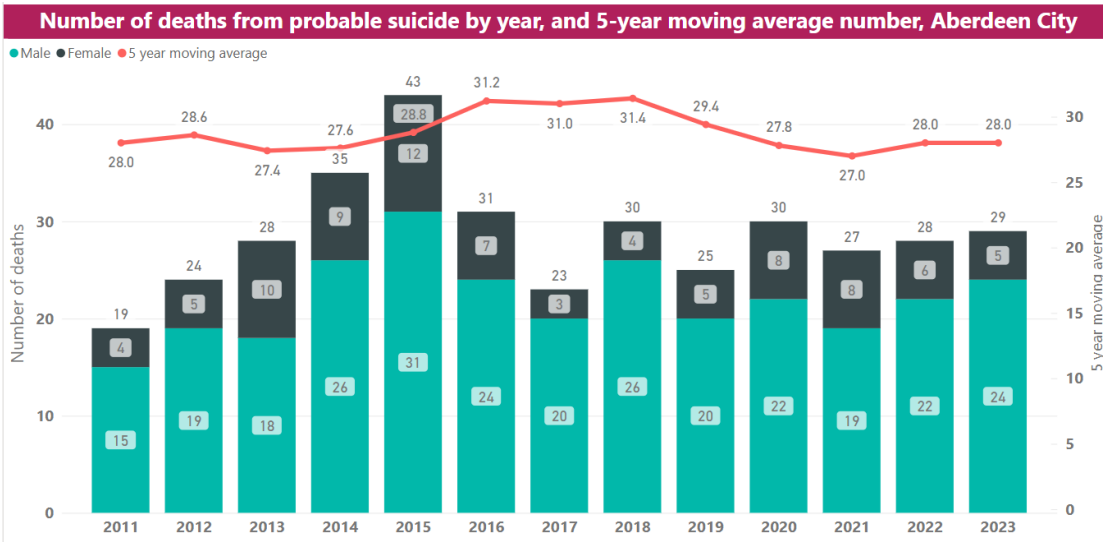


Psychiatric patient hospitalisations: In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 467 (3-year rolling average number) patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 210.3 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 216.1 per 100,000 population. Rates of patients with psychiatric hospitalisation have continued to fall in both Aberdeen City and Scotland over the last ten years (from 288 and 286 respectively in 2011/12-2013/14). Rates of psychiatric patient hospitalisation varied by deprivation, being highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 343 per 100,000 population compared to 144 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived). In Aberdeen City, rates were highest in Aberdeen Central (283 per 100,000 population). Rates were similar in Aberdeen North (185) and Aberdeen South (178) .

Deaths from suicide: In 2023 there were 29 probable suicides in Aberdeen City (24 male and 5 female). The number of suicides in a single year in the City peaked at 43 deaths in 2015 . As the number of probably suicides can fluctuate on a yearly basis, a 5-year moving average is also given. For the period 2019-2023, the 5-year moving average for Aberdeen City was also 28 (same as the previous period). For the period 2019-2023 the rate (age-standardised per 100,000 population) of 12.3 per 100,000 population was the lower than

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.

the rate for Scotland of 14.6 per 100,000 population . Data on rates of probable suicide are no longer available for Aberdeen City at Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation or Health and Social Care locality level. However, in Scotland, rates of probable suicide varied by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, being highest in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 27.6 per 100,000 population compared to 9.3 in quintile 5 (least deprived) .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Probable Suicides. Updated August 2024. (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 2019-23 is in the column for 2023.)

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 2019-2023, an estimated 18% of people in Aberdeen City had a score of 4 or more – lower than the rate for Scotland of 21% and unchanged from 2018-2022. A higher proportion of females (19%) than males (17%) had a score or 4 or more .

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 2019-2023, the average (mean) score for Aberdeen City was 49.5 – slightly higher than the score for Scotland of 48.7. Mean scores were similar for males (49.9) and females (49.1) .

7.1.6. Screening and flu vaccines

Bowel screening: In the latest 2020-2022 reporting period, bowel screening uptake rates in Aberdeen City increased to reach 67.8%. This is higher than the Scottish rate for that period (66.2%), however slightly lower than the NHS Grampian health board uptake rate of 71.1%. In terms of localities, Aberdeen South reported the highest uptake rate of 71.1%, followed by Aberdeen North at 69.3% and Aberdeen Central at 61.5% .

Breast cancer screening: The NHS Grampian **breast cancer** screening uptake rate for females aged between 50-70 has remained stable since 2011.The latest data for the

three-year rolling period 2020-2023 indicates an uptake rate of 80.3%. This is higher than the Scottish rate of 75.9%, and places NHS Grampian as the joint third highest rate during the reporting period .

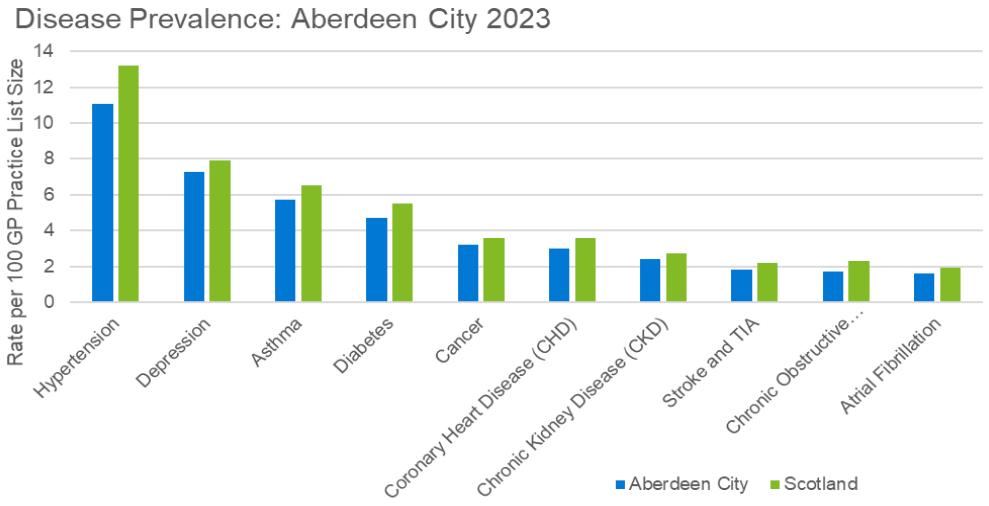
Cervical screening: The NHS Grampian **cervical screening** uptake rate for females aged 25-49 in 2021/22 was 67.3% (percentage who had a recorded screening test within the last 3.5 years). This rate was marginally higher than the Scottish average rate of 65.7%, but ranks NHS Grampian 12th out of the 14 Scottish Health Boards Between 2018/19 and 2021/22 uptake rates in NHS Grampian and Scotland overall declined year on year .

Influenza vaccines: During 2022-23, 56,564 Influenza vaccines were administered to eligible groups for Aberdeen City (50.8%). This is below the NHS Grampian (54.8%) and Scotland average rates (53.8%), however Aberdeen City (at 37.7%) exceeds the NHS Grampian (36.3%) and Scotland averages (35.2%) for those in the 50-64 years cohort (Adult Flu Vaccine) .

7.1.7. Disease prevalence

In 2023, the most prevalent disease in Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnerships overall was hypertension, at an incidence of 11.1 patients per 100 population. Hypertension was also the most prevalent condition in each of the individual GP Clusters across Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, ranging from 10.0 to 12.1 per 100 population. The most prevalent disease across Scotland in 2023 was also Hypertension at 13.2 patients per 100 population, above Aberdeen City's rate .

Depression was reported as the second most prevalent condition across Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership at 7.3 patients per 100 population, a marginally lower rate compared to Scotland overall (7.9). Aberdeen City Central cluster's rate was significantly higher than the partnership and overall Scottish rates at 10.5 patients per 100 population, however it should be noted that this data only included 50% of practices in this cluster .

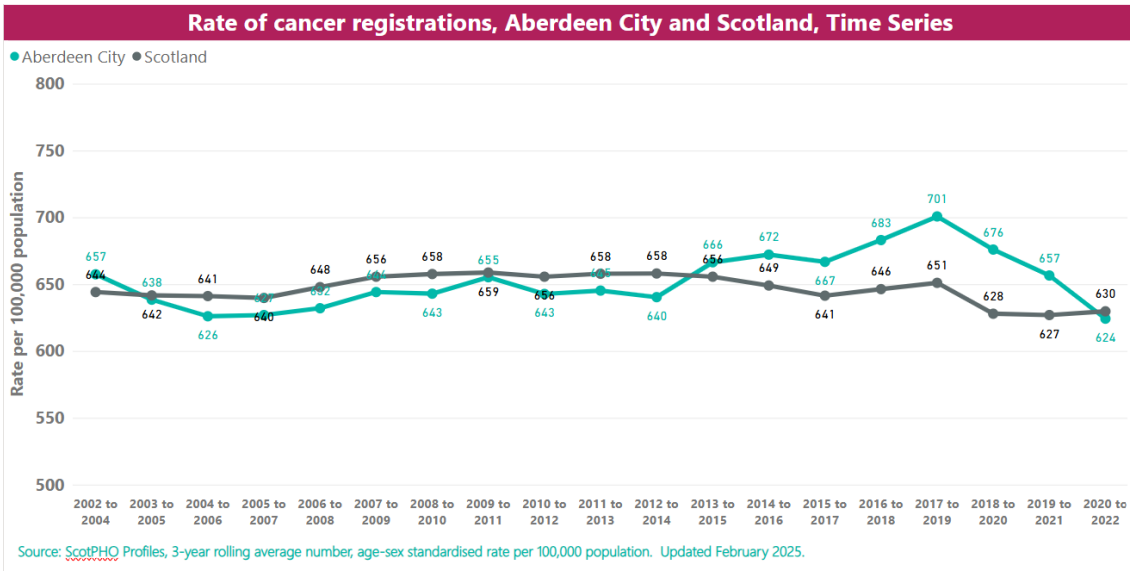


7.1.8. Key diseases

Key diseases: In 2023, cancer and circulatory diseases (such as coronary heart disease and stroke) together accounted for half (50.4%) of all causes of death in Aberdeen City. In 2023, 26.6% of male deaths and a 24.2 % of female deaths were caused by cancer, and 25.6% of male deaths and 24.5% of female deaths were caused by circulatory diseases .

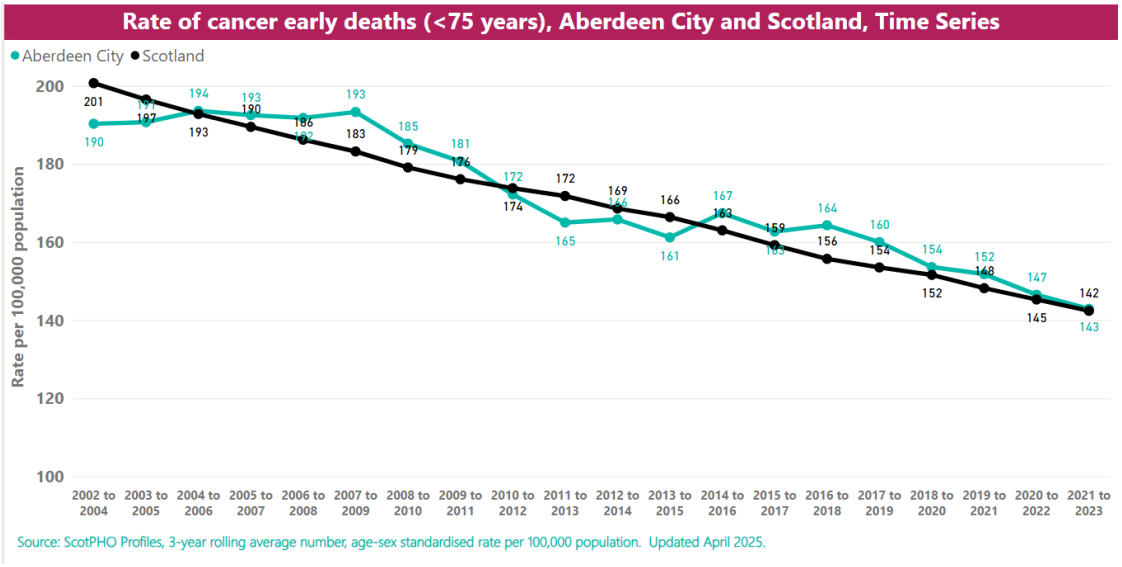
Leading causes of death are also given for specific disease classifications (e.g. types of cancer and circulatory diseases are listed separately). In 2023, Ischemic heart diseases were the leading cause of death for males (12.6% of a male deaths), followed by Dementia and Alzheimer disease (7%) and Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung (6.9%). For females, Dementia and Alzheimer disease was the leading cause of death for (13.4% of all female deaths), followed by Ischaemic heart diseases (78.3%) and cerebrovascular disease (8.1% of all female deaths) .

Cancer: In 2020-2022 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 624.2 – similar to the rate for Scotland of 629.7. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the rate of cancer registrations decreased from the rates in 2019-2021 (656.6 and 626.9 respectively). The rate of cancer registrations varies by derivation (rate of 768.9 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 571.2 in quintile 5 (least deprived)) and by Health and Social Care localities, at 609.5 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, 627.4 in Aberdeen North and 656 in Aberdeen Central .



Cancer early deaths: In 2021-23 there were 267 early deaths (<75 years) from cancer (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 142.9 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 142.4 per 100,000 population. Overall, the rate of early deaths from cancer has been decreasing in both Aberdeen City and Scotland. The rate of early deaths from cancer is higher is deprived areas at 249 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 98 in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varies across the City (Intermediate

Zones), from a low of 63 per 100,000 population in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 315 in Woodside .



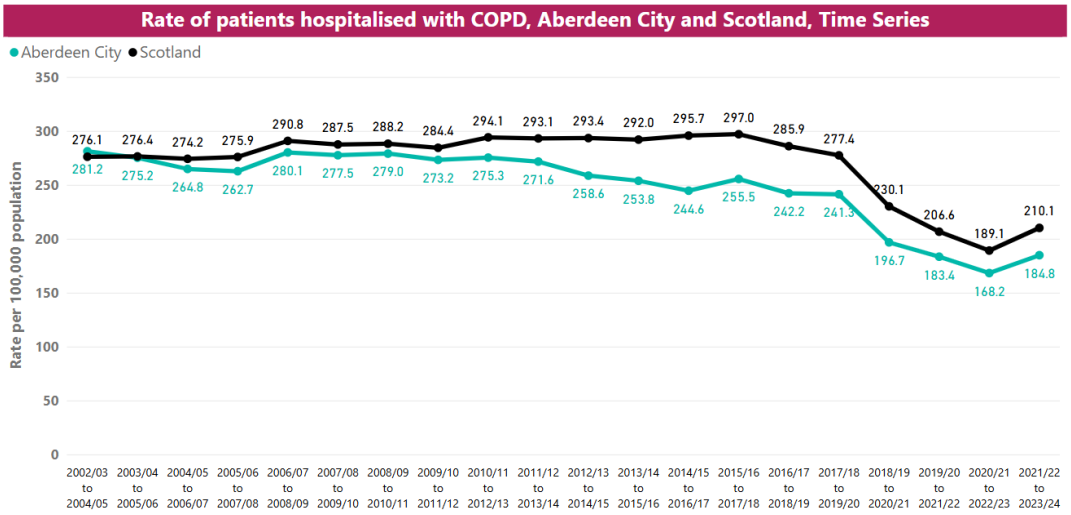
Coronary heart disease (CHD): In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 663 patient hospitalisations with coronary heart disease (3 year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 334.2 per 100,000 population – slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of326.8 per 100,000 population. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, the rate of Coronary Heart Disease patient hospitalisations has decreased over the past 10 years. Coronary Heart Disease hospitalisations are higher in deprived areas at a rate of 443.1 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 256.2 in quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate of hospitalisations varies by Intermediate Zone, from a low of 146 per 100,000 population in Ferryhill North to a high of 532.4 in Torry East .

In 2021/2023 the rate (age-sex standardised) of early deaths (<75 years) from Coronary Heart Disease was 43.9 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City, lower than the rate for Scotland of 54.5. The rate of early deaths from Coronary Heart Disease was higher in more deprived areas (95.9 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 25 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varied across the city (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 0 in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West, Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South, Cove North and Hanover North to a high of 132 per 100,000 population in Hannover South.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): In 2021/22-2023/24, the incidence[14] of Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Aberdeen City was 200 (3-year average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 121.5 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 136.8 per 100,000 population. After 5 consecutive periods of decreases, incidence increased in both Scotland and Aberdeen City in this last data period (from 104.2 and 119.3 respectively). In 2021-2023 there were 94 deaths (3-year average), which is a rate (age-sex standardised) of 58.1 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 62 per 100,000 population. Again,

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

the rate of Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease deaths increased in this last period (from 52.2 and 58.7 respectively in 2020-2022). The increase in incidence is reflected in the increase in patient hospitalisations. In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 305 (3-year rolling average number) patient hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (up from 273 in 2020/21-2022/23). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 184.8 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 210.1. In Aberdeen City, the rate of patient hospitalisations for Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is higher for those in deprived areas at a rate of 402.9 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 65.4 in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 22 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 497 in Mastick .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles. 3-year aggregate, age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Updated February 2025. (COPD - chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease).

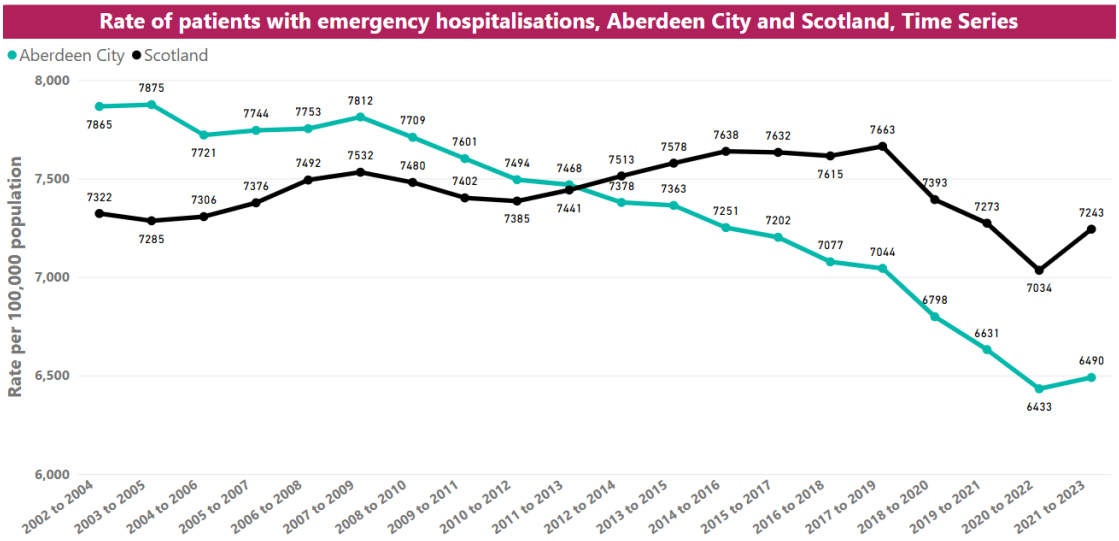
Asthma patient hospitalisations: In 2021/22 to 2023/24 the rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) of asthma hospitalisations was 63.6 in Aberdeen City, lower than the rate for Scotland of 76.2 but higher than the rate for 2020/21 to 2022/23 of 52.8. In Aberdeen City, the rate of patient hospitalisations for Asthma is higher for those in deprived areas at a rate of 102 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 40.5 in quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates varied across the city (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 17.3 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield North to a high of 162.4 in Northfield.

Data from the Scottish Health Survey estimates that in 2019-23, 18% of people in Aberdeen City had doctor-diagnosed asthma – up from 16% in 2018-22 and slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 17%. A higher proportion of females (19%) than males (17%) had doctor-diagnosed asthma .

7.1.9. Hospitalisations

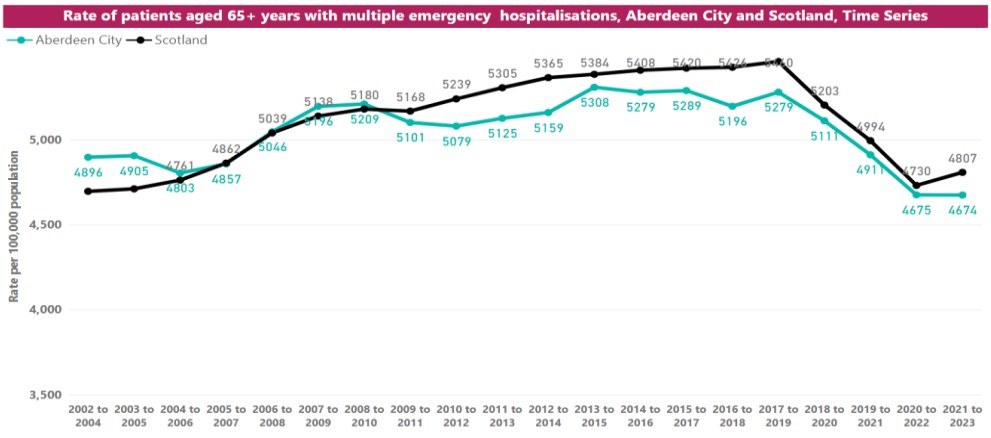
Emergency hospitalisations: In 2021-2023 there were 13,734 emergency patient hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average) – equivalent to a rate (age-sex

standardised) of 6,490 per 100,000 population. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 7,243. In Aberdeen City the rate of emergency patient hospitalisations had been gradually decreasing, from 7,812 per 100,000 population in 2007-2009, to a low of 6,433 in 2020-2022. This is the first increase since then. The rate of emergency patient hospitalisations varies across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 4,339 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 10,054 in Torry East .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles, 3-year aggregate number and directly age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Updated February 2025.

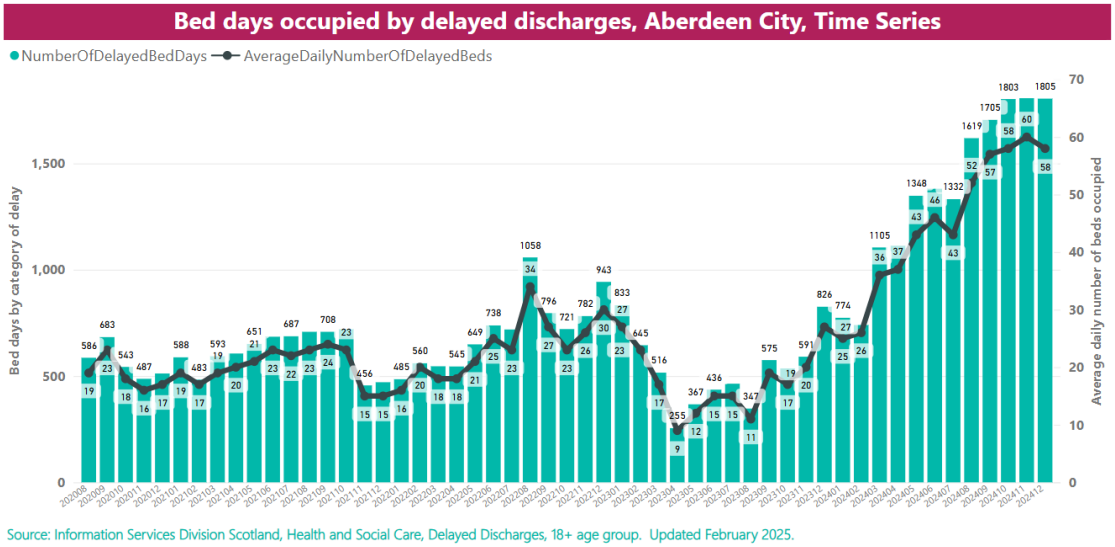
Patients aged 65+ years with multiple emergency hospitalisations: In 2021-2023 there were 1,758 patients aged 65+ years with 2 or more emergency hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 4,674 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 4,807 and similar to the rate of 4,675 per 100,000 population in 2020-2022. Rates vary across the City (Intermediate Zones), ranging from a low of 2,348 in West End North to a high of 11,184 in City Centre East .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles, 3 year rolling average number and directly age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Last updated February 2025.

Delayed discharges: A delayed discharge occurs when a hospital patient who is clinically ready for discharge from inpatient hospital care continues to occupy a hospital bed beyond the date they are ready for discharge. At the census point (last Thursday of the month) in December 2024, there were 1,805 days spent in hospital by people whose

discharge was delayed, with an average daily number of beds occupied due to people delayed in hospital being 58. The number of delayed discharges has increased substantially in the last year from 826 in December 2023 and an average daily number of 27 beds. The most common reason for the delay in December 2024 was standard 'Health and Social Care Reasons' with 1,573 delayed bed days. Overall, the average (median) length of stay was 66 days, however the average length of stay varied by reason for the delay with median length of stay being 36 days for those with standard reasons and 113 days for those with complex reasons .



Source: Information Services Division Scotland, Health and Social Care, Delayed Discharges, 18+ age group. Updated February 2025.

7.1.10. Social care services/care homes

People supported by social care services: In 2023/24 a total of 8,790 people in Aberdeen City were receiving social care services/support by the Health and Social Care Partnership. This equates to a rate of 38.6 per 1,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 42.8 per 1,000 population. The rate of people receiving social care services/support remained fairly static between 2017/18 and 2022/23 at around 46 per 1,000 population before dropping to 38.6 in 2023/24.

The most common type of support received was Social Worker (6,000 people) followed by Care at Home (5,305 people) and then Care Home (2,055 people) – although this varied by age group with Care at Home being the most common type of support in the 65-74 years and 75-84 years age groups. More females than males were receiving support (rates of 578.3 compared to 420.4 per 1,000 people). The most common client group for people receiving social care services were Elderly/Frail (rate of 581.5 per 1,000 people receiving support), followed by Dementia (116.2) and Physical and Sensory Disability (111.7). 14.9% of all those receiving support were known to be living alone (although the living alone status was not known for 66.9% of people receiving support).

Long term care needs: In 2023/24 there were 3,365 people (18+ years) with long-term care needs who received social care services or support funded by a Health and Social

Care Partnership. Of these, 1,900 were receiving personal care at home, 1,385 were Care Home Long Stay residents and 80 were Continuing Care Census/Hospital Based Complex Clinical Care.

High levels of care: In Aberdeen, in 2022/23 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 28.3% of all people in this age group with high levels of care need – lower than the Scottish average of 36.7% .

Care homes: In 2024 there were 50 care homes in Aberdeen City with a total of 1,681 registered places and 1,486 residents. Most of these (1,433/96.4%) were long stay residents with two thirds of these being female. Older people (65+ years) made up the largest portion of care home residents (79.7%). Since 2014 the number of care homes has decreased by 28% (down from 69 in 2014) and the number of registered places has decreased by 9% (from 1,856 in 2014) .

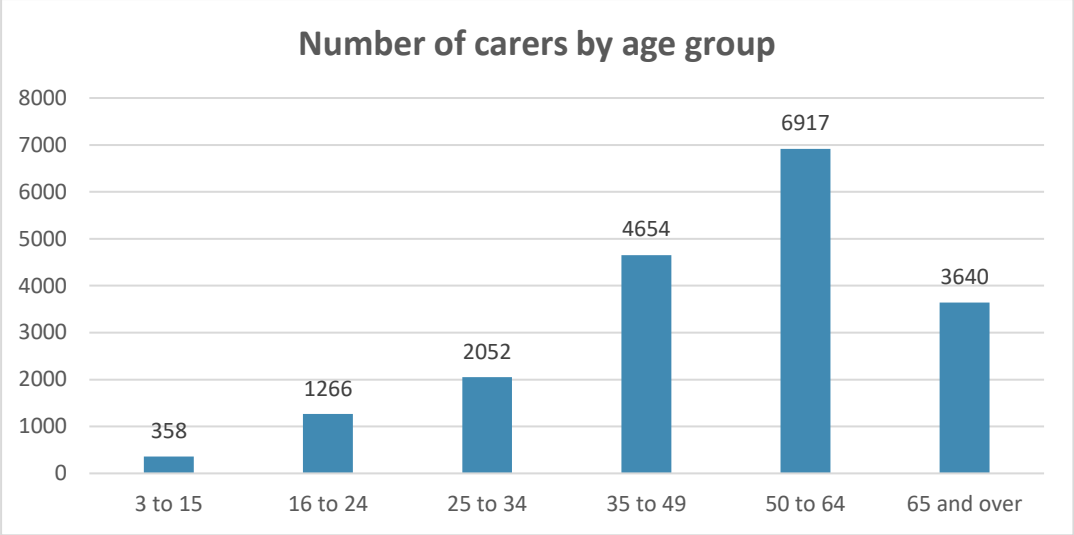
The Health and Care Experience Survey 2024 revealed that over half the respondents in Aberdeen City had a positive experience of social care. Almost three quarters of respondents had a positive experience of being treated with compassion and understanding, however a quarter of respondents had a negative experience in terms of the awareness of the help, care and support options available to them.

Last six months of life: In Aberdeen City, in 2023/24 there were 2,112 deaths in Aberdeen City (including falls but excluding people who died from other external causes). For these individuals, 90.1% of their last six months of life was spent either at home or in a community setting with the remaining 9.9% spent in hospital. This is equivalent to an average of 18 days in hospital in the six months prior to death (same as in 2022/23) .

7.1.11. Looking After Own Health and Wellbeing

Own health and wellbeing: In Aberdeen in 2024, 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' and 68% of people receiving care, support and help with everyday living agreed that they were supported to live as independently as possible, 69% agreed that they felt safe and 77% that they were treated with dignity and respect .

Unpaid carers: In the 2022 Census, 18,888 people in Aberdeen City reported providing unpaid care – equivalent to 8.7% of the population aged 3 and over. This is higher than the rate at the 2011 Census of 7%. Most carers (60%) in 2022 were providing up to 20 hours of unpaid care a week with 21.8% (4,123) saying they provided more than 50 hours of unpaid care a week. More females (11,013) than males (7,877) provided unpaid care. Carers were most common in the 50-64 year age group (6,917), however 358 children (3-15 years) were also identified as carers



Source: Scotland's Census 2022

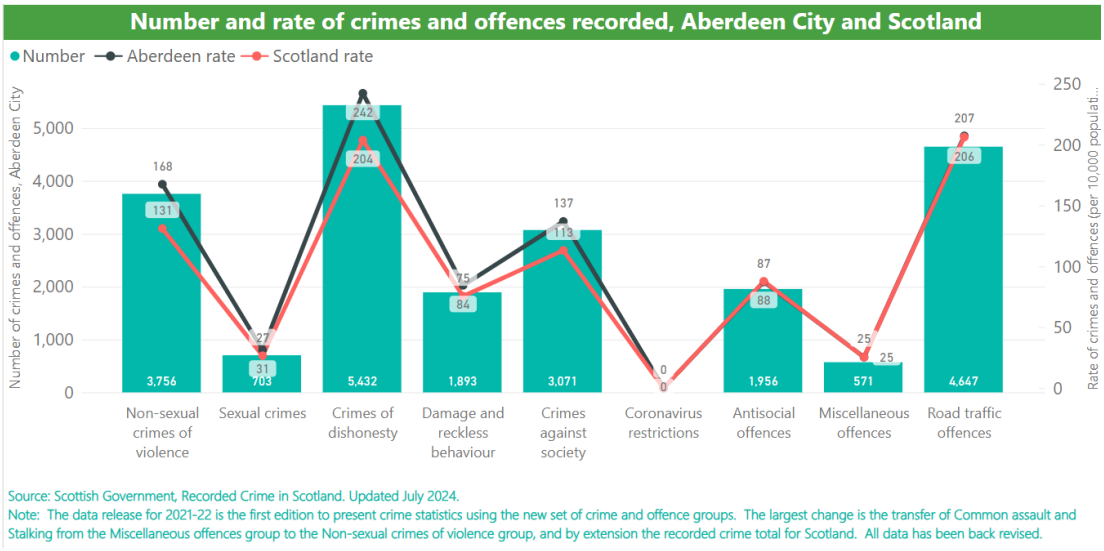
Based on the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) 2019-2023, an estimated 11% of Aberdeen's population identify as a Carer. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 15% and lower than the rate for 2018-2022 of 13% .

7.2. Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes

7.3. 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 onwards 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.

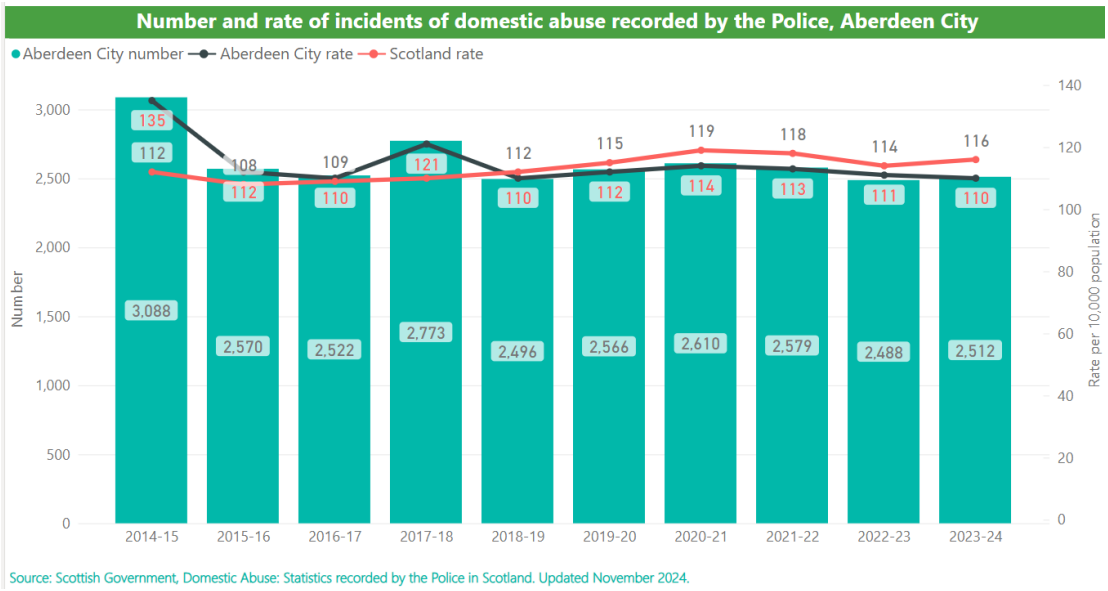
In 2023-24 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,432), Road Traffic Offences (4,647) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,756). The total rate (per 10,000 population) for crime was 663 (550 for Scotland) and for offences was 320 (also 320 for Scotland) .



Source: Scottish Government, Recorded Crime in Scotland. Updated July 2024.
Note: The data release for 2021-22 is the first edition to present crime statistics using the new set of crime and offence groups. 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 for Scotland. All data has been back revised.

The rate of recorded crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas (Intermediate Zones). In 2022/23, the rate (crude rate per 10,000 population) of recoded crime ranged from a low of 226.5 in Cove South to a high of 7,873.5 in City Centre East .

Domestic abuse: In 2023-24 there were 2,512 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – up from 2,488 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 110 per 10,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 116 per 10,000 population . Not all incidents of Domestic Abuse result in a crime being recorded. In 2023-24 there were 142 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse – up from 116 in 2022-23 .



Source: Scottish Government, Domestic Abuse: Statistics recorded by the Police in Scotland. Updated November 2024.

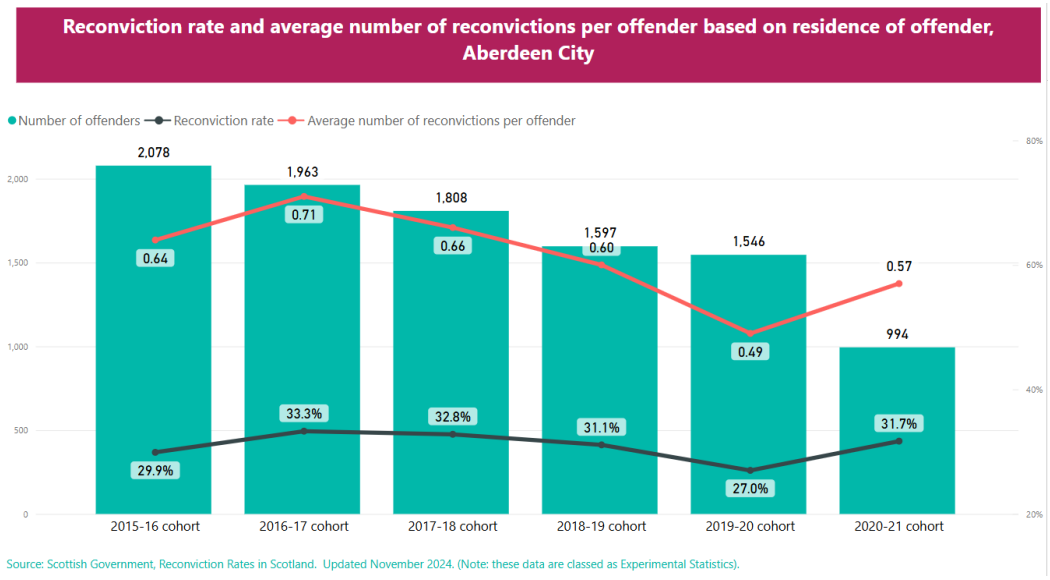
Hate Crime Reports: In 2023-24 there were 316 hate crimes recorded by the police in Aberdeen City – up from 291 in 2022-23 but down from 361 in 2021-22. This is equivalent to a rate of 14 per 10,000 population compared to a rate of 11 for Scotland as a whole. In Scotland, the most common aggravator for hate crimes was Race (62.7%) followed by Sexual Orientation (23.9%) .

Discrimination and/or harassment: Based on data from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 8% of people in Aberdeen City experienced discrimination and 4% experienced harassment .

Anti-social offences: In 2023-24 there were 1,956 anti-social offences recorded by the police in Aberdeen City – slightly lower than the number for 2022-23 of 1,986. The rate for 2023-24 was 87 per 10,000 population compared to a rate of 88 in Scotland .

7.3.1. Justice Social Work

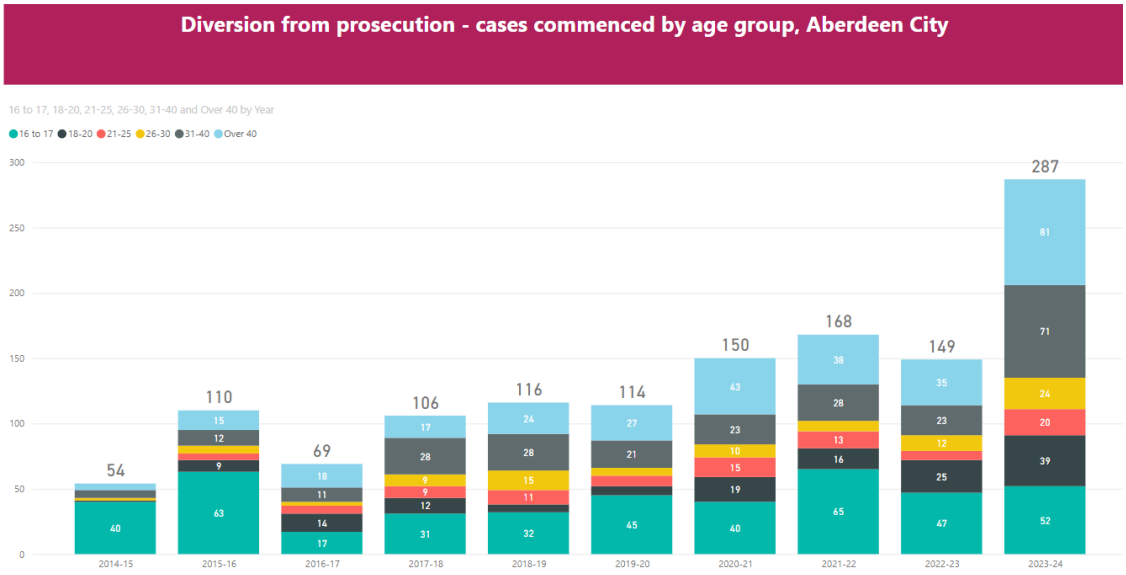
Reconvictions: Of the 994 offenders (over 18 years) in the 2020-21 cohort, 31.7% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence (mean 0.6 reconvictions per offender) . (Note: 2020-21 cohort data has been impacted by COVID-19 pandemic and should not be interpreted to be indicative of longer term trends.)



More than one offence: In 2024-25, 1,243 adults were charged with more than one offence – down from 1,279 in 2023-24.

Community payback orders: In 2023-24, 82.9% of Community Payback Orders were successfully completed, up from 80.5% in 2022-23 .

Diversion from prosecution (DP): In 2023-24 there were 444 referrals for Diversion from Prosecution. 287 Diversion from Prosecution Cases commenced (252 distinct individuals) of which 52 were 16 and 17 year-olds and 39 were 18-20 years. The number of Diversion from prosecution cases commenced increased substantially between 2022-2023 (149) and 2023-24 (287) .



Source: Scottish Government, Justice social work statistics: local authority time series tables, Diversion from prosecution. Updated January 2025.

Bail supervision orders: In 2023/24, 126 Bail Supervision Cases were commenced (116 individuals of which 94 were males and 22 were females). 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) .

Voluntary assistance and statutory throughcare: In 2023/24, 15 individuals received voluntary assistance , down from 86 in 2022/23 (although up from 4 and 13 in 2021/22 and 2020/21 respectively). In the same period, 198 received statutory throughcare, up from 173 in 2022/23.

Confidence in community justice: Questions about Community Justice have been asked in City Voice 49. When asked whether they agreed that **people, rather than spend a few months in prison for committing a minor offence, should help their community as part of a community sentence**, over three quarters of respondents (76%) agreed. This is lower than when the question was asked in the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (data only available at Scotland level) when 82% of respondents agreed with the statement .

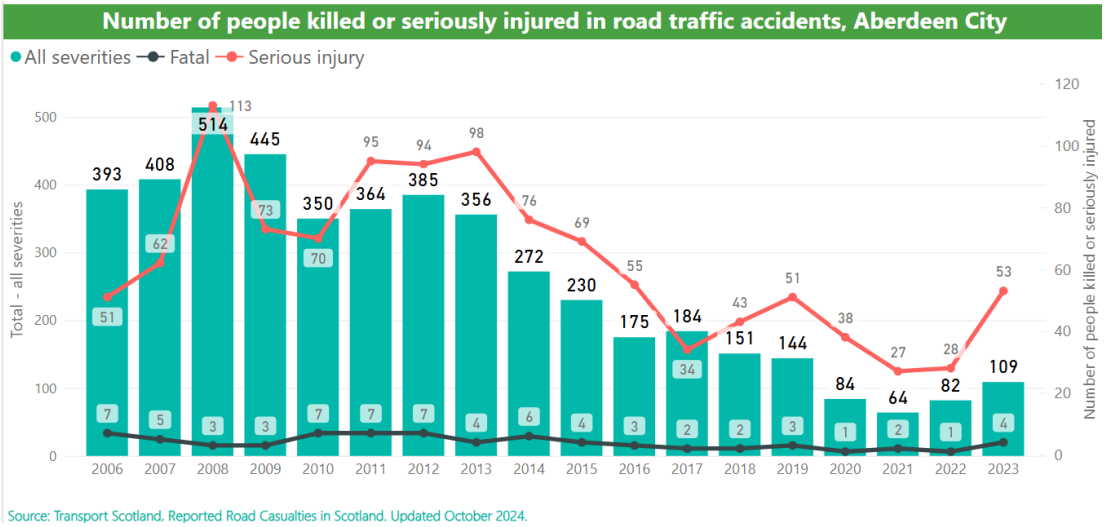
7.3.2. Safety

Accidental dwelling fires: In 2023-24 there were 222 accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen City (up slightly from 215 in 2022-23) which is equivalent to a rate of 179 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 140 in Scotland. Impairment due to alcohol/drugs was suspected to be a contributory factor to accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen in 14.9% of cases – higher than the rate for Scotland of 13.5%.

In 2023-24 there were also 18 deliberate dwelling fires (rate of 14.5 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 16.1 for Scotland). In total there were 717 fires in Aberdeen City in 2023-24, of which 414 were primary fires, 302 were secondary fires and 1 was a chimney fire. This

is down slightly from the total of 827 fires in 2022-23. There were 4 fatal casualties and 44 non-fatal casualties .

Road safety: In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (from 64 in 2021) . In 2019-21, the rate of casualties from road traffic accidents varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 7 per 100,000 population in Danestone to a high of 110 per 100,000 population in City Centre East .



Emerging priorities

- Across Scotland, life expectancy (LE) is stalling, and healthy life expectancy (HLE) is declining. Aberdeen is not immune from these changes with the most recent data suggesting that LE for Aberdeen City in 2019-21 was 76.9 years, of which HLE was 60.2 years. Variations across the population are noted, showing the close link there is to deprivation and both LE and HLE. At present our focus is on improving HLE, but do not take account of the effects of inequality in both LE and HLE. Addressing the social and economic factors that drive inequality should become a more urgent focus for our work
- This relationship between the wider social and economic determinants that drive the inequalities that create health inequality is a factor in all the data presented in relation to poor mental health associated with higher rates of prescribing, hospitalisations for mental illness, and for suicides. Taking a more preventative, population health approach to promoting and protecting mental health and wellbeing needs to be considered alongside addressing the wider social and economic determinants of mental health.
- Similarly, inequalities underpin many of the specific diseases explored in the data whether it is cancer, heart disease, or respiratory disease. Clearly there is an element of addressing the types of behaviours that are associated with health risks - smoking, obesity and physical inactivity – which contribute to such diseases and looking to preventative programmes such as cancer screening and primary care opportunistic screening, but we

also need to be moving beyond a health behaviour approach alone and considering how we can support the role of place and whole-systems approaches to ensure a focus health equity as a determinant of poor health.

- Caring for older people or those with longer term conditions is also highlighted as a priority need within the presented data. Again, preventative approaches that operate across the life course to promote active ageing and support greater self-management and care amongst those with long term needs need to be further developed.

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

1 NO POVERTY	In 2022/23 an estimated 8476 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City were living in poverty (below 60% median income after housing costs). This is equivalent to 21.8% of children compared to 24% for Scotland (End Child Poverty 2023). The proportion of children living in poverty has increased slightly in Aberdeen from 21.3% in 2019/20. 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.
2 ZERO HUNGER	20.7% of City Voice respondents reported they ate only a few kinds of food, 13.6% that they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 13.3% that they ate less than they thought they should and 9.4% that they were worried they would not have enough food to eat. In April to September 2024, 122,391 emergency food parcels were given by food banks in the Trussell community in Scotland. In 2022/23, 77% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were registered for FSM in mainstream local authority schools. At secondary school level, 16.6% of pupils were registered for FSM – up from 15.7% in 2021 and 13.9% in 2020. In 2023/24, valid height and weight measurements were recorded for 1,995 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen City. Of these, 77.3% were classified as 'healthy weight' (BMI greater than 2nd centile and less than 85th centile) – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland of 76.5% - with 11.7% being classified at risk of overweight (BMI>85th and <95th centile) and 10.5% being classified at risk of obesity (BMI>=95th centile) giving a total of 22% being classified at risk of overweight and obesity(BMI>=85th centile) Less than 1% of P1 children were classified as being at risk of underweight. The allotment waiting list continues to grow: 793 households were waiting in 2021, by March 2023 this had risen to 1047 households and by September 2024 it had risen again to 1251 households. There are currently 573 Aberdeen City Council allotment plots (ACC Annual Allotments Report).
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	In 2021-23 in Aberdeen City life expectancy at birth was estimated to be 80.9 years for women and 76.9 years for men and both are similar to the Scotland average of 80.8 years for women and 76.8 for men. The life expectancy gap between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Aberdeen has decreased to 9.5 years for men and increased to 8.4 years for women.

	In 2019-2023, the rate of infant deaths (age 0-1 years) in Aberdeen City was 4.2 per 1000 live births – higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.5 and higher than the rate for 2018-2022 of 3.9. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the rate of cancer registrations decreased from the rates in 2019-2021 (656.6 and 626.9 respectively). 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). The rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths in 2019-23 was 19.7 per 100,000 population – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.5, and lower than the rate for 2018-22 of 20.3 per 100,000 population. In the period 2019-2023, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 23.7 deaths per 100,000 population. This is similar to the rate for Scotland (23.6 per 100,000 population) and the same as the rate for 2018-2022. In the period 2019-2023, an estimated 15% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers – the same rate as Scotland. The percentage of adults who are current smokers has decreased from 23% in 2014-17. It is estimated 7% of adults currently use e-cigarettes.
	In 2022/23, 90.1% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, down slightly from 90.8% in 2021/22 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 92.8%. 12.4% more school leavers had a positive destination from the least deprived areas of Aberdeen compared to the most deprived. In 2022/23, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 92.3% and for secondary schools the rate was 89.8%. Overall attendance rate for the city was 91.2% compared to 90.2% for Scotland. In January to December 2023 (no data available for 2024), compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City had a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to RQF4 and above (61.1% in Aberdeen and 55.1% in Scotland). (RQF = Registered Qualifications Framework, with RQF4 and above being HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent) 107 Aberdeen schools (including nurseries and private schools) are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and 18 have achieved green flag status. A further five establishments have submitted a draft action plan to Keep Scotland Beautiful during 2024 meaning they are working towards their green flag award.
	The gap between male and female wages has closed somewhat in recent years – in 2019 the difference in average weekly wage between males and females living in Aberdeen City was £102.20 compared to £28.70 in 2024. While male full-time workers living in Aberdeen City earned less than those in Scotland (£767.70), female full-time workers earned more (£701 in Scotland). In 2023-24 there were 2,512 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – up slightly from 2,488 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 110 per 10,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 116 per 10,000 population.

	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. 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. Drinking water quality is monitored and maintained according to the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland.
	Official statistics for fuel poverty are now very 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 poverty– up from 23% in 2016-18 and higher that 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. A series of questions around ability to heat your home were asked in City Voice 45 (August 2021), City Voice 46 (December 2022) and, most recently, City Voice 50 (May 2024). In May 2024, a quarter (24.6%) of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – down from 32% in December 2022 but considerably higher than when the questions were first asked in 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) In 2023, Aberdeen City had 3,679 renewable energy installations (3,663 of which were photovoltaics) compared to 2,845 in 2022 and 789 in 2014 (2014 is the first year of data available). The installed capacity (MW) was 80.9 MW in 2023 compared to 67.5 MW in 2022 and 10.3MW in 2014. Renewable energy generation was 13,098 MWh in 2023 – compared to 11,690 MWh in 2022.
	In 2023 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a GVA per head of £36,748 (constant prices) showing an increase from 2021 (£32,826) and the 2020 low of £31,405. 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 more than 30% higher than the Scottish and UK average. In 2022 GVA per head in the North East was 17% higher than Scottish average and 10% higher compared to the UK average In the year from Oct 2023-Sept 2024, 81.2% of Aberdeen's working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active compared to 76.6% in Scotland and up from 75.4% in the same period last year. In 2024 there were 7,860 enterprises and 10,455 local units in Aberdeen City. This is up from 7,705 enterprises and 10,300 local units in 2023. In the year from Oct 2022-Sept 2024, the (model-based) unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 3.7% - higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.3% but lower than the rate for the same period last year of 4.1% In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers **living** in Aberdeen City was £721.70 – lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £740.00.

	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. In 2023, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (46.2%), followed by being driven (20%) and bus (15.8%). In 2023, 30% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (up from 28% in 2022) and 1% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (down from 2% in 2022).
	In 2024, 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%) In 2024, 86.8% of young people identified as disabled were participating in education, employment or training – down from 89.4% in 2023. The participation rate for those identified as disabled is lower than participation among non-disabled young people who in 2024 had 90.3% participation rates.
	In Aberdeen City in 2023-24, there were 1,763 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation, of which 1,270 were assessed as homeless. The number of applications is similar to the figure for 2022-23 (1,772) and up from 1,404 in 2021-22. In 2023-24 there were 2,287,858 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), but higher than 2022-23 figure of 1,961,414 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. In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (from 64 in 2021).
	In 2023, 89,314 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 10,930 in 2023. 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 2023, 41.8% of household waste was recycled (slightly less than the previous year) and 12.2% was sent to landfill. Other diversions accounted for 46% of household waste.

	In 2022, Greenhouse Gas emissions estimates totalled 1,165 ktCO2e for Aberdeen City – down from 1,216 ktCO2e in 2021. Transport was the single largest contributor (29.7% of all greenhouse gas emissions) followed by domestic use (26.1%). In 2022 per capita emissions were lower in Aberdeen City (5.2 tCO2e) than in Scotland (7.1 tCO2e) Data from the most recent City Voice questionnaire (August 2024), showed that Over half (52.2%) 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 to when this question was asked 2020 (30%), but slightly lower than when asked in 2022. Results from the 2023 Scottish Household Survey estimate that 73% of people in Aberdeen City see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem – up from 68% in 2012.
	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 'poor' 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.
	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. In August 2024, 74.5% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with overall greenspace in the City – up from 64.5% in March 2020 In 2024, 21.3% of Aberdeen's land was protected for nature. 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).
	The rate of crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas. In 2023-24 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,432), Road Traffic Offences (4,647) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,756). The total rate (per 10,000 population) for crime was 663 (550 for Scotland) and for offences was 320 (also 320 for Scotland). Of the 994 offenders (over 18 years) in the 2020-21 cohort, 31.7% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence (mean 0.6 reconvictions per offender). In 2023-24 there were 142 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse – up from 116 in 2022-23

	Aberdeen's relationship with developing countries is in part 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. 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.

References

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Full Council
DATE	2 July 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/45 and Locality Plan Annual Reports for North, South and Central 2024/25
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/163
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald, Corporate Services
CHIEF OFFICER	Isla Newcombe, Chief Officer – People and Citizen Services
REPORT AUTHOR	Allison Swanson, Community Planning and Improvement Manager Jade Leyden, Locality Planning and Community Development Manager, ACC Iain Robertson, Transformation Programme Manager, ACHSCP
TERMS OF REFERENCE	24.11

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report presents the Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 and the Locality Plan Annual Outcome Improvement Reports for North, South and Central 2024/25.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:-

2.1 Approve the Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 as a representation of the Council's contribution to partnership working in delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26.

2.2 Approve the Locality Plan Annual Outcome Improvement Reports for North, South and Central as a representation of the Council's contribution to partnership working in delivery of the Locality Plans refreshed in 2024.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 The Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016-26 was first approved in 2016 and has been refreshed biennially since to ensure it remains relevant and focussed on priority outcomes. The city wide plan is underpinned by three area based Locality Plans. These plans drill down from the key themes within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to identify the priority issues for local people and communities living in the North, South and Central areas of the City and the plans include community ideas for how they can be addressed.

3.2 The Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and North, South and Central Locality Plans were refreshed and approved by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 29 April 2024. Over the last year the Community Planning Partnership has been working together and with communities to progress the areas for improvement within the plans with a view to improve outcomes for the people and communities of Aberdeen.

ANNUAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2024/25

3.3 The draft Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 contained at Appendix 1 is the first progress report against the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) since it was refreshed in April 2024. It provides the Community Planning Partnership and members of the public with an overview of progress made during 2024/25 towards the achievement of the 16 stretch outcomes and 98 improvement project aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26.

3.4 A summary Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 is contained at Appendix 2. This provides a summary of our headline achievements during 2024/25 and an assessment of our overall progress across the themes of economy, people (children and young people and adults), place and community empowerment in a concise easy to understand format. The summary also highlights the different ways people can get involved and contribute to the Community Planning Partnership. A children and young people's version is also available at Appendix 3.

3.5 Drawing on evidence from the latest data available within our outcomes framework, as well as improvement data captured from our improvement projects, the report demonstrates the achievements of the Community Planning Partnership and highlights priority areas for improvement for 2025/26. As of 31 March 2025, 2 of our Stretch Outcomes had been achieved (Stretch Outcomes 2 (employment) and 9 (adult offences) with 8 projects ended, and 31% (30) improvement aims achieved. The remaining improvement aims were still in progress with a view to all concluding by 2026.

NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL LOCALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORTS 2024/25

3.6 The Annual Reports against the North, South and Central Locality Plans for the period 2024-25 are contained in **Appendix 1-3**. They provide the Community Planning Partnership and members of the public with an overview of progress made since the Locality Plans were refreshed in April 2024. The Locality Plans reflect the issues and priorities identified in partnership with local people and communities living in the areas, including 60 change ideas which have been generated by members of the North, South and Central Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships.

3.7 The Locality Plan Annual Reports demonstrate the breadth of work which has been progressed across the City at a locality and neighbourhood level, where community planning can have the greatest impact on local people and communities.

NEXT STEPS

3.8 The Annual Reports allow the Council and Community Planning Partnership to take stock of what has been achieved over the last year to progress the improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans. The annual reports, alongside the revised population needs assessment provide the foundation for the Council and Community Planning Partnership developing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36. Community Planning Aberdeen will use these documents to evaluate progress to date and, alongside community and stakeholder engagement, identify their proposals for 2026-36.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Production of the annual reports ensures compliance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 ("CEA") which requires Community Planning Aberdeen to report progress against the Local Outcome Improvement Plan annually for the period 1 April to 31 March.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendation of 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	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compliance	Must comply with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 ("CEA")	Production of the annual report ensures compliance	L	Yes
Operational	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reputational	There is a risk that the Annual Report does not	Colleagues across the Community Planning	L	Yes

	accurately reflect progress made by the Community Planning Partnership in delivering outcomes which may have a negative impact on the public's perception of the Council and Partnership working.	Partnership have contributed to the development of the annual report. It has been signed off by the Community Planning Partnership Board as an accurate reflection of progress made. An easy read version will be produced.		
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified	N/A	N/A	N/A

8. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The recommendation in the report has no direct impact on the Policy Statement.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	The report provides an overview of what has been achieved over the last year to progress the Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	The report provides an overview of what has been achieved over the last year to progress the Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The report provides an overview of what has been achieved over the last year to progress the Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26.
Community Empowerment	The report provides an overview of what has been achieved over the last year to progress the Community Empowerment Stretch Outcomes in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26.
Regional and City Strategies	The recommendation in the report has no direct impact on regional and city strategies.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Isla Newcombe on 28 May 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016- 26

10.2 North Locality Plan, Central Locality Plan and South Locality Plan

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25
11.2 Summary Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25
11.3 Children and young people version of the Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25
11.4 Locality Plan Annual Report 2024-25 for North Locality
11.5 Locality Plan Annual Report 2024-25 for South Locality
11.6 Locality Plan Annual Report 2024-25 for Central Locality

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Allison Swanson	Jade Leyden
Title	Community Planning and Improvement Manager	Locality Planning and Community Development Manager
Email Address	aswanson@aberdeencity.gov.uk	JLeyden@aberdeencity.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Annual Outcome Improvement Report

2024/2025

Community Planning Aberdeen

FOREWORD

By Councillor Allard and Susan Webb

Welcome to our Annual Outcome Improvement Report for 2024-25, which provides an overview of the progress and challenges faced in the work that has been undertaken by Community Planning Aberdeen over the past year.

This report reflects our commitment to support building inclusive and resilient communities through better collaboration across the public sector and by working as equal partners with our third sector and community members.

We are proud to highlight the areas where we have made progress in the report. However, there is still lots more to do; many people and families in Aberdeen are facing enormous challenges and this report sets out where we need to redouble our efforts.

We are pleased to report that, through our collective efforts we have seen reductions in the need for foodbanks since the introduction of cash first payments. We have also seen a sustained increase in numbers of people who are in employment and have achieved our stretch outcome focused on increasing the employment rate to 74.4%. For our children and young people we've seen an increase in the % of children and young people who feel they are always listened to, as well as an increase in care-experienced young people finding positive and lasting opportunities. Under our adults theme, we've achieved stretch outcome 9, with 12% fewer adults being charged with multiple offences. Our initiatives have helped 225 people attend Community Appointment Days for chronic pain support, and 1,777 people aged 50+ are now participating in our Stay Well Stay Connected programs, marking a 169% increase. These achievements highlight our dedication to creating a supportive and thriving environment for everyone. The new community empowerment toolkit aims to support staff and communities to work together to improve outcomes for all.

However, despite the progress, we have not achieved the stretch outcomes which we set around children and young people, reducing alcohol & drugs harms and homelessness nor have we improved healthy life expectancy across our population.

This is not due to lack of effort across our community planning partnership, but highlights that there are many factors affecting these challenges which will require us to look to new ways to work in partnership and to identify and implement innovative solutions to address the challenges people and families are experiencing. We will draw on the learning from the tests of change and will use data and digital opportunities to improve how we do things. We will ensure our approaches are tailored to the diverse needs of our communities and continue to listen to and work with people across the city, with a particular focusing on reaching out and involving people from seldom heard communities.

We remain committed to supporting people build their confidence and skills, take more control over their lives and achieve their aspirations for the future to create a stronger, healthier and more resilient city.

As we look ahead, this report records our progress to date but also provides a clear direction of travel for our future efforts as a partnership. We thank our partners, communities, children and young people, third and private sector organisations for their commitment to improving the lives of people in Aberdeen by coming together to work with us and deliver on the shared priorities outlined in this report.

If you want to get involved, please see all the ways at page 93 or get in touch at communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Allard, Co-Leader of Aberdeen City Council and Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen

Susan Webb, Director of Public Health, NHS Grampian, Vice Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

This is a summary of our headline acheivement during 2024/25 and an assessment of our overall progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes (SO) we have set out to achieve in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26. Our assessment is based on current performance compared to 2016 when we started our plan.

Key

Green Achieved/Performance higher than baseline.

Red Performance lower than baseline/Performance declining.

Amber Performance is steady/lower than baseline but improving since last reporting period

Economy		People				Place	
Stretch Outcome 1 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 3** 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 9** 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 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.	
Stretch Outcome 2 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 4** 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 10** Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 14** 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026.	
		Stretch Outcome 5 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.		**Stretch Outcome 11** Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 15** 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.	

Economy	People				Place	
	Stretch Outcome 6 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 and 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 12** Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.		**Stretch Outcome 16** 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.	
	Stretch Outcome 7 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.					
	Stretch Outcome 8 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/ disabilities will experience a positive destination.					

CONTENTS

Contents

By Councillor Allard and Susan Webb 2

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS 4

What our data is telling us? 7

Prosperous Economy 8

Progress made during 2024/25 9

What impact have we had? 18

Improvement Priorities 2025/26 19

Prosperous People: Children 20

Progress made during 2024/25 21

What impact have we had? 38

Improvement Priorities for 2025/26 41

Prosperous People: Adults 42

Progress made during 2024/25 43

What impact have we had? 63

Improvement Priorities 2025/26 66

Prosperous Place 67

Progress made during 2024/25 68

What impact have we had? 77

Improvement priorities 2025/26 79

Community Empowerment 80

Progress made during 2024/25 81

What impact have we had? 89

Improvement priorities 2025/26 90

Ways to get involved 91

Who's Who? 92

What our data is telling us?

How to make sense of the data in this report

Under each theme within this report there is a section called 'What impact have we had?' These sections include run charts which have been prepared using the data available for the improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26. The purpose of the run charts is to display data over time and help us assess visually whether the changes we are making are resulting in improvement.

The coloured line shows CPA performance to date.

The black line shows the improvement aim, where applicable set within the CPA Improvement Programme for 2024/26 so we can assess if we are on track to achieve our improvement aims set for the year. Where there is no black line the data does not relate to an improvement aim.

We have also used a traffic light system to help you see at a glance, where we think we are in terms of improvement. The significance of the variation in data over time will depend on the improvement measure **and** population size it relates to. For example, for some improvement measures a 0.5% increase may be very significant, whilst for others it may need to be a 5% increase to be considered significant.

In applying the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) we have taken a rounded view of performance, taking into account subject matter expertise, local context and consideration of progress towards our improvewment aims to answer the question:

Are our changes resulting in improvement?

- **Yes (Data shows improving trend and / or achievement of aim)**
- **Getting there (Data shows improving or varied trend and / or on track to achieve aim)**
- **Not yet (Data shows declining trend and not on track to achieve aim)**

Prosperous Economy

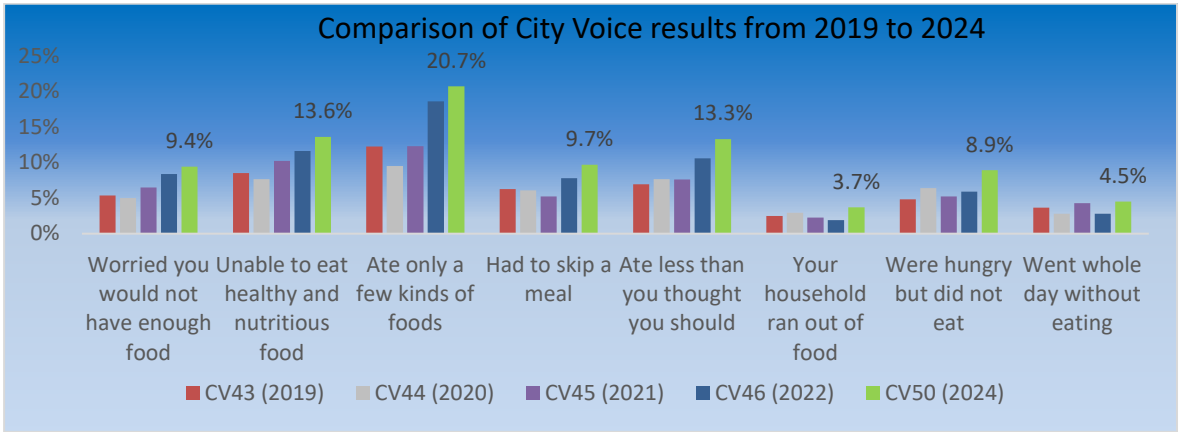
What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO1 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.	9.4% of City Voice respondents reported in 2024 that during the last 12 months there was a time when they were worried they would not have enough food to eat – up from 8.4% in December 2022 and 5.4% in 2019. 24.6% of City Voice respondents reported in 2024 that they were worried they would not be able to heat their home – down from 32% in December 2022 and up from 10% in 2021.
SO2 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.	**Stretch Outcome 2** achieved with a 74.7% employment rate for October 2023-September 2024.

Progress made during 2024/25

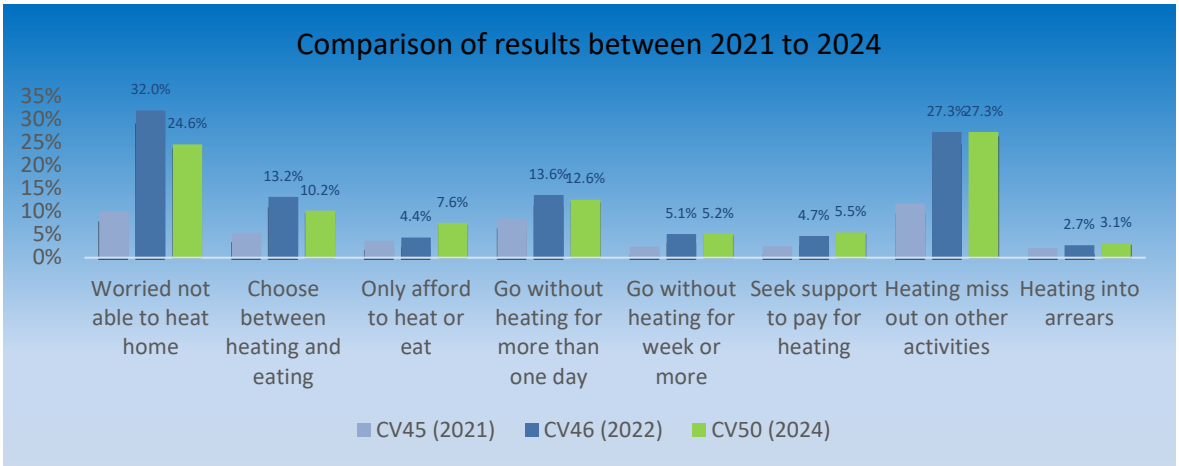
STRETCH OUTCOME 1
PROGRESSING with 7.4% fewer people worried they can't heat their home and **3%** reduction in people having to choose between heating and eating.

The cost of living crisis, combined with existing inequalities, continue to impact on our communities, with people experiencing increasing poverty and financial hardship. The impact continues to be borne unequally, with increasing costs making it more difficult for financially vulnerable households to make ends meet and we know that this has substantial implications. We are committed to working in partnership, with our communities, to develop and provide targeted, locally based solutions to mitigate against the cost of living, with projects focused on supporting people access affordable and healthy food, as well as being able to live in homes suitable to their needs and which can be kept warm and dry.

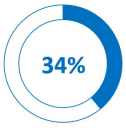
In the City Voice 2024, panellists were asked about their ability to access healthy or nutritious food. Data shows that since the questions were first asked in 2019 and in comparison to when asked in 2022, the proportion of respondents who answered 'yes' has increased in all categories. Since 2019, the largest increase was in the proportion who reported they ate only a few kinds of food (from 12.2% to 20.7%). Whilst, since 2022, the largest increase was in the proportion who reported they were hungry but did not eat (from 5.9% to 8.9%).



The City Voice also asked about respondents' ability to heat their homes. The responses when compared to when they were asked in 2022 were broadly similar, with the exception of worried not able to heat their home which has gone down 7.4% from 32% to 24.6%. The largest increase is in the proportion of respondents who reported being worried they could only afford to heat their home or feed themselves/their family (from 4.4% to 7.6%).



Raising Awareness of Support for Fuel Poverty



Improvement Aim Exceeded

34% of people seeking support removed from fuel poverty.

24% over the project's original aim.

SCARF has been leading a campaign in partnership with other community planning partners to educate people and communities about available support and energy saving practices. The campaign has included social media and the first 'Empower Aberdeen' free drop in community fair held in October 2024. The fair featured 46 not-for-profit and third sector organisations and over 120 professionals offering a range of advice from energy efficiency, finances and housing to food banks, neurodiversity awareness and wellbeing.

The event, sponsored by Community Planning Aberdeen Responsible Business Partner Vital Energi, was an important extension of existing work to deliver impartial energy saving advice to help lower fuel bills and carbon emissions to householders, communities and businesses throughout Aberdeen. Such was the success of the inaugural showcase, that plans are now in place to repeat this year.

Through awareness raising and being in the heart of our communities, SCARF had 866 enquires for fuel support over the last year. Of the 866 enquiries received in 2024/25, 579 (67%) were in fuel poverty. As a result of the support provided, 197 (34%) were removed from fuel poverty and 28 (5%) removed from extreme fuel poverty.

Making homes more efficient can help lower energy bills, but the upfront cost of energy efficiency measures often puts people off because they can't afford it or would rather prioritise their money in other ways. Bringing properties up to an EPC band C or above can be an easy and inexpensive process, depending on the measures needed to improve the scoring of the property. Simple measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation, new heating controls or improved boilers can drastically improve the energy performance of a property for a relatively small investment. Latest data shows there has been a 1% increase in the % of homes (social housing) with an EPC rating of C or Better between 2023 and 2024, from 91% to 92%. However, we know there is more to do and therefore the project now aim to achieve 94%.

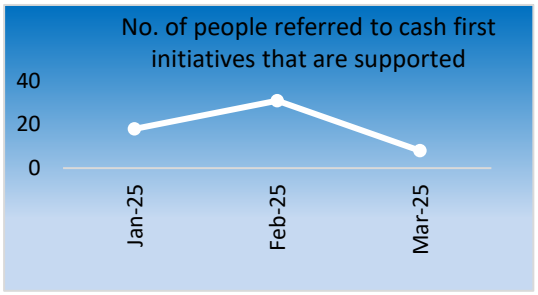
Improvement Aim Achieved

92% of homes (social housing) with an EPC rating of C or Better. **1%** over the project's original aim.

Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland

In Aberdeen there are many community food initiatives that provide access to affordable, nutritious and sustainable food. However, emergency food aid is not sustainable and food aid organisations across Aberdeen have reported they are struggling to meet the increase in demand.

Providing people with monetary support alongside income maximisation support instead of food aid gives people more choice and control as people have more agency and can buy what they need. Through various cash first and income maximisation projects across Aberdeen City, the aim is to reduce the stigma which can be associated with accessing food aid.

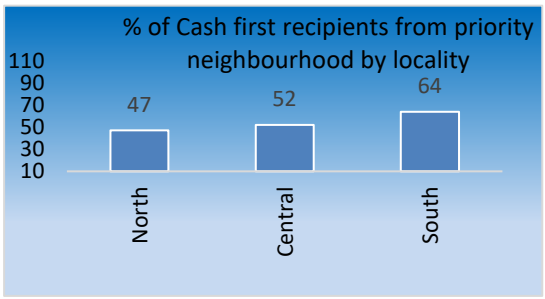


Our cash first project is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals, with £29,570.79 of financial support provided. Early data indicates a positive impact, with 81% of people who received cash payments, seeing a reduction in the need for a food bank. Though it is important to consider that many individuals who received cash payments also received wrap-around support, which may be a major contributing factor in reducing food bank use. One of the key learnings to date has been that many individuals accessing the Cash First funding are experiencing debt, highlighting the complex nature of financial emergencies and suggests that the need for emergency food is a symptom of wider issues associated with poverty. Demand for emergency food has spiked again in recent months and the project continues to explore opportunities for scalability."

Cash First Aberdeen

Additionally, the project captures wider Cash First interventions. CFINE's SAFE Team have generated significant financial gain for beneficiaries through welfare rights and benefit support, securing £131,634 in financial gain between January - March 2025. As stated, providing additional wrap-around support may be a major factor in reducing food bank use, including income maximisation. As part of this, the SAFE Team generated an additional £11,704 in financial gain for individuals referred to the Cash First Flexible Crisis Fund.

Out of 57 Cash First recipients between January and April 2025, 53% were from a priority neighbourhood:



- 26% of Cash First recipients were from North Locality, with 47% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods.
- 56% of Cash First recipients were from Central Locality, with 52% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods.
- 18% of Cash First recipients were from the South Locality, with 64% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods.

From January – March, the amount of Cash First Funding provided can be broken down by locality area as per below:

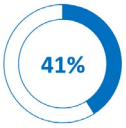
- £7,360.79 of Cash First Funding was distributed to 15 Cash First recipients in North Locality.
- £16,700.00 of Cash First Funding was distributed to 31 Cash First recipients in Central Locality.
- £5,510.00 of Cash First Funding was distributed to 11 Cash First recipients in South Locality.

People who received a Cash First payment and subsequently engaged with CFINE SAFE secured Total additional financial gain of: £11,704, with additional financial gain for priority neighbourhood of £10,088. North locality: £1,141, Central locality: £5,239 and South locality: £5,326.

Raising Awareness and Access to Support Through Challenge Poverty Week

During Challenge Poverty week, our Anti Poverty Outcome Improvement Group coordinated efforts between partners and communities providing both a united voice and action towards reducing stigma and improving the lives of people affected by poverty. A range of events were held and promoted, with our fuel poverty project taking a lead on holding "Empower Aberdeen", a community fair, providing direct access to support available across Aberdeen.

Reaching out to People to Maximise Their Income



Improvement Exceeded

41% increase in the uptake of benefits.

31% over the project's original aim.

Linked to a rise in poverty is growing financial insecurity. Ensuring that household income is maximised through the uptake of unclaimed benefits is a key aspect to supporting households to come out of poverty and improve their financial security. Through our benefit uptake project, we have continued to implement improvements to mitigate barriers known which stop people accessing benefits.

During 2024/25, with funding secured from the Scottish Government secured the development of a "Low Income Family Tracker". The tracker brings together indicators of poverty from multiple data sources held by the Council, the Department for Works Pension and other publicly available data. This has enabled us to identify and make direct contact with people eligible for specific benefits to raise their awareness and support them, where required, to apply.

As of February 2025, we identified an additional 96 households claiming Universal Credit who were affected by the benefit cap. We attempted to contact all 96 households, providing them with information about benefit cap exemptions and inviting them to apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP). Of these households, 45% (43) engaged with the Financial Inclusion Team, and of those who engaged, 74% (32) were supported to apply for DHP, with a further three applying independently after being encouraged to do so. Additionally, five households successfully increased their income to a level where the benefit cap no longer applies. So far, 29 of these households have received DHP awards totalling £63,485.77. In March 2025, we also identified 73 families experiencing both relative poverty and fuel poverty. These families were targeted for support through the Rent Assistance Fund, resulting in £69,125.28 being awarded to clear their rent arrears.

We know that one method of communication won't meet the needs of all individuals and communities. Since October 2024, the CFINE S.A.F.E Team have been working from the Middlefield Hub Cafe the first Friday of every month to support people to access the right benefits and with advice on budgeting.

As well as the direct contact, we have continued to test and run a number of different campaigns targeted on specific benefits or towards specific communities to raise awareness of the online benefit calculator. The calculator enables people to self-serve and checks the benefits they're entitled to with privacy and reduces stigma. Two campaign examples are our Pension Credit social media campaign and our family's booklet, and from both we've seen positive outcomes:

Phase one of the Pension Credit campaign: as of November 2024, over £141,993 in Pension Credit has been given to 23 pensioners.	**Support for Families Booklet** - emailed out to all parents on Group call along with a link to the benefit calculator. The week after the booklet was emailed out (10 July to 16 July) saw: •1268 calculations started (1293% increase on the previous week (91 calculations). •549 calculations completed (1730% increase from previous week (30). •£135,458.20 per week of new benefits (£3673.09 per week of new benefits) •98.5% of the completed calculations showed an entitlement to benefits.

Overall, we have continued to see the impact of our online benefit calculator. Between 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, 7670 people have used the calculator with £85,773.13 per week benefits identified. Of those who completed the calculator 90% had unclaimed benefits identified, with on average £205 per week of unclaimed benefits identified, compared to £171 per week from April to March 2024. This is a 20% increase since April to March 2024 and a 41% increase since 2023/24 in uptake of unclaimed benefits on average per week through the online benefit calculator.

In 2024 there were 1265 homeless presentations in Aberdeen City and through our financial assessments for people presenting as homeless project we are committed to ensuring that everyone presenting as homeless is accessing the benefits they're entitled to. To support this we have automated our processes so that everyone assessed as statutory homeless receives a link to the online benefit calculator. In 2024, 29.3% (371) people had a benefit check ensuring they were accessing the benefits they were entitled to. Of the 371 people with a benefit check 89.5% (332) had financial gains identified. Total financial gain for 2024 was £181008.03. However, 752 people were unable to be contacted and the project is focusing on changes to improve this and for all to have completed a check.

Fairer Aberdeen Fund 2024-25

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In 2024-25 £1.5m was made available to support this work and 36 initiatives were funded. Impact figures from 23-24 show that over 51,000 people were involved or benefitted from the funded initiatives within the programme and 827 volunteers contributed 139,495 hours of volunteering with a value of over £2m.

965 people took part in employability programmes and 249 people moved into work. 5,473 people received money and income maximisation advice, with 1,558 of them receiving a total financial gain of £2,3m the equivalent of £1,480 per person. 135 parents and families with complex needs were supported, and 751 people accessed mental health counselling provision provided locally.
A Community Support Fund was also available for community engagement and an Employment Support Fund addressed financial barriers for people getting back into work.

STRETCH OUTCOME 2 ACHIEVED 77.4% employment rate

We are delighted to report that Stretch Outcome 2 has been achieved with a 5.5% increase in our working age population who are employed (71.9% (Oct 2022-Sept 2023) to 77.4% in (Oct 2023-Sept 2024), and 3.4% higher than the rate for Scotland of 74.0%.

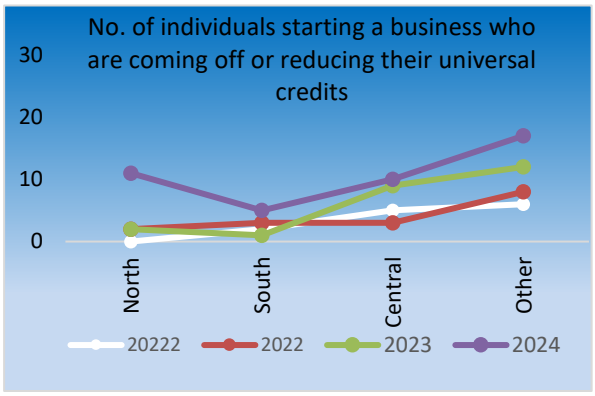
However, we know we have more to do to support employment with data showing an increase in claimants in Aberdeen (4,875 in Dec 2024, up from 4,610 in Dec 2023 and from 3,270 in March 2016). 48% (2,345) of claimants are from our priority neighbourhoods, as was the case in December 2023. A primary focus has been supporting people to access the financial support they are entitled to, whilst enabling their financial resilience in the longer term by increasing the opportunities for unemployed residents to gain good quality work opportunities, where they are able to.

Community Planning Aberdeen are particularly focused on supporting people, from our priority neighbourhoods, into employment opportunities through a variety of improvements such as business creation and providing targeted pathways to support those groups who experience the most disadvantage and inequality while also, increasing the number of accredited Real Living Wage employers within the city.

Supporting new businesses

Through our business start up project, a total of 98 individuals (45 in 2024/25) have started a business which has either taken them off universal credits or significantly reduced their reliance on universal credits. Of the 98 people who started a business, 54 were from priority neighbourhoods, 15 in North, 11 in South and 28 in Central. This success has been driven by several key changes, including the deployment of dedicated community business advisors within our priority neighbourhoods to provide personalised and accessible support to people on their self-employment journey, targeted funding from ABZWorks seed funding to help remove the financial barriers to setting up a business and a partnership referral pathway.

98 business start-ups



218 people were referred for support, with 45% (98) starting a business. 87 businesses have also been referred to the Seed Funds with ABZ Works for support.

For many participants, the transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life changing. Stories of individuals gaining financial independence and confidence show the importance of dedicated and localised support. The impact is reflected in the feedback below:

This is an extremely important service as some people can't travel, for me having business support on my doorstep is perfect, Donna my support advisor has helped me get my business up and running advising me of things I didn't know existed, helping me through my business plan and financial plan and without this support I would have never managed to get to where I am today .

Supporting people from our priority neighbourhoods and over 50s into employment opportunities

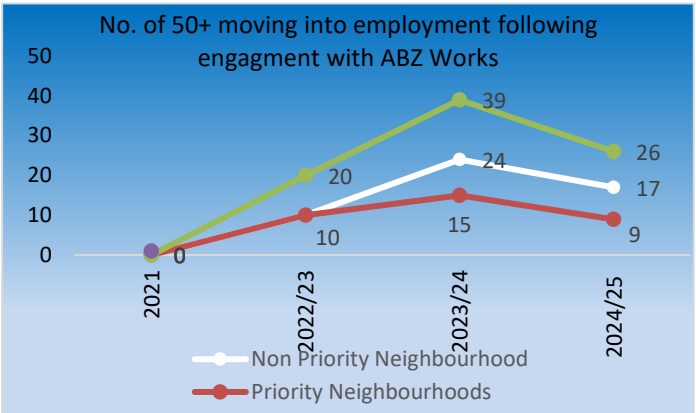
572%

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

672 individuals over 50 supported into employment.

572 over the original aim of 100.

Through our priority neighbourhood and over 50 employment project, we have supported over 600 people over 50 years of age into employment. We have tested a variety of initiatives to increase access to support and help people overcome some of the barriers to employment. This has included: dedicated 50+ Work Coaches. Aligning with the Department for Work and Pensions 50+ campaign, dedicated 50+ work coaches providing targeted support such as midlife MOTs were tested citywide. The support was promoted through three big campaigns (in September (Pension Awareness Week), October (Menopause Month) and November (National Older Workers Week). As a result, since October 2022, nearly **600** individuals over 50 have been supported into employment citywide.



We have also seen a positive impact from our other initiatives (information sessions to front-line staff to increase engagement with employability support, seed funding and an Employer Recruitment Incentive Scheme), with 503 people from priority neighbourhoods and aged over 50 have receiving employability support with ABZ Works between June 2023 and December 2024, from which 51 (10%) have moved into employment.

We know location of services is important and with the success of the dedicated community based business start up support, ABZ Works piloted an Older but Wiser Employability Group. This group was piloted in Torry and a second group was delivered by Pathways and Station House Media Unit. There are also Training Provider members (Pathways, TRE-Life and Aberdeen Foyer) working from different venues in Torry – the Skills Centre, Old Torry Community Centre and the GP practice. As a result, Pathways and TRE-Life have engaged with 61 residents of 50+ from priority neighbourhoods with 31 (51%) moving into employment.

Impact of our support

Person supported from Torry – Individual saw Pathways social media posts and popped into the Torry Skills Centre to arrange an appointment. She had been employed within the fish trade all her working life but redundancy and changes in personal circumstances led to a rethink of career direction. She took part in an 8-week over 50's course facilitated jointly by Pathways and Station House Media Unit. Alongside 1:1 support from Pathways, this course helped to build confidence and employability skills (e.g. Curriculum Vitae, applications and interviews) and was successful in securing a new job that fitted around caring responsibilities.

Person supported from Sheddocksley – Individual came to TRE-Life through a referral from her work coach to TRE-LIFE's drop-in sessions held at the Department for Work and Pensions centre. At that point she was employed part-time but had a strong interest in an alternative field of working with children/ young people. She joined TRE-LIFE's Employability Skills course to focus on the wide range of employment skills, including how to write effective Curriculum Vitaes, how to apply for jobs and how to prepare for an interview. During this time, the whole group grew in confidence and this individual used her new-found employability skills to successfully gain employment in an after-school club.

Increasing Real Living Wage Employment Opportunities

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

19% increase in Aberdeen employers accredited as paying the Real Living Wage since 2023

9% increase exceeded

We know that people in work are also experiencing poverty. Employers paying the real living wage can mean the difference between surviving and thriving. Since 2019 we have been working in partnership to increase the number of employers accredited as paying the real living wage and we are committed to sustaining and expanding this work. We are pleased to report that there are now 119 employers (March 2025) in the City who are real living wage accredited, with 19 joining in 2024, a 19% increase since 2023 and 190% since the project started (41 to 119). These accreditations have led to over 1,991 employees receiving a pay rise to the Real Living Wage rate to date.

Accreditations during 2024 have come from a range of employers and sectors including Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen Sports Village, First Bus, Katoni Engineering, Aberdeen Inspired, Aspect Communications, and Simeon Care.

Impact of our support

"I feel like I am breaking the cycle and creating opportunities for my children to reach their potential.

All because of a fair wage."

Latest data available showed that 90% of employees in the city were in living wage employment, a 1.6% decrease since 2023 but an 8% increase since 2016.

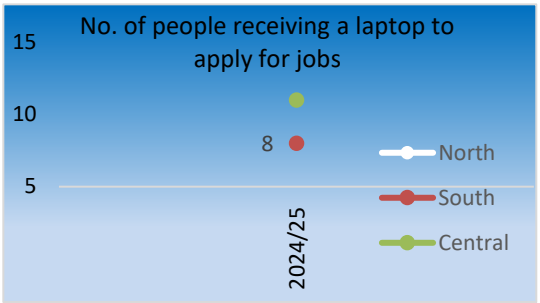
Improving digital skills and increasing access to digital employment opportunities

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

58 people experiencing digital barriers upskilled to apply for employment.

16% over the original aim.

Data shows that digital support and upskilling is required at both a basic digital skill level (e.g. being able to search and apply for jobs on online platforms) and more advanced digital skills required by the job role. Through our digital skills project we are aiming to upskill people who need for both basic and sector specific digital skills to enhance their employment opportunities.



As of 31 March 2025, **58** people have accessed digital support, with 20 now in positive destinations (6 in employment, 4 in education, 8 in further training and 2 volunteering). In addition, **27** people have received a laptop to apply for jobs, 8 from North, 8 from South and 11 from Central Locality. These laptops were issued by ABZWorks and funded via No One Left Behind. The laptops have provided participants with the suitable resources to help apply and interview for jobs from home, participate and complete online employability courses and support them to complete home tasks set out by employability training providers to help move them towards gaining employment.

Sector specific digital training programmes
We successfully piloted a programme in January 2024, where **7** participants engaged in digital and employability activities, resulting in 57% (4) participants moving into positive destinations.

Based on this success, two new programmes, a digital and media skills and specific IT training programme have been developed and launched in 2024 to offer an enhanced range of digital activities.20 people started digital and media skills. Of the 20, **13 completed** the course and **4** have since moved into a positive destination. The remaining **9** will move into new provision that will be determined in April. This programme has also just received a 12 month extension that offers 40 more places for 25/26.

20 people, started and completed sector specific training and **2** have already gained employment.

Basic digital skills: Through our new community based supports at Powis Community Centre and Tory Skills Centre:

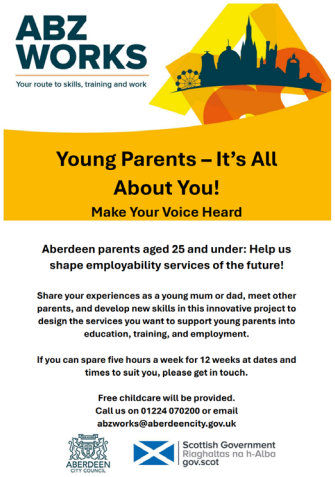
- **14** people completed CV workshops, and
- **11** people completed job application workshops that focused on using online search engines, software, and platforms, followed by interview workshops to enhance their interview skills.
- **27 laptops**, with 12-month Microsoft licenses, were provided to participants to help them engage in employability programmes.

Impact of our support

"The workshop was useful and the staff very helpful. I felt more confident with what was covered and appreciated the opportunity to write a re-useable draft for cover letters and personal statement, which was proofread and edited by the staff. Overall very happy for the time I spent at this course." Furthermore, an ABZ Works key worker provided feedback and said, "the participant, shortly after attending the session, went on to find a vacancy on his own, apply on his own and land the job in the end so a good success story!" **Participant from the south locality and aged 39.**

Employability support focusing on reducing inequalities

Inequalities in society have increased with national reports evidencing that the impacts of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis have not been evenly spread. In light of this, through different projects, we are targeting employability support to those experiencing the most difficulty, focusing on young parents, and ethnic minority people initially. One example is our employability pathways for young parent project.



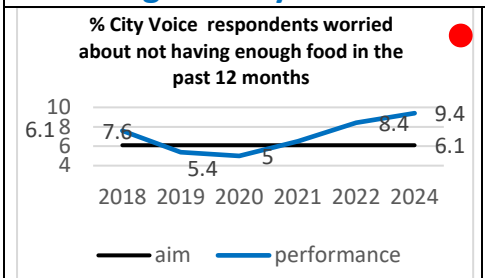
We are committed to supporting young parents into training and with the ultimate goal of moving into employment. Ensuring that young people are at the heart of the project is key to the right support being provided. This year 21 young parents have signed up to take part in a short (12 week) programme in which they will share their experiences, identify areas of improvement and ultimately co-design an employability support package for young parents. They will be paid the real living wage during this time, and this will also provide them with the opportunity to build confidence, build soft-skills and provide a taster of employment. The project has also identified 180 young parents in Aberdeen and work is underway to make contact with them to introduce them to financial inclusion support and employability provision.

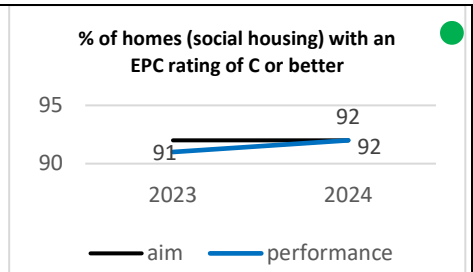
What impact have we had?

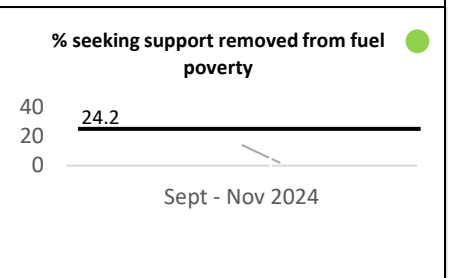
24/25/26 improvement aim — Performance

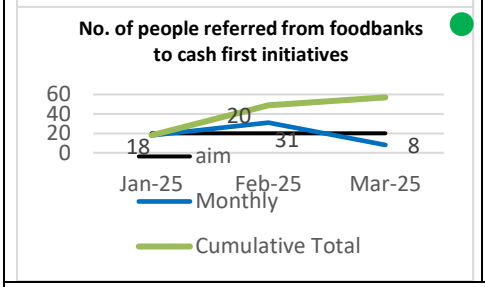
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

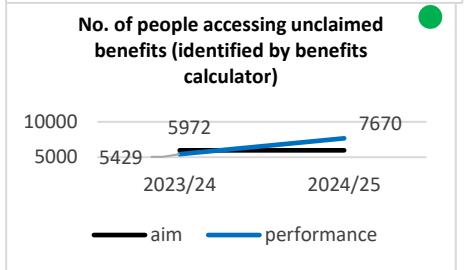
Reducing Poverty

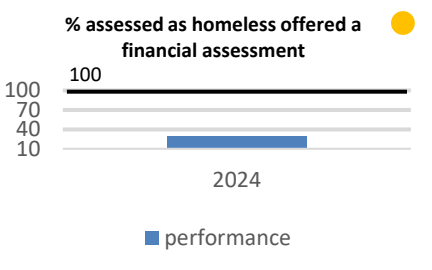




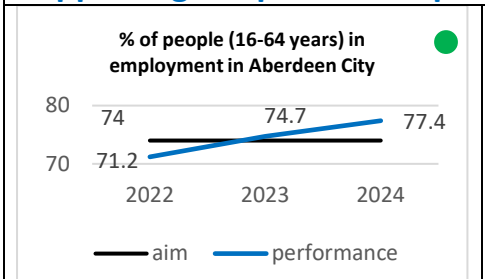


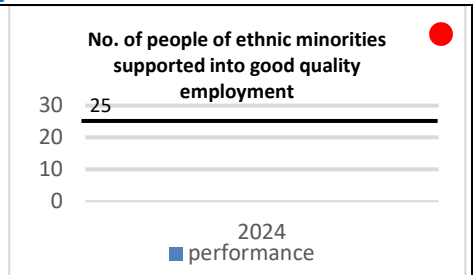


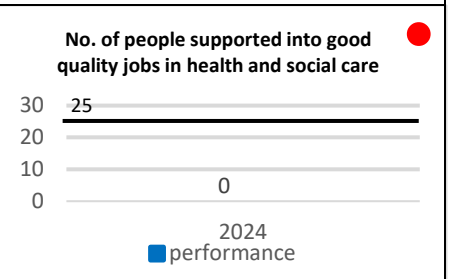


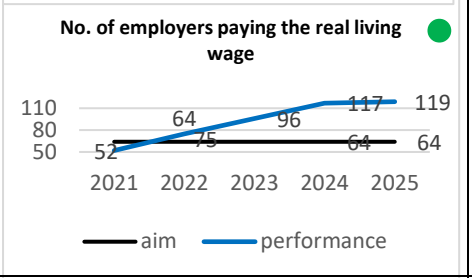


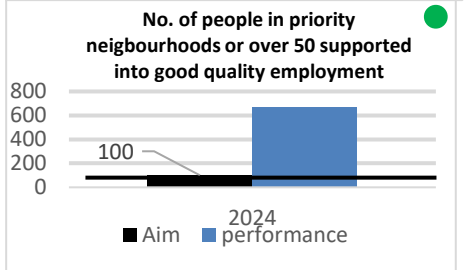
Supporting People Into Employment

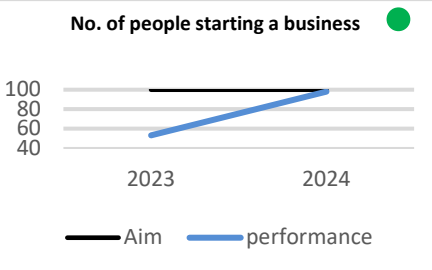


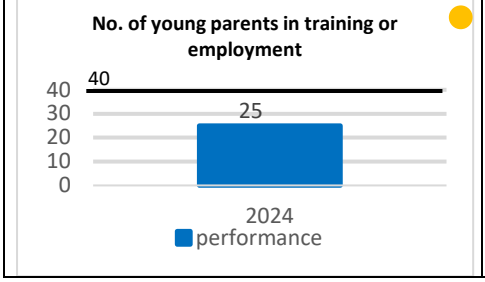


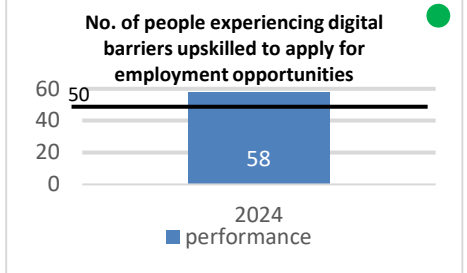


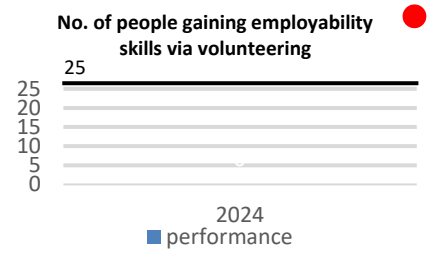












- Raising awareness of support available to reduce energy bills and the number of households in fuel poverty
- Continue with the cash first crisis fund and look to evaluate the overall impact of all cash-first interventions being provided in the City
- Supporting all households presenting as homeless to complete financial assessments
- Further our use of data to be able to identify and make direct contact, and where possible, auto award, for other benefits to ensure all are receiving their benefit entitlement.
- Coordinating efforts across money advice services to extend community based financial assessment support and meet increasing demand
- Improved communication and awareness raising of the breadth of support available from Community Planning partners
- Supporting young parents and people from ethnic minorities gain employment by co-designing supports to help them
- Continue to test an alternative and better-supported application process for healthcare applications, to support people to gain health and social care jobs
- Enabling new volunteering opportunities to support people to gain employment skills
- Supporting people into sustained, good quality employment, with a particular focus on people on universal credit within the priority localities, particularly Northfield and Tillydrone/Seaton/St Machar and aged between 30-49.

Prosperous People: Children

Our Stretch Outcomes

What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO3 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026	**89.8%** of children assessed at their 27-30 month review met their developmental milestones in 2022/23 up from 87.4% (21/22), however down from 91.8% in 16/17. **67.4%** of eligible children assessed in 2022/23, down from 78% (21/22) and 84.8% in 16/17.
SO4 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.	**70%** of children and young people in 2023/24 reported feeling listened to all of the time, up from **68%** in 2022/23 and **64%** in 21/22.
SO5 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.	**10%** reduction in the gap between the % of care experienced young people (81.3%) and all young people (90.1%) achieving a positive and sustained destination in 22/23. **13.9%** increase in % of experienced young people achieved a positive and sustained destination in 22/23 (81.3), up from 67.4% in 2021/22 and 73.9% in 16/17.
SO6 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 and 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.	**2.1% decrease** in % of Young People from Quintile 1 achieving a sustained positive destination (82.9% in 22/23 compared to 85% in 21/22 and 84.5 in 2016/17) **5% decrease** in % of Young People from Quintile 2 achieving a sustained positive destination (83.6% in 22/23 compared to 88.6% in 21/22 and 87.9% in 2016/17).
SO7 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.	**40% decrease** in number of young people being charged with an offence (590 in 22/23 compared to 985 in 15/16, however an 8% increase since 21/22 (546 to 590).
SO8 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination by 2026.	**4.4% increase** in number of children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities experiencing a positive destination (89.4% in 2023/24 compared to 85% in 17/18). However a 2.2% decrease since 22/23 (91.6%)

To read a full overview of the work of the Children's Services Board read the Children's Services Board annual report 2024/25: Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2024/25

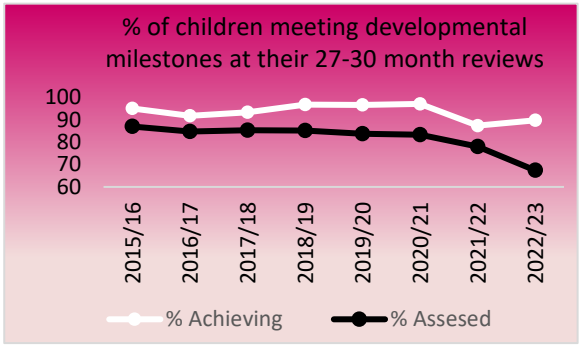
Progress made during 2024/25

Supporting children to get the best start in life

STRETCH OUTCOME 3 PROGRESSING WITH 89.8% of 27-30 month old children assessed meeting their developmental milestones.

Ensuring children get the best start in life is a key driver in improving their overall outcomes across the course of their lives. Developmental milestones for children aged 27 to 30 months are critical indicators of their progress in areas such as communication, physical development, social skills, and cognitive abilities.

Latest data available at the end of 2024/25 shows that 89.8% of children assessed in Aberdeen met their developmental milestones in 2022/23, up from 87.4% in 2021/22 and 7.7% higher than the national figure (82.1%).



However, there is room to improve. Data shows that there has been a 10.6% decrease in the percentage of eligible children who received an assessment, down from 78% in 2021/22 to 67.4% in 2022/23. Ensuring all eligible children receive an assessment continues to be an area of focus for Community Planning Aberdeen.

We know that some families, particularly within our priority neighbourhoods, face challenges that reduce their children's ability to reach these milestones. As a result, we have focused on provided targeted support and early intervention focusing on helping families with children under five to maximise income, have access to infant formula through a cash first approach, and access to dental health and parenting support where required, to ensure all children have the opportunity to thrive.

Introducing a cash first approach to accessing infant formula

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

100% of referrals to the infant feeding in a crisis pathway have received support

Cost of living pressures for families have exacerbated food insecurity difficulties, with many unable to afford infant formula. We are focused on supporting families with infants to ensure that they have the appropriate nutrition to meet their developmental needs. Through our Access to Emergency Infant Formula project we have introduced a new infant feeding in a crisis pathway that delivers a 'cash first approach' and supports the family with money for infant formula, as well as support to maximise income.

The project has made significant progress in the development of this pathway, supporting 100% of referrals since September 2023 with 58 vouchers issued to 41 families, and 11 families receiving repeat support. All families have also received follow-up contact from the CFine SAFE team, with 35 families offered financial screening appointments, and additional support with food access, energy grants, and child-related items. The financial gain from the support provided to date is estimated to be around £15,000 per year. All families were also offered access to emergency

food, a food pantry application, and support with energy-related costs. Positive feedback from participants highlighted the benefits of the vouchers and additional services provided.

The vouchers were a massive help to our family since our daughter requires the anti-reflux formula. This is about 133% of the price of an already expensive one. Monthly this adds up quickly. This has allowed us to prepare for winter, an expensive time generally. The other services such as the safe team and pantry have been a great help also. The pantry really helps us maintain cooking healthy meals without forking out an arm and a leg. The safe team have guided us through almost our first year financially which without, we would be struggling a lot more." **Local father who Received help from SAFE, Infant Formula Pathway vouchers twice and attends the pantry on a regular basis.**

"You give me £60 voucher for formula, and I also received pantry food, thank you, it has really helped". **Local mum who received lots of help with various issues relating to their baby.**

The full impact and evaluation of the pathway so far can be viewed in the project end report.

Helping families claim the benefits they are entitled to

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

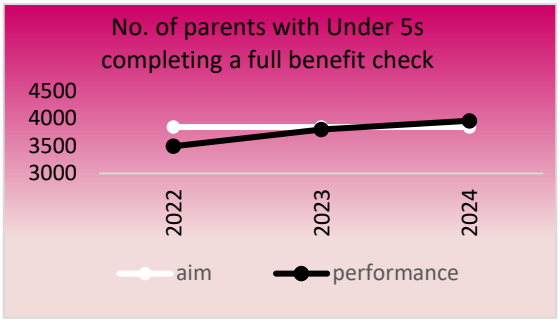
13% increase in parents with under 5s completing a full benefit check

3% over the original aim.

The challenges created by the Cost of Living crisis create a greater risk of families falling into poverty. Around 50% of households experiencing poverty have dependent children driving children and young people to be a key consideration as we work to combat poverty. Maximising income for families, where possible, is vital and supports the early years of children and to enable them to reach developmental milestones.

Our Early Years Financial Inclusion Pathway project has developed a financial inclusion pathway which enables Health Visitors and practitioners, to refer parents with children under 5 either for support to complete a benefit check, or where appropriate they self serve and complete the benefit check online.

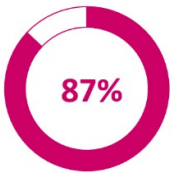
There has been positive impact with a 13% increase in the number of benefit checks (3493 in 2022 to 3956 in 2024) and £762,992.08 in 2024 in financial gains, a 27.3% increase since 2023 (£600,667.29)



As well as the new referral pathway, we have also taken a targeted approach using a new data system, as we have done with our income maximisation project detailed above. With funding secured from the Scottish Government secured the development of a "Low Income Family Tracker". The tracker brings together indicators of poverty from multiple data sources held by the Council, the Department for Works Pension and other publicly available data. This has enabled us to identify households most in need, allowing for targeted support and effective resource prioritisation. Since 1 November 2024, targeted communications have been initiated with 86 families affected by the benefit cap, of which 51% (44) had a child under 5 years old. These efforts involve engaging households through various channels, offering specific discretionary housing payments to mitigate income losses caused by the benefit cap, and working towards long-term financial improvements to achieve exemptions from the cap.

Full details of the work can be found in the project end report.

Early identification and support for families at risk



Improvement Project Aim Achieved

87% decrease in number of children meeting threshold for social work intervention

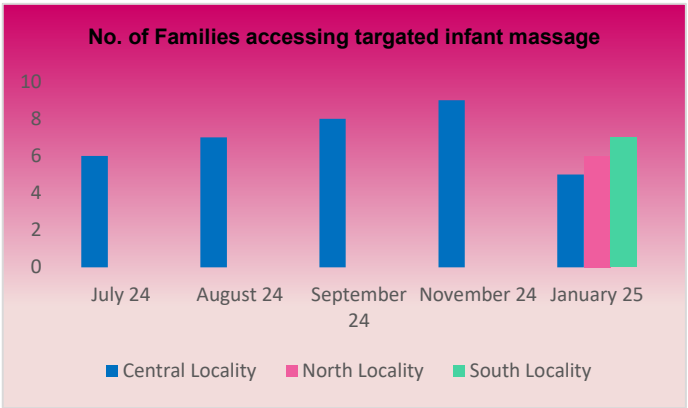
82% over the original aim.

Our 2024 data shows that we are getting better at identifying the early signs neglect among 0-4 year olds associated with Parental Mental Health/Addiction/Domestic Abuse. There has been an increase in referrals for support for families identified by health visitors and family nurses in 2024 in the categories of neglect associated with Mental Health (44%), Substance misuse (71%) and domestic abuse (49%). The increased number of referrals from 2022 to 2023 could indicate that professionals are getting better at early identification of the risks of neglect and support can be implemented.

Whilst referrals have increased, there has been an 87.2% reduction in children who met the threshold for social work intervention in 2024 (5 compared to 39 in 2022), this would indicate that our early identification and provision of support is being impactful.

We have introduced new specific supports to support parents. One initiative has been to deliver infant massage sessions in a group to families with babies aged 3-9 months, targeted specifically where there is domestic abuse, alcohol/ substance misuse or family mental health issues.

Starting in the Central Locality, our community nursery held regular blocks of targeted infant massage for families. This has been delivered to 35 families with positive feedback. Following completion of these sessions, families are keen to move on to another group and are being referred to Peep programmes. The benefits of infant massage are widely recognised therefore, this was rolled out across the city in January 2025. Overall between July 2024 and January 2025, 48 families have been supported.



Feedback from parents following the first block of infant massage included "***we were able to ask questions which reduced anxiety***", "***we met other families experiencing similar issues***". Ongoing feedback from families continues to be positive with families reporting they "**feel better connected to their baby**" and families are building relationships with other families and participating in community activities.

Increasing our programmes of support to families

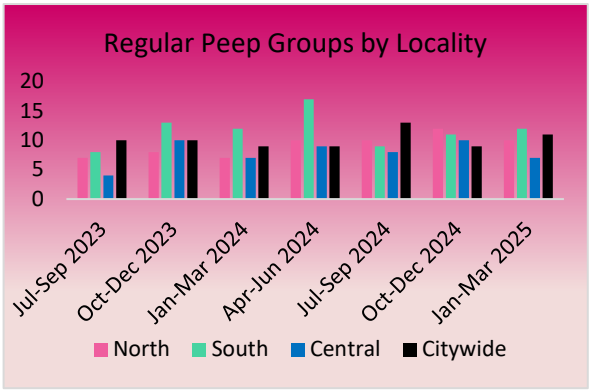
Peep is a research based adult learning programme that supports families with children 0-5 years. The demand for Parents as Early Educators Programme services is more than the team had capacity to meet with 103 under 5s currently on the waiting list as at 2023. In response, our Parents as Early Educators Programme project has focused on expanding our offer of the Programme across the city.

To support this we have adopted a multi-agency approach to support and train staff and capacity build, which has included:

- Pairing up partners/services that have similar goals to deliver Peep (i.e. family learning with libraries, ChildSmile/health with nurseries)

- Providing Early Learning and Childcare trained practitioners a term of co-delivery of a group with a Peep team member and/or with a trained practitioner to deliver the Healthier Families pilot.
- Developing a tiered training criteria for Peep delivery, including provision of funded training spaces to mitigate barriers.
- Developing a local Peep Practitioner network

As a result, there has been a 20% increase in the number of multi agency partners delivering PEEP sessions (30 in 2023 to 36 in 2025). Increasing the delivery team has led to a 35.8% increase in the number of families that have benefited from Peep (from 265 in Jan-Mar 2024 to 360 in Jan-Mar 2025). A total of 208 PEEP Sessions have been delivered over 2024. We have provided a number of regular Peep groups throughout our locality areas to ensure people can access the support in their community.

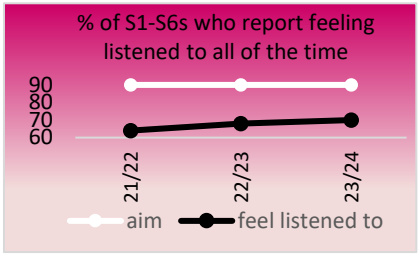


There were 106 responses to our annual Peep survey. Overall, the feedback has been positive. 83.8% of the parents said that their confidence to support their child's learning and development has improved since attending Peep and 63.2% feel their relationship with their child has gotten better. Asked what Peep could do differently, respondents suggested having longer and more sessions available to families.

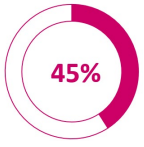
Developing interventions to support children's mental health

6% INCREASE in young people reporting that they feel listened to all the time.

Improving the mental health and wellbeing of our children and young people is a key priority. Feedback from our annual surveys with school pupils has shown a 6% increase in the number of young people who feel that they are listened to all of the time up from 64% in 2021/22 to 70% in 2023/24, showing progress towards our overall stretch outcome. However, we know we have more to do to improve the mental health of our children and young people. Our projects during 2024/25 have focused on improving children and young people's confidence and feeling safe in their community.



Improving Confidence and Finding Support

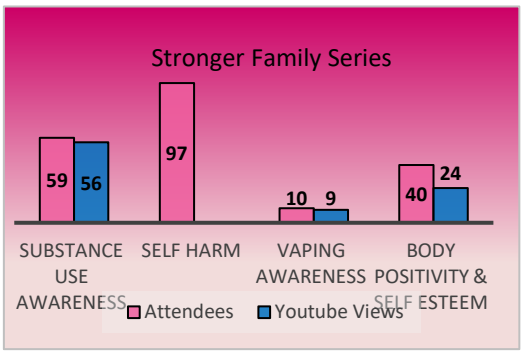


Improvement Project Aim Achieved

10% increase in % of S1-S6 pupils reporting that they always or often feel confident

Central to improving young people's mental health is to ensure that they can be confident, with well developed self-esteem and emotional resilience. Our improving confidence in Children and Young People project is working to do just this. With the introduction of new training programmes for key practitioners, helping them to better understand how to recognise and connect with children and young people who may be experiencing issues such as domestic abuse at home or undertaking self-harming behaviours.

The project has also worked with young people to feel more confident in engaging with adults who can help them. One initiative has been development and delivery of a number of stronger families sessions with parents and their children on topics such as self-harm. 206 families have participated and with positive feedback stating that the sessions are having a positive influence, supporting teachers and parents to better connect with their children and young people.

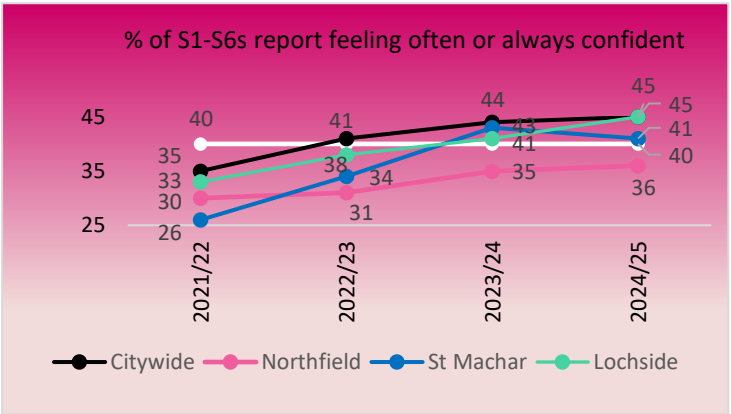


Feedback on the project's pupil and parent support sessions has been very positive:

"All of the information was very valuable. The discussion around the self-harm cycle was particularly helpful and the review of the home portal."

"My daughter has been seen at CAMHS for 8 years and has self-harmed from a very young age. This is the biggest help we have been given with this particular issue, thank you very much"

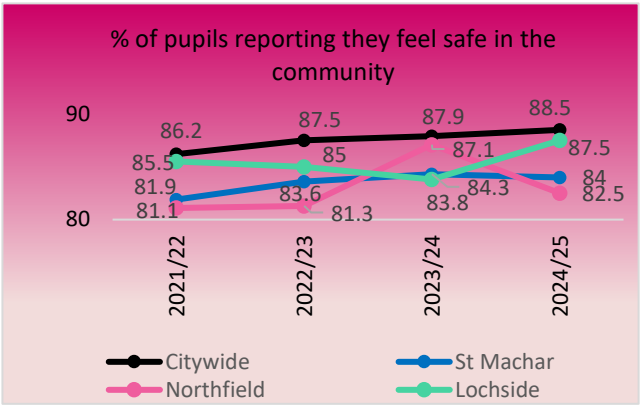
There have also been promising improvements with a 10% increase in the number of S1-S6 pupils reporting that they always or often feel confident from 35% in academic year 2021/22 to 45% in 2024/25. Although lower, this same trend in increasing confidence can be seen among pupils in our priority neighbourhood Academies. The biggest increase being in St. Machar Academy from 26% in 2021/22 to 41% in 2024/25.



Helping Young People Feel Safe in Their Community

Feeling safe in their community is a right for all children and young people and is crucial for their mental health. If a child or young person feels unsafe this could impact on their physical and mental health. They may become isolated and fearful of leaving home, they will be less inclined to make use of green spaces, parks and other amenities in their neighbourhoods.

Since 2021/22 there has been a 2.3% increase in the number of pupils reporting that they often or always feel safe from 86.27% in 2021/22 to 88.5% in 2024/25. This same trend from the baseline period in 2021/22 has also been noted in the Associated School Groups that serve our priority neighbourhoods (as can be seen in the chart below), but the extent to which young people feel safe in those areas is notably lower. Whilst the % for Northfield remains higher than 2021/22, in 2024/25 there has been a 4.6% decrease in % of pupils reporting they feel safe from 87.1% in 2023/24 to 82.5% in 2024/25.



Through our Children and Young People Feeling Safe project, we are providing targeted support to young people in the Lochside community. We have been testing a pilot programme of local youth

activity through our school community hubs in Torry. The aim is to support young people to feel safe in their community and improve their overall mental wellbeing. Youth workers have started a group for pupils who use the community wing after school. There has been a notable increase in the percentage of young people reporting they feel safe in Lochside between 2023/24 at 8.43% to 87.5% in 2024/25. Further work will continue to support young people in other communities such as Northfield. Throughout 2024, attendance at youth activities led by the youth work team was 792.

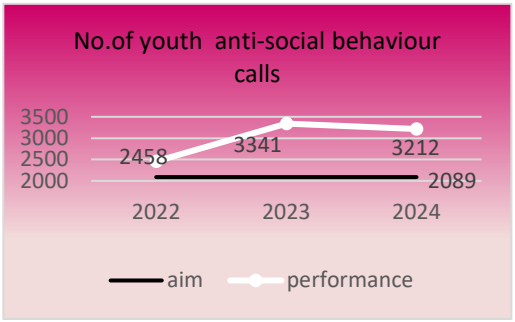
Reducing youth anti social behaviour calls

The work of the young people feeling safe project is also supporting on our Youth Anti-Social Behaviour project. This has included providing an increased presence of youth engagement officers and community safety officers in Lochside and the city centre, as well as conducting a number of school visits across autumn/winter 2024.

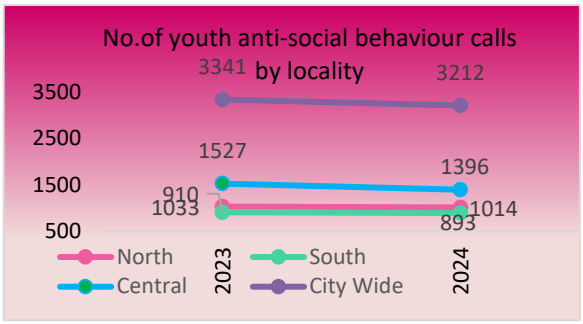
Youth Engagement Police Officers and Community Safety Police Officers worked in partnership to plan and implement an 8 week program across October to December 2024 of scheduled attendance in the vicinity of City Secondary Schools around the lunchtime hours with the intention of reducing youth anti-social behaviour and providing community reassurance.

These visits were met with great interest and a positive response from members of the public when conducted in the vicinity of Dyce Academy and area of Asda, Old Machar Academy and the area of Asda, Bridge of Don in the Greenbrae area and Hazlehead Academy and the passageway from the school towards Tesco on the Lang Stracht which included the Hazlehead multi story blocks and Woodend Hospital grounds.

To support increasing the capacity for delivery of activities for young people in outdoor spaces in the city centre the Youth Work team co-ordinated 3 Street Work training sessions for partners involved in the city centre group. Partners included Barnardos, Foyer and Denis Law Trust. Youth Workers and partners have been engaging with young people in the city centre since Easter 2024. As part of this, four Streetwork sessions were carried out in October 2024 during the holidays which culminated in young people taking part in a “giant cube” team-building activity on the rooftop of St Nicholas Centre. 26 young people engaged with the session.



As well as the city centre the project also supports a number of Steetsports activities in communities such as Garthdee and Middlefield in partnership with the Dennis Law Trust, to engage young people in their community and attract them away from anti-social behaviour. We are beginning to see the positive impact of the initiatives above with a 5% reduction in youth anti social behaviour calls from 3470 in 2023 to 3303 in 2024.

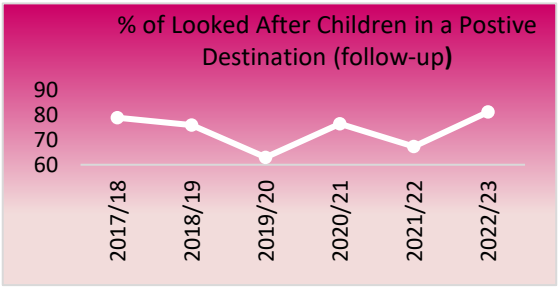


Improving outcomes for care experienced young people

STRETCH OUTCOME 5 PROGRESSING WITH 81.3% of Looked After Children in a positive and sustained destination.

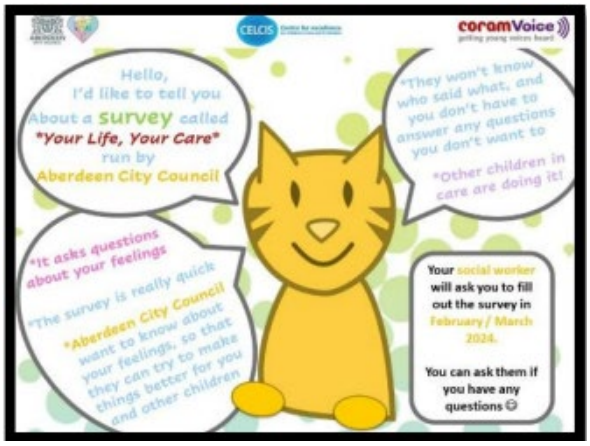
Central to the work of the Children's Services Board is delivery of The Promise. The Children's Services Board reviewed progress in delivering Plan 21-24 in October 2024. The Keeping the Promise Year 3 Evaluation highlighted that good progress is being made in a number of areas but that there is more to do. This position is reflected nationally.

There are some positive indications that our support for Care Experienced Children and Young People is beginning to have an impact with a 10% reduction in the gap between the percentage of care experienced young people (81.3%) and all young people (90.1%) achieving a positive and sustained destination in 2022/23 compared to 2016/17 (74% Care Experienced Children and Young People and 92.8 for all Aberdeen school leavers). This was a year on year increase of 13.9% from 67.4% in 2021/22.



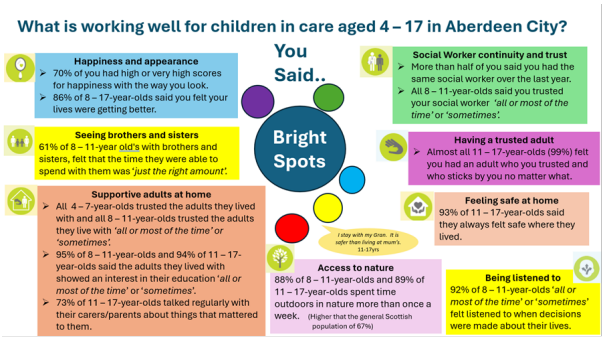
However, there remain gaps in the outcomes of care experienced young people and those who are not and our projects under Stretch Outcome 5 continue to focus on supporting care experienced young people to have a positive experience into, through and out of care.

Looked after Children's views shaping our improvements

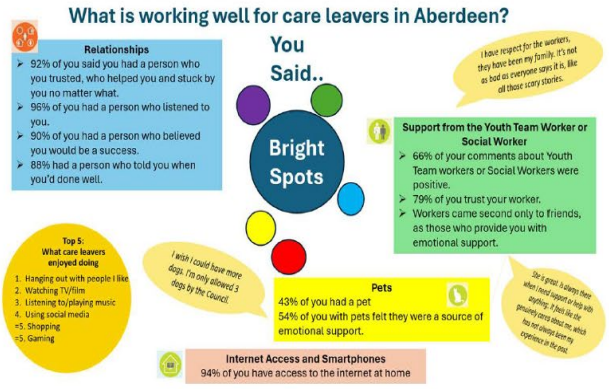


This year our Bright Spots survey developed in partnership with Centre of Excellence for Looked After Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) and Corum Voice, captured the voices of care experienced young people through the 'Your Life Your Care' survey. 345, 4–17-year-old Care Experienced Children and Young people and 227, 16-26 year shared their view. A full reports on feedback can be found here: Your Life Your Care (4-17yrs) and Your Life Beyond Care (16-25yrs)

The feedback is invaluable, below are some of the highlights of what is both working well and could be better. Key areas of focus for coming next year include consideration of how to positively respond to the feedback provided

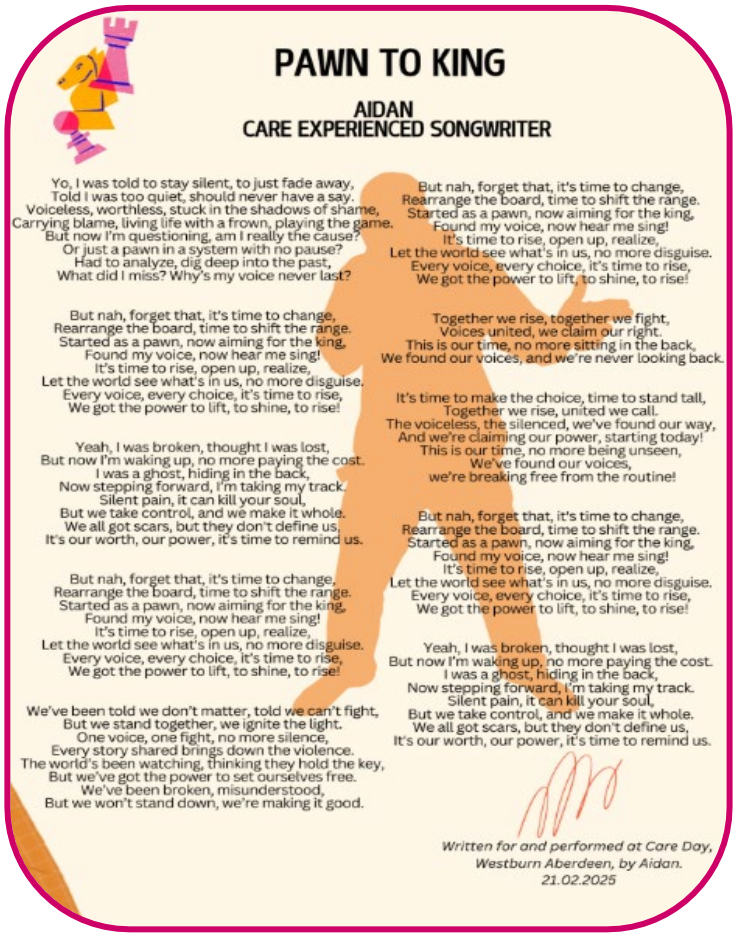


Young people aged 16 – 26, what is working well, what could be better?



Bright Spots – A care experienced young person's interpretation

Using the data revealed from the survey, Aiden transformed these insights into a powerful and accessible performance, making the voices and stories behind the statistics resonate on a deeply personal level. It's an invitation to listen, reflect, and understand the real impact of these experiences https://youtu.be/z-BbyE-ZosI?si=PxvLKnOo9szVZ1Cx



PAWN TO KING

AIDAN
CARE EXPERIENCED SONGWRITER

Yo, I was told to stay silent, to just fade away,
Told I was too quiet, should never have a say.
Voiceless, worthless, stuck in the shadows of shame,
Carrying blame, living life with a frown, playing the game.
But now I'm questioning, am I really the cause?
Or just a pawn in a system with no pause?
Had to analyze, dig deep into the past,
What did I miss? Why's my voice never last?

But nah, forget that, it's time to change,
Rearrange the board, time to shift the range.
Started as a pawn, now aiming for the king,
Found my voice, now hear me sing!
It's time to rise, open up, realize,
Let the world see what's in us, no more disguise.
Every voice, every choice, it's time to rise,
We got the power to lift, to shine, to rise!

Yeah, I was broken, thought I was lost,
But now I'm waking up, no more paying the cost.
I was a ghost, hiding in the back,
Now stepping forward, I'm taking my track.
Silent pain, it can kill your soul,
But we take control, and we make it whole.
We all got scars, but they don't define us,
It's our worth, our power, it's time to remind us.

But nah, forget that, it's time to change,
Rearrange the board, time to shift the range.
Started as a pawn, now aiming for the king,
Found my voice, now hear me sing!
It's time to rise, open up, realize,
Let the world see what's in us, no more disguise.
Every voice, every choice, it's time to rise,
We got the power to lift, to shine, to rise!

We've been told we don't matter, told we can't fight,
But we stand together, we ignite the light.
One voice, one fight, no more silence,
Every story shared brings down the violence.
The world's been watching, thinking they hold the key,
But we've got the power to set ourselves free.
We've been broken, misunderstood,
But we won't stand down, we're making it good.

Together we rise, together we fight,
Voices united, we claim our right.
This is our time, no more sitting in the back,
We found our voices, and we're never looking back.

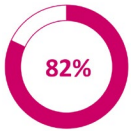
It's time to make the choice, time to stand tall,
Together we rise, united we call.
The voiceless, the silenced, we've found our way,
And we're claiming our power, starting today!
This is our time, no more being unseen,
We've found our voices,
we're breaking free from the routine!

But nah, forget that, it's time to change,
Rearrange the board, time to shift the range.
Started as a pawn, now aiming for the king,
Found my voice, now hear me sing!
It's time to rise, open up, realize,
Let the world see what's in us, no more disguise.
Every voice, every choice, it's time to rise,
We got the power to lift, to shine, to rise!

Yeah, I was broken, thought I was lost,
But now I'm waking up, no more paying the cost.
I was a ghost, hiding in the back,
Now stepping forward, I'm taking my track.
Silent pain, it can kill your soul,
But we take control, and we make it whole.
We all got scars, but they don't define us,
It's our worth, our power, it's time to remind us.

Written for and performed at Care Day, Westburn Aberdeen, by Aidan. 21.02.2025

Supporting Care Experienced Young Parents



Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

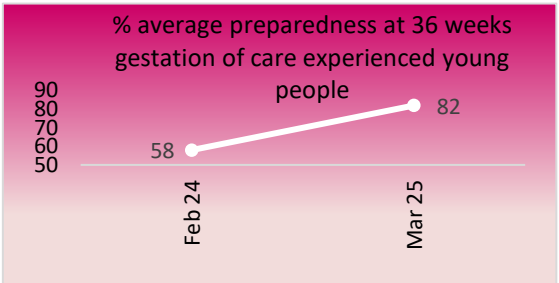
24% increase in the number of care experienced young parents feeling prepared for parenthood at 36 weeks gestation

2% over original aim

Whilst many young people will find it hard to be a confident first time parent. It is particularly difficult for our cohorts of Care Experienced Young People, who may have had quite traumatic experiences in their own childhood and have less direct family support networks.

Our Supporting Care Experienced Young Parents project is aiming to ensure that care experienced young people, as early as possible in their pregnancy, have support for both them and their unborn child, and are testing the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) Programme.

The Programme is currently supporting 24 under 19 year old care experiened parents and 13, 20-25 year olds. The project provides tailored support for each young person involved in the programme, assessing their confidence throughout and adapting the offer as support progresses. This can range from supporting healthy eating and behaviours for both parent and baby, referral to mental services as well as ongoing advice.



The participant feedback survey completed by the 17 care experienced parents who have finished the programme reported at 36 weeks gestation feeling prepared for parenthood. A signifiucant increase from Feb 2024 -March 2025 by 24% from 58% to 82%. Since November 2024, 100% of the babies of the parents partipating have met their developmental milestones.

Supporting Children and Young People Leaving Care

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

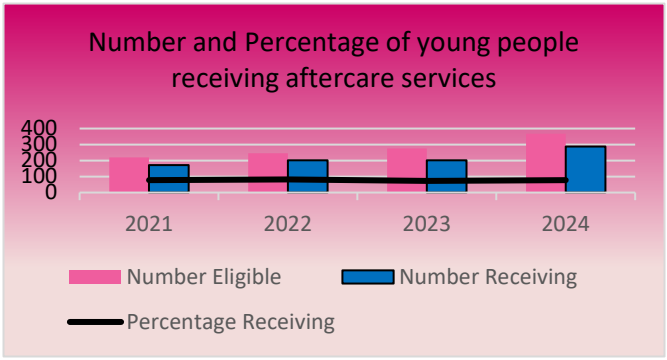
68% increase in the number of care experienced young people receiving throughcare/aftercare support

58% over the original aim

For those leaving care we are working to improve and expand our multi-agency and integrated approaches so that young people receive appropriate and effective throughcare and aftercare when they leave.

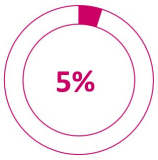
Our Improving Throughcare and Aftercare project has introduced a series of changes to our system including for instance: providing more targeted support to help Care Experienced Young People get into education, employment and training; improved welfare asessment training; and working with foster carers to help them better understand their roles in supporting a Looked after Child's transition from Care.

We have seen positive impact of the changes with a 68% increase in the number of eligible young people receiving aftercare (171 in 2021 to 288 in 2024), with 78% of eligible young people receiving support in 2024.



As part of the project, ABZ Works have developed a range of initiatives to help remove barriers and provide support and opportunities to help Care experienced young people feel confident and ready for education, training or employment. In 2024, 74 care experienced young people were supported, a 15% increase from 2023 (63) and 43% from 2022 (42). Opportunities included paid work experience programmes with guaranteed interviews for those who complete, aligned to sectors where we know there are skills shortage. More details on the project can be found in our Project End Report.

Reduction in looked after children



Improvement Project Aim Achieved

5.1% reduction in the number of looked after children.

There are multiple reasons why children are accommodated out with parental care. This includes: structural inequality, poverty, poor social housing, homelessness; parental experience of childhood trauma and difficulty accessing universal services.

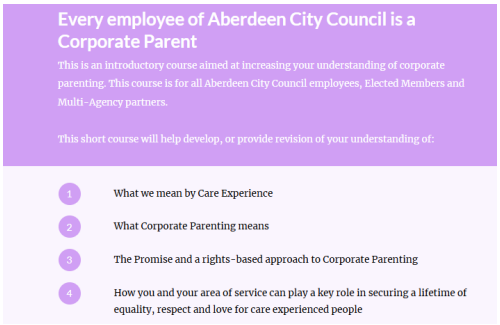
The Promise (2021) stresses the need for effective multi-agency intensive family support to ensure children and young people remain in the care of their family where it is safe for them to be so. Through our entering care project we are committed to putting in place the support to enable this. The number of looked after children in Aberdeen City has been incrementally reducing. As of November 2024 there were 443 looked after children in Aberdeen City. However, in 2023 the service included the 38 young people that were in continuing care in the data. Young people in continuing care are not looked after. This means there was actually 467 children in 2023 and a 5.1% decrease in 2024.

To support families, the project have have tested evaluated the processes and guidance (GIRFEC) in relation to the provision of multi-agency support for kinship placements that are showing signs of vulnerability; accessed therapeutic support for carers and children at points of enhanced vulnerability in the placement; piloted a test of change to deliver holistic family support to parents with addiction needs to increase their capacity to meet the needs of their children in a manner that protects their wellbeing; and Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) since February 2025.

Despite the data showing an overall positive downward trend since November 2023, it is worth noting that a contributory factor has been a 16% decrease in the number of children looked after at home and with friends and family (68 children September 2023 compared to 57 in November 2024. The reduction in the number of children looked after at home mirrors a national trend and reflects Local Authorities moving to embed the Promise (2021) and the move to a prevention and early intervention service delivery model locally and the partnership jointly commissioning services for children and families at Tier 2.

Corporate Parenting Training

In addition to developing interventions to improve children and young people's experience of care, it is one of the key roles of our partnership's delivery of The Promise to ensure that our staff better understand what it means to be a corporate parent. In particular understanding the key role that they play in a Looked After Childs experience of care and the responsibility placed on services to provide many of the supports and functions that might otherwise be provided by a loving family.



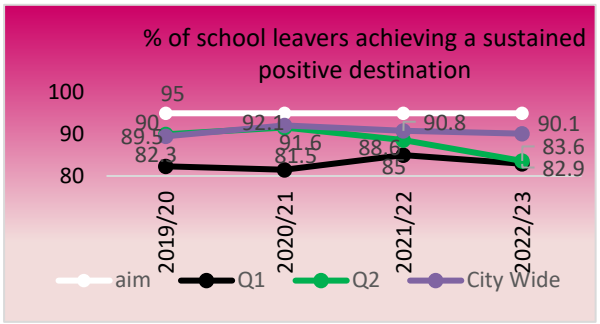
Through our Corporate Parent Training project we are continuing to increase the number of staff and services we train. This year we have developed an online Corporate Parenting Training module for all multi-agency staff. The training has been developed using the latest resources and content from the Promise and has also involved co-development from care exerienced young people. 52% of the 7745 staff identified as having a role in supporting those that are care experienced have now been trained with an ongoing steady month on month increase.

Focusing on young people in our priority neighbourhoods

STRETCH OUTCOME 6
82.9% Positive Destinations in SIMD1
&
83.6% Positive Destinations in SIMD2

Increasing the number of young people who go on to education, employment or training when they leave school remains a key priority for our partnership. Citywide positive and sustained destinations have shown a decline since 2020/21, from 92.1% in 2020/21 to 90.1% in 2022/23, 2.7% lower than the % for Scotland. The data also shows that young people from our priority neighbourhoods, are still much less likely to go onto a positive destination.

Latest data on the cohort of young people that left school in academic year 2022/23 shows that the sustained positive destinations for children in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 have decreased by 2.1% (85%-82.1%) and 5% for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2 (88.6%-83.6%) since 2021/22. Indicating that there is still further work to be done to meet our stretch Outcome to increase positive destinations for this cohort. Extensive work continues to expand and improve our curricular offer across the city to address this.



Improving Our Curricular Offer

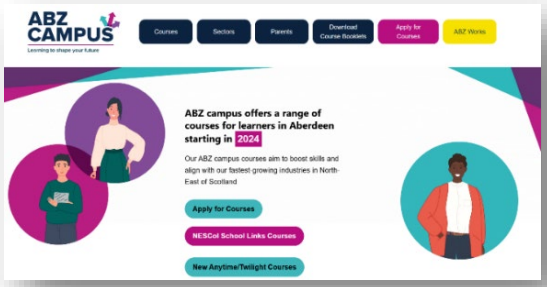
Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

125% increase in rate of completion of National Progression Awards/Foundation Apprenticeships/ Higher National Certificate courses available to young people

115% over the project's original aim.

One of the ways we are seeking to improve positive destinations is through our ABZ Campus project, which has been helping up us to achieve significant improvement to the number of young people completing National Progression Awards, Foundation Apprenticeships and Higher National Certificate courses across the city.

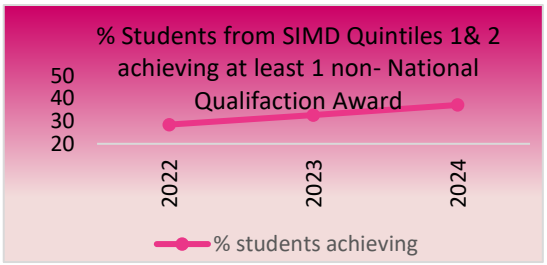
ABZ Campus offers equitable access to a citywide curriculum for all pupils regardless of their school. Enabling delivery of different courses and improving links with/delivering courses through other providers such as North East Scotland College. The project has also introduced Pathway Advocates in each of Aberdeen's 11 Secondary Schools to provide bespoke and tailored interventions as well as intensive regular career and curricular support, increasing attendance and developing positive relationships for our more vulnerable young people.



During 2023/24 the Pathway Advocates tracked and supported 248 vulnerable young people, of these 202 (81%) were care experienced. The number of young people supported in each of the 11 schools has differed according to identified need with the number supported ranging from 9 to 57 per school 10 young people are enrolled in an Employability Course as part of ABZ Campus with a further 6 young people benefiting from a pilot programme for young people with additional support needs. 93% (25) of the 27 young people who have been closed to the Pathways Advocate support programme, have moved into a positive destination.

The project has far surpassed its aim of 10% with a:

- 125% increase in completion rates of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework/National Progression Awards (2265 2023/24, compared to 1005 in 2021/22
- 20% increase in the completion of Foundation Apprenticeships (127 - 156 students in 2023/24)
- an increase from 0 Higher National Certificates in 2021/22 to 12 in 2022/23 and 9 in 2023/24



You can read more about the ABZ Campus in this Project End Report

Increasing the Uptake of Digital and Technology Courses

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

20% increase in the number of young people completing courses aligned to digital and tech sector.

As part of expanding our curricular offer we are also aiming to increase the number of young people completing Digital and Technology courses in the city. Digital and Tech is a key growth sector for the North East and an essential part of the transition away from oil and gas, as the economy diversifies.

Through our digital and tech project we have introduced new National Participation Award's at Level 5 and 6 in Games Design, Esports at Level 4 &5 in St. Machar Academy and adding National Progression Awards Cyber Security to ABZ Campus.

In 2023/2024, 1128 young people completed such courses, an increase of 19.75%. Of the three new digital NPA courses, data for 2023/24 showed:

- Esports - that across Level 4 to 6, 16 young people completed the Esports course with a 100% pass.
- Games Design, 18 young people completed level 6 with a 100% pass rate, with 54 at level 5 and a 85.19% pass rate and 15 at level 4, with a 66.67% rate.
- Cybersecurity - 79 young people completed level 4 and 5 Cybersecurity, with a 65.52% pass rate for level 4 and 24% for level 5.

Integrated Healthcare Courses

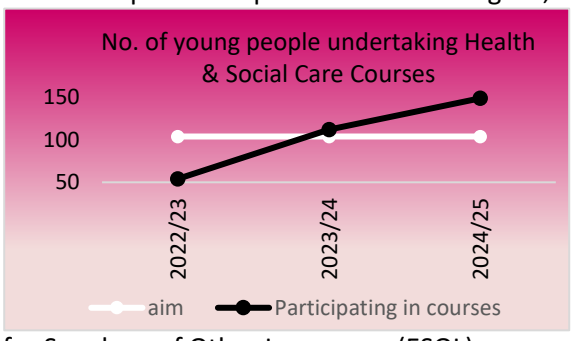
Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

107% increase in the number of young people undertaking Integrated Healthcare Courses

14% over the original aim

A key sector which offers opportunities for young people to achieve employment is in Healthcare. Our Integrated Healthcare Courses project, through the development and promotion of expanded opportunities to undertake healthcare courses has helped 112 young people complete such courses, a 107% increase from 54 in 2022/23.

This can be attributed to the development and promotion of the availability of and career progressions associated with healthcare professions. Delivered in partnership with health colleagues, Nescol and through ABZ Campus to allow wide access. There has been an increase in enrolments of 33% for Academic Year 2024-25 compared to last year.



The integrated Health and Social Care course at SCQF 4 is now well established, and to respond to student needs, the project is also offering an integrated route to support those who are English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Increasing co-delivery of education and health services

100%

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

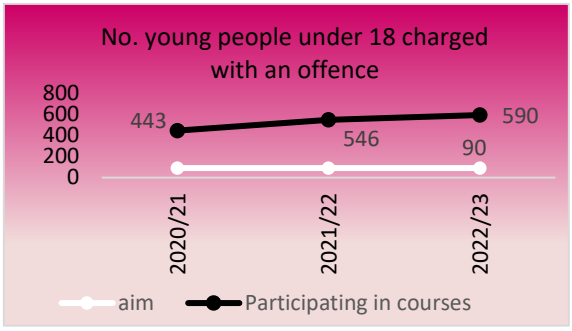
3 co-located and delivered services by health and education.

National and local research identified that those living in areas of deprivation have been most impacted by the pandemic and that their wellbeing has been most adversely affected. Following the success of the Links Hubs, partnership integration and delivery model, it was agreed to establish other co-located/co-delivery models was agreed as a priority to support children and young people, regardless of their circumstances, to achieve the same health and education outcomes as their peers.

Our Co-delivery project has raised awareness and promoted opportunities for co-location and supported and enabled others to progress and sharing learning. As a result there are now 3 co-located and delivered services by health and education. .At the start of the project there was 1 Co-located service at the Links Hub where a Health Visitor is based two days per week. The second service (around attendance) has seen health and education colleagues collaborate at Manor Park School (our second collaboration). In addition, the project team has worked to ensure successful planning for the successful integration of a Children's Social Work team at Kaimhill School (our fourth collaboration/co-location).

Considerable work continues to be undertaken to establish a new integrated service, our Bairns Hoose, on the Links Early learning and Childcare site. Building work is currently underway and the new integrated provision should be operational by the end of 2025. The opening of this provision will see colleagues from NHSG, Police Scotland, the Third Sector and Courts all co-located to support families who have experienced, or perpetrated harm. At this point, (late 2025) there will be 4 co-located operational services.

Keeping children and young people safe and preventing crime



Our partnership has been taking a coordinated approach to supporting groups of young people who have committed or are at risk of committing crime. Taking preventative approaches to reducing youth anti-social behaviour, as described above, in our communities and providing wrap around supports for those coming into or leaving the justice system to give them the best opportunities to improve their outcomes. Latest data on Strech Outcome 7 indicates that there has been a slight increase in the number of under 18s charged with an offence from 546 in 2021/22 to 590 in 2022/23, however remains a 40% reduction since the baseline period. Our work continues and we have had a number of successes in supporting this cohort through our improvement projects.

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

95% of 16/17 year olds appearing in court received a Community Needs Assessment

5% over its original aim

Latest data is showing improvement. As of January 2025 95% of 16 and 17 year olds have been supported by the court pre disposal team to ensure a full assessment of their needs can be effectively communicated in court to help ensure a supportive outcome.

The number of Care Experienced Young People charged per month on average has reduced from 7.39 in 2022 to 5 in 2025, and the number of Young People on Compulsory Supervision Order charged fell from 3.4 on average each month in 2022 to less than 1 in 2025. This indicates a sustainable reduction in the number of care experienced young people coming into conflict with the law, linked to increased trauma training and improved communication between services.

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

39% reduction in the average number of Care Experienced Young People Cautioned and Charged

19% over its original aim

Reducing Young People Going Missing From Our Children's Homes

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

87% reduction in number of Looked After Children missing from children's homes

72% over its original aim

Care experienced young people going missing from Children's Homes has been a key concern for the professionals who support them. Looked After Children are much more likely to be vulnerable to risk in the community.

To address this we established our Missing Looked After Children project which has had significant success, by changing the way in which Police, Social Workers from the children's homes and the young people themselves communicate through the development of the 'Not at Home' policy.

The 'Not at Home' policy normalises a young person's lifestyle and ensures that despite their care experienced status, their absence from a children's home is managed more in a similar way to that of a non-care experienced young person. The introduction of this policy has seen the number of reported missing care experienced young people drop from 39 in 2022 to less than 5 in 2024. Looked after young people themselves report that it was often much better for them as they would not have the feeling of being "hunted" by the Police. You can find more detail in the Project End Report

Supporting young people with additional support needs/disability access education and opportunities post school

89% of young people with Additional Support Needs/ Disabilities experiencing a positive destination

Since 2019/20 there has been an increase per year in the number of school leavers with Additional Support Needs/Disability. Children and young people who have Additional Support Needs or Disabilities can often struggle to remain in full time education for a range of reasons. Not only that, on leaving school there are a number of barriers that they are likely to experience in progress into a positive destination.

Community Planning Aberdeen are committed to ensuring that the barriers are addressed and that young people with additional support needs/ disabilities attend school and have the support, skills and connections they need to transition into and sustain positive destinations. Latest data shows there has been a 4% increase in the number of young people with Additional Support Needs/Disabilities who have experienced a positive destination (89% in 2023/24 from 85% in 2019/20) and a 2.2% decrease from 2022/23 (91.6%).

Through our positive destination and school attendance projects, we are testing a range of initiatives to achieve this. One example is piloting the use of CIRCLE (Child Inclusion Research into Curriculum Learning Education). This supports staff to better understand the various strategies that can be undertaken to provide individualised support for pupils. This has been piloted in the Aberdeen Grammar School, Harlaw Academy and Lochside Academy, with materials adapted to suit the individual schools in and a padlet developed to ensure access to key stages and information. This includes being able to quickly access strategies.

All three secondary schools have increased the percentage attendance for learners with a disability, all above the citywide attendance of 88.27% in 2022/23 and above the national average for all pupils at 90.2%

- Aberdeen Grammar School 2022/23 all pupils 91.92%, disability 97.69%, 2021/22 all pupils 92.14, pupils with a disability 96.05%
- Harlaw Academy all pupils 2022/23 88.68% pupils with a disability 90.92%, 2021/22 all pupils 89.58%, pupils with a disability 86.08%
- Lochside Academy 2022/23 all pupils 87.36%, pupils with a disability 91.67%, 2021/22 all pupils 87.29%, pupils with a disability 86.46%

This positive outcome is welcome and we hope that through expansion of this we will see a change to the city wide data which shows that the percentage attendance of pupils with Additional Support Needs/Disabilities has declined slightly from 2021/22 to 2022/23 from 89.36% for pupils with Additional Support Needs to 88.54% in 2022/23 and from 88.27% for pupils with a disability to 87.39%.

Increasing the number of young carers supported

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

20% increase in the number of registered young carers supported

Young carers are one of our the biggest single groups of children in need. Though there is much support available for young carers in Aberdeen, identifying and referring Young Carers to that support can be difficult, many do not realise they are carers. Our Young Carers project has focused on increasing the number of young carers identified and supported across the city. Since early last year the project has had continuing success, having increased the number of young carers accessing support by 20% from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024.

Of those whose address was recorded, data shows there has been increases in the number of young carers supported in two of the localities 53% (21) in North and 75% (23) in South; as well as a 23% increase in Priority Neighbourhoods. There has been decrease in the number supported in the central locality of 20%. The project also saw a moderate increase in the number of black, asian and

minority ethnic Young Carers from 16 in June 2023 to 23 December 2024. However, we recognise we need to do more and further work is ongoing to work with agencies such as Grampian Regional Equalities Council and Touch of Love to support identifying where these young people may be young carers.

The increase has been driven by a number of improvement activities including our targeted promotion and providing the "Think Young Carer Toolkit" training to all schools, external organisations including Health services, Education services, Police Scotland, and numerous Third Sector agencies (15 directly and connecting with others through Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations and the Third Sector Forum). You can read more about the work in our detailed project end report.

Our Young Carers have been proactively involved in recruiting other young carers into the programme working in partnership with Station House Media Unit, in 2024 producing their Young Warriors Video published during Carers week highlighting the struggles and the experiences of our very own young carers in Aberdeen.

Supporting Families Awaiting a Diagnosis for Autism

There remains limited support available for children and families with or awaiting diagnosis of autism and the waiting times between referral and diagnosis are significant (averaging 12 months). Outcomes for children deteriorate if they or their families do not receive timely and ongoing support through the child development stages.

Our Neurodivergent Pathways project has been looking to address this by testing a pilot in Woodside Primary School. The pilot supported 10 (42%) of children and families of the 17 that were referred, providing multiagency support for families awaiting an autism diagnosis, looking at various strategies and supports. This has included helping school staff to adapt their learning environments and working with health colleagues to ensure accelerated referral and diagnosis as well as providing extensive support to families in the interim.

In addition to the ongoing support, times between referral to and receiving of supports were significantly reduced. For instance with consent for the first assessment averaging 11.5 days, for a first clinical assessment at 13.5 days and parents receiving feedback within 6 weeks. Considerably shorter timeframes that the average of 12 months from referral to diagnosis You can read more about the work in our detailed project end report.

What Impact have we had?

The project has received incredibly positive feedback from the parents involved:

"Just finally getting the support for our son, which was all we ever wanted, that's the main thing, like, obviously the diagnosis helps because you can't often get supported without a diagnosis, but that wasn't the thing for us, it was getting the support and educating ourselves and being kind of able to help them."

"We feel definitely feel like we have more tools and more information now than we ever have, and that is all down to the Test of Change"

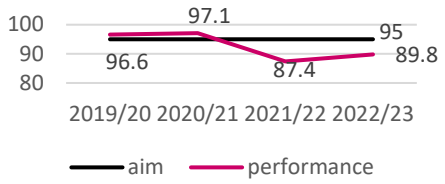
What impact have we had?

24/25/26 improvement aim — Performance

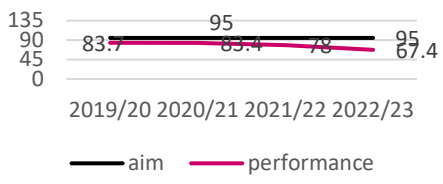
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

Children have the best start in life

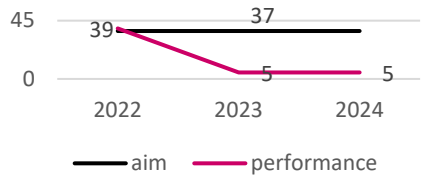
% of children assessed at 27-30 month who met developmental milestones



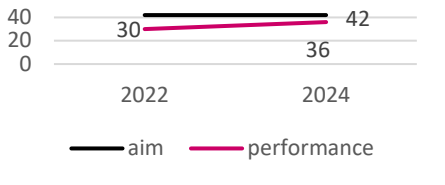
% of eligible children who were assessed at 27-30 months



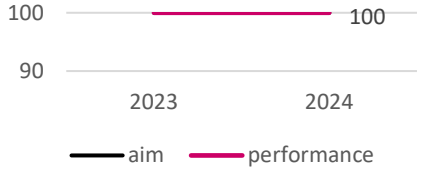
No. of 0-4s referred to social work as a result of neglect



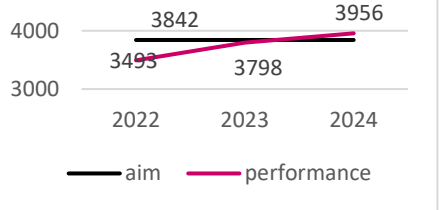
No. of multi agency partners delivering PEEP sessions



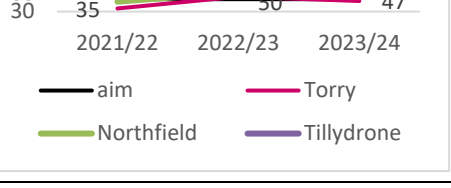
% of urgent requests for infant formula met



No. of parents with children under 5 completing a full benefit check

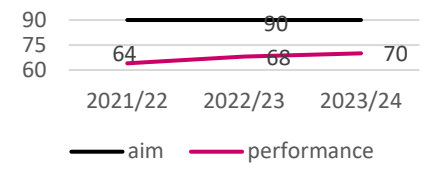


% of P1s with good dental health in Torry

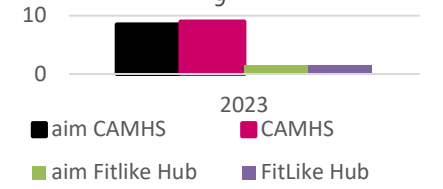


Children are listened to

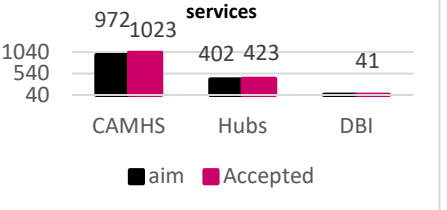
% of young people who report feeling listened to all of the time



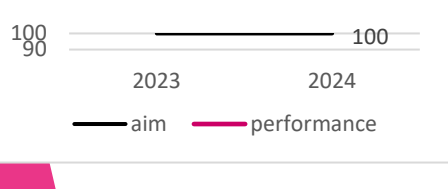
Waiting times for children and young people mental health services (weeks)



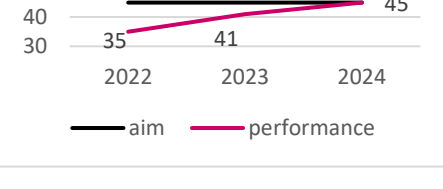
No. of referrals accepted by children and young people mental health services



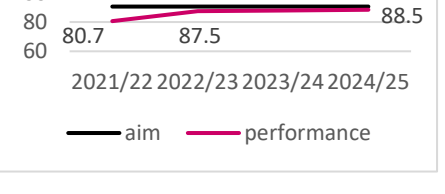
% of children leaving care referred to services that can meet assessed mental health needs within 4 weeks of health assessment



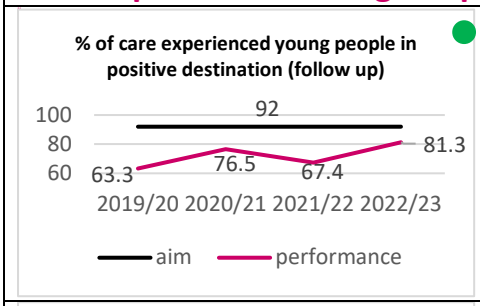
% of young people who report feeling often or always confident

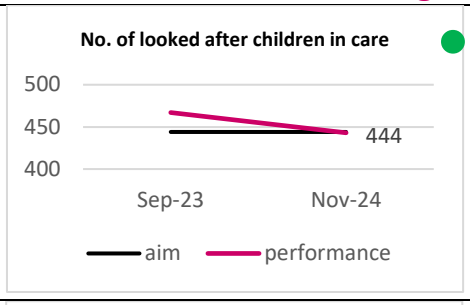


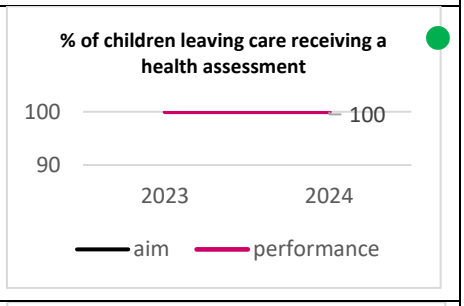
% of children in priority neighbourhoods who report feeling safe in their community

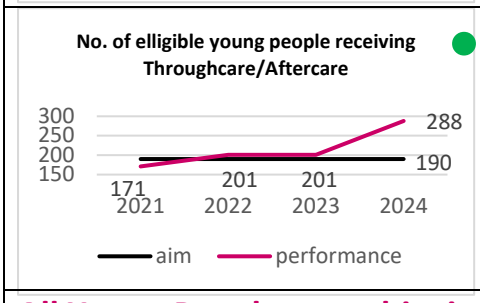


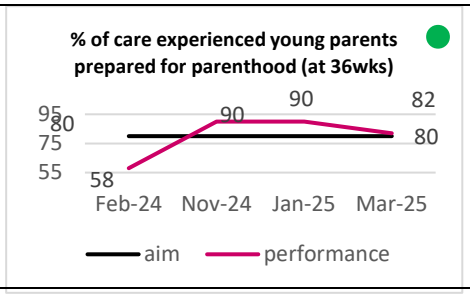
Care Experienced Young People are included and achieving

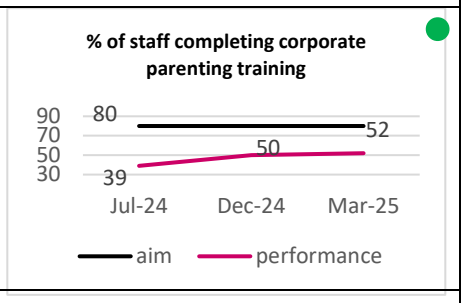




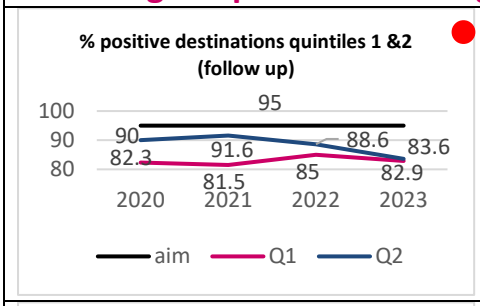


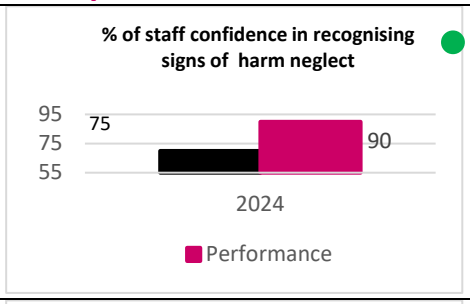


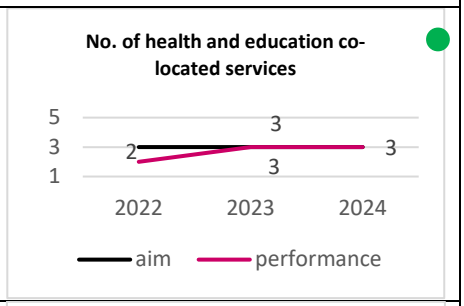


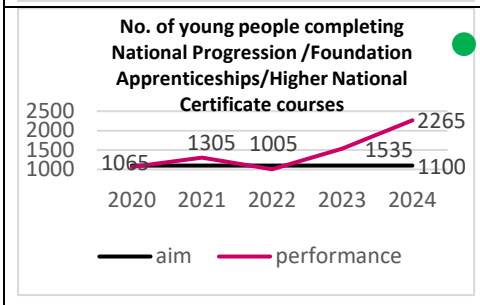


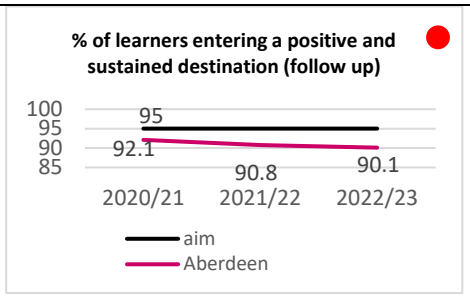
All Young People are achieving their potential

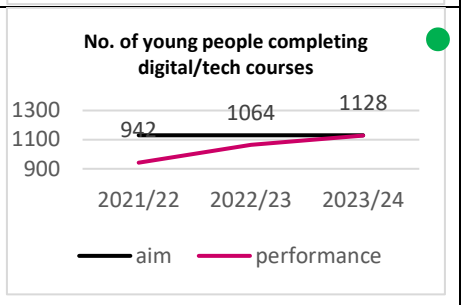


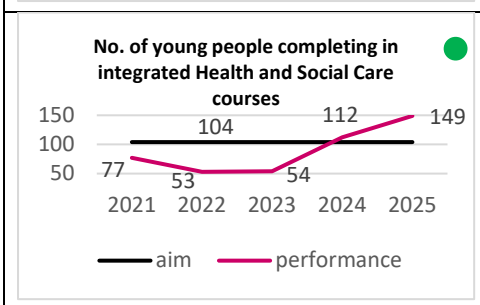




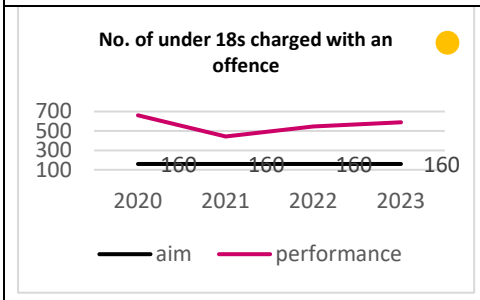


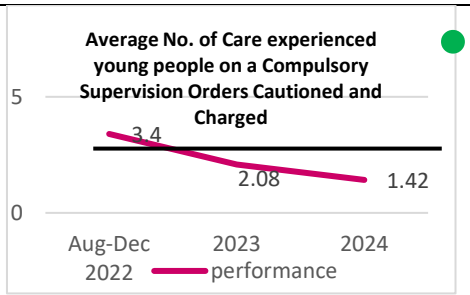


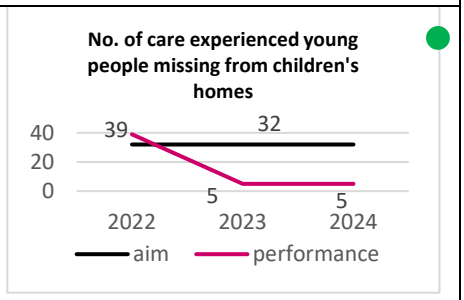


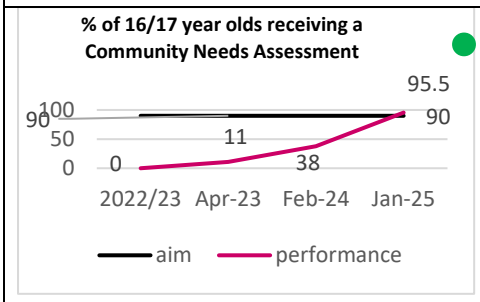


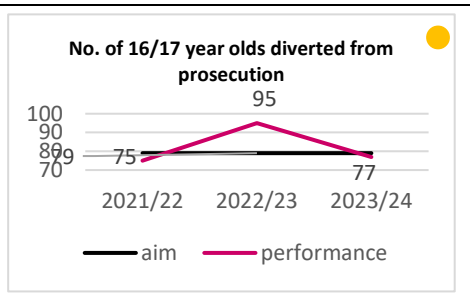
Children are Safe and Involved

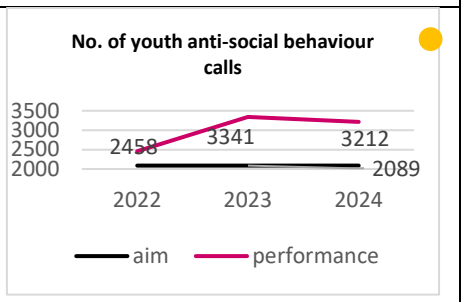




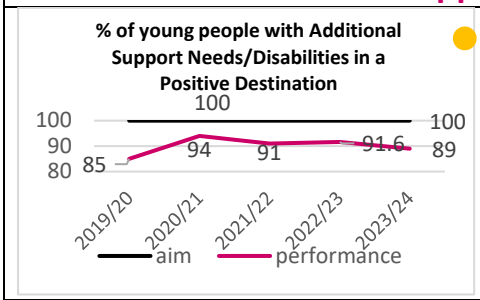


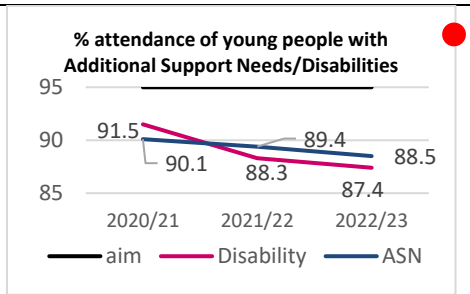


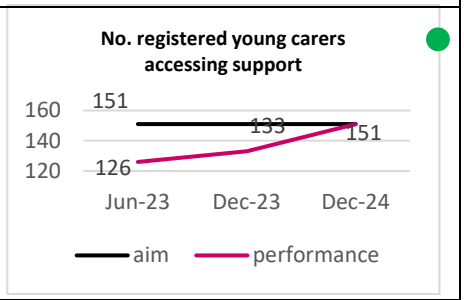


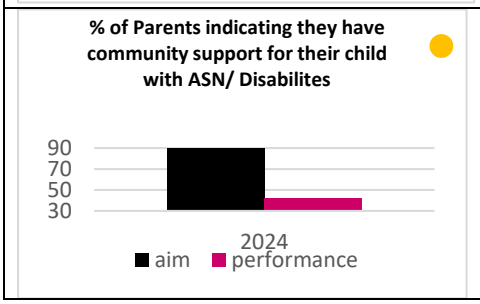


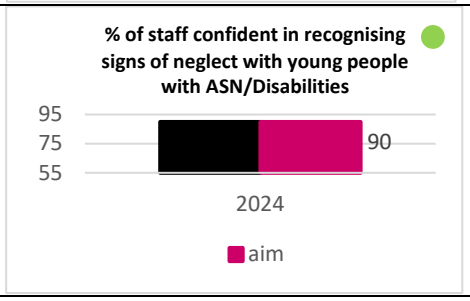
Children with additional support needs/disabilities

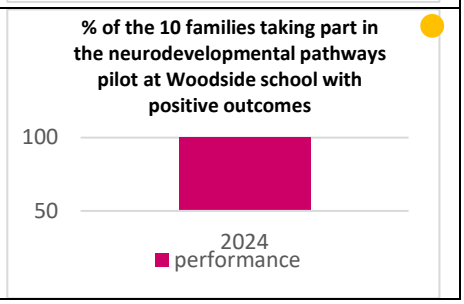












Improvement Priorities for 2025/26

Our improvement projects will continue to drive improvements for our children, young people and families, here are some of the key priorities for 2025/26:

- Taking a whole system approach to healthy weight and healthy lifestyle interventions through our Healthy Weight Aberdeen Programme
- Try to better understand why more children are presenting at hospital due to asthma in Aberdeen
- Look carefully at what more can be done to prevent suicide and access to mental health support for children and young people
- We will expand the reach of our Whole Family Approach to support more children, young people and parents through the development of our local Family Support Model as part of the Fairer Futures Partnership with the Scottish Government.
- Spread the use of Infant Feeding in a crisis pathway across more the partnership agencies to ensure that regardless of touchpoint that people across Aberdeen City who need this support can be directly referred and use the Pathway.
- Extending supports to the parents and families of Looked After Children to help them to remain home with their family
- Provide increased opportunities to identify and support Care Experienced Young Parents.
- Focus on improving the attendance and attainment of our pupils from our priority neighbourhoods, care experienced young people and young people with disabilities/additional support needs to give them the best possible chance of achieving education, employment or training once they leave.
- Expand the pilot approach to increasing attendance with health colleagues.
- Roll out Phase 3 of ABZ Campus (Session 2025-26) providing an expanded offer for young people as well as linking with other Local Authorities to share our learning.
- Continue to expand the reach of our digital and tech curricular programmes to provide more and more opportunities for young people to achieve qualifications in this field. We are also planning to open an outreach tech space for pupils call ONE Tech Hub in Schoolhill.
- Our readiness for the implementation of the Children's (Care & Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 will continue to have a strong focus.
- Addressing variation and improving transitions between child and adult services: whilst significant changes have been made to support children transitioning from care, there is still work to be done to support those young people transitioning from child to adult social care, such as those with additional support needs/disabilities. We will focus on helping making these transitions as effective and sustained as possible.
- Seek opportunities to expand our Neurodivergent Pathway to other primary schools
- Test the pilot positive destination project targeted at providing specific opportunities and support for young people with additional support needs/disabilities through ABZCampus & ABZWorks

Prosperous People: Adults

Our Stretch Outcomes

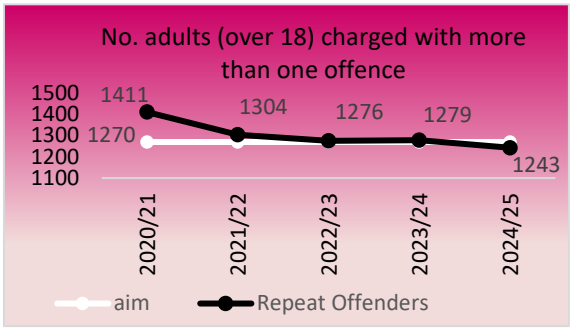
What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO9 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026	12% fewer adults were charged with more than one offence, from 1411 in 2020/21 to 1243 in 2024/25. This has declined since 2020 with exception of 2023 with no change from the previous year.
SO10 Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. **70-73**	1.9 years increase in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) at birth for Males (60.2) from 2018-20, however 2.6 years lower than 2014-16. 0.1 years increase in estimated Healthy Life Expectancy at birth for Females (61.4) from 2018-20, however 4.9 lower than 2014-16.
SO11 Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.	In 2019-2023, the rate of drug related deaths was 23.7 – the same as in 2018-2022 and similar to the rate for Scotland of 23.6, however up from 17 since 2013-17. In 2019-2023, the rate of alcohol-specific deaths was 19.7 per 100,000 population – down from 20.3 in 2018-2022 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.5, however up from 18.7 in 2014-18.
SO12 Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.	1763 homeless applications and 481 youth homeless applications in 2023/24, similar 2022/23 (1772 and 470). However, an 18% and 12.6% increase since baseline (2016/17).

Progress made during 2024/25

Reducing adults charged with more than one offence

STRETCH OUTCOME 9 ACHIEVED with 12% less people being **Charged** with more than one offence

We need to support people who have offended, to turn their behaviour around and become contributors to society. Through our projects we are supporting people in the justice system access housing, employability, and professional support, such as intervention and access to drug and alcohol support, to reduce repeat offending and a return to custody. We are seeing the impact of our interventions with data showing a 12% reduction in people charged with repeat offences from 1411 in 2020/21 to 1243 in 2024/25.



Supporting People to Make Progress on the Employability Pipeline

We have been continuing to work together to increase the number of people who are engaged with different areas of the Justice System being supported to make progress on the employability pipeline.

Using UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding, we provided three construction training courses to prisoners who will be released to Aberdeen, enabling participants to secure the Construction Skills Certification Scheme card which is required for all building site roles. We also funded a World Host Customer Service course. Through ABZWorks we continue to support HMP Grampian and Greene King to deliver activity through the training kitchen, which has continued to be popular and to secure positive results for participants. This activity was heavily featured in the BBC's Women In Prison documentary, particularly telling the story of one female inmate and her progress from prisoner to trainee, and into employment Jailed: Women in Prison

Through these routes, 67 people in HMP Grampian supported on the employability pipeline in 24/25.

Construction training: 56 city prisoners participated in construction industry training designed to enable them to achieve the Construction Skills Certification 'green' card which is a pre-requisite for working on a construction site. Of those, 5 disengaged from the course, 5 have been offered the opportunity to sit/re-sit the test in the community, 10 successfully passed the test and secured the certification in custody, eight will resit in the establishment, three moved to rehab, three were transferred out, two did not attend the test, one withdrew, one was released before being tried, and others continue working towards it. We do not have a note of employment outcomes at this time.

SVQ Level 1 in Professional Cookery: 16 people started the course, 38% (6) completed, 5 (31%) failed and 5 (31%) are ongoing. 50% of the people (3) who completed the course were employed by Greene King.

Feedback from one individual was:

"I accepted without hesitation also overjoyed to be again given the opportunity to help others succeed. After completing the 10 weeks with the groups I learned so much more skills. There is a new group to start in Sept where I will continue to mentor. The groups I have been involved with were all keen an eager to learn. There is a sense to change their lives to break the chain of returning to crime and being brought back to custody this includes myself. I have already received a written confirmation of employment with Greene King which is an opportunity for me to succeed on my journey."

Ricky, Steven, Keiran and Kevin are graduating from the Greene King Training Academy today. Image: JASPERIMAGE

The past year has also seen ABZWorks provide a broad range of supplies to the prison to support the development of numeracy skills and broader skills among the prison population, via UK Shared Prosperity Fund Multiply monies. This includes craft materials. maths puzzle books, board games with a numeracy focus, fitness equipment, painting by numbers kits, and supplies for the creation of a "Liberation Station" set up by female inmates who are making soft toys and tote bags for prisoners on release from HMP Grampian, to help remove some of the stigma of leaving jail with a plastic bag full of belongings, while simultaneously building a range of employability skills.

No One Left Behind funding from Scottish Government has also been used to provide other skills-focused equipment and activities, including outdoor workwear (Personal Protective Equipment) and safety boots, gardening supplies, and kitchen supplies amongst other things.

ABZWorks has secured £30,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies from this year's People and Skills allocation for use in HMP Grampian and we are in talks with the prison meantime on how this could best be invested to deliver employability and skills activities for individuals who will be released to the city.

On 19 September 2024, the project team won the ‘achieving better outcomes for the most vulnerable’ category at the COSLA Excellence Awards.

Raising awareness of hate crimes and domestic abuse

Barriers to reporting crimes, especially hate crimes and domestic abuse, include lack of awareness, fear, isolation, and stigma. Our domestic abuse and hate crimes projects aim to increase reporting through awareness and changing attitudes so all people feel safe in our communities and that there is recognition that hate crime and domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility.

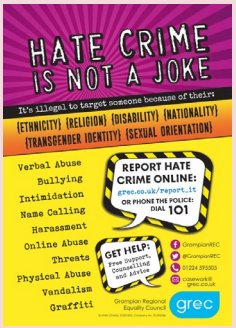
We are beginning to see the impact from our focus on public awareness and training with latest data showing increased reporting, with a 1% increase in reported domestic abuse incidents, 2,512 (2023/24) up from 2,488 in 2022-23.

Domestic Abuse

- **16 Days of Action:** On 25 November 2024 we held a Reclaim the Night march with around 100 people attending, to raise awareness of the links between gender equality, human rights and gender-based violence.
- **Training:** new online gender equality training launched
- **388** people completed training in 2024 (108 staff undertook Safe and Together training, 28 the Gender Equality module, 131 domestic abuse training, 36 women received Own My Life Training and 85 staff attended an event hosted by Grampian Women's Aid. This event significantly increased awareness and led to a rise in training registration
- **Safe Spaces:** We now have **2 registered safe spaces**, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Maritime Museum, where people can go for help, or simply to reflect and remember. Staff members have received in-depth specialist training around domestic abuse.

Hate Crime

- **Awareness Week:** we launched new local hate crime reporting promotional materials reflecting changes to legislation.
- **Training:** new training materials for Third-Party Reporting Centres and a training session was held in October 2024 with more than 20 people attending.
- **Reporting Centres:** There are now 9 listed reporting centres across the city and more that are not publicly disclosed.



Substance support for Justice system that identify to have concerns

100%

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

100% of people identified with substance concerns in justice offered or accessing support.

Accessing support at the right time and in the right place can save lives and reduce harm and future re-offending. Through our justice substance project we are aiming for all individuals in the justice system with concerns about their substance use are receiving the support they need.

By implementing a new single system screening process in court social work, we have screened 603 individuals for substance support in 2024. Of these, 71% did not require support, whilst 29% did. Among those requiring support (29%) 88% had existing support already in place and 12% were referred to community-based support. Therefore 100% of

individuals screened and identifying to have concerns with their substance use were offered or accessing support. This screening process, initially tested on specific days, will now be conducted Monday to Friday due to its positive impact.

Ensuring support is available at point of identification of need has also been a key. Through our new pilot single pathway, people within supervised bail and diversion with substance use concerns, are offered an appointment with Alcohol and Drugs Action direct access service. Between May and December 2024, 33 appointments were given out. 64% were attended and 52% of attendees are now receiving ongoing support from Alcohol and Drugs Action.

Feedback has also been given by staff involved in this pathway and this has been captured below.

Staff have found that this helps to '**break barriers'** with service users able to discuss their substance use without fear of how this may further impact on their Justice involvement. '**Works well'** with younger people/first time offenders having allocated appointment times who may be less likely to attend 'drop' in appointments. Will stop potential escalation of offending/substance use at this early stage being linked in with support. Find worker at ADA '**easy to speak to'**

People with lived experience sharing their views and informing our improvements

People with lived experience, such as people who have spent time in prison or been the victim of a crime, have unique insight into what works and what doesn't in the justice system. This is vital to shaping and testing our improvements. However, we need to ensure that we had the systems and support in place to ensure all the all clear on the purpose and how their voice will be used.

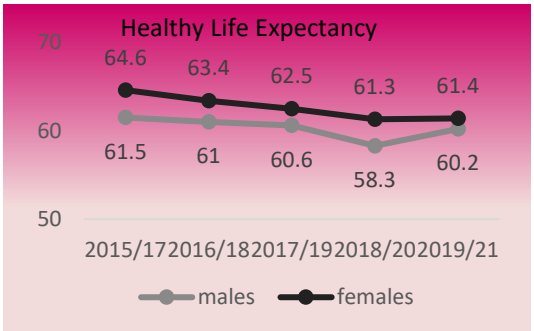
During 2024, the Health Determinants Research Collaboration has been working with Justice Social Work to conduct a lived experience project with aim of gaining an understanding of the following, with the findings to be used across the Stretch Outcome 9 improvement aims:

- how an individual's engagement with the Justice System has impacted on their experience of services (e.g. housing, health, employment, benefits, alcohol and drugs, police), as well as in the community.
- An individual's journey through the justice system - factors affecting an individual's decision to engage/discontinue; and identification of best practice from their perspective.
- the experience of staff working within the Justice system

As part of this, two justice social workers have received training and support on qualitative research. Following which they have been recruiting service users to participate in this project, with 5 service users having been interviewed (by end of March 2025) using a Topic Guide developed by the Team. Different methods of recording and transcribing have been tested by the team, with varying results. Accuracy is crucial and the learning from the different methods and costs will be shared in the evaluation report for other teams to learn from. Recruitment and interviews is ongoing until May 2025, and thereafter the analysis and write up of the findings of the project conducted with a final report available in August 2025.

Healthy life expectancy for all

Latest data available at the end of 2024, shows slight improvement in estimated healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth (2019-2021) with 60.2 years for Males up from 58.3 years in 2018-2020 and slightly lower than the figure for Scotland of 60.4 years. Whilst estimated healthy life expectancy at birth for Females was 61.4 years, similar to the figure for 2018-2020 of 61.3 years and the figure for Scotland of 61.1 years. Despite the improvement from the previous reporting period, it is recognised that further improvement is required with healthy life expectancy remaining below the baseline period.



Through our improvement projects we are committed to tackling health inequalities through both preventative and targeted approaches. We have focused on highlighting the impact of our individual behavioural decisions and providing specialist outreach and targeted services for particularly high-risk individuals but also addressing wider environmental factors such as reducing youth homelessness, supporting opportunities to be active and part of our communities and ensuring accessibility of services for all.

Increasing access to community based support for people living with chronic pain

Chronic pain can profoundly impact an individual's life, leading to physical limitations, emotional distress, and social isolation. In October 2024, 371 people in Aberdeen were on waiting lists for chronic pain services, with 18.5% from Northfield, Middlefield, Summerhill, Sheddockskely, Mastrick and Hilton areas.

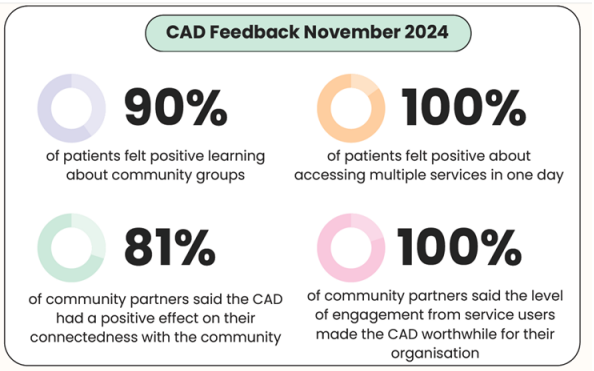
Through the Chronic Pain Management project**,** Community Planning Aberdeen are supporting community-based self-management and pathways initiatives to improve quality of life. A key new approach tested was co-designing Community Appointment Days (CAD), in equal partnerships with communities. Community Appointment Days:

- are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen
- promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions
- bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them.
- takes a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue.

Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to pilot the approach as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. A group of 32 service users, staff and third sector community partners took part in the BIG Conversation to start co-producing the Community Appointment Day. Everybody was equal.

Using the waiting list data, the first Community Appointment Days was held at Get active @ Northfield with 98 people taking part (49% (46) of these were patients from the Chronic Pain Management Service waiting list and 52 were walk-ins, along with 30 carers). The Day also featured 20 Community Partner Stalls introducing people to services, including pain-specific support, mental health, medication and recovery, benefits and employability, and more.

The approach has significantly improved access to support and resources for individuals living with chronic pain, contributing to better management of their condition and overall well-being. Following the first CAD, there has been a 36% increase in people living with chronic pain engaged in self-management initiatives (66 in Oct 2024 to 90 in Jan 2025) and a 300% increase in community services engaging in the chronic pain pathway.



Evaluation data showed:

- 8/10 patients felt that the Community Appointment Day either mostly or completely addressed what mattered most to them
- 94% of people felt a positive impact on their wellbeing from having fewer time-constraints
- 100% of people felt positive about accessing multiple services in one day
- 9/10 people felt positive about learning about community groups
- 9/10 people would recommend this event to friends or family
- 9/10 people felt the venue was easy to find and accessible

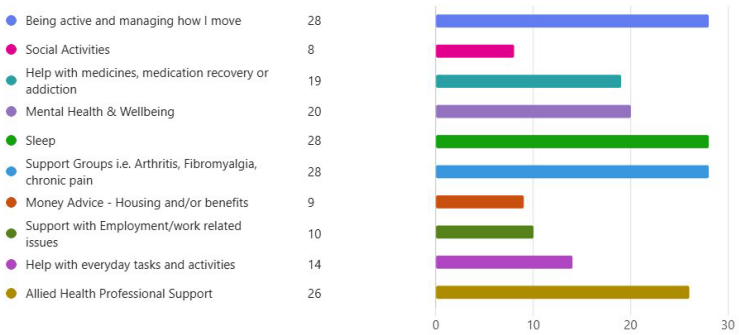
Feedback has been positive with participants stating:

I feel really listened to and looking forward to continued input to developing the Community Appointment Day. Great to have an opportunity to talk to people in the same boat as me and find out what has helped them.

Excellent opportunity to be involved from the start in a new way of working. This has given me hope.

The second Community Appointment Day was held at the Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub on 5 February 2025. 127 people attended, with 61 people pre-booking their place, and 66 walk ins. Evaluation data showed:

- 77% of pre-booked attendees were female, which is largely reflective of the chronic pain waiting list
- The median age of pre-booked attendees was 64 years, although attendees ranged between 24-83 years
- 86% of pre-booked attendees had no previous contact with the Chronic Pain team, highlighting the importance of taking an a preventative, population level approach
- 37% of pre-booked attendees learned about the Day via social media and 23% via their GP
- The chart below shows which support pre-booked attendees received at the Community Appointment Day



Supporting people in our priority neighbourhoods access support

Through our engagement, our communities expressed the importance of access to community health care and support services. We need to ensure that these services are available when required and in suitable settings. To support this, our uptake of cancer screening and support for women in pregnancy projects have focused on people in our priority neighbourhoods.

We have developed a comprehensive care pathway that ensures all pregnant women who smoke, have previously smoked, or have a high carbon monoxide reading are referred to a Health Point member of staff for health and wellbeing discussions. Pregnant women have to opt out of support after this conversation, with the outcomes fed back to the Midwifery team ensuring they can have supportive follow up conversations. The pathway launched on 17 March 2025 and as of 31 March 2025, 13 pregnant women have been referred.

Latest data shows a 0.8% reduction in women who smoked during pregnancy, lower than the rate for Scotland of 10.7% and the 2020-2022 rate of 10.4%. However, smoking during pregnancy is higher in least affluent areas (25%) compared to most affluent areas (2.8%). There has been a 1.4% and 1.6% reduction in % of women from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 areas who smoked during pregnancy between 2021-22 and 2021-23, compared to a 0.3% and 0.1% reduction in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 4 and 5 areas.

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

14% reduction in women from SIMD 1 and 2 reporting as consuming alcohol at antenatal booking.

9% over the original aim.

At antenatal appointment booking, we've also seen a:

- 33% reduction in the number of women from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 areas reporting as a current smoker (146 to 96 in 2023/24).
- 14% reduction in the number of number of women from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 areas reporting as consuming alcohol (22 to 19 in 2023).

However, we know that data on alcohol consumption in pregnancy is thought to be under reported, therefore actual levels could be much higher and we will continue to progress improvement activity in this area.

We have also worked with Grampian Regional Equality Council's existing community health champions and recruited 20 new Community Champions in Sunnybank, Old Aberdeen, Powis and or Froghall areas. These individuals are trusted voices in the community and have helped share information about increasing uptake of cancer screening and reducing smoking and alcohol use during pregnancy. By leveraging trusted community voices, we are testing how community voices increase awareness, influence behaviour change, and improve health outcomes related to these issues.

Through community engagement, new communication materials including 'postcard' resources and 3 posters tailored to address the barriers we know people from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 areas and ethnic minority groups are most likely to face have been produced to encourage uptake.

Enabling people over 50 to Stay Well, Stay Connected in their communities

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

169% increase in people engaged in Stay Well Stay Connected projects.

119% over the original aim.

We are committed to providing accessible opportunities for people aged over 50 to stay well and connected in their community. People have different interests and through our Stay Well Stay Connected project we are widening the choice of classes and activities to encourage people to participate. As a result 1,777 people aged 50+ are now regularly engaged in initiatives as of December 2024, a 169% increase from 660 people in December 2023.

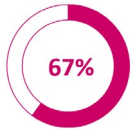
We have tested a number of new community-based initiatives. These have included, a new monthly Soup and Sannies session at Cornhill Community Centre which aims to informally support mental wellbeing and expand the number of indoor activities for older people. 20 people have attended between January and March 2025.

We have also co-delivered a new women's health project through the Scottish Football Association's Power of Football programme at Pittodrie. Seven women completed the training programme, and 24 women have signed up to the programme waiting list for 2025. Two co-ordinators from the Health and Social Care Partnership and Aberdeen Football Community Trust are currently undergoing training to become accredited facilitators and are on track to be ready by March 2025. Feedback from women who completed the programme has been very positive.

Definitely feel more educated and equipped with techniques."

"I've enjoyed each week because I've learned something new each time and spent time with a lovely bunch of ladies."

67% increase in carers identified



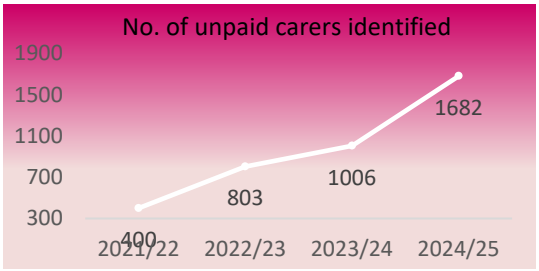
Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

67% increase carers being supported.

Community Planning Aberdeen recognises the critical role of unpaid carers and the need for early identification and support to improve the quality of life for both carers and those they care for.

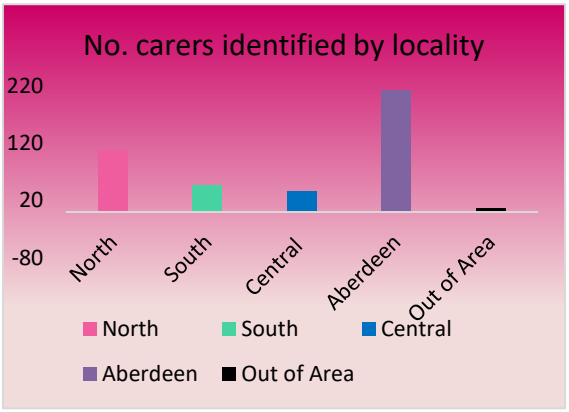
Through our increase the number of carers accessing support project we are testing a variety of referral pathways to identify new unpaid carers and ensuring that they receive the necessary support that helps them manage their responsibilities and maintain their own health and wellbeing.

The new referral pathways have included staff now being based within the following locations to identify unpaid adult carers earlier. Presence in these locations has meant that unpaid carers who do not know about the Adult Carers support Service, can seek help and support, face-to-face at a time and a place that meets their individual needs. As well as registering as a carer,



the team regularly signpost and refer unpaid carers to partners who can support them with other challenges they may be experiencing.

- Woodend Hospital at the Specialist Rehab Ward (9 referrals); Alzheimer Scotland Brain Health and Dementia Resource Centre Ward (11 referrals)
- the Wee Blether cafes now in 11 locations (some groups meet weekly, others fortnightly and some meet monthly). New groups being started in coming months



- Quarriers are now also attending the care management resource allocation panels enabling us to refer carers who are not yet supported for support, should they desire this.

As a result, there has been a significant increase in the number of referrals received by Quarriers over the last 12 months, 448 (April 2024- March 2025) compared to 409 in 2023/24 a 10% increase. Similarly there has been a 67% increase in the total number of unpaid carers identified (1006 in 2023/24 to 1682 in 2024/25.

Feedback from carers and staff has been very positive

I had no idea there was support for unpaid carers, I had not heard about Quarriers, today has been helpful. I can speak to relatives when they visit and tell them about the support available.

I am so glad I got the opportunity to talk with you today and complete the registration form, I did not see myself as a carer. **(Vaccination Centre)**

I saw the notice in the coffee shop, my husband has had a stroke, I don't know how I am going to cope. Talking to you today has been a big help. **(Relative Woodend)**

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach

Currently, 1 in 5 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight, with higher rates in least affluent areas. Half of the pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and this continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the least affluent areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher rates of unhealthy weight compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of unhealthy weight highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, the Healthy Weight Aberdeen approach event was held. 111 people from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight and an opportunity

to consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest prospects for change. The event report is available at Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024 and visit | Aberdeen City HSCP for highlights. Following the event we have now established a Healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Promoting Healthy Life Choices

130%

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

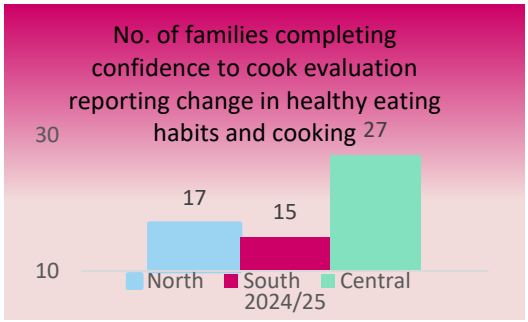
59 low income families in priority neighbourhoods supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support weight.

9 over the original aim

Through our Healthy Life Choices project we supported 59 adults of low-income families in priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024/25. Of the 59 adults supported 27 were from the Central locality, 15 South and 17 North. During this period, 205 young people were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices, 8 from North locality, 133 from South and 64 from Central.

Through the changes being tested we are providing effective weight management support and clear pathways for healthier living. Some of the changes are:

Confidence to Cook Programme



In 2024, the project has had a positive impact, by delivering tailored Confidence 2 Cook programmes targeted at a range of people and across our communities, for example Grey Hope, St, Fitticks, Touch of Love, Youth workers, Cairncry Adults Cooking with Confidence; CFINE, Seaton Community Centre, Hanover Community Centre, Barnardos Adult and Gray street allotment (Young Carers Integrated Food Programme-) and Family learning Classes. The programme focused on improving participants' confidence, life skills, and knowledge about healthy eating on a budget. As a result, 205 young people have been supported to improve cooking skills, meal planning, cooking healthy dishes and food safety knowledge. 59 adults have been supported.

Feedback from families has been very positive

> "I would just like to say how much the confidence to cook sessions that has attended has helped my child so much not just with skills which have come on so well but anxiety as well as confidence. He would never engaged in something like this but now willing to try. Thank you so much for all the support you have given these past months and hopefully will continue in the future."
> Lochside ASG Young person attending Confidence 2 Cook classes

To further support communities, a Food Champions Connect Event was held with 27 community members attending. The event promoted and raised awareness on available healthier choices in the community, Confidence 2 Cook classes and address barriers in accessing healthier choices.

A range of supports are required, and we have developed self-management support to enable people to access digital weight management services. Through the Digital Health Information Plus service, with Aberdeen City Libraries, we are connecting people with health information both online and in print. We offer 1-2-1 sessions, for in person support, in any of our community libraries, and can provide a device and wi-fi if needed. In 2024/25, 23 people from the Central locality have been offered 121 weight support.

Reaching out to people at risk and removing barriers to accessing alcohol supports

Alcohol and drugs are two of five lifestyle behavioural risk factors which contribute to the majority of chronic and non-communicable disease in our population. Latest data available at the end of 2024 shows that the rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths had reduced by 0.5 from 19.7 per 100,000 in 2019-23 compared to 20.3 in 2018-22. Although a reduction, this is an increase since the baseline (18.7) and we know that the effects of harmful drinking on individuals, their families and communities are wide-ranging, and we strive to sustain the reduction achieved and further this to achieve the Stretch Outcome by 2026.

Similarly, latest data has also shown that the 5 year average (2019-2023) drug related death rate for Aberdeen is 23.7 deaths per 100,000 population, the same as the rate for 2018-2022 and higher since 2017 baseline. Whilst we are seeing impact from some of improvement, we know we need to do more over the year ahead to save lives and achieve our Stretch Outcome.

Improving access to alcohol screening and support

In the City Voice in 2024 less than half of respondents (48.6%) correctly identified 14 units as the maximum recommended number of units with approximately a quarter (24.6%) saying they didn't know. This leaves nearly a third of respondents unclear as to the alcohol content of the drinks they consume.

The data shows that we need to do more and throughout 2024/25 we have focused on widening access to alcohol screening and support, including a promotional campaign and the development of a direct prompt on the screening quiz to offer access support immediately.

- 559 referrals to the Alcohol and Drugs Action alcohol service between 2022-2024, 159 in 2024 a 36% decrease since 2023. 30% of people supported in 2024 were from priority areas for AB16 (17), AB24 (22) and AB11 (9) a 44% decrease since 2023 (86 to 48). The decrease is disappointing and we will explore the reasons for this and what we need to do more to increase referrals to and engagement with alcohol support.
- Through the targeted social media campaign, subsequent levels of engagement with the 'Alcohol Aberdeen' online 'quiz' (AUDIT screening tool) increased. Between May and March 2025, 167 people have completed the 'quiz'41% (69) completed the during Alcohol Awareness week, demonstrating the effectiveness of having a campaign of paid advertising.
- 4 people have self referred to Alcohol and Drugs Action helpline between January 2025 and March 2025 from the new self-referral process direct from the quiz/screening online process
- The number of Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABI's) have increased by 12% from 2,704 in 2022/23 to 3,035 in 2023/24. Data for 2024/25 is not yet available. Over the last 2 years approximately 40% (2,249) of interventions were carried out by wider settings.
- In 2024/25, there was 21% decrease in people starting alcohol treatment (337 compared to 427 in 2023/24). 39% (133) were from a priority neighbourhood a 3%% decrease (133 compared to 179 in 2023/24). Similarly, there has been a 14% decrease in referrals for alcohol treatment (781 compared to 908 in 2023/24). 40% (314) were from a priority neighbourhood a 3% decrease from 2023/24 (393 compared to 314).

Reduction in the number of 13-15 year olds reporting having used cannabis, ketamine and 13-18 vaping

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

3.9% of 13-18 year olds reporting that they regularly vape. 1.3% reduction since 2023/24

Through our 13-15 year old substance projects we have tested a range of mechanisms which are prevention focused and aim to both raise awareness of the harm from substance use and vaping, but also provide support to stop using. A key area has been empowering young people to develop the material to ensure it has greatest chance of success.

Pupils from Lochside Academy have started to develop a substance use social media awareness campaign focussing awareness, informed choice, harm reduction and support. Aberdeen Youth Movement have also developed a vaping social media campaign. The feedback from those involved highlighted several areas of focus for the materials and identified some missing elements. They have pinpointed 6-10 key areas that could be added or improved.

As well as campaigns, we have tested new programmes for pupils and staff to increase awareness the harms from substances. Specially, the Absafe vaping workshop was held with primary 7 pupils in Countesswells to raise awareness of the safety risks of vaping. Feedback from staff and pupils was positive as below. The workshop will now be tested in other primary 7 classes.

> The P7 teacher and pupils found the workshop really beneficial. The workshop outcomes were age appropriate and engaging and built on prior knowledge the pupils had as well as extending their understanding. It was centred mostly around vapes and had a great balance between pupil active pupil involvement and information giving.

The Aberdeen City Health and Wellbeing Survey undertaken across all schools in November 2024, data shows that compared to November 2023, shows signs of positive impact, with a 34.5% decrease from 136 to 89 in the number of 13-15 year olds reporting that they have used cannabis. There has also been a 20.8% decrease in the number reporting they have used ketamine from 24 to 19 and 1.3% reduction in % of 13-18 year olds reporting that they regularly vape.

Reducing drug related deaths and increasing access to Naloxone

The Partnership through our fatal drug overdose projects are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. There has been a 23% decrease in suspected drug related deaths from 2023/24 (73) to 2024/25 (56), however a 12% increase since 2022/23 (49). 45% (25) of suspected drug related deaths over 2024/25 were from individuals living in priority neighbourhoods, this is 11% decrease since 2023/24 (28) and a 4% decrease since (2022/23).

During 2024/25, the project has focused on using a new data system to show drug deaths, non-fatal overdoses / ambulance call outs, Assertive Outreach referral reasons, weekly and by location so we can better identify locality based harms and trends.

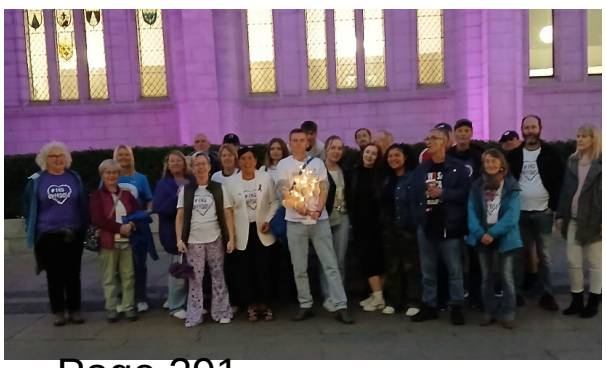
Using the data, interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to naloxone, the life saving drug, to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need have been tested. This has included a new app and public access naloxone boxes. The public access naloxone boxes will be installed at four strategic sites.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond.
It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

As at the end of March 2025, 533 people have downloaded the app.

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. Morven Court in Torry hosted out first event. Also, for International Overdose Awareness Day, Aberdeen In Recovery, were in various locations across the city to raise awareness and to supply naloxone kits.



It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We welcome that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone and that from the 2024/25 school session all S4 pupils have been trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. In addition, 88 staff were trained in naloxone in 2024.

Despite the above, there has been a 11% decrease in the total number of naloxone kits issued in Aberdeen from 2023/24 to 2024/25, (1,407 to 1,250). Of the 1,250 kits issued in 2024/25, 77% were issued to Persons at Risk, a 2% reduction from 2023/24. In 2024/25, 12% of kits were supplied due to the previous kit being used, this a 7% increase from 2022/23. From 2022/23 to 2023/24 we saw an increase in supply in Central (12%) and South (7%) Localities, with a slight decrease of 2% in North. However in 2024/25 we saw a slight decrease of 5% (23) in Central, and 27% (51) decrease in South, however a 3% (5) increase in North.

Since January 2024, 33 services have issued Naloxone kits, with 88% of kits issued being supplied from specialist substance misuse services and 3rd Sector/Peer Support Organisations. We know we need to do more. Naloxone is one of many interventions we are testing to reduce drug related deaths. Our projects are also focusing on targeting interventions and providing support at the various settings where people are attending and needing support. We are seeing the impact of this approach, with Crisis Response service showing a 7% increase in referrals from 646 to 692 (Dec to Nov 2024) and a 2% increase in individuals supported (485 to 495 Dec to Nov 2024). In addition, 48 people received the *'Sharp Response'* mobile service, this is in addition to the fixed site need exchange sites. With 93% of needles issued returned for safe disposal.

Reaching out to people at risk and removing barriers to accessing supports

There are many barriers to people engaging with drug services and we know that a range of interventions and approaches based in the heart of our communities are required to ensure people, particularly in our priority neighbourhoods, have access to the support they need and that any potential harm is reduced. Through a range of outreach interventions we are aiming support people access the support they need.

Assertive Outreach (AO) is a crucial approach for engaging individuals who are at high risk of substance use harm. The approach provides targeted support to those most at risk, helping to reduce harm by enhancing their existing support or accessing appropriate drug and alcohol services to meet their needs. Through our Assertive Outreach project, we have focused on the outcomes of people engaged with service and aiming to increasing the number of people closed who are no longer classed at risk. We have seen a 15% increase in the percentage of people closed from Assertive Outreach no longer considered at risk, with 71% (404) of people closed no longer considered at risk, compared to 56% (291) in 2023/24. This is same, 71% when looking at people closed from priority neighbourhoods in 2024/25.

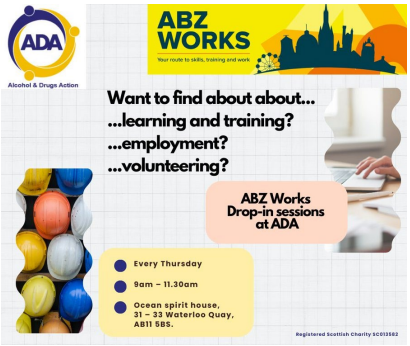
The project have introduced:

- Individualised Approach/ Shared Safety and Care Plans
- Tailored multi-agency interventions and outreach efforts, and
- Process for responding to patterns and risk factors associated with fatal overdoses to enable individuals referred to be supported in their community

As well as positive outcomes for people referred, we've also seen a 10% increase in the number of referrals to Assertive Outreach have from 523 in 2023/24 to 573 in 2024/25. This is the highest they've been since April 2021 and shows that the referral pathways and awareness across our partners is impactful. In 2024/25, 54% of Assertive Outreach referrals were from priority neighbourhoods, this is a 8% increase from 46 % in 2023/24.

Empowering Recovery

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

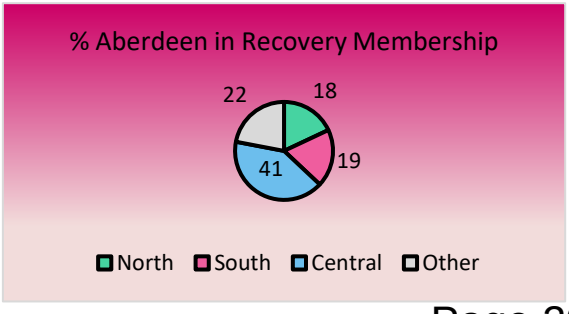


One of the initiatives we have piloted is the co-design of an employability pathway with ABZWorks which aims to support people in recovery into employment through support provided by employability keyworker. When people are work-ready, a paid work experience placement with ongoing employability keyworker is provided. Weekly employability drop-ins at Waterloo Quay started on 6 June 2024, and as at 30 March 2025, 22 individuals (12 males and 10 females) have been referred and 45% (10) are have either moved into employment or training/work placement/volunteering. Read the impact of the pathway on Rob below:

Hi my names Rob, I struggled with alcohol addiction due to mental health issues which have played a massive part on most of my life but with help I'm receiving from the people below will explain why I am in a much better place now than I've ever been before….the journey that I've been involved with over the last 2-years has been life changing in many aspects. I was seeking help and got in touch with ADA (Alcohol & Drugs Action) whom have helped me through tough times and still are today. My Counselling and help from the organisation has helped me adapt and adjust to becoming a better and more productive person than I've ever been and a lot of the credit has to go towards my one to one Counselling sessions with a chap called Finlay who has given me the mental strength to believe in myself again.

Finlay also put me in touch with Kevin at ABZ WORKS whom provided me with dynamic options as regards to connections with getting help back into work related situations such as Skills Development Scotland for help with CV's/ available courses/ job searches throughout Aberdeen city and even helped with funding/ vouchers for buying necessary items to get me through the month and footwear when starting a new job and also advice on life itself which all helped me in a great way.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol and Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 144 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during 2024/25. Of which 41% were from the Central locality, 19% South and 18% North locality. On average Aberdeen in Recovery are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, there were 18229.5 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 2430.6 days.



Raising awareness of the rights of people affected by substance use

Over the past 18 months Public Health and Alcohol and Drug Partnership colleagues have been facilitating a Grampian-wide Working Group to support the implementation of the National Charter of Rights with a Grampian voice. The work has focussed on the lived experiences of those people coming into service and opening a dialogue with senior decision makers to make improvements.

In addition, the Working Group co-designed a reporting tool to provide evidence on the implementation of the Charter of Rights to Scottish Government and supplementary data in line with Medically Assisted Treatment Standards. It resulted in Grampian being heralded as good practice by leading national policy makers with aspirations to embed the practice across the rest of Scotland. Grampian colleagues have had the opportunity to challenge current reporting procedures to apply in future a Rights-based approach. This enables a holistic submission on the Substance Use landscape across an Alcohol and Drug Partnership and its community.

Promotional materials have been developed locally in Grampian to promote the local voice along side the National Charter of Rights.

New Stretch Outcome focusing on reducing homelessness and youth homelessness

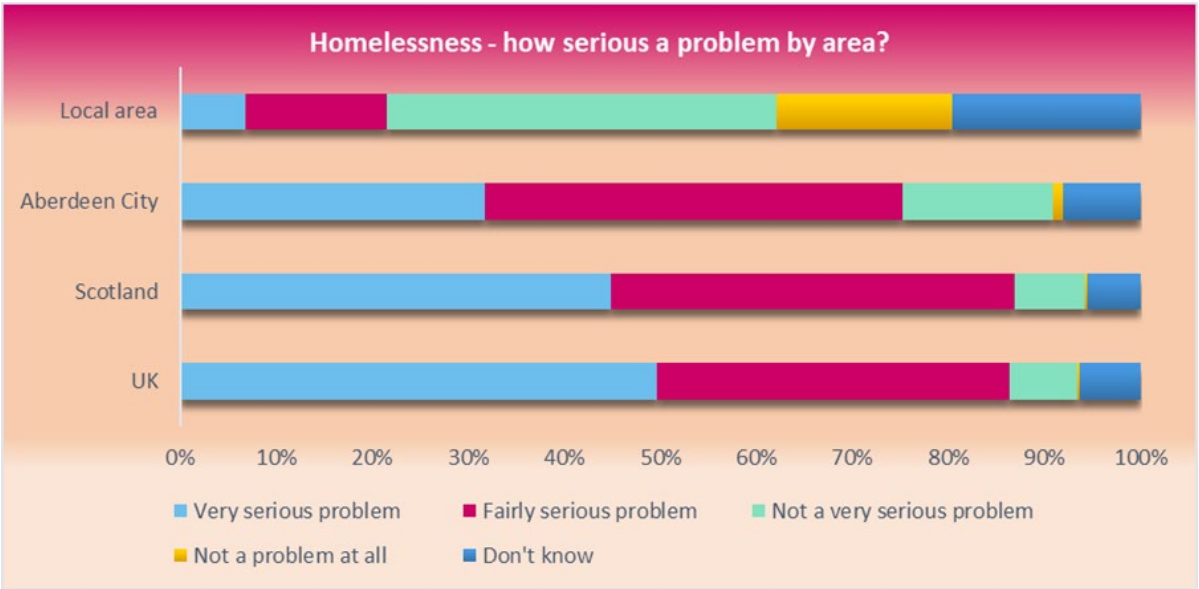
In 2023/24, there were 1763 homeless applications and 481 youth homeless applications and whilst similar to 2022/23 (1772 and 470), this is an 18% and 12.6% increase since baseline (2016/17). In response to this, Community Planning Aberdeen introduced a new Stretch Outcome 12that aims to "Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City."

As part of the city's ongoing efforts to enact change and reduce homelessness locally, we were delighted that Aberdeen was selected to be one of the six flagship locations of Homewards, a five year locally led programme launched by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Through Homewards, Aberdeen has created a coalition of 55 committed people and organisations from private, public and voluntary sectors who are working together to reduce homelessness and youth homelessness.

homewards aberdeen

To support the work to achieve Stretch Outcome 12 and plans of Homewards Aberdeen's Coalition, in 2024, we asked City Voice panellists what it was like to live in Aberdeen, including some of the challenges around seeking secure housing and employment, as well as awareness and understanding of the different forms of homelessness, its causes and solutions.

Respondents considered homelessness to be a serious problem across Scotland more widely (87%), than in Aberdeen (75%) or their local area (22%). It is also clear that homelessness touches many people's lives, with 18% reported having experience of homelessness across its many forms, either themselves or through someone close to them.



When thinking about the causes of homelessness, the top-ranking answers include both structural issues such as poverty and a shortage of affordable housing, as well as individual factors including alcohol and drug problems and mental and physical health problems, indicating some awareness of the complexity of the issue. However, 91.8% of respondents reported drug and alcohol problems as one of the main causes of homelessness, reflecting a common and persistent misconception about homelessness. In addition, 44% of respondents didn't feel they had a role to play in ending homelessness. This supports the need for our reframing perception and encouraging action project to raise awareness, through a local campaign, about the breadth of homelessness experiences and the range of drivers of homelessness for individuals, including structural factors.

Creating new employment opportunities

Through our private sector and youth homelessness projects we are actively working in partnership to reduce and prevent homelessness through the creation of employment pathways for those at risk of, or experiencing homelessness in the city.

The need for employment pathways is crucial to preventing homelessness. In response to this priority, we welcomed the launch of Invisible Cities in Aberdeen. Invisible Cities is a social enterprise bringing a fresh take to local tourism by offering walking tours of cities across the UK guided by people who have experienced homelessness. Invisible Cities have delivered five training sessions on public speaking, story telling, history, people service, first aid as well as support to design and develop their own tour with. The first graduation of guides was on 27th March 2025 was attended by HRH The Prince of Wales. Tours have now launched, with four people now employed through Invisible Cities (one Project Coordinator and three guides).

As a result of elevating employers' awareness of homelessness in Aberdeen and reframing any existing perceptions, two cafe roles have been filled through Homewards Activator Pret Rising Stars project. One 63 year old and one 23 year old who had experienced homelessness and were referred from coalition partners Aberdeen City Council and Only A Pavement Away.

David Jackson, VisitScotland Regional Director for Aberdeen, said:
"I am thrilled that Invisible Cities is launching its tours in Aberdeen. Their training is vital in helping those who have found themselves homeless to gain new skills and confidence in public speaking, people service and storytelling".

Youth employment opportunities

As above, the need for employment pathways has been identified as crucial to preventing homelessness. With our youth homelessness project, Homewards, is working with Hays (a Homewards Activator), one of the UK's leading recruitment experts. Through this partnership, Hays will support the programme by securing national and local commitments for employment and training opportunities that will roll out across the six Homewards locations. Hays will also share bespoke data-driven insights that are crucial to understanding and addressing employment barriers faced by those experiencing homelessness.

Image: Kensington Palace

The new partnership builds on youth employability programme Project Flourish, created in 2022 by Hays and EveryYouth – a national charity that helps 16-25-year-olds at risk of, or experiencing homelessness develop the skills to secure meaningful employment, and provides job-ready training and support.

To support embedding Project Flourish in Aberdeen, in March 2025, Prince William and Homewards Advocate, Steven Bartlett, joined a workshop with young people from Aberdeen. During the session young people played "employment bingo" during which they expressed their challenges in finding employment. The image below shows the feedback in picture form:

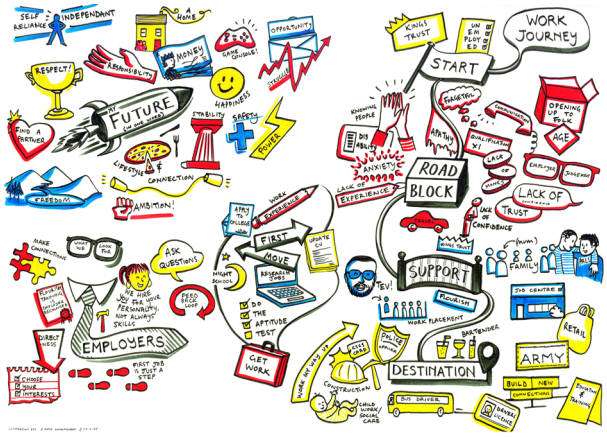


Image: illustrated by Rosie Cunningham for The Royal Foundation

Steven Barlett has also made a commitment to supporting the importance of employment through using his platform to showcase the positive role and impact business can have in efforts to end homelessness. He commented, “This partnership isn’t just about providing jobs, it’s about restoring dignity, possibility, and hope. And if we can prove what’s possible here, we can change the way the country thinks about homelessness for good.”

Image: Kensington Palace

Bringing sectors together to unlock tenancy sustainment

Homewards is bringing together partners to deliver an Innovative Housing Project (IHP) in each of the six locations. The purpose is to test and try new ways to unlock homes to end homelessness in each location. Key to their success will be the ability to scale and replicate our approach, so these initial projects can lead to more homes. The Aberdeen Innovative Housing Project pilot will focus on single adults and young people experiencing relationship breakdown.

The Aberdeen Innovative Housing Project will work initially with local Coalition member, Langstane Housing Association, a registered social landlord to identify ways to bring void properties back into occupation more quickly and in a condition to support more sustainable tenancies by making these houses feel like home with the right furniture and fittings. According to research done by End Furniture Poverty and Sheffield Hallam University, 26% of social housing tenants live in furniture poverty, with 8% living in ‘deep furniture poverty’, without three or more essential items. Working with Langstane, Homewards convened local and national businesses to provide these items in an effort to encourage longer tenancy and help to prevent homelessness. This initiative saw support from Homewards Activator IKEA, Bosch, DFS Group, Dunelm, The Furnishing Service, The Multibank, and local organisations Glencraft and Somebody Cares.

To date 8 private sector employers are supporting initiatives in the city to prevent homelessness which has ranged from supporting local reframing work, providing furniture, white goods, fittings and furnishings, to providing employment opportunities and as detailed above.

Young people helping to reframe homelessness

Data from local and national surveys show the need to reframe perceptions of homelessness. Enabling young people to express their views and support reframing homelessness is key to this. On 7 August 2024, as part of Prince William’s work in addressing homelessness, Homelessness: Reframed at the Saatchi Gallery opened. Homelessness: Reframed is an art exhibition bringing to life the breadth and complexities of homelessness across the country and giving the public an opportunity to engage with, and better understand, the stories of those with experience of homelessness. The exhibition displayed exceptional works from artists in the UK and beyond, sharing pieces inspired by their own, or others’, experiences of homelessness, and include pieces created by children and young people in at a series of creative workshops held across the six flagship Homewards locations.

Through our reframing homelessness project, artist Chloé Nicole Farrell worked in collaboration with participants from the Young Ambassadors Creative Learning, Aberdeen to create their work “Better a Wee Bush than Nae Bield” for the exhibition. The title derives from the motto emblazoned on the seal of famed Scottish poet Robert Burns and serves as the inspiration for this Aberdeen door. The young people from Aberdeen visited the Saatchi Gallery to see their exhibition in display.

Image: Kensington Palace

Young people hackathon developing artificial intelligence prototype

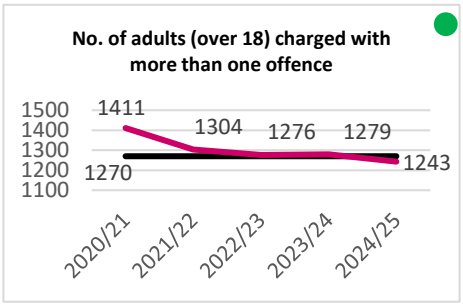
Our Ask and Act project, presented a pitch to young people from Robert Gordon University during their annual hackathon with the ask that they develop a prototype to prove concept of the development of an artificial intelligence tool that can support roll out of incoming Scottish Government Ask and Act poli cy. Following the pitch, a number of teams chose the project with one of the teams winning the prize as best prototype or response for a probable Ask and Act Tool. This has now led to further conversations on the possibility of developing a potential solution.

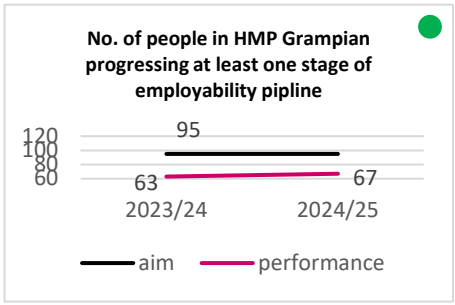
What impact have we had?

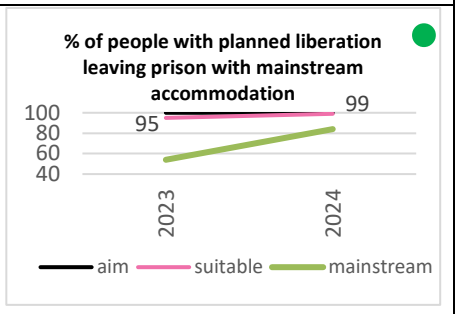
24/26 improvement aim — Performance

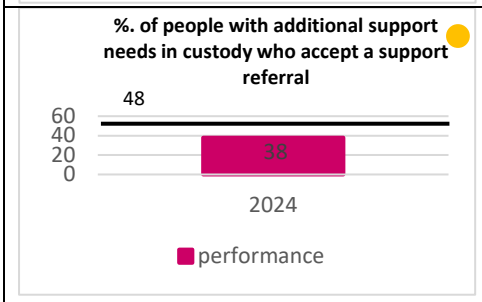
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

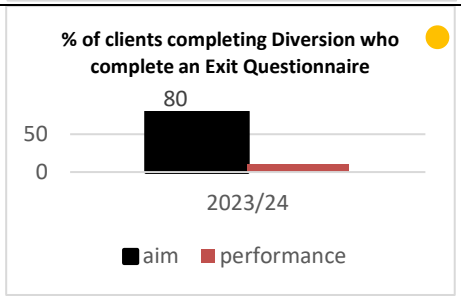
Fewer Convictions and Reconvictions

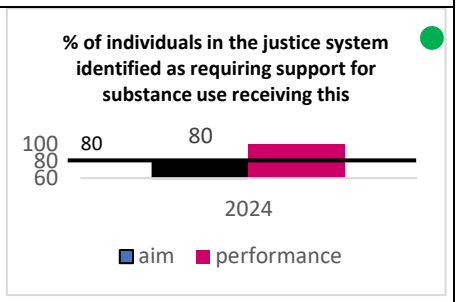


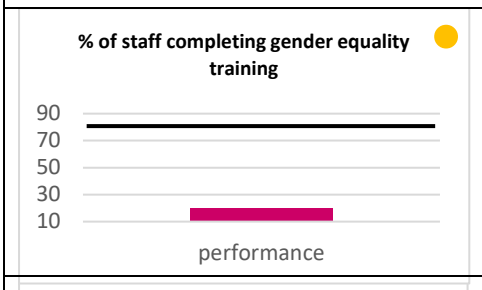


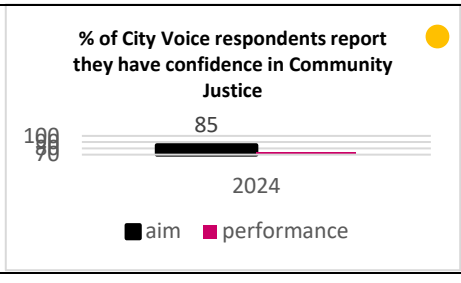


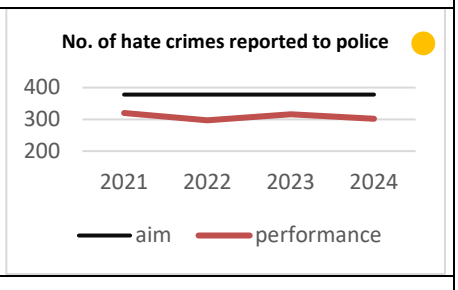


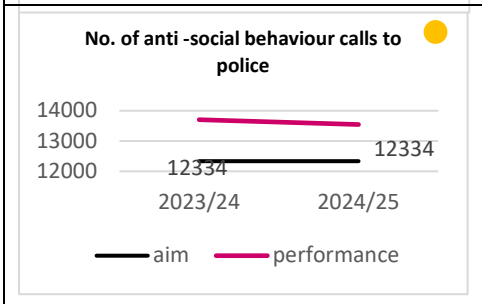




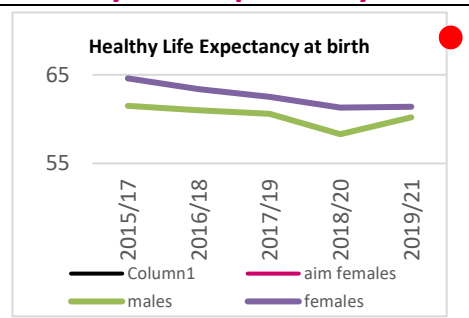


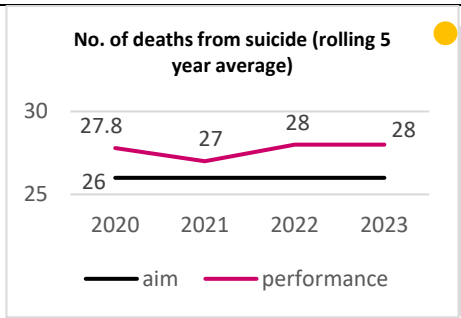


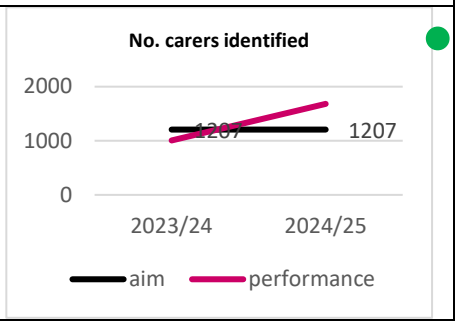


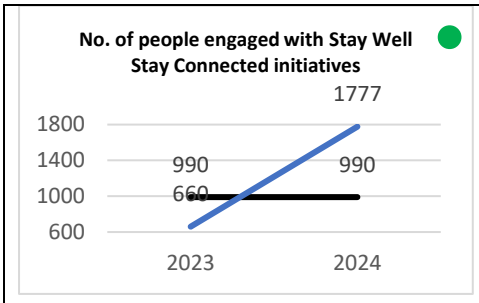


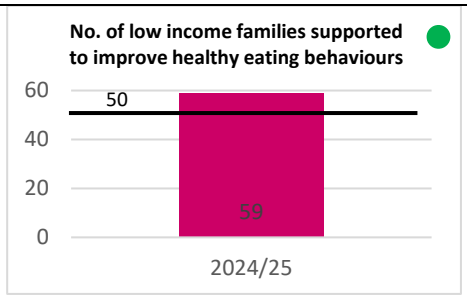
Healthy Life Expectancy

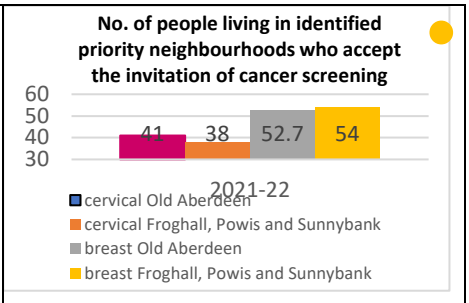


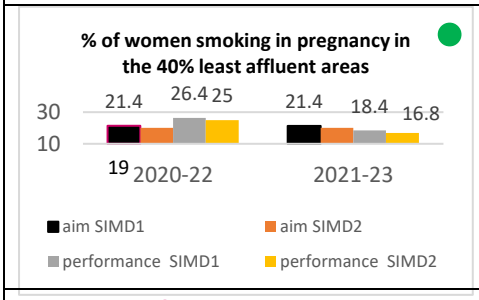


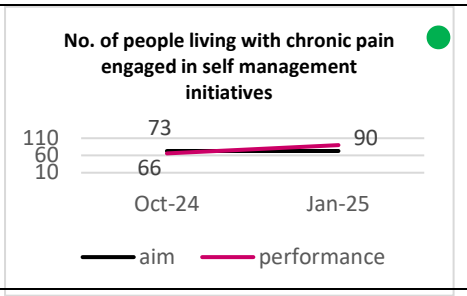


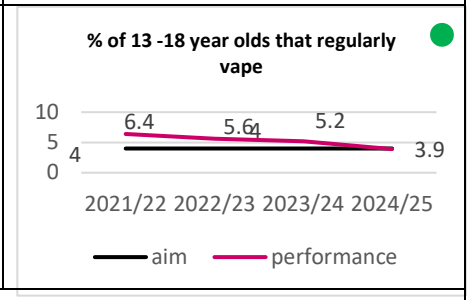




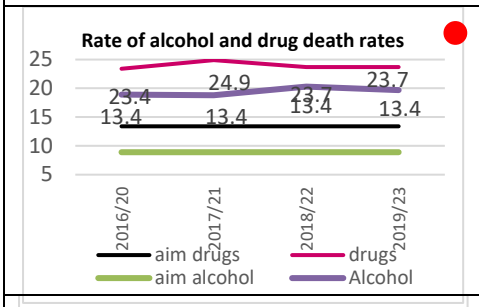


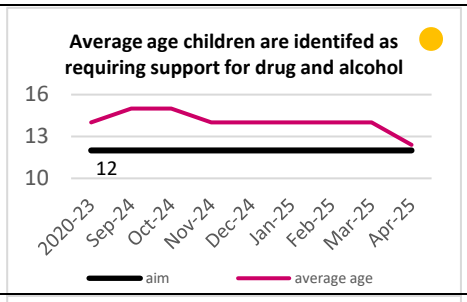


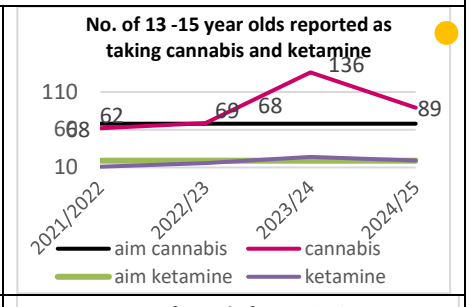


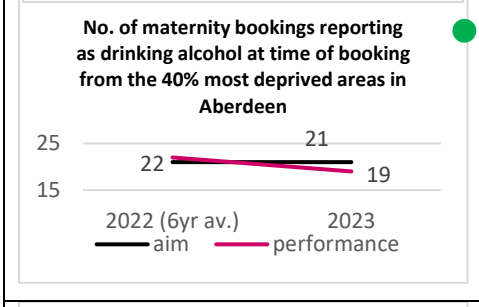


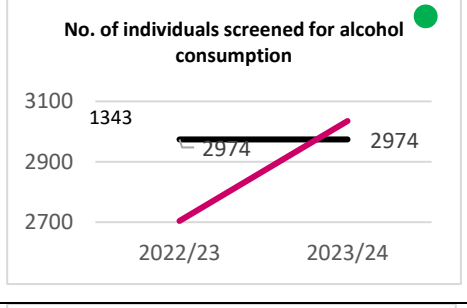
Lower Substance Use

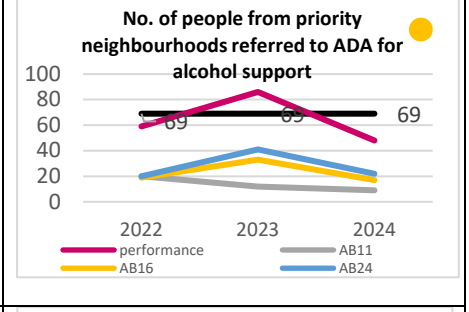


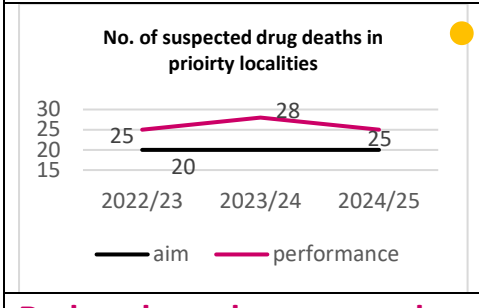


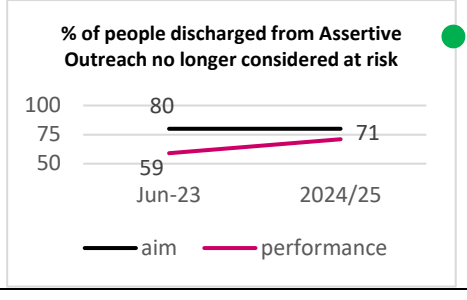


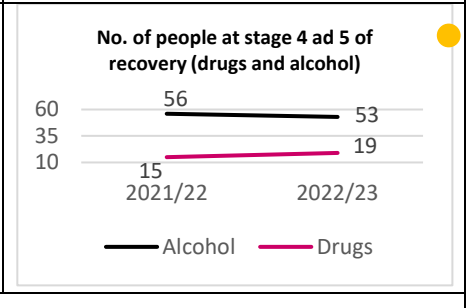




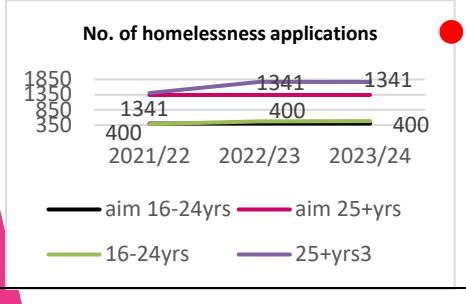


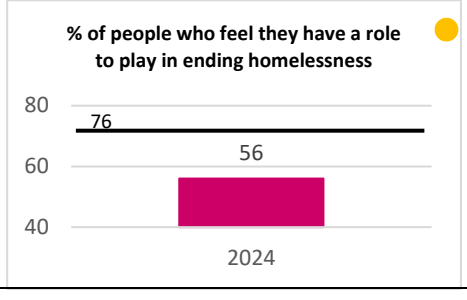


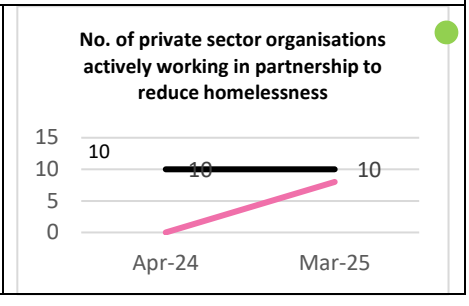


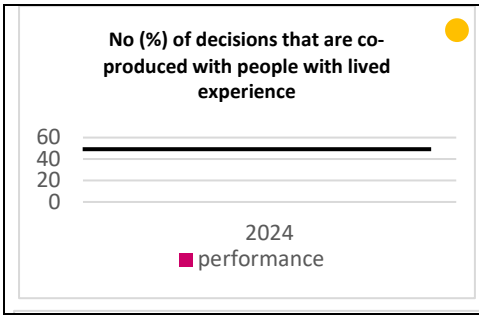


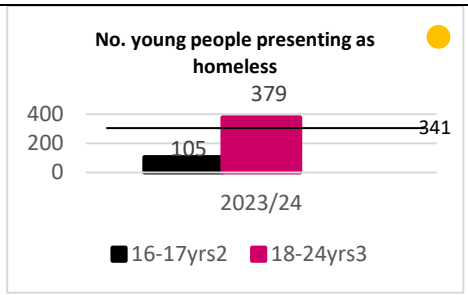
Reduce homelessness and youth homelessness

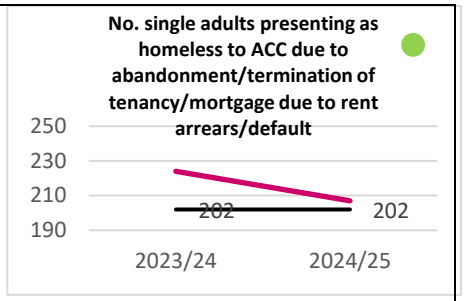


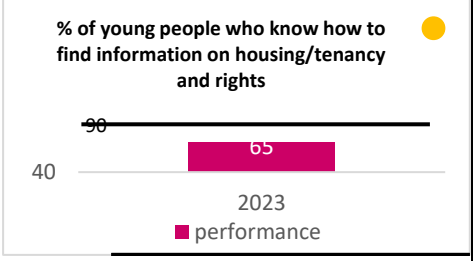


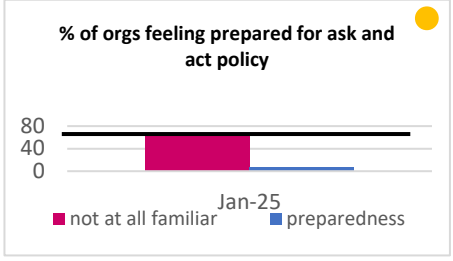



No (%) of decisions that are co-produced with people with lived experience
60
40
20
0
2024
performance


No. young people presenting as homeless
379
400
200
0
341
105
2023/24
16-17yrs2
18-24yrs3


No. single adults presenting as homeless to ACC due to abandonment/termination of tenancy/mortgage due to rent arrears/default
250
230
210
190
202
202
2023/24
2024/25


% of young people who know how to find information on housing/tenancy and rights
90
65
40
2023
performance


% of orgs feeling prepared for ask and act policy
80
40
0
Jan-25
not at all familiar
preparedness

- Supporting people in the justice system access housing, employability, and professional support from all touchpoints to reduce repeat offending and a return to custody
- Test targeted interventions to reduce adult anti-social behaviour
- Use data to identify areas for targeted supports to take preventative measures to reduce suicides and improve mental health.
- Continue to expand and identify new Stay Well Stay Connected programmes such as the next Power of Football programme and a Seven-Week Body Walking course between 31 March-5 May at Westburn Park, targeting over 50s who want to strengthen their mobility and improve overall health and wellbeing
- Implement the whole system approach to healthy weight
- Continue to tackle hate crime through expansion of Third-Party Reporting Centres and training to teams across the partnership who face and support those victimised by hate crimes
- Hold further community appointment days focused on other areas
- Further develop the whole family approach to support a reduction in drug related deaths and increase availability of naloxone through in our priority neighbourhoods.
- Explore the data for alcohol referrals and support and look at ways to increase the number receiving support
- Roll out Alcohol Brief Conversation (ABC) training updating the previous Alcohol Brief Intervention (ABI) approach
- Spread drugs and vaping prevention programmes across schools
- Test innovative approaches to preventing homelessness through participation in the Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales Homewards Programme.
- Leverage new employment and training opportunities for people experiencing homelessness through engagement with the private sector.

Prosperous Place

Our Stretch Outcomes

What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO13 Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate	**44.2% reduction** in carbon emissions (1063.1 (2022)) from baseline (2005) and a 5.8% reduction since 2021 (1128) to 2022.
SO14 Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking; 5% of people cycling and wheeling as main mode of travel and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026.	**30%** of people walking, a 2% increase from 2017 and 2022.
	1% of people cycling, a 1.4% decrease from 2017 and 1% from 2022.
	4% reduction in car Kms from 1258 in 2019 to 1210 in 2023, however a 4% increase since 2022 (1163).
SO15 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.	**4% increase in %** of land is protected for nature 17 to 21.3% in 2025, compared to 17% in 2021
	4% reduction in people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for, 49% in 2021 to 42.2% in 2024.

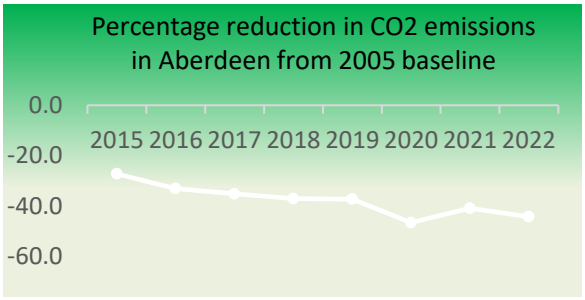
For more data go to www.communityplanningaberdeen.org/outcomesframework

Progress made during 2024/25

Stretch Outcome 13 progressing with 44.2% reduction in carbon emissions

STRETCH OUTCOME 13 PROGRESSING WITH 44.2% reduction in carbon emissions.

Latest data available at the end of 2024 shows that we have reduced our carbon emissions with a 3.4% reduction since the last reporting period with 1,063.1 ktCO2e down from 1,128 ktCO2e in 2021 and a 44.2% reduction since our baseline of 2005.



It is heartening to see the positive outcomes through our collective improvement aims, as well as through national and system based efforts. Our improvement activity through Community Planning has multiple positive benefits on health and environment including active travel and nature for health.

Green Champion led initiatives to reduce public sector carbon emissions

5.5% reduction in public sector emissions.

Latest data shows a 5.5% decrease in public sector emissions between 2021 and 2022 (80.6ktCO2e – down from 85 in 2021) and an 18% decrease since 2016. Through our public sector emissions project we are committed to our Green Champions, staff volunteers that help identify areas of improvement and drive change within our partner organisations to reduce emissions and encourage sustainability. The Green Champions have continued to grow in strength with 128 Green Champions across 4 Community Planning Aberdeen partners, a 30% increase since January 2024.

Over 2024/25, we have seen 13 green initiatives tested with **7945kgCO2e** carbon emissions saved, an increase of 111% since the project started in June 2021. Initiatives have included:

- Monitor switch off
- Step challenge
- Plastic free July and recycle week campaigns

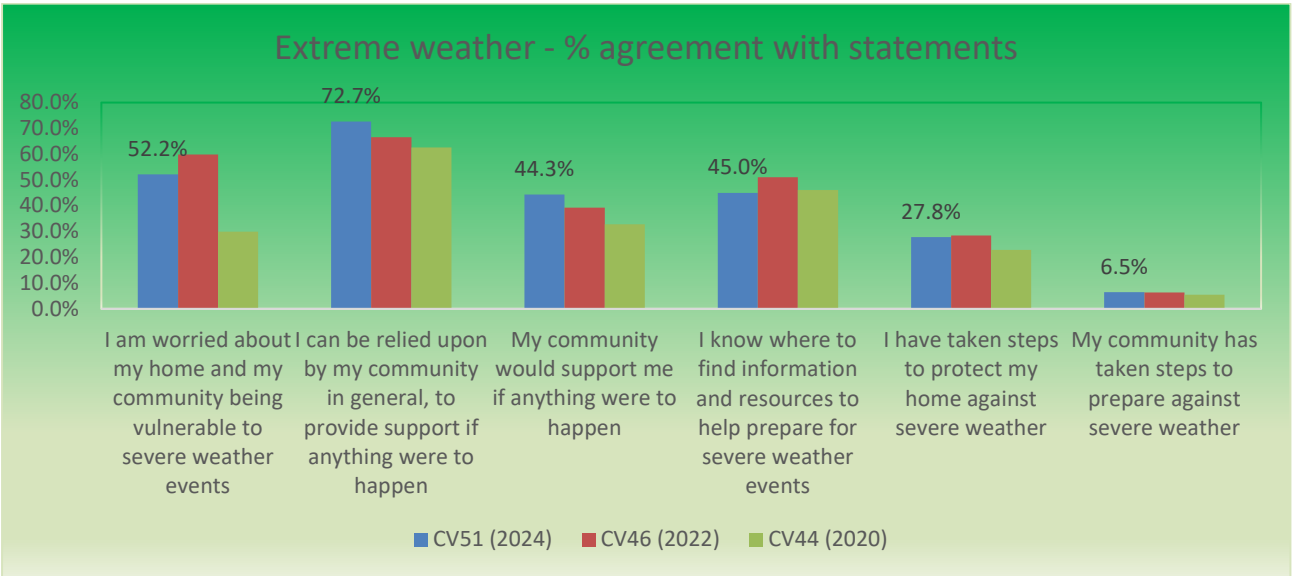
The Green Champions also organised a litter pick at the beach, with 11 people participating, including 2 young people. 14 bags of rubbish collected, with 314.09kgC02e emissions collected, saved 24040.87kg CO2e if used for Energy from Waste compared to landfill.

Building community resilience

We recognise the importance of our communities and have supported community resilience, from the development of resilience plans through to volunteering opportunities, and we have seen the positive impact of this during winter 2024/25 when we experienced storms and icy weather.

Through our community resilience and fall prevention projects our existing Resilience Groups and new volunteers have rallied their communities. To support our communities, we held a further Community Resilience Conference in October 2024. Approximately 70 people attended the conference and feedback was very positive with connections made with community groups/individuals and organisations to support communities take action in extreme weather.

We also know that people want to help their community in extreme weather, but don't know where to find information or the streps to take. Data from our City Voice in 2024, showed that while 72.2% of respondents agreed that they could be relied upon to by their neighbours or community to provide support if anything were to happen, only 45% said they would know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events.



To increase awareness, in November 2024:

- We distributed leaflets on how to prepare for winter weather to target groups and areas of high footfall
- We commenced a social media campaign targeted at communities and put to the front page of Aberdeen City Council web site 'preparing for winter' information
- Our communities shared information across their networks and as highlighted below one Community Council created their own 'Winter Resilience' section on their website.

As well as development of full community resilience plans, we have supported resilience plans and task-specific plans with 47 community emergency resilience boxes issued in December/January 2023 to a variety of community locations. Battery generator packs are also being provided to the 3 existing Community Resilience Groups to assist the overall response to a power outage emergency.

By March 2025 over 40 battery packs had been distributed to the 3 community resilience groups and the Health and Social Care partnership for use in emergencies by the most vulnerable who require powered equipment. The Annual Community Resilience Conference has been confirmed for Friday 10 October 2025 at King's Church, Bridge of Don.

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

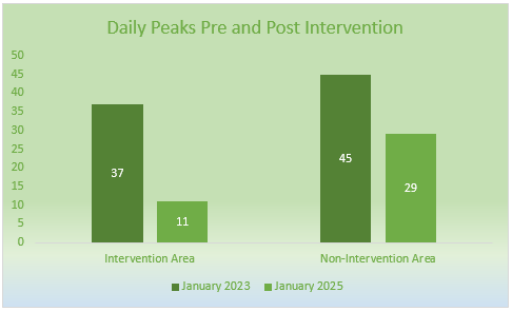
70.3% in falls from ice during peak days in AB15/16 compared to 35.6% in non intervention areas.

14.7% over the original aim.

Not all residents are fit and well enough to grit their own paths, and for them the injuries from falls can be life-changing. Through our fall prevention project, we have launched a community based approach to falls prevention using the volunteer RNLI model.

Led by 3 community councils, with approximately 20 volunteers and supported by the local authority and NHS Grampian, the volunteer 'ice crews' are gritting high risk pavement areas in AB15 / AB16 to help keep our community out and about. The crews are sent intelligence from the council when road surface temperatures are forecast to drop below zero, at which point they use hand gritters and salt bags provided by the council to grit the pavements where the highest number of falls were seen the previous winter.

As a result, compared to other areas where Ice Crews are not yet in place, we found in AB15 and AB16 the daily peak of 11 falls in the cold snap in January 2025, was 29.7% of the daily peak of 37 falls in January 2023. A reduction of 70.3%. Meanwhile, in the rest of the city, the daily peak in January 2025 was 29 falls, 64.4% of the peak of 45 falls in January 2023. A reduction of 35.6%. Therefore in the intervention re there was a 34.7% greater reduction. 14.7% over the original aim.



The 3 Community Councils engaged with their communities through their own local communication methods such as newsletters, door drops, community meetings, social media. Through this they were able to recruit volunteers, as well as keep them up to date on the progress. One of the Community Councils visited local schools in their area and engaged with the pupils to help create names for their gritters. The Rosehill, Stockethill Community Council created a website with information about the project

Feedback has been that an increased sense of community spirit has been built up in some parts:

"There were the practical benefits of having the pavements gritted, but also I fell it was a very practical, visible, way of building community. People saw the salt bags on the streets, spoke to the gritting volunteers, helped themselves and their neighbours. It allowed ACC and the Community Council to engage directly with the community. I think people appreciated that money and time was being spent on the area".

"We found it to be a community building exercise - we worked with the local school kids to name our gritters and local businesses such as the Croft and Cairns and Murdos helped us store equipment and salt".

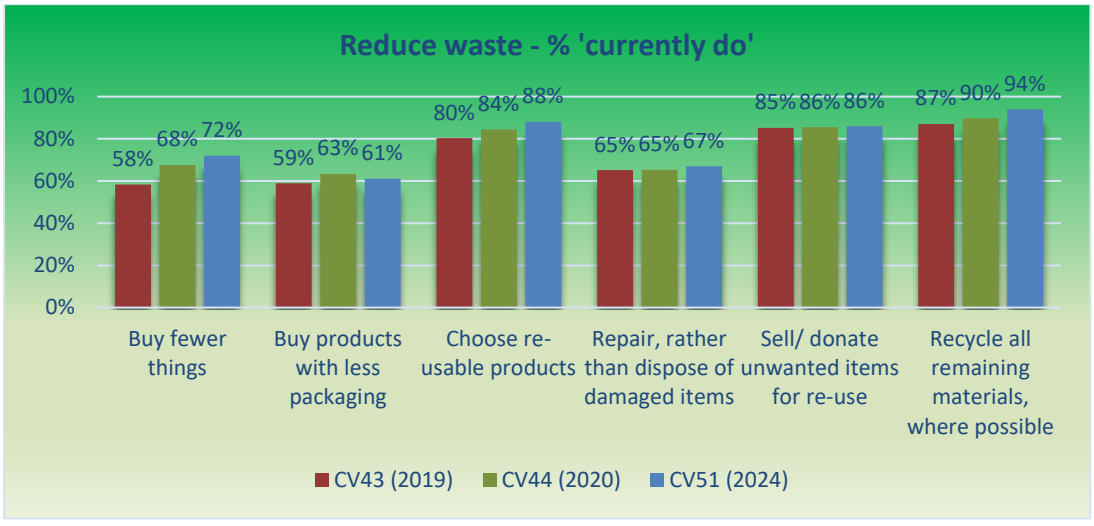
Improving access to recycling is a key part of supporting a reduction in waste. To support the reduction of electrical waste, a new local small electrical recycling initiative was launched on International E-Waste Day (14th October 2024), to raise awareness of the importance of recycling electricals and significantly reduce e-waste and its environmental impact by making it easier for residents to recycle their electricals.

19 striking, large, bright pink collection bins were installed across Aberdeen neighbourhoods, providing locals with easily accessible options at community sports clubs and libraries, to safely dispose of unwanted electrical items. Three additional bins were also toured around schools to help educate young people on recycling.

Over the period Oct 2024-Feb 2025, 8 tonnes of electrical items were recycled. The initiative was promoted via HypnoCat, the Recycle Your Electricals mesmerising pink, fluffy mascot, who is on a mission to hypnotise local residents into recycling their electricals.

In 2023, 89,314 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City – up from 88,802 in 2022, however a 7% reduction from baseline of 2016. Of the waste generated, 41.8% was recycled in 2023, the same as 2022. 12.2% went to landfill and 46% managed by other diversions.

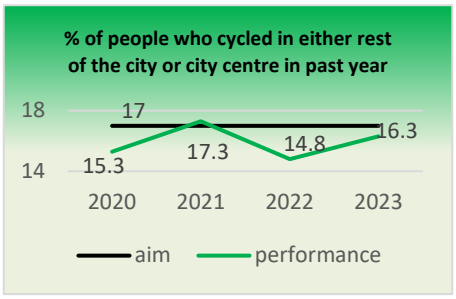
Data from the latest City Voice shows a 4% increase in respondents reporting that they currently buy fewer things (72%); choose re-usable products (88%); and recycle all remaining materials, where possible (94%). When data was broken down by locality, smaller % of respondents from north locality and from SIMD1 reported currently doing the actions below with the exception of buying fewer things where 85% of SIMD1 respondents reported this compared to 72% City Wide and Sell/ donate unwanted items for re-use where 87% of North respondents reporting doing this compared to 85.9% City Wide.



Supporting people to cycle and wheel

Small changes to the way we travel can play a big role in helping to reduce the impact of climate change, as well as health benefits individually and for our communities. We are continuing to work with our communities to promote and enable everyone to walk, wheel or cycle for recreation and transport and to therefore support our environmental and health outcomes.

Data from City Voice in 2023 shows that the percentage of people using a standard pedal bike was 16.3%, with 20% of respondents from the Central locality cycling as one mode of travel in the past year, compared to 18% from the South locality and 12 % from North.



We recognise the barriers to cycling and through our cycling project we are putting in place initiatives to enable people to cycle, some of the these are:

- **I Bike Communities** - delivered in partnership with Sustrans Scotland, the programme engages, enables, and motivates participants to increase their levels of active travel and physical activity, thereby improving health and wellbeing. During 2024/25, a total of 61 cycling training sessions were held, with 130 participants, of which 27% (35) people were from our priority neighbourhoods and 19% (25) were new Scots/Asylum seekers. These sessions allow people to improve their biking skills and build confidence. Many participants had not ridden a bike in several years. **Aberdeen Cycle Hub** - opened in Seaton in Oct 2024 to support the local community in enjoying walking, wheeling, and cycling with the necessary resources. Many young people have either learned to ride bikes or gained confidence through the obstacle course, while adults rediscovered their enthusiasm for cycling. One mother remarked, **"I better get a bike now. My son is off on his bike"** and another shared her joy at riding again after **"at least 20 years since I have gone this fast."** There is also a selection of adapted bikes stored at the Hub and there has been regular attendance from Heathryburn Primary and Cults Academy, as well as an adult group from Inspire to make use of these bikes during weekly sessions.
- **North East Cycle Hub (NECH)**: In 2024/25, 2514 bikes were diverted from landfill, with 920 of these being repaired and reused through Stella's Voice, on behalf of the NECH project. NECH aims to develop a north east wide hub for bicycle repair and reuse across both the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire local authority areas, enabling more people to cycle as part of their daily lives and support them as they do so.). The recycled bikes with helmets, locks and lights have been provided to schools in Aberdeen, to the Family Centre, and to refugees in Aberdeen. As of January 2025, they have begun collecting unwanted bikes from the Hazelhead recycling centre, with 198 bikes collected to April 2025.
- **Multistorey secure bicycle storage facilities for Tillydrone & Seaton:** installing safe and secure bicycle storage facilities can help reduce transport challenges for low-income residents and reduce the impact of transport poverty on these households. By promoting cycling for commuting and leisure, secure parking increases the accessibility of cycling and facilitates healthy and sustainable living. Tillydrone and Seaton were selected for a pilot programme where six storage units were installed, providing secure space of up to 12 bicycles. The project was awarded "Best Public Cycle Parking" by Aberdeen Cycle Forum in 2024.

Supporting all children and young people to walk, cycle and wheel

Community Planning Aberdeen are focused on supporting all children and young people to walk, cycle and wheel and safe routes and confidence to cycle are key to that. Through our walking and cycling projects we have a range of initiatives like the "Champions for Change" which have engaged children, young people, and families at St Machar and Lochside Academies to identify safe routes and priorities, enabling them to realise their rights and provide valuable feedback.

In partnership with Sustrans Scotland we support initiatives that promote active travel, sustainability and community engagement across the city. One such initiative, I Bike Schools, focuses on encouraging cycling and walking among children within a specific school cluster area. For 2024/25, the I Bike Schools officer worked with the St Machar Academy Associated Schools Group to inspire and support students in adopting active travel habits. Between August to December 2024, there were a total of 63 I Bike Schools activities and over 2,037 pupil engagements across 7 I Bike Schools.

In addition, through I Bike Schools, in 2024/25 we have delivered:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
6 Bikeability sessions with 73 pupil attendees •3 other Cycling Skills Sessions with 52 pupil attendees •12 led walks with 291 pupil attendees · •2 led rides with 31 pupil attendees and •10 Education activities linked with Art and Design, Environment and Science with 203 pupil attendees. There were 18 instances of support from regular volunteers and 4 instances of support from other volunteers.	464 attendees participated in I Bike activities. These have included: •Led rides and walks – 138 pupil attendees. •Interest and Enthusiasm – 247 pupil attendees. •Planning meetings – 2 staff members. These activities have been supported by 9 regular volunteers, 9 parents and 24 staff members.	Q3 saw limited activities due to school holidays.	•15 pupils learned to ride bikes. •108 bikes were loaned to enable participation. •31 instances of support from volunteers •841 pupils attended our sessions.

As well as safe routes and confidence to cycle, we want our children and young people to have access to bikes, and that cycling is inclusive for all. We have seen positive impacts in both areas:

Increasing Accessing to Bikes for Young People

The "**Access to Bikes for Young People**" initiative (funded via the Nestrans' People and Place Programme 2024/25) at Loirston Primary School is working in partnership with the parent council and a group of parents who are Cycle Trainers to deliver Bikeability. This has identified many pupils lack confidence cycling and do not own or have access to a bike. In partnership with Tyred and Cranky, 45 high-quality refurbished bikes have been provided to families and young people who otherwise would not have access to one. Bikes will help recipients access educational and employment opportunities. Work has also been ongoing with BeCycle to provide 30 bikes to meet requirements of approximately 60 beneficiaries through the Fersands and Fountain Community Project. Dyce academy received support to replace a fleet of bikes for school pupil use after their

previous bike fleet was stolen. 15 new bikes and helmets have been provided to support 20 – 25 young people to ride to school. The school identified beneficiaries, and these include refugees from Ukraine as well as young people in less affluent communities close to the school who would otherwise not have access to a bike

Inclusive cycling for children and young people

In early November 2024, I Bike, in partnership with Grampian Disability Sport and the Grampian Inclusive Cycling Bothies (GICB) hosted a Cycling Festival attended by over 40 families. Participants of all ages enjoyed the opportunity to ride bikes, with many experiencing cycling for the first time or after a long hiatus.

Through the Grampian Inclusive Cycling Bothies, 29 young people with a disability aged between 13-24 have been supported through weekly adapted and targeted cycling sessions, utilising a fleet of adaptive bikes designed to make cycling more accessible to everyone in the community. Through the partnership between I Bike Schools and GICB, hand bikes are available for school based sessions, enabling young wheelchair users, who had never cycled before, to participate in cycling alongside their peers.

The impact was profound, with one young participant exclaiming, ***"I'm free!"*** *and one* Pupil Support Assistant couldn't believe how chatty one of the boys became after just one session and both boys were desperate to have another go on the handcycle.

These efforts have improved physical health but also fostered a sense of community and inclusivity. 27 young people participated in the Scottish Disability Sport's Grampian Parasports festival on 27 September, aimed at P4 to S6 pupils with a physical impairment, visual impairment or hearing loss.

Social prescribing of nature

A growing body of evidence finds that connection to nature can benefit physical and mental health in varied ways including reducing stress, boosting the immune system, reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression and improved memory and concentration. Though our social prescribing project, three GP practices in Aberdeen have begun training with RSPB Scotland to roll out 'Nature Prescriptions', an initiative designed to increase patients' physical and mental health through a greater connection with local nature.

A Nature Prescription is a guided conversation with a healthcare professional and patient which explores how wellbeing can be improved through a deeper connection with nature. Alongside the conversation, we have developed a 'Nature Prescription Calendar' which aims to support patients to connect with nature in their area. The calendar was informed by a community co-creation session, with suggested activities include spending time in a favourite nature space close to home, looking for signs of changing seasons, recording the nature you see through photos, drawings or writing, and visiting Torry Battery to go rockpooling.

Between April and December 2024, 13 people have been socially prescribed nature. Feedback from a local Doctor has been positive:

> Dr Adrain Crofton, Lead Clinician, Torry Medical Practice said: "This locality-specific and user-friendly programme designed by RSPB Scotland is an excellent tool for us to give to patients who feel this might be something they would like to try but might not otherwise know where to start. The materials are of a high quality and very easy and fun to follow.
> "The great advantage of the nature prescription is that it is all on your doorstep and is something that can help anyone at any stage of life, and it's free. In many ways, that makes it one of the best treatments we have".

Communities leading environmental improvements

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

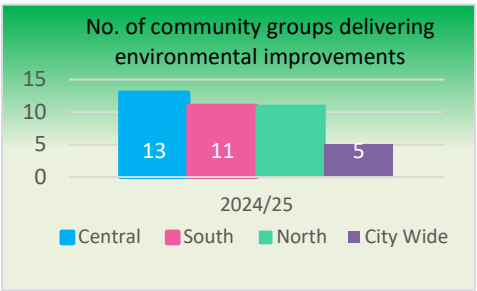
67% increase in number of community groups delivering environmental improvements.

17% over the original aim.

Through our community environmental project, Community Planning Aberdeen are committed to supporting communities to lead environmental initiatives which will make a real difference in their neighbourhood and help achieve reaching the targets set out in our collective Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts framework.

One initiative tested is the Local Environmental Action Fund, administered by NESCAN Hub, which provides grants of up to £3,000 to support projects in local communities, that provide environmental improvements, support nature recovery, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support local communities.

Between April and March 2025**,** 40 community led environmental improvement projects have been funded, 29 via the Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) and 11 from the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting (JTPB) Fund, an increase of 67% from 2023/24 (24) . Of the 11 Just Transition Participatory Budgeting, 8 are supporting local environmental improvements for green spaces and a further 3 are supporting built-environment improvements such as energy efficiency upgrades for community buildings.



Of the 40 projects, 13 are in Central, 11 in South, 11 in North and 5 are City Wide. 12 projects are working in our priority neighbourhoods, 7 in central priority neighbourhoods and 5 in South.

The funds have been published widely and connections built with black, asian and minority ethnic and other minority groups to enable them to access the funding. Through enabling our communities with funding, support and expertise provided by NESCAN Hub and the enthusiasm and commitment of community groups working for the benefit of nature, the planet and their community, we have seen a wide variety of the environmental action projects being seen spring up all over the city. Some examples:

Gairn Community Garden
Transforming an unused space along the Deeside Railway line into a vibrant, green community hub. Featuring raised beds for fresh produce, play areas for children, and peaceful spaces for socialising, it will be a place for everyone to connect.

By engaging local nurseries, older residents, and new community members, the garden will bridge generations and cultures, promoting inclusivity and community spirit. Focusing on sustainability, it will enhance biodiversity, reduce carbon footprints, and inspire eco-friendly living.

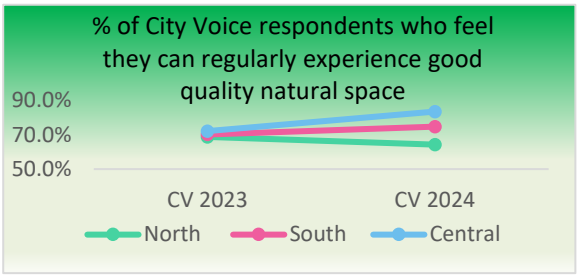
Bucksburn Academy Friends of the Additional Support Need Wing
Supporting users to modernise the allotment plot, creating a sustainable space for all pupils, staff, school families and young unaccompanied asylum-seekers to learn together. The space will be a haven for learning about sustainable land management, food production, mindfulness and mental health. The plot will be accessible to all users with wheelchair access, raised beds, a sensory garden and sheltered gathering space.

The project is also supporting groups seeking to adopt available / unused land – in particular working with the Mounthooly Food Forest Project as a pilot to showcase the potential for adopting greenspace that is currently managed by mowing alone, as well as supporting the Nature Awareness Strategy. Through partnership working, trees from Social Juice have been secured and a tree planting session is being planned. Drawing on the expertise of several community-led organisations and exploring different funding options, the project are also planning a bioblitz for summer.

Improving natural space

8.5% INCREASE in people feeling they can regularly experience good quality natural space

Through our natural space project we have seen a 8.5% increase in City Voice respondents who feel like they can regularly experience good quality natural space. This increase is also see across our South and Central localities whilst there has been a 7.9% decrease in North.



We have also seen a 4% increase in the % of land that is protected for nature (21% in 2024 from 17% in 2021. Despite this, we recognise that and we need to do more to encourage organisations and individuals protect land for nature as the signs ups to the land for nature pledge has remained static at 7 organisations for 2024. In addition, there has been a 4% reduction in people reporting that they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for, 49% to 42.2% in 2024. These will continue to be areas of focus over 2025/26.

A range of initiatives are planned for the forthcoming year and have been held. One example, was a highly successful wildflower planting session at Westfield Park (a key site for Aberdeen B-Lines, a vital initiative that aims to create stepping stones of habitat across the city to support pollinators like bees, butterflies, hoverflies, and moths). The event, led by Buglife Scotland and sponsored by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution, saw over 3,200 plug plants and native wildflower seeds, supplied by Scotia Seeds, added to the park's growing flower-rich grasslands. Around 40 volunteers turned out, including local residents, members of the Friends of Westfield Park group, Aberdeen City Council, and Southern Electricity Networks distribution staff.

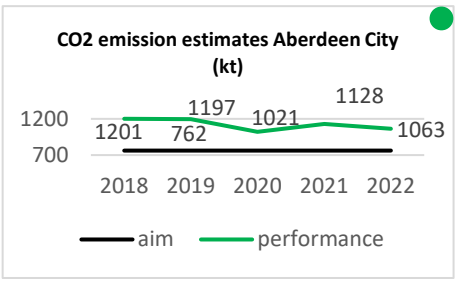
Since March 2023, 11 other sites across the city, have been supported to create flower-rich habitats by planting native wildflowers, installing bee hotels, and engaging local communities.

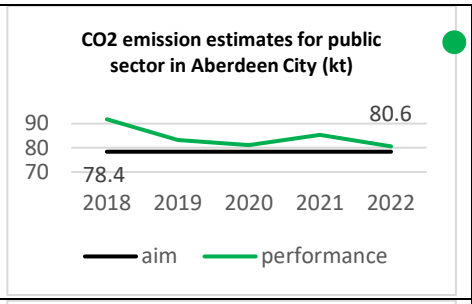
What impact have we had?

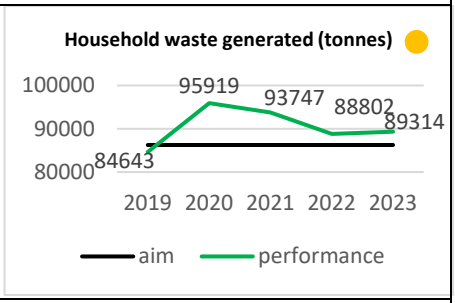
24/25/26 improvement aim Performance

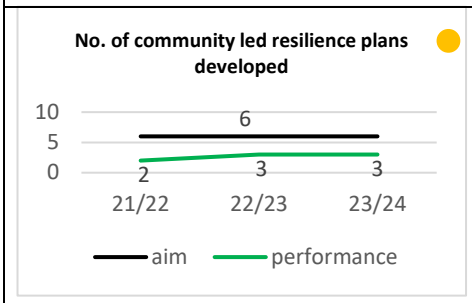
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

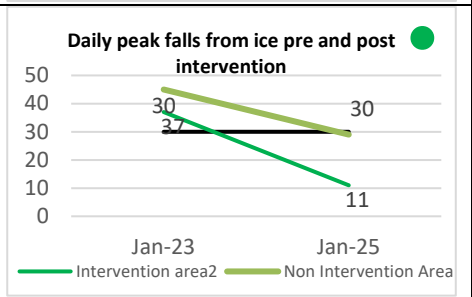
Climate Change



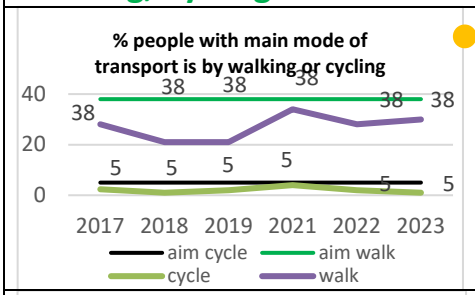


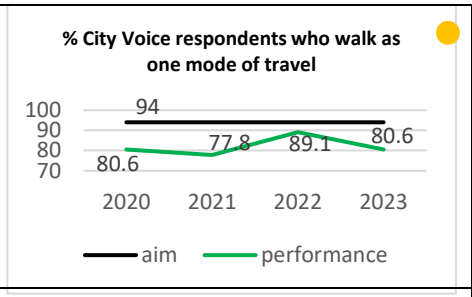


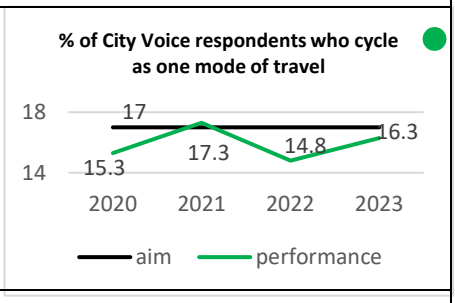


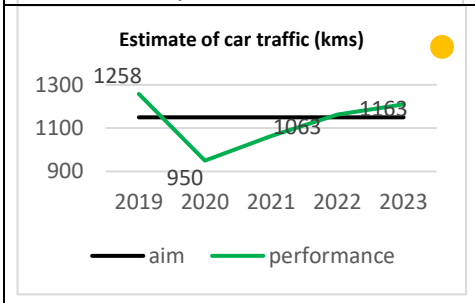


Walking, Cycling and Car Miles

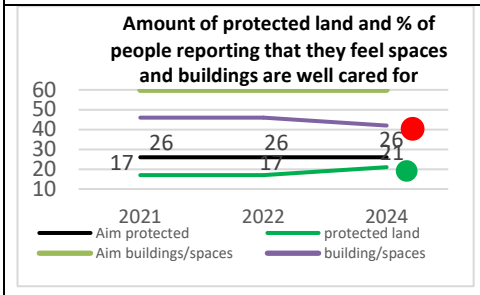


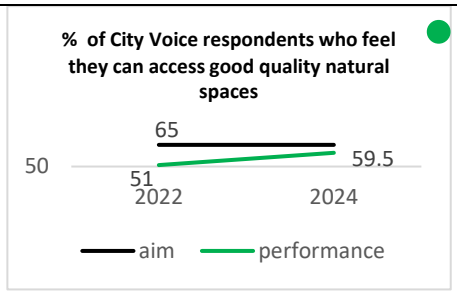


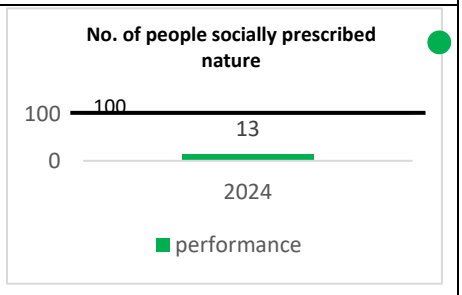


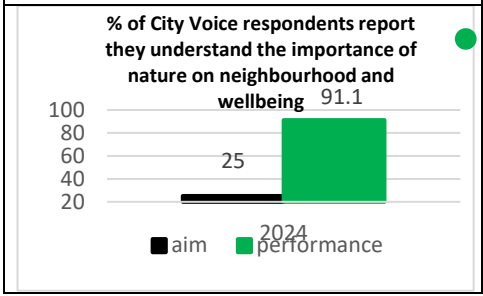


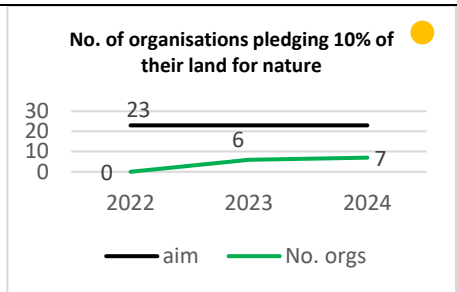
Natural and Built Environment

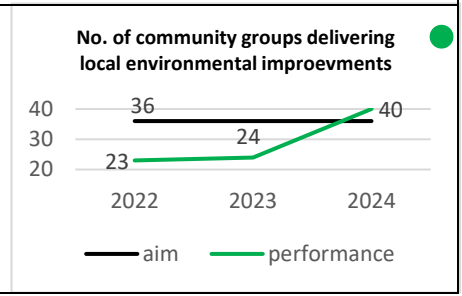












Improvement priorities 2025/26

- Continue to support communities to develop community resilience plans, with plans in place for all communities at risk of flooding.
- Pilot a school food waste and allotment growing initiative
- Co-locate services within the community in a library in each of the North, Central, and South localities, to increase access to services in the community and reducing the need to travel by car.
- Pilot School Streets to improve the safety of children and their caregivers on the journey to and from school, thus encouraging more walking, wheeling and cycling for the school journey
- Work with communities to develop a community led action plan that set out clearly how both infrastructure and behaviour change can be delivered in their community that addresses the highlighted barriers and gets more people walking and less use of cars.
- Create with community members and local children a range of materials to promote and encourage use of natural spaces to meet people's interests.
- Create and pilot bat walks and other nature walks in local areas.
- Create wildlife corridors and B lines.
- Test travel tour fairs by the Countryside Rangers Service focusing on a minibeast safari looking at insects and woodland areas, and a night-time moth-spotting trail.
- Continue with the pilot social prescribing for nature
- Hold a Ranger/Volunteer Network Event to host volunteers involved with nature-based activities and offer support to groups e.g. funding, training if they are interested in offering nature-based social prescriptions.
- Continue to promote and increase number of organisations pledging to manage at least 10% of their land for nature.

Community Empowerment

Our Stretch Outcome

What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO16 100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026	**5.6% increase** in % of City Voice respondents in 2024 scoring 5 and above (out of 1-7) feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better, 22.3% up from 16.7% in 2023, however lower than the baseline of 24.3% in 2021.

Progress made during 2024/25

Ensuring Children's Rights/UN Convention on Rights

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Scotland) Act 2024 was enacted on 16 July 2024, ensuring that children's rights are respected and protected in Scotland. Our Children and Young People's Rights project, with children and young people, have been developing and expanding the ways in which we communicate with and involve children and young people in the planning and development of our work across the city.

100% of Community Planning Aberdeen Board decisions which impact on children and young people informed by them.

100% of Community Planning Aberdeen Board decisions which impact on children and young people have been informed by them. Of the 98 Local Outcome Improvement Plan projects, 60 (60.2%) have identified that they should and are involving children and young people, 26 (26.5%) have identified that involvement of Children and Young People is not applicable to their project, with 13 (13.3%) still to confirm. To support this, members of the Young Ambassadors who are supported via Create Learning and Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM) who are supported via the youth work team have been meeting regularly to focus on the impact of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child across the Partnership. They have developed and tested a range of approaches and these are reflected within the children and young people section of the toolkit. Some examples are:

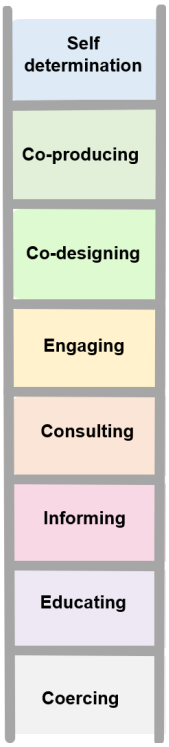
The project has also compiled a comprehensive directory of youth engagement groups across the city, including key interest and target groups. We also work closely with youth participation colleges throughout the partnership to better establish opportunities to engage with our more vulnerable or hard to reach groups.

ACC Budget Phase 2
Aberdeen Youth Movement supported Aberdeen City Council with engaging with School pupils in the budget and capturing their views on the proposed items that would be affected and how this would affect their lives. A dedicated week long, lunch time takeovers was held from 4th November. 390 pupils participated in the consultation sessions from the following schools: Dyce, Bridge of Don, Lochside, Aberdeen Grammer School and Oldmachar Academies.
This was complemented by a Aberdeen Youth Movement social media campaign on the Budget, with 10,156 views.

Your Place; Your Plans; Your Future engagement –They have tried and tested different methods to come up with a universal youth friendly Your Place; Your Plans; Your Future engagement tool that is being used across the city with young people and within 5 local academies.

Creating the Conditions for Community Participation

There are many ways people can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for their local community and influence how public services are delivered in their area to meet their needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.



Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

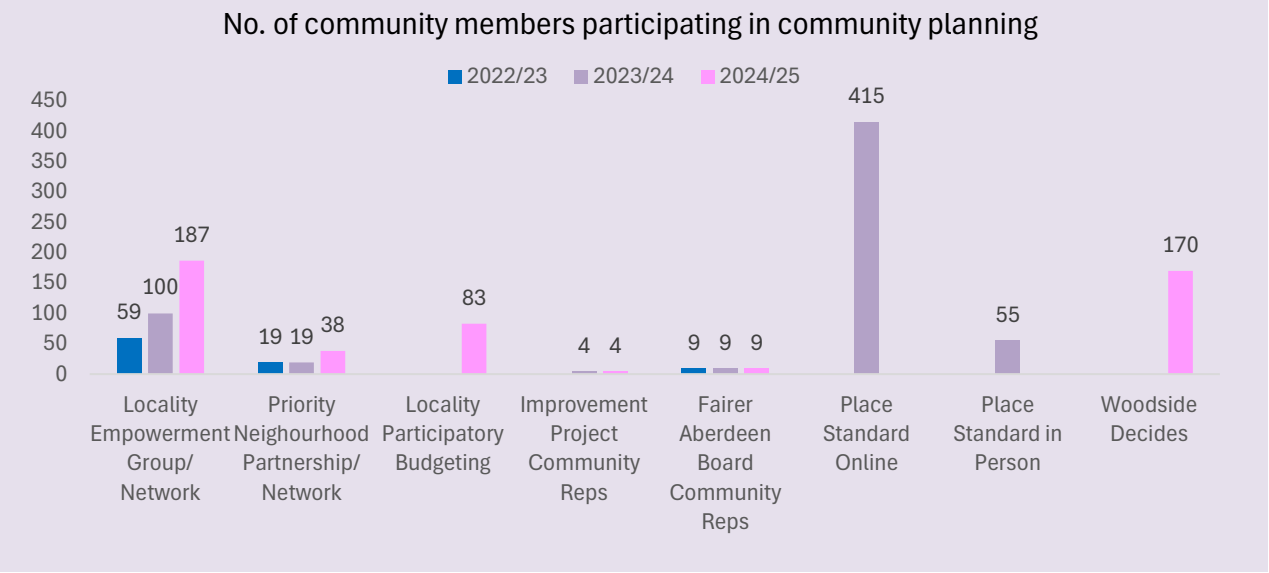
956% increase in number of community members participating in community planning.

856% over the original aim.

We are delighted that there are 961 community members currently participating in community planning at a meaningful level (From engaging to co-production) through a range of methods:

- Locality Empowerment Groups
- Priority Neighourhood Partnerships
- Woodside Decides
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagment

This is a 60% increase from 2023/24 (602) and a 956% increase from 2022/23 (91), as well as 41 community groups and organisations, a 58% increase since 2022/23 (26).



Deep Engagement with Community Groups

Two ways of getting involved in community planning at a local level are through our Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships. Our three Locality Empowerment Groups (LEGs) cover the North, South and Central localities. We also have three Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships (PNPs) which focus on some areas the of the City which are less affluent. The groups are made up of local people interested in improving the quality of life for people living in their community. Members use their own knowledge and experiences to influence priorities, help determine solutions and drive the development and delivery of the Locality Plans. The Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships work together to take shared priority issues forward. See table 1 below for our localities, neighbourhoods, and priority neighbourhoods.

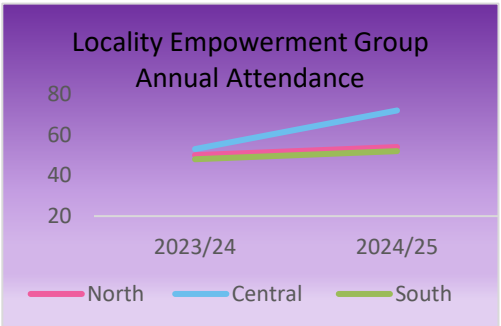
Table 1. Localities, neighbourhoods and priority neighbourhoods

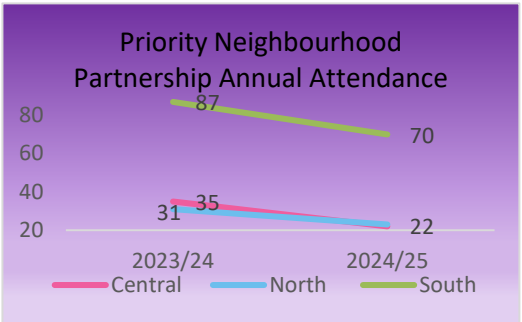
Localities	North	South	Central
Neighbourhoods	1.Dyce 2.Danestone 3.Oldmachar 4.Denmore 5.Balgownie & Donmouth 6.Bucksburn 7.Heathryfold 8.Middlefield 9.Kingswells 10.Northfield 11.Cummings Park 12.Sheddocksley 13.Mastrick 14.Summerhill	1.Culter 2.Cults, Bieldside, Milltimber & Countesswells 3.Hazlehead 4.Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield 5.Garthdee 6.Ferryhill 7.Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg 8.Torry 9.Cove	1.Tillydrone 2.Old Aberdeen 3.Seaton 4.Woodside 5.Hilton 6.Stockethill 7.Ashgrove 8.George Street 9.Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank 10.Midstocket 11.Rosemount 12.City Centre 13.Hanover 14.West End
Priority neighbourhoods (Based SIMD analysis)	7.Heathryfold 8.Middlefield 10.Northfield 11.Cummings Park 13.Mastrick	7.Kincorth 8.Torry	1.Tillydrone 3.Seaton 4.Woodside 6.Stockethill 7.Ashgrove 8.George Street
Locality Empowerment Group	North	South	Central
Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	Wider Northfield	Torry	Seaton, Woodside & Tillydrone
Locality Plans	North Locality Plan	South Locality Plan	Central Locality Plan

Through our community involvement project, our integrated Locality Planning Team, with community members, have been testing different approaches with the Locality Empowerment Group and Priority Neighbourhood Partnership meetings to support increasing the number and diversity of community members. This has included the development of a Communication and Engagement Plan led by a community member and co-designed with another three community members; thematic meetings, rotating venues and a citywide meeting for all members. We have seen an increase in annual attendance at each of the Locality Empowerment Groups, with an 8% increase in North, 35.8% increase in Central and 29.2% in South.

Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test here.

The Locality Planning team, together with community representatives, continue to look at enhancing the accessibility and appeal of participation through improved structures around Locality Planning. You can read the Locality Planning Annual Reports for North, South and Central.





Engaging communities in shaping our plans and strategies

Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025.

This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 470 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

The approach enables us to:

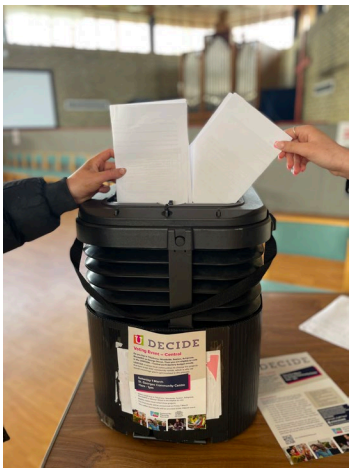
- Put people at the heart of the process.
- Look at people's physical and social environments and asses and identify where improvement is required to support people to live healthy, happy lives.
- Align priorities across all Strategies/Plans resulting in greater cohesion.
- Empower communities to engage through consistent use of a single tool
- Provide outreach and adaptive sessions to make the process more accessible to all group
- Respond to community insights in a more joined up way
- Inform our knowledge of where to dig a bit deeper and provide targeted, deep dive, sessions responding to the initial results
- Confirm if our strategies are focused on right areas.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held 6 locality events, a children and young people's version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say. Working with the North East Culture Collective, there have also been a series of creative engagement sessions undertaken, as part of testing how creativity and culture can help empower communities.

The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

Community Funding

The Fairer Aberdeen Board allocated £25,000 to undertake a Participatory Budgeting event in the Rosehill, Stockethill and Cornhill area during October 2024. A steering group made up of partners and community representatives prioritised the funding for initiatives to improve the community, support social inclusion, and tackle isolation and loneliness. Funding was awarded to six initiatives supporting parents and toddlers, youth work, and community activities.



The Locality Planning team led the delivery of a UDECIDE Participatory Budgeting process. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities. Applications were open to community groups who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the Locality Plans. Proposals needed to be in one of the 13 identified Priority Neighbourhoods. Funding was awarded to 23 projects across the three localities and 3 projects were partially funded. You can read more about the projects and the process here: UDECIDE Report 2025.

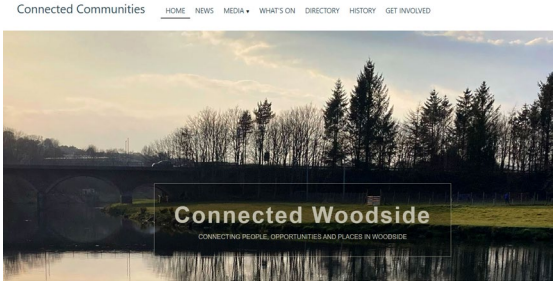
In the Woodside Decides initiative, Station House Media Unit and the Woodside Network have been testing how small funding pots can be utilised to encourage local residents to have a greater sense of control and influence within their community, and therefore to become more actively involved in Community Planning activity in their local area. Funding for this test of change was sourced from Community Planning Aberdeen, ACVO, North East Culture Collective and NESCAN Hub. £18,000 of funds across 4 themes, and a range of community engagement events and activity has taken place over the past year. This has included open events, advertised widely, bringing together people from across the community, as well as more targeted events for women and older people. There have also been outreach activities within sheltered housing complexes, and a youth project at Printfield Community Project. So far around £8000 has been allocated, whilst other initiatives are under way to allocate the remaining funds.

Celebrating Communities

We are extremely fortunate in Aberdeen to have so many community groups being led by local people, serving those on their doorsteps and making a vital contribution to their city. The work they do is invaluable and complements the work of Community Planning partners. Increasing awareness, celebrating and promoting community led projects and activity has benefits for partner organisations and communities alike.
Our celebrating communities project has focused on increasing awareness of community led projects, both across communities as well as policy and decision makers. 66% of decision makers in 2024 reported that they felt they have a good awareness of community-led initiatives in the City.

Different communication methods are being tested, such as showcasing some community-led work as part of a Challenge Poverty Week screening and then promoting the screening through a digital magazine of the event was shared with policy and decision makers.

Staton House Media Unit have also worked with community members in both Woodside and Torry to develop a community website for the two areas, and this was launched in February.



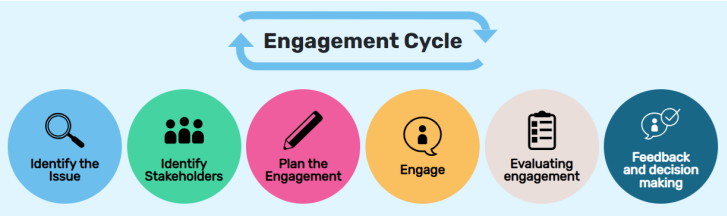
Community Empowerment Toolkit

Collaboration between Community Planning partners and communities can lead to new solutions. However, negative experiences in the past as well as a lack of experience and confidence in how to work together can be a major barrier to collaboration for staff and communities. Through our capacity building project, with engagement from both communities and children and young people, we have co-produced an online community empowerment toolkit.

The toolkit provides a single platform that staff and communities can go to for help and support to select the most appropriate and meaningful collaboration methods and processes to use; or to access advice on overcoming the obstacles.

Community members can find out a wide range of information, including getting in touch with their local Community Council, where to get help with funding, useful data to support projects, and how to connect into existing groups and organisations.

For organisations looking to undertake community engagement, the toolkit provides a step-by-step guide, with lots of useful resources to help support good community engagement. While the toolkit has been developed by Community Planning Aberdeen, the community engagement section can be used for any location.



As well as the toolkit, a new introductory training course 'Foundations of community engagement' has been developed and launched for community engagement practitioners across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray. This course is for staff who want to learn the basics of community engagement and apply these skills as part of their job role. Since it launched in March, 51 people have booked on.

Community Learning & Development

During 2024 there has been a strong focus on Community Learning and Development (CLD) at a national level with the Independent review and subsequent report of CLD commissioned by Scottish Government and Education Scotland HMIE progress visits and evaluation reports published. Both of these highlight the vital role CLD providers across councils and the third sector provide in enabling life changing and often lifesaving interventions through learning and community empowerment. These reports also come with recommendations to be implemented both nationally and locally with these finding from these informing our future CLD plan for 2025-27. Across the city progress against the CLD plan, aligned LOIP outcomes has recorded positive impact on learners and the community, these include:

Establishing a kinship worker: This worker has successfully bridged the gap between the kinship team and supports available across the city.

Increasing learner confidence: 96% of learners reported increased confidence following engagement with family learning.

Securing paid placements for ESOL learners: Most learners on the ESOL for care courses run in partnership with Bon Accord Care secured paid placements.

Supporting adults facing personal challenges: Working in partnership with Shmu (Station House Media Unit), 62 adults facing personal challenges were supported, with 23 going on to secure positive destinations in education or employment.

Healthy minds team: This team has successfully supported learners facing social isolation through activities within the community and Cornhill Hospital, with almost all reporting increased confidence.

Expanding support for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): Over 200 learners are currently being supported, with learners setting up learner-managed support groups to improve mental health and reduce social isolation.

Funded projects: These projects supported 686 volunteers who contributed 103,711 hours of volunteering time

Community resilience groups: Three community resilience groups have been established across the city in Cults, Culter, and Bridge of Don to support the community in the face of adverse weather and other civil contingency events.

For more examples of the impact of Community Learning and Development delivered across the city, please see:

Learning changes lives for the better – CLD Plan 2024-2025 report

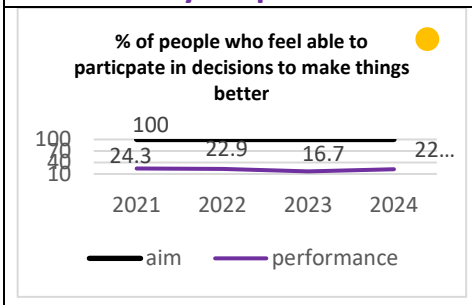
Community Learning and Development Case Studies 2024

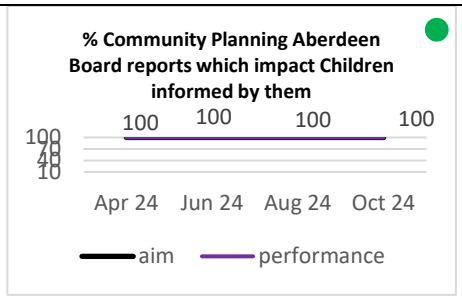
What impact have we had?

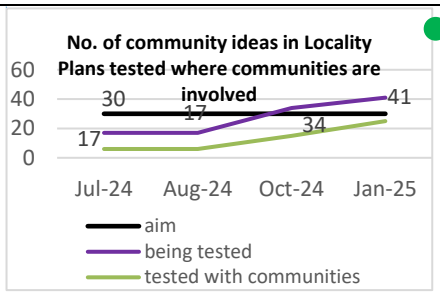
24/25/26 improvement aim Performance

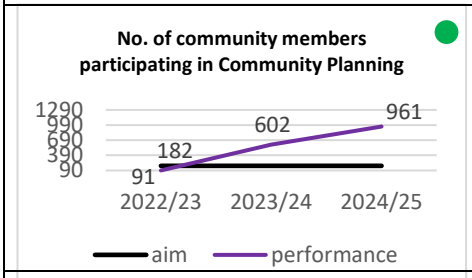
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

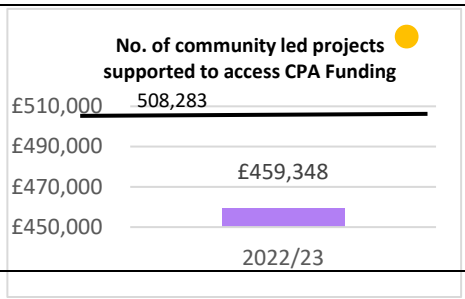
Community Empowerment

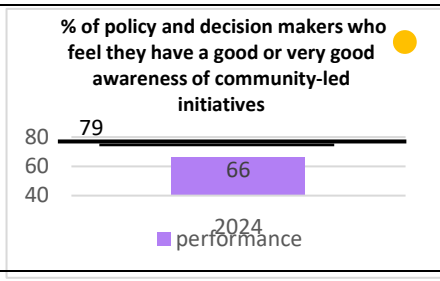


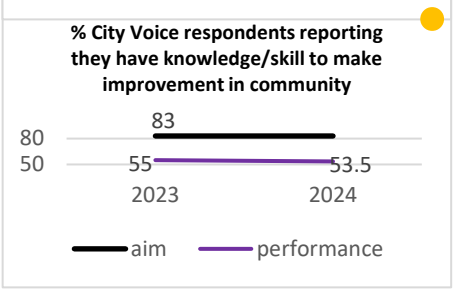












- Incorporate tools and techniques on engaging people with lived experience within the online community Empowerment toolkit, including a new 'human library' of stories told by people from Aberdeen with lived experience.
- Work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.
- Testing with children and young people different methods of engagement on decisions which impact them.
- Support for community led organisations to access funding for community led initiatives.
- Establishment and delivery of the new Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership to improve collaboration across the City's Community Learning and Development partners and support delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Locality Plans, Children's Services Plan and other key strategies.
- Continue to take a rights based approach to engaging people from diverse communities using the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles.
- Improve gathering of feedback from community members on whether they feel they are being engaged at a meaningful level.

Ways to get involved

There are many ways people can get involved in the work of the Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for our citizens and the wider community. Our ambition is for all communities across Aberdeen to be equal community planning partners and we are reaching out to all individuals, community groups and organisations to get involved in our work to make the City a place where all people can prosper, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Find out more about the different ways you can get involved by clicking on the links below.

Find out more about Community Planning Aberdeen

Sign up for community updates

Join a Locality Empowerment Group

Join a Priority Neighbourhood Partnership

Become a member of our Citizen Panel

Find out about other ways of working with communities

Learn about our Community Empowerment Network

Or simply get in touch by emailing communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Who's Who?

CPA Board and Management Group Provides strategic leadership and direction.

Chair CPA Board	Vice-Chair of CPA Board	Partners involved
Councillor Allard, Aberdeen City Council	Susan Webb, Public Health, NHS Grampian	• Aberdeen City Council • NHS Grampian • Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • Police Scotland • Robert Gordon University • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • University of Aberdeen • Skills Development Scotland • North East Scotland College • Nestrans • Scottish Enterprise • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations
Chair Management Group	**Vice-Chair of Management Group**	
Angela Scott, Aberdeen City Council	Phil Mackie, Public Health, NHS Grampian	

Outcome Improvement Groups

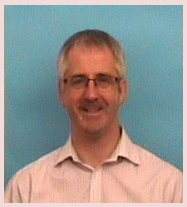
Anti-Poverty Group Preventing suffering due to poverty.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council	Marj Johnston NHS Grampian	Susan Thoms, Aberdeen City Council	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Foyer • Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership • Aberdeen Health Determinants Collaboration • ACVO • CFine • Cyrenians • Grampian Racial Equalities Council • Instant Neighbour • The Fountain of Love Church • NHS Grampian • SCARF • Station House Media Unit • University of Aberdeen

Aberdeen Prospers Responsible for improving our economy.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Allison Carrington, Skills Development Scotland	Duncan Abernethy, NESCOL	Vacant	• Aberdeen City Council • Skills Development Scotland • North East Scotland College • Nestrans • Grampian Racial Equalities Council • Robert Gordon University • Scottish Enterprise • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Department for Work and Pensions • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • Grampian Racial Equalities Council • Federation of Small Businesses • Culture Aberdeen • University of Aberdeen • NESCAN

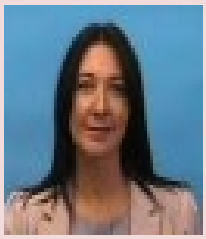
Children's Services Board Ensuring children are the future.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
 Graeme Simpson, Aberdeen City Council	Vacant	James Simpson, Aberdeen City Council	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Children's Hearings Scotland • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • Scottish Children's Reporters Association • Scottish Fire and Rescue • Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • Sport Aberdeen • Skills Development Scotland

Resilient, Included & Supported Group Helping people live independently.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Alison MacLeod, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	Kenny Collie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Grace Milne Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	• Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • NHS Grampian • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • Police Scotland • Nestrans • North East Scotland College • University of Aberdeen • Robert Gordon University • Sport Aberdeen • Quarriers

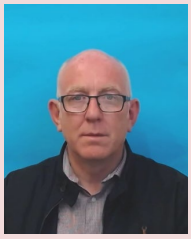
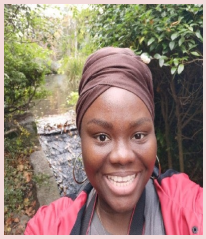
Community Justice Group Improving outcomes for people involved in the justice system.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
 Claire Wilson, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	George Nixon, Police Scotland	Chris Parker Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	• Aberdeen City Council • Health and Social Care Partnership • Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • Scottish Courts and Tribunals • Scottish Fire and Rescue • Scottish Prison Service • Skills Development Scotland • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Community Justice Scotland • University of Aberdeen • Grampian Racial Equalities Council • Families Outside

Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Tackling issues arising from substance use.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Fiona Mitchelhill, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	Vacant	Simon Rayner, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Scottish Prison Service • Aberdeen in Recovery • Alcohol and Drugs Action • Scottish Ambulance Service • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • Advocacy Services Aberdeen • North East Scotland College • University of Aberdeen

Homewards Steering Group Reducing homelessness and youth homelessness

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Dr Isaac Poobalan, Provost St Andrews Cathedral	 Campbell Thomson, Independent Chair Public Protection Committee	 Anu Kasim, Homewards	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • ACVO • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • North East Scotland College • University of Aberdeen • Aberdeen Cyrenians • Aberdeen Foyer • Aberdeen Football Community Trust • Burgesses • Department of Work and Pensions • Grampian Regional Equalities Council • Kings Church • Langstane Housing • Public Protection Committee • Salvation Army • Scottish Prison Service • Seven Incorporated Trades • Station House Media Unit • Street Soccer Scotland • Social Bite • The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales

Sustainable City Group Creating a safe, attractive, welcoming environment.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Jillian Evans, Public Health, NHS Grampian	Sinclair Laing, Aberdeen City Council	Jacqui Bell, NHS Grampian	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Civic Forum • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • Sport Aberdeen • Nestrans • SEPA • Nature Scot • NESCAN • University of Aberdeen • Home Energy Scotland • CFine

Community Empowerment Group Ensuring community perspective.

Chair	Vice Chair		Partners involved
Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council	Maggie Hepburn, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations		• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership • Civic Forum • Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) • Police Scotland • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • NHS Grampian • University of Aberdeen • Station House Media Unit • Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaboration

Community Planning Team Provides strategic support to Partnership colleagues.

Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead, Prevention and Community Empowerment, Aberdeen City Council	Allison Swanson, Community Planning and Improvement Manager, Aberdeen City Council	James Simpson, Performance and Strategy Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council
Anne McAteer, Research Officer, Aberdeen City Council		

Integrated Locality Planning Team Responsible for delivering our three Locality Plans.

City Wide	South	Central	North
Iain Robertson, Transformation Programme Manager, ACHSCP	Vibha Gaikwad, Public Health Coordinator, ACHSCP	Chris Smillie, Public Health Coordinator, ACHSCP	Vacant Public Health Coordinator, ACHSCP

City Wide	Torry	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside	Northfield, Mastrick, Middlefield Heathryfold, Cummings Park
Jade Leyden, Community Development Manager, Aberdeen City Council	Teresa Dufficy, Community Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council	Graham Donald, Community Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council	Kev Donald, Community Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council

Further Information:

If you have any questions about this report or Community Planning Aberdeen please contact: CommunityPlanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

To find out more about community planning please visit: www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Annual Outcome Improvement Report

2024/2025 Summary

Community Planning Aberdeen

Foreword by
Councillor Allard and Susan Webb

Community Planning Aberdeen is the name of the Community Planning Partnership at the heart of the city. We are made up of senior representatives from all partner agencies and we are working together to deliver improved outcomes for those who live, work, visit and do business in Aberdeen.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a legal duty on community planning partners to set out and achieve outcomes. To help do this Community Planning Aberdeen produced a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Our Local Outcome Improvement Plan, is our city wide plan for improvement. It sets out a clear vision and a ten year plan for how Community Planning Aberdeen will help improve outcomes and achieve our vision that Aberdeen will be 'a place where all people can prosper' by 2026, by working together with communities.

This summary sets out the key outcomes Community Planning Aberdeen has achieved in 2024/25 through our Locality Outcome Improvement Plan, as well as areas where further improvement is required.

Our partners and communities have been fundamental to achieving outcomes across our city and within communities. Whilst, this report highlights what has been achieved so far, we are not complacent and know there is still more to do. Our thanks go to all staff across the partner organisations and to communities for their continued commitment to working together to improve the lives of all. In the summary, you can see our top priorities for the year ahead and we are eager to see what more we can achieve together before we develop our next ten year Plan.

We want to enable and encourage all to participate in Community Planning Aberdeen and there are many ways for you to get involved. Details on all the different ways are on page 10.

Through our Locality Plan annual reports you can see the outcomes achieved working with our communities across each of three localities and in our priority neighbourhoods.

If you would like to view a full copy of the Annual Performance Report, our Locality Plan Annual Reports or to find out more about the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 or Locality Plans please visit: **www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk**

or email the Community Planning team: **CommunityPlanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Summary of Progress 2024/25

This is a summary of our headline acheivement during 2024/25 and an assessment of our overall progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes (SO) we have set out to achieve in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26. Our assessment is based on current performance compared to 2016 when we started our plan.

Key

Green Achieved/Performance higher than baseline.
Red Performance lower than baseline/Performance declining.
Amber Performance is steady/lower than baseline but improving since last reporting period

Economy		People				Place	
Stretch Outcome 1 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 3** 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 9** 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 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.	
Stretch Outcome 2 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 4** 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 10** Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 14** 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026.	
		Stretch Outcome 5 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.		**Stretch Outcome 11** Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 15** 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.	

Economy	People				Place	
	Stretch Outcome 6 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 and 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 12** Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.		**Stretch Outcome 16** 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.	
	Stretch Outcome 7 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.					
	Stretch Outcome 8 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/ disabilities will experience a positive destination.					

Prosperous Economy

How are we doing?		Headline achievements during 2024/25	Top priorities for 2025/26
Stretch Outcome 1 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.		• 7.4% fewer people worried they can't heat their home. • 3% reduction in people having to choose between heating and eating. • 57 people supported by the cash first crisis fund in first three months. • 81% of people who received cash payments, seeing a reduction in the need for a food bank. • 41% increase in the uptake of benefits. • Over 51,000 people were involved or benefitted from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund initiatives. • Stretch Outcome 2 achieved with a 74.7% employment rate. • Supported 98 individuals to start a business (45 in 2024/25), with 54 from priority neighbourhoods. • 19% increase in employers (119) accredited as paying the Real Living Wage. • 672 individuals over 50 supported into employment. • 58 people have accessed digital support, with 20 now in positive destinations. • 21 young parents co-designing an employability support package for young parents.	• Enhancing the use of data to identify and auto award benefits. • Supporting all households presenting as homeless to complete financial assessments. • Supporting people into sustained, good quality employment, with a focus on young parents and people from ethnic minorities.
Stretch Outcome 2 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.			

Children and Young People

How are we doing?		Headline achievements during 2024/25	Top priorities for 2025/26
Stretch Outcome 3 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026.		• 89.8% of children assessed in Aberdeen met their developmental milestones. • Cash-first infant formula pathway created. • 13% increase in the number of parents with under-5s completing a benefit check. • 70% of children and young people reported feeling listened to all of the time. • 10% increase in the number of S1-S6 pupils reporting that they always or often feel confident. • 5% reduction in youth anti social behaviour calls. • 68% increase in the number of care experienced young people receiving throughcare/aftercare support. • 5.1% reduction in the number of looked after children. • 20% increase in young people completing courses aligned to digital and tech sector. • 10% reduction in the gap between the % of care experienced young people and all young people achieving a positive and sustained destination. • 13.9% increase in % of care experienced young people achieving a positive and sustained destination. • 89% of young people with Additional Support Needs/ Disabilities experiencing a positive destination. • 87% reduction in number of Looked After Children missing from children's homes. • 20% increase in the number of young carers supported.	• Expand the reach of our Whole Family Approach to support more children, young people and parents. • Extending supports to the parents and families of Looked After Children to help them to remain home with their family. • Improving the attendance and attainment of pupils from our priority neighbourhoods, care experienced young people and young people with disabilities/ additional support needs. • Addressing variation and improving transitions between child and adult services.
Stretch Outcome 4 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.			
Stretch Outcome 5 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.			
Stretch Outcome 6 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 and 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.			
Stretch Outcome 7 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.			
Stretch Outcome 8 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination.			

Adults

How are we doing?		Headline achievements during 2024/25	Top priorities for 2025/26
Stretch Outcome 9 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026.		• 388 people completed domestic abuse training in 2024. • Stretch Outcome 9 achieved with 12% fewer adults charged with more than one offence. • 100% of people identified with substance concerns in justice offered or accessing support. • 225 people getting support for chronic pain at Community Appointment Days. • 1,777 people aged 50+ are now regularly engaged in Stay Well Stay Connected initiatives, 169% increase. • 67% increase in carers being supported. • 59 adults of low-income families in priority neighbourhoods supported to improve healthy eating behaviours. • 23% decrease in suspected drug related deaths. • 34.5% decrease in no. 13-15 year olds reporting that they have used cannabis. • 1.3% reduction in % of 13-18 year olds reporting that they regularly vape. • 71% of people closed from Assertive Outreach no longer considered at risk. • Invisible Cities tours launched and 4 people with experience of homelessness employed.	• Supporting people in the justice system access housing, employability, and professional support from all touchpoints to reduce repeat offending • Using data to identify areas for targeted supports to take preventative measures to reduce suicides and improve mental health. • Continue to expand and identify new Stay Well Stay Connected programmes to improve overall health and wellbeing of over 50s • Taking a whole system approach to healthy weight and healthy lifestyle interventions through our Healthy Weight Aberdeen Programme • Hold further community appointment days to increase access to community based health support • Look at ways to increase the number of people receiving alcohol and drug support in our priority neighbourhoods. • Test innovative approaches to preventing homelessness through participation in the Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales Homewards Programme
Stretch Outcome 10 Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.			
Stretch Outcome 11 Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.			
Stretch Outcome 12 Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.			

Place

How are we doing?		Headline achievements during 2024/25	Top priorities for 2025/26
Stretch Outcome 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.		• 4% increase in the percentage of land protected for nature. • 5.5% reduction in public sector emissions. • 44.2% reduction in carbon emissions. • 8 tonnes of electrical items recycled. • 29.7% fewer average daily falls from ice in AB15/16 where we have ice crews. • 2514 bikes were diverted from landfill, with 920 being repaired and reused. • 30% of people walking as their main mode of travel. • 63 I Bike School activities and over 2,037 pupil engagements. • 8.5% increase in people feeling they can regularly experience good quality natural space. • 40 community led environmental improvement projects have been funded, 67% increase from 2023/24.	• Pilot a school food waste and allotment growing initiative. • Co-locate services in a library in each of the North, Central, and South localities, to increase access to services in the community and reducing the need to travel by car. • Pilot School Streets to improve the safety of children and their caregivers on the journey to and from school, encouraging more walking, wheeling and cycling for the school journey. • Test travel tour fairs focusing on a minibeast safari, and a night-time moth-spotting trail. • Continue with the pilot social prescribing for nature.
Stretch Outcome 14 Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking; 5% of people cycling and wheeling as main mode of travel and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026.			
Stretch Outcome 15 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.			

Community Empowerment

How are we doing?		Headline achievements during 2024/25	Top priorities for 2025/26
Stretch Outcome 16 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.		• 5.6% increase in % of people who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better. • Online community empowerment toolkit launched. • 100% of Community Planning Aberdeen Board decisions which impact on children and young people informed by them. • 961 community members currently participating in community planning, an 60% increase from 2023/24. • 66% of decision makers in 2024 reported that they felt they have a good awareness of community-led initiatives in the City. • £60,000 of funding awarded to 26 projects across priority neighbourhoods.	• Incorporate tools and techniques on engaging people with lived experience within the online community Empowerment toolkit • Work with communities and young people to co-create solutions through the development of the next Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans. • Support for community led organisations to access funding for community led initiatives.

Ways to get involved

Community Planning Aberdeen is a partnership of people and organisations working together to make things better in Aberdeen.

Our ambition is for all communities across Aberdeen to be equal community planning partners and we are reaching out to all individuals, community groups and organisations to get involved in our work to make the City a place where all people can prosper, regardless of their background or circumstances.

We have a growing network of community members, groups and organisations who are working with us in many different ways but there is so much to be done that we can do better together.

Find out more about the different ways you can get involved by clicking on the links below:

Find out more about Community Planning Aberdeen

Sign up for community updates

Join a Locality Empowerment Group

Join a Priority Neighbourhood Partnership

Become a member of our Citizen Panel

Find out about other ways of working with communities

Join our Community Empowerment Network

Or simply get in touch by emailing communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Further Information:

If you have any questions about this report or Community Planning Aberdeen please contact:

CommunityPlanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

To find out more about community planning please visit: **https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/**

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
A caring partnership

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

NHS Grampian

nestrans

Scottish Enterprise

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

RGU ABERDEEN

acvo
aberdeen's 3rd sector interface

Skills Development Scotland

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE

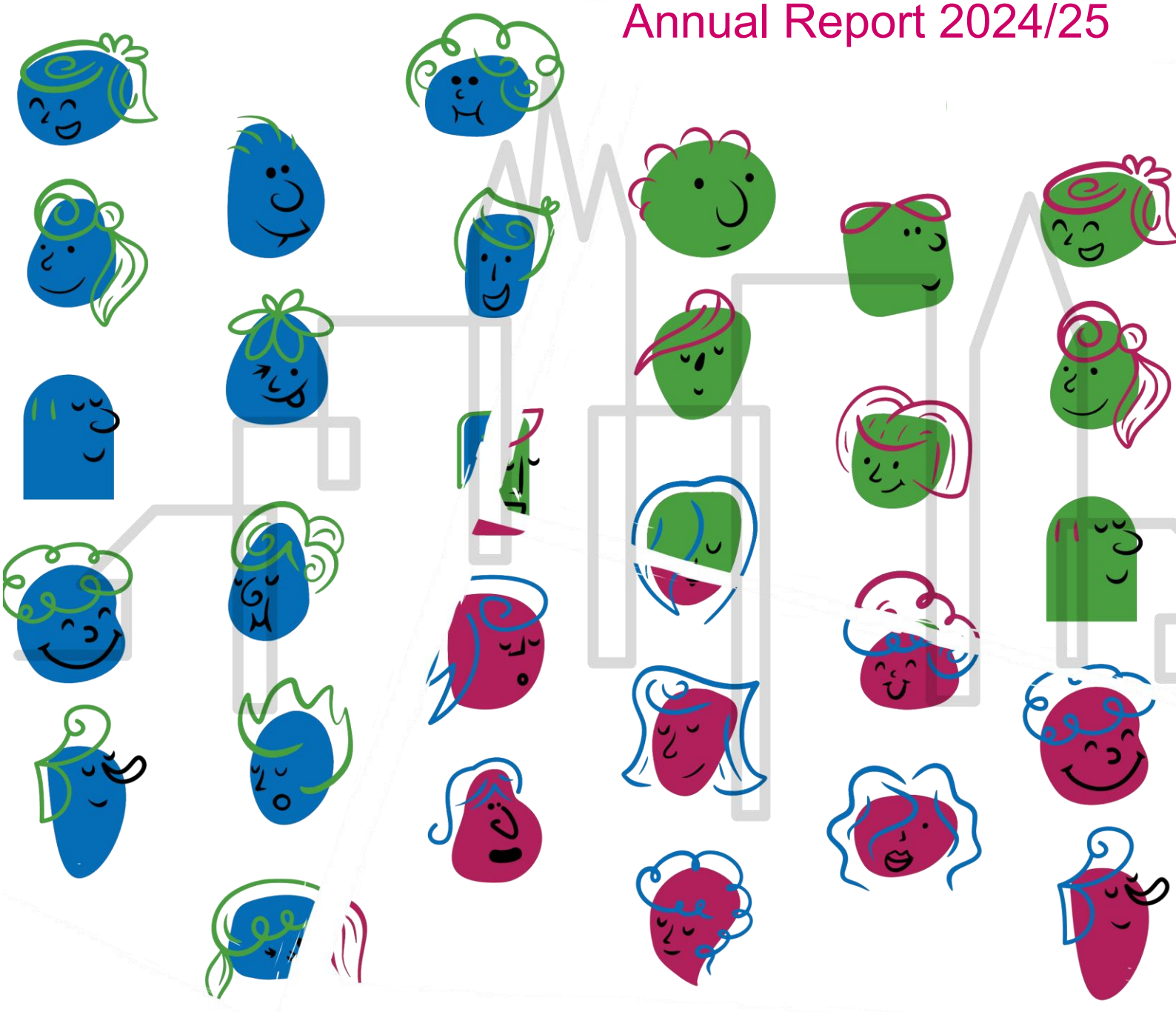
This page is intentionally left blank

Aberdeen City's Local Outcome Improvement Plan

Children and Young People's Version

2016-2026

Annual Report 2024/25



Community Planning Aberdeen

ABERDEEN'S LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN

ANNNUAL REPORT

This is a summary for children and young people to show what Community Planning Aberdeen has achieved over 2024/25 and our priorities for next year.

If you want to look at our full Plan you can view is here
[Local Outcome Improvement Plan]

Who are Community Planning Aberdeen?

Community Planning Aberdeen is made up of people from organisations and services that support people across Aberdeen.

Community Planning Aberdeen Board, is the name of the group of organisations who are responsible for making sure we stick to this Plan and we will review our progress every year to make sure we are doing everything we need to for all people of Aberdeen.

Put into action the local outcome improvement plan – our priorities for improving Aberdeen – we have 16 priorities for how we are proposing to do this. They cover four themes: Economy, People, Place and Community Empowerment with 98 projects identified to help achieve our priorities.

Make sure that all people in Aberdeen can realise their full potential

Make sure services work together for the benefit of all people in Aberdeen

Who are Community Planning Aberdeen?

Members of the Community Planning Aberdeen Board include people from Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, North East College, Third Sector. Our logos are below:

Our top 16 priorities in the plan

The Plan says that Community Planning Aberdeen want to do 16 things. This report shows what we've done to achieve these:

Economy	People	Place	Community Empowerment
1. Make sure that people feel they have enough to eat and can heat their homes 2. Help more people to find jobs	3. Make sure babies and children (0-5 years) have the best start in life 4. Improve Child Mental Health 5. Support Care Experienced Young People 6. Ensure Positive Destinations for all Young People 7. Reduce Youth Offending 8. Support children and young people with Additional Support Needs 9. Reduce Adults Re-offending 10. Improve Healthy Life Expectancy 11. Reduce Alcohol and Drug Deaths 12. Reduce Homelessness	13. Tackle Climate Change 14. Increase walking and cycle and reduce car use 15. Improve the Built and Natural Environment	16. Increase Community Empowerment

Our Economy

There are two priorities in the economy section of the Plan, with 13 projects. The intent behind them is to reduce the number of people experiencing poverty and to support employment opportunities for all people in Aberdeen.

Priority 1: Make sure people feel they have enough to eat and can heat their homes

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

More and more families find it hard to pay for bills, heat their houses and pay for their shopping. We want to support families to reduce their bills and increase the money they have.

What have we done this year?

What we've done:

- Increased the number of houses that can stay warm and cost less to heat
- Increase the number of people who have access to food
- Helped more people to get money to pay their bills

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Make sure more people know where to get help to pay their bills
- Make it easier for people to get the money they are entitled to

Priority 2: Help more people to find jobs

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

There is a bigger number of people who don't currently have a job in Aberdeen than there were before COVID-19 and we want to make sure we do the best we can to help them find a job.

What have we done this year?

What we've done:

- Helped over 600 people of the age 50 to get a job
- Encouraged more businesses to pay their staff more money
- Taught more people to use computers for their work

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Make more opportunities for people to volunteer
- Help more people to get a permanent job
- Help make applying for a job easier

Our Children and Young People

This section of the Plan is all about making sure that every child and young person in Aberdeen can achieve your goals. In total, there are six priorities for children and young people, with 32 projects.

Priority 3: Make sure babies and children between 0-5 years old have the best start in life possible

Why are the Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

All children have a right to life, good food and the right to grow up healthy. We know that these early years are really important in making sure a child is healthy and has good relationships when they grow up.

What have we done this year?

What we've done:

- Helped more families get food for their babies
- Made sure that more families who have trouble with drugs and alcohol get early access to help
- Added more activity sessions for parents, babies and toddlers

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Make sure we can find and support children whose families need our help
- Look at how we can reduce the number of children who have unhealthy weight
- Find out why more and more children in Aberdeen have asthma

Priority 4: Improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and families

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?
Every child has the right to the best possible health. We want all children to grow up healthy, loved and respected so they can achieve their full potential.

What have we done this year?
What we've done:

- Helped more and more young people to feel confident to approach adults if they need help
- Increased the number of community and school holiday activities for children and young people to help them feel safe and involved in their community

What are we going to do next?
We are going to:

- Learn more about what support for mental health is available for children and young people and provide more where we can
- Help young people who have been in care to get better access to health and wellbeing support
- Create more activities and youth groups in our communities

Priority 5: Children and young people with care experience have the same levels of education, health and emotional wellbeing and opportunities as their peers

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?
Every child has the right to protection, participation, and development. As Corporate Parents we want the same outcomes for our children and young people with care experience as any good parent would want for their own children. We want to improve the futures of our children and young people and ensure they have the love, security and chances every child should have.

What have we done this year?
We we've done:

- Helped young people who have been in Care to be confident parents
- Made sure more young people leaving care to get houses, jobs and support
- Taught our staff across all organisations to better understand the needs of children and young people in care
- Provided extra career support and advice to young people in care

What are we going to do next?
We are going to:

- Help more young people in care to remain with their family
- Support more families to stop their children from having to be taken into care
- Use the feedback from those that have experienced care to make our services better

Priority 6: Improve how well our children and young people do in school and that they have positive options for when they leave school

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

Every child has the right to an education and schools play a key role in supporting families in their communities, providing important places, opportunities and relationships for children and young people. We value the educational progress of all of our children and young people.

What have we done this year?

What we've done:

- Helped more young people complete National Qualification Awards
- Increased the number of young people who have taken digital and technology courses
- Helped more young people into healthcare courses

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

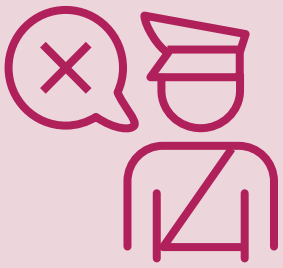
- Offer more subjects and courses in our secondary schools
- Support more young people to sign up to digital and technology courses
- Work on improving attendance in schools

Priority 7: Reduce the number of young people coming into conflict with the law

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

Children who come into conflict with the law have the right to be treated with respect and in a way that takes into account of their age. We know our children and young people with care experience are more likely to get into conflict with the law than their peers. We want to have a better, rights-based approach to youth justice.

What have we done this year?



What we've done:

- Reduced the number of young people coming into Court
- Reduced the amount of anti-social behavior by young people in the community
- Helped make sure our Looked After Children don't go missing from children's homes

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Work to reduce the number of young people in Care who commit crime
- Make more activities in the community for Children and young people to participate

Priority 8: Increase the number of children and young people with additional support needs or a disability who leave school and go on to college/university, employment, training, personal skills development, or voluntary work

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

Every child has a right to an education and to be treated with respect. We want to make sure that all of our children and young people are protected from harm and have access to support and opportunities that help them thrive.

What have we done this year?

What we've done:

- Helped more young people with additional support needs to remain in school
- Helped children with autism and their families to get more support
- Increased the number of young people who look after family members that we can support

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Increase the number of families who know about the support available for children and young people with additional support needs and disabilities in the community
- Work to support more children with autism whilst they wait to be seen by mental health services
- Provide more support and work experience opportunities for children with disabilities and additional support needs

Our Adults

This section of the Plan is all about making sure that every adult in Aberdeen can live a healthy life. In total, there are four priorities, with 35 projects to help us achieve them.

Priority 9: Reduce the number of adults who re-offend and support them to not do this again.

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

People who come into conflict with the law often have a number of needs that require support. Many may have had a difficult time as a child, live in poverty or have had negative experiences. We want to make sure that people who have offended are supported with their various needs and do not re-offend.

What have we done this year?

What we've done:

- Supported people leaving prison to get back into work
- Provided ways for vulnerable people to have their needs identified when they come into police custody
- Helped provide support to people who leave prison to make sure they don't commit crime again
- Helped make sure that people feel more confident in seeing and acting on signs of violence at home and in the community
- Reduced crime in our communities to make people feel safe

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Increase the number of people we are supporting into work and have a place to live when they leave prison
- Trying new ways to reduce the number of adults who commit crime in the community
- Help make sure that people feel more confident in seeing and acting on signs of violence at home and in the community

Priority 10: Improve the health of people in Aberdeen so that they can live longer lives

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

Everybody should have the opportunity to live a long and healthy life. We want to make sure that all people have best possible support for and access to services that mental and physical health needs.

What have we been doing this year?

What we've done:

- Helped people who experiencing long term pain to have a better quality of life
- Tested more people for signs of cancer
- Helped more pregnant women to quit smoking
- Supported people over the age of 50 to stay well and active
- Supported people with low money to improve their physical health and weight
- Identified people who are caring for their family and supported them
- Reduced the number of young people vaping

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Look at new ways to improve people's mental health
- Working to give people more support to lose weight and improve their physical health
- Provide more access to health support in the community

Priority 11: Reduce the number of people who die from drug or alcohol use

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

The number of deaths from drugs and alcohol in Scotland remains high, we want to make sure those at risk in Aberdeen are well supported to stop using them.

What have we been doing this year?

What we've done:

- Worked with young people to produce a social media campaign telling people why they shouldn't take drugs
- Increased awareness of what can happen if people take drugs
- Helped to reduce the number of people we think have died because of drugs
- Helped people recovering from alcohol and drug use to gain a job

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Train more staff on how to support people who drink too much alcohol and use drugs
- Find new ways to increase number of people who use drugs and alcohol being supported to stop
- Work with schools to raise awareness of the dangers of substance use with pupils

Priority 12: Reducing anyone in Aberdeen from being or becoming homeless

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

Everybody should be able to have a place to call home, no one should have to live on the street. People can become homeless for many reasons, and once they become homeless it can be a very hard situation to get out of. We want to help those who have become homeless or at risk of being homeless.

What have we been doing this year?

What we've done:

- Helped people who could or have become homeless to get jobs
- Looked at ways to make empty houses available to those people who don't have homes
- Looked at how to speed up the time between when someone tells us they might become homeless and them actually getting support

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Work with businesses to create even more job opportunities for homeless people
- Find new ways stop people becoming homeless in the first place
- Looking at ways to provide more accommodation for people

Our Place

The section in the Plan is about how we can improve the place of Aberdeen. The quality of the place we live in can impact how people can live healthy lives. There are three priorities in this section and they focus on reducing carbon emissions in the city, increasing the number of people walking and cycling and having well cared for buildings and open space, with 12 projects to achieve this.

Priority 13: Tackling climate change by reducing the pollution levels we are creating in Aberdeen

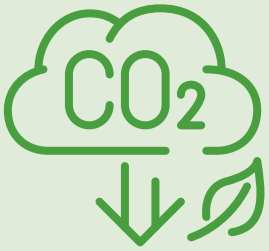
Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

We need to make sure we do our bit to improve the environment for our children and their children. In each community we need to work together to recycle, make less pollution and keep our outdoors, nice places to use.

What have we been doing this year?

What we've done:

- Reduced the amount of CO2 produced by our organisations
- Helped people in the community know what to do in extreme weather conditions like storms and heavy snow
- Made sure less people are injured due to icy weather



What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Work with schools to show pupils how to grow food and deal with food waste
- Make sure more people and communities are better able to deal with severe weather like storms, heavy snow and flooding

Priority 14: Increasing walking and cycling and reducing the amount of travelling people do by car

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?
We use so many cars that it is one of the biggest reasons for pollution in our environment. To tackle we this we want to encourage people to use cleaner ways to travel.

What have we been doing this year?
What we've done:

- We've set up new cycle hubs to help people do more walking and cycling
- Worked with schools to encourage more pupils to bike or walk to school
- Found ways to make sure that children and young people with disabilities also get the chance to cycle

What are we going to do next?
We are going to:

- Increase the amount of services we offer local communities in our libraries so people don't have to travel far to get support
- Test ways to make our streets safer for children and parents to walk in

Priority 15: Making sure our outdoor spaces like parks, gardens, playing fields woods, streets and buildings are well cared for

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?
Spending time outdoors is really important for mental and physical wellbeing. It is also a really important way we can make sure our environment stays clean, without pollution for years to come.

What have we done this year?
What we've done:

- Helped people who go to the doctor because they feel unhappy, to enjoy nature
- Given money to communities to improve their greenspaces

What are we going to do next?
We are going to:

- Make travel tours to like a minibeast safari and night time moth spotting trail paces in our communities, to make it safer for them
- Look at new ways to improve the greenspaces we have to encourage more people to use them

Having Your Say

The section in the Plan is about how we can empower everyone to get participate and have their say. The priority focuses on increasing the number of people who are sharing their view and informing the decisions that affect them, with 6 projects to achieve this.

Priority 16: Making sure everyone in Aberdeen, including children and young people can be involved in decisions that affect them

Why are Community Planning Aberdeen concerned about this?

We want to make sure that everyone has a chance to have their say on anything that we do that will affect them. To make sure that anyone can be involved in our projects our plan. And that they feel that they are involved.

What have we done this year?

What we've done:

- Made sure that all our projects that can involve children and young people, do
- Increased the number of people that are involved in our work
- Created a new toolkit to make staff and communities know how to work together and make sure people's views are taken into account when we write our plans or make changes in the community

What are we going to do next?

We are going to:

- Make sure that our communities, children and young people's views help inform our plan for 2026-36 and improve how we gather feedback
- Find new ways to use people's stories of living in particular situations help improve services
- Work with children and young people to find new ways to make sure children and young people can be involved in decision making

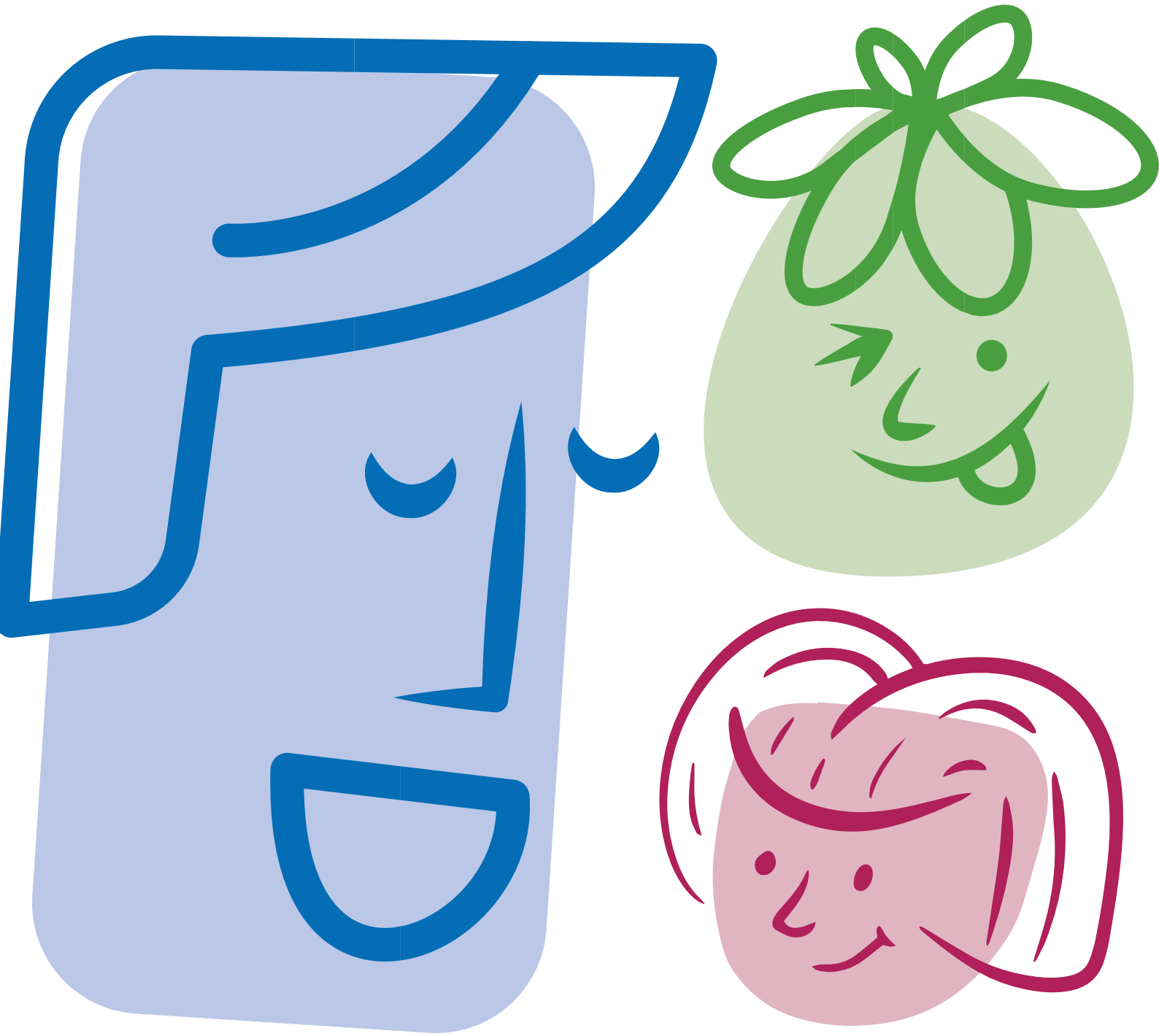
Ways to Get Involved

There are many ways you can get involved in Community Planning Aberdeen and to make things better.

Find out more about the different ways you can get involved at [Calling All Young People - Your Voices Matter! - Community Planning Aberdeen]

Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
Community Planning Partnership	Community Planning Aberdeen is the name for your local partnership of public, private and third sector organisations and communities all working together to improve people's lives across Aberdeen City.
Care Experience	'Child/ Young person/ Person with Care Experience' is the preferred terminology identified by those with experience of the care system as it is inclusive of those who may no longer be 'looked after' but still require our scaffold of support to thrive. This term includes those currently looked after and those who have been looked after at any time in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked after.
Getting It Right For Every Child	The Getting it right for every child approach, also known as GIRFEC, supports children and young people so that they can grow up with all the help they and their families need.
Independent Care Review	The Care Review heard that Scotland needs to change how it cares for children.
Law	A set of rules telling people what to do or not to do. If they do not follow these rules, they can be punished.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	Community Planning Aberdeen's plan for improvement across the city.
Participation	Children and young people have the right to say how they feel, be listened to and taken seriously.
The Promise	The Promise to care experienced children and young people, from the care review, is that they will grow up loved, safe and respected. A child-friendly version of The Promise is available here.
Strategy	A plan.
Wellbeing	Being comfortable, healthy, or happy.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Community Planning Team

communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk

If you'd like to get involved in our work you can get in touch here:

Calling All Young People - Your Voices Matter! - Community Planning Aberdeen

@CPAAberdeenCity

@CPAAberdeen

Community Planning Aberdeen

This page is intentionally left blank

Aberdeen City - North Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25

North Locality Neighbourhoods:

Dyce, Danestone, Oldmachar, Denmore, Balgownie & Donmouth, Bucksburn, Heathryfold, Middlefield, Kingswells, Northfield, Cummings Park, Sheddocksley, Mastrick, Summerhill

Community Planning Aberdeen

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the North Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The North Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the 14 neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our North Locality Empowerment Group and North Priority Partnership.

The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the North Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the North Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park, Mastrick, and Heathryfold. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.

Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the North Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to achieve the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the North Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 11

Our Place – Page 25

Our Community – Page 28

Our Economy

OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Create Opportunities for Fair Work

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credit or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **15 new businesses were set up** in North Locality through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZ Works' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.

Enchanted Elements: Case Study Shantelle first engaged with Business Gateway in February 2024 at the Cummings Park Community Centre, aiming to launch a party hire business from a retail unit. Her plan included offering equipment like popcorn and candy floss machines for events, retailing children's costumes and party bags, and providing food and party services.

Realising the financial impracticality of a shop unit, we reassessed her business model, focusing on online sales and event-based trading. With support from ABZWorks and successful Seed Fund Start Up funding, Shantelle launched her business. Her first major initiative, renting a stall at the Trinity Centre, did not yield sales or bookings. Viewing this as a learning opportunity, Shantelle appreciated not committing to a permanent retail unit prematurely. We held follow-up meetings to adjust her strategy, and she remains engaged with Business Gateway for ongoing support.

Support for Entrepreneurial Initiatives Recognising that flexible working arrangements are often key to balancing family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person which has supported 19 parents in 24-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In North Locality, **seven parents** have benefited from this initiative.

Paid Work Experience Placements in ELC Settings: ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the early learning and childcare (ELC) sector has seen the successful placement of **10 paid work experience opportunities** which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In North Locality, **two placements** have been provided.

Sector-Based Training for Expanded Childcare Access: To address long-term capacity issues in the childcare sector, ABZ Works has commissioned training activities targeted at enhancing skills and broadening access. This program has reached 29 individuals, including 10 parents, providing them with specialised sector-based training. The goal is to empower participants with the skills needed to support and expand high-quality childcare services in our communities. In North Locality, **13 individuals** have received training.

Northfield Academy pupils participated in the **Careers in Health event**, a collaborative effort between Nescol and RGU, held over two days (29-30 October 2024). The event aimed to raise awareness of career pathways in the health sector. The S4 pupils, along with students from 11 other schools, visited both Nescol's City Campus and RGU's campus at Garthdee. They engaged in various activities related to careers in Health, exploring pathways in Healthcare, Fitness Health and Exercise, and Life Sciences.

Middlefield Community Project supports local employability through partnership working with ABZ Works. Activities within Middlefield include: Arts and crafts, local history, coping skills, sign language, gardening and food growing, cooking groups, youth work groups, men's groups, Pathways support, WorkingRite, apprenticeships in the nursery, and volunteering and job opportunities through the community café.

ABZ Works Development Fund is a grant programme to support local organisations in building their capacity to deliver employability-related activities, with a focus on those facing barriers to employment, and aims to help residents gain access to employability programmes and work. Some of the recipients of the Development Funds are noted below:

Mastrick Community Centre and **Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill Community Council** are actively involved in employability initiatives funded through the ABZ Works Development Fund (Phase 3). These projects are taking place between January and March 2025.

The 'Future Focus: CV Workshop' Series supports unemployed individuals in **Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill** by equipping them with essential job market skills. It offers workshops and one-on-one sessions for CV improvement, application tailoring, and cover letter writing. Workshops are held in local venues to reduce logistical and financial barriers, ensuring accessibility for care-experienced individuals, parents in poverty, and those over 50.

Mastrick Community Centre has been funded to establish an employability café, providing a welcoming environment for individuals to enjoy coffee, chat with staff, and explore training and job opportunities. The café aims to build meaningful relationships and offer comprehensive support, including CV building, interview training, job search assistance, and guidance on training opportunities and funding. Individuals can identify and overcome barriers at their own pace with dedicated staff assistance. The focus is on boosting confidence and skills, enabling local people to connect with employers and other organisations for further training or employment opportunities.

Middlefield Community Project, funded by the ABZ Works Development Fund (Phase 2), supported two areas of work during 2024-25. Firstly, it increased support for volunteers by providing a budget for qualifications like REHIS, First Aid, and Customer Service courses, along with mentoring and management time. Secondly, it funded two, year-long adult learning classes and offers coping skills sessions to help people access these opportunities and support their mental health.

Build Your Future event @The Hub attracted 25 local people to access support from Robertson Construction, ABZ Works, SHMU, Pathways, and Middlefield Community Project at an Employability Morning hosted at the Middlefield Hub. **Two local people** who attended the event are now in full time employment or have started an apprenticeship. Several other attendees have accessed additional training or are now in sessional staff roles hoping to increase their hours. The event was a huge success.

ABZ Works has also been working alongside Sport Aberdeen at **Get Active @ Northfield** where we have set up an information stand targeting mainly parents who are attending the centre with their children. We provided information on our employability service and what support is available to Northfield residents. We spoke to approximately **80 people** over four weeks in March 2025. We are exploring the possibility of continuing the information sessions at The Middlefield Community Project.

ABZWorks conducted a **city-wide skills audit** in Aberdeen during April 2025, surveying residents to improve employability services. The aim was to identify desired skills, training and support needed for entering or returning to work. Feedback is gathered through various methods, including door-to-door visits in Northfield and other priority neighbourhoods to reach those digitally excluded or not in touch with local services. Currently, 45% of survey respondents are from Northfield.

The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **1622 young people** from North Locality. The North Locality had the highest number of young people achieving a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City.

The **Family Learning team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **36 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the North Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses. In addition, Family Learning have supported parents and carers with over £15,000 worth of childminding hours through the Scottish Childminding Association, providing placements for **16 children** across the North Locality. As well as linking families to childcare funding support via ABZ Works. This has reduced barriers to engagement with our universal courses or 1:1 targeted support to families.

Affordable Childcare

Financial Support for Childcare Costs: ABZ Works continued its commitment to support parents to remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring parents can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In North Locality, **five families** benefited from this support.

Danestone Community Centre ran a **Community Nappy Exchange**, providing nappies to families in need. The project has helped reduce the financial burden on families and promote sustainability. The project supported **545 people**. Families have expressed gratitude for the support provided by the nappy exchange.

Support our Most Vulnerable Families

Community food provision and community pantries

The Cubby was created in 2019 as a response to households struggling with everyday costs, The Cubby is based in Cummings Park Community Centre to alleviate food poverty and food anxiety. Different models were looked at including the Food Bank and Pantry models. The Pantry model was initially chosen to reduce any stigma, give a shopping experience, and promote social interaction.

Traditionally, the pantry model involved membership and session fees as people like to contribute, however, it was quickly recognised some did not have the fees so could not contribute. The fees were replaced with an honesty box with no expectation to contribute.

Currently The Cubby opens fortnightly and supports between **15-20 households** each session. Funded by Cummings Park Community Association, Health Improvement Funding, and the Trade Widows Project, the Cubby has purchased fridge freezers, and Fairshare via Cfine. The Cubby provides dried goods, tins, frozen foods, plus fresh vegetables and fruit while encouraging healthy eating as an option to members. It also signposts to other services as the need arises.

" It's handy knowing it's there if I need it, it's accessible to me and a fall back if things are getting tight."

Four volunteers at a time run each Cubby with shopping, registration, stock taking, setting out the food, dealing with customers and tidying up some of the duties entailed. Each session uses **18 volunteer hours giving a total of 432 volunteer hours a year** supporting the initiative. Volunteers have gained confidence, met new friends and been given renewed purpose. They are all enthusiastic and willing to contribute more.

"Volunteering helps my motivation and gives some purpose, rather than being stuck in the house. It's helped my confidence as I have to speak to people, even though I'm not at my best. It's helped me reflect on how I deal with things and learn to listen to people around me more."

"I like volunteering at the Cubby, I feel I'm helping out and gives me a chance to speak to folk."

During 2024-25 however, the rising cost of food prices has meant fewer food and domestic items have been donated, which unfortunately has impacted on the budget of the Cummings Park Association.

Fit like? Family Wellbeing Hubs are a group of services working together to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. The Hubs help with:

- Finance and benefits
- Family relationships and communication
- Coping with daily pressures
- Promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- Talking about traumatic things that have happened

There is a Fit Like Hub based in Manor Park Community Hub in the North Locality.

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **15 Cash First recipients were from North Locality**, with 47% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In North Locality, **£7,360.79** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Financial Inclusion

Funded by Multiply Funding, The Council's Family Learning Team supported **16 people** to take part in a four session Managing Money course at Cummings Park Community Centre. Content included creating a household budget, taking control of your money, the cost of credit and when debt becomes a problem, plus advice on how to help your child learn money skills. St Machar Credit Union also came along to speak to the groups, after which many of those attending joined the Credit Union. Twelve of the participants completed a level 2 SQA module in numeracy, and one of the groups visited the Money Museum in Edinburgh. The Money Museum have decided to develop family activities due to the visit from Aberdeen residents.

"I'm keeping track of my budgeting more"

"I'm planning ahead and understand more about interest rates"

"Very informative and engaging!"

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **177 people from North Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion To further support families, ABZ Works supported a secondment for a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure eligible families have the help needed to access the support they are entitled to. In North Locality, **40 families have been assisted.**

Fuel poverty & Affordable heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen, that delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In North Locality, **542 enquiries** were received, of these 193 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of support from Scarf, including help to heat homes, energy advice, home visits, and onwards referrals, **11% of households** were removed from fuel poverty.

English as a Second Language Support

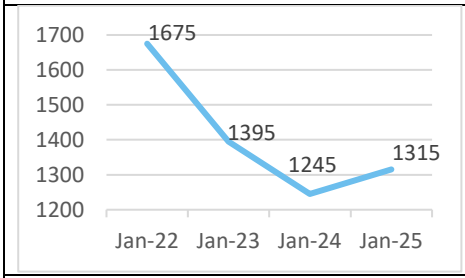
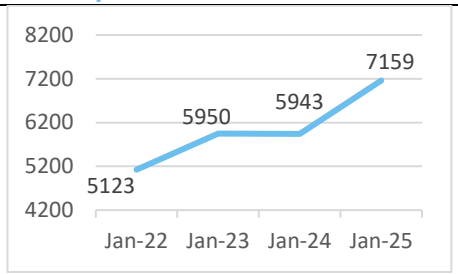
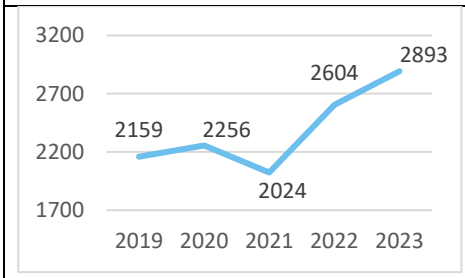
The Community Learning and Development **Adult Learning team** have delivered 55 ESOL activities to 330 learners most of whom have reported an increase in confidence (awaiting information to provide more context). Core ESOL classes follow a communicative approach focusing on developing learners' basic English skills to a level which will allow them to function in society.

Classes start at literacy level, where learners are taught how to read and write the roman alphabet and go up to Pre-Intermediate level (A2, National 3). Learners are able to prepare for SQA ESOL awards at National 2 and 3 level. They also have the opportunity to complete SQA Core Skills Numeracy Level 2 awards.

As well as core classes, ESOL learners also have the opportunity to participate in short courses on a range of topics, such as Scottish culture and visit places around Aberdeen, such as the Art Gallery or Old Aberdeen. Weekly board games sessions at the Maritime Museum also provide learners with an opportunity to develop their speaking skills in a different setting.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2024/25?

Food Insecurity	Food Poverty	Rent Assistance
10.7% of people in the North Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to **26.7%** of people living in priority neighbourhoods	**4.5%** of households in the North Locality went without food for a day compared to **6.7%** of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**177** people from North Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund

(City Voice 50, 2024)		
Fuel Insecurity	**Fuel Poverty**	**Digital Employability Support**
25.4% of people in the North Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to **62.5%** of people living in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**5.4%** of households in the North Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to **20%** of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**8** people in the North Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs
Claimant Count	**People on Universal Credit**	**Fuel Poverty**
		**21** households in North Locality were supported out of fuel poverty by Scarf
Children in low income families	**Business Start Ups**	**Digital Access and Skills**
	Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported **15** people in North Locality to start their own business	**93.6%** of North Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with **91.6%** across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- Encourage more people to start their own business and promoting local business gateway services across the wider locality
- More English as a Second Language (ESOL) services across the North Locality

Our People

OUR PRIORITIES

North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out three priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 2. Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people
Priority 3. Support local volunteering
Priority 4. Early Intervention Approach

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Upskill knowledge and understanding to improve health and wellbeing

Boogie in the Bar provides an opportunity for people at risk of social isolation to meet up at a local venue to have a blether and a dance. The Boogie in the Bar held at **New Greentree's in Dyce** continues to grow in numbers and popularity. Health Improvement Funding has enabled organisers to provide a hot meal for those attending. On average around **30 people** attend each month and come from a mix of those living in residential housing or living independently in the community.

Boogie in the Bar at **Sunnybank Football Club** also provided social activity for older adults, helping reduce social isolation and improve mental health. During 2024-25, the Boogie **supported 411 people with five volunteers contributing approximately 140 hours.** Participants look forward to the event each month, and it has become a highlight for many.

Dyce and Stoneywood Association ran a **lunch club** for up to **25 elderly people** living alone or in sheltered accommodation. The lunch club provided nutritious meals, quizzes, entertainment, and simple exercises, helping reduce isolation and improve mental health. The project supported **25 people** with **14 volunteers** contributing approximately **288 hours**.

Aberdeen North Parish Church provided a **hearing loop system** within the Aberdeen North Church building, increasing the accessibility of the weekly service for those who attend, many of whom use a hearing aid. The project has improved the accessibility of the church services, allowing more

people to participate fully. The project supported **40 people with 2 volunteers contributing approximately 208 hours** to support ensure people can access the loop. Participants have expressed gratitude for the improved accessibility.

Lewis and Taransay sheltered housing complexes (Sheddocksley) now take part in the **Compassionate Buildings and Spaces** project and have made significant progress resident health and wellbeing. Both complexes now host a monthly Boogie in the Hoose, which is something residents greatly look forward to. Between the two complexes, an **average of 60 people attend these sessions**. Feedback has been very positive and residents have said how their confidence has grown. Both complexes took part in Dementia Awareness sessions run by Age Scotland and a few residents took part in a Fun Activities Leader Training course which enables them to run Body Boosting Bingo sessions with their neighbours. Dementia friendly signage has also been purchased and will be fitted during April 2025. The next steps for this project will be to evaluate the work, share learning, and encourage other sheltered housing complexes to get involved.

Occupational Therapy Student Led Groups – Robert Gordon University

Occupational Therapy Students at Robert Gordon University received funding from the Health Improvement Fund to design, create and run activity sessions within Sheltered Housing Complexes within the North Locality of Aberdeen City. The students were able to work with residents to facilitate and adapt the sessions as appropriate. This intergenerational project supported the Students to learn through real-life scenarios which they may face when working within the health and social care sector upon graduation. Furthermore, the project supported the active aging of residents through meaningful activities. The project has involved **32 students**, who visit the sheltered housing complexes for 2 hours per week, over an 8 week period.

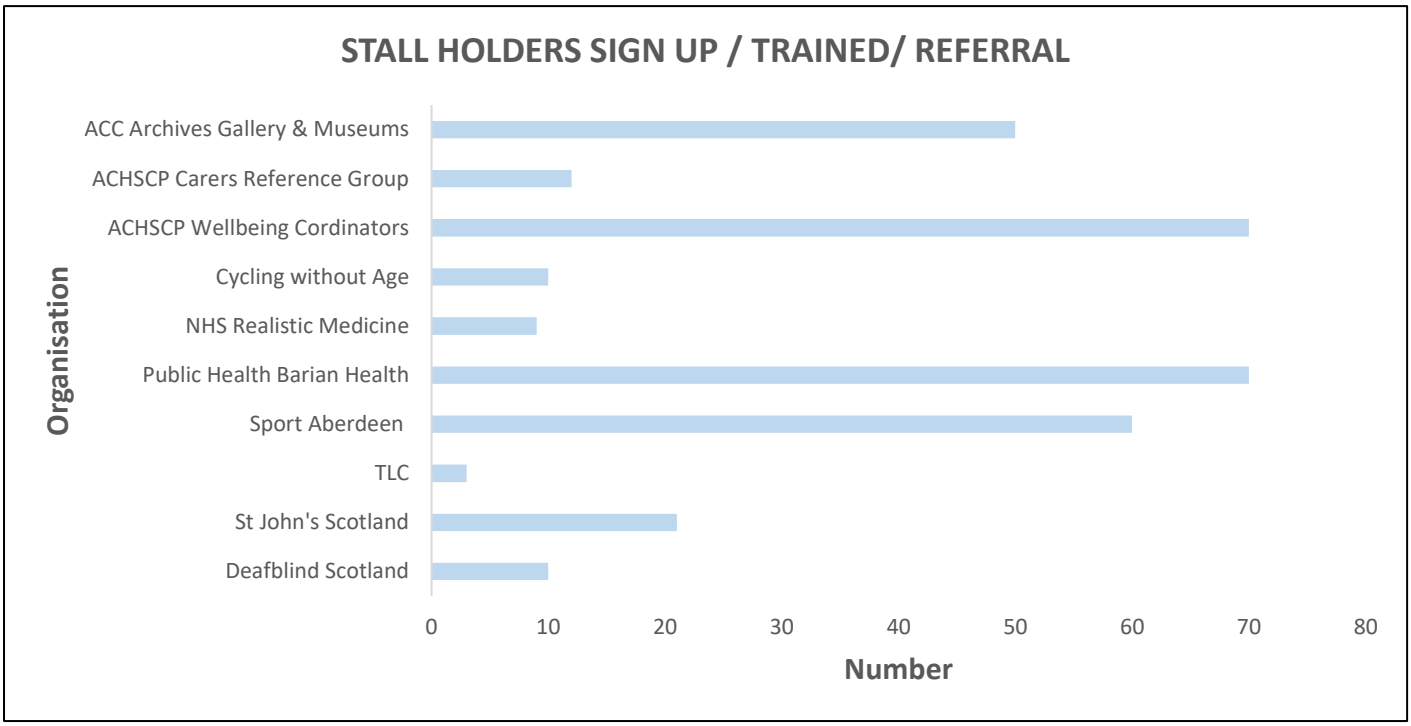
"This allows social integration for the residents through purposeful holistic activities."

Len Ironside Centre installed a basket-style swing for clients with good mobility and some independence skills, and another swing that is wheelchair accessible for clients who are not able to access a swing in any other way. The swings have provided a fun and inclusive activity for clients, improving their physical and mental wellbeing. The project supported **45 service-users** who have expressed joy and appreciation for the new swings.

Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics that are often uncomfortable and sometimes stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outline below:

- 369 people attended the Gathering, including **58 community delegates** from the North Locality
- 8 speakers
- 61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors
- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below:



The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:

The annual Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with 61 people in attendance, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach

Currently **over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight**, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and this continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, a Healthy Weight Aberdeen event held at the Town House. 111 people from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024 and visit | Aberdeen City HSCP for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Promoting Healthy Life Choices

Through our **Healthy Life Choices project** we supported **16 adults from low income families in North Locality priority neighbourhoods** to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.

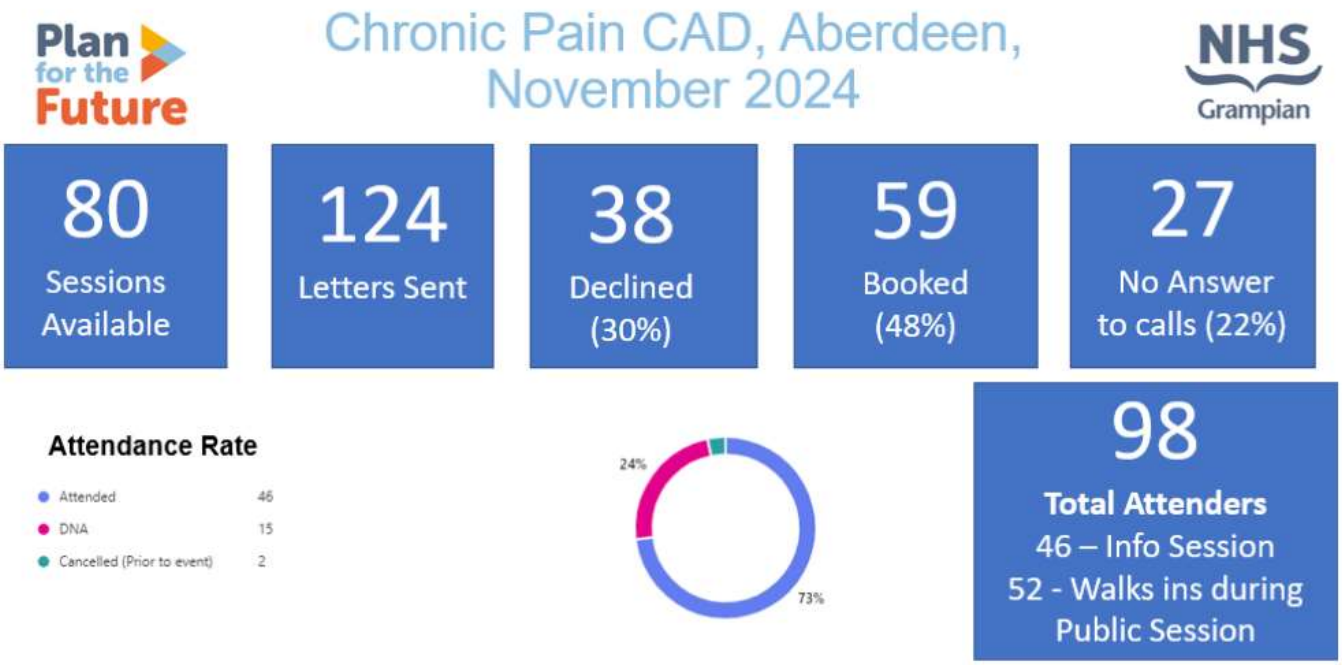
Strikers based in Bridge of Don delivered a **Walking Football Wellbeing project** to help older men maintain their fitness and stay active. The project provided a fun and engaging way for participants to stay fit and socially connected. The project supported **64 older men, with six volunteers contributing approximately 90 hours**. Participants have reported improved physical fitness and social interaction from the walking football sessions.

Community Appointment Day on Chronic Pain – Get Active @ Northfield on 27 November 2024

Community Appointment Days (CADs) are an innovative way of improving population health, social care, wellbeing by focusing on prevention and early intervention. CADs are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen. CADs promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions, the idea is that this improves patient outcomes and overall population health, and helps to protect primary and secondary care services which are under severe pressure from growing waiting lists. CADs bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them. This recognises that the current system is set up to manage one condition at a time, whereas CADs take a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue. Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to trial a CAD in Aberdeen City as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. The 2023 Scottish Health Survey also found that 38% of Scottish adults experienced chronic pain, this highlighted the importance of focussing not just on current waiting lists, but taking a more population level approach to prevent people from experiencing so much pain that they need to referred to the hospital's Chronic Pain Team. There is a widespread recognition across all sectors supporting the Chronic Pain CAD that chronic pain cannot be resolved in hospitals, instead the most appropriate interventions need to be made in our communities.

The first Community Appointment Day in Aberdeen was held in Northfield as it is one of our priority neighbourhoods and takes into account the health inequalities affecting this area of the city. Evaluation data compiled by NHS Grampian Public Health found:

- 8/10 patients felt that the CAD either mostly or completely addressed what mattered most to them
- 94% of people felt a positive impact on their wellbeing from having fewer time-constraints
- 100% of people felt positive about accessing multiple services in one day
- 9/10 people felt positive about learning about community groups
- 9/10 people would recommend this event to friends or family
- 9/10 people felt the venue was easy to find and accessible
- Attendance data and patient feedback is outlined below



"I didn't expect so much help today. I've got many helpful advices. Great event! 5 star!"

"Really positive experience. I've felt "written off" by NHS and government, and today really helped me see a way forward."

"I got the letter and thought what is this? Today has been magic, you've got to take ownership. This CAD is wonderful, without this you can feel no-one cares and you just have to get on with it"

Danestone Community Centre ran an Active Aging programme to improve health and wellbeing for less active and socially isolated members of the local community. The project successfully engaged participants in various activities, promoting physical fitness and social interaction. The project supported **21 people.** Participants have reported improved physical health and reduced isolation.

Dyce and Stoneywood Association Community Association bought two benches for Central Park in Dyce as part of the EncourAGE programme. The benches have provided a place for residents to rest and enjoy the park, promoting social interaction and outdoor activity. The project **supported over 500 people with 12 volunteers contributing approximately 6 hours**. The benches have become popular spots for community members to gather and chat.

Supporting Mental Wellbeing

Let's All Talk North East Mums (LATNEM) offered a free mental health peer support service for mums and birthing people, meeting fortnightly in Aberdeen. The project trained four new

volunteers to meet demand and provide trauma-informed support and resources for service users. The project **supported 220 people with 22 volunteers contributing approximately 195 hours**. Participants have reported improved mental health and support from the peer support service.

The Community Learning and Development **Healthy Minds team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds **supported 22 participants in North Locality with a total of 81 learner hours.**

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention delivered 50 training sessions across Aberdeen City which were attended by 663 people. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. A good example of this training being delivered within the North Locality was at the Middlefield Community Project where a suicide prevention workshop was delivered to **10 staff members**.

SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people.

Evaluation data has shown that **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

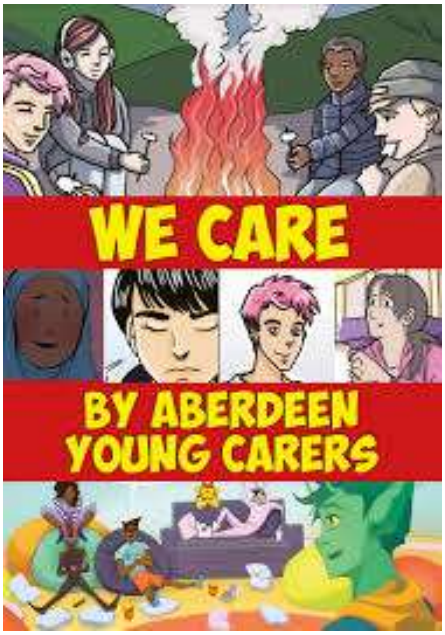
A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

"Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you"

"Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it."

Support for Young Carers



Despite the substantial support available for young carers in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **66 young carers supported in North Locality**

Case Study

A 14-year-old Young Carer (YC) was referred to Barnardo's Young Carers Service due to his significant caring role for his Mum, who suffers from advancing Emphysema, ADHD, poor mental health, and chronic pain. YC's responsibilities include household chores, emotional support, and helping with meals. The family has limited support, with no contact with YC's father and only a maternal grandfather who cannot assist due to his own health issues. YC struggles with school attendance and forming peer relationships, partly due to his caring responsibilities and bullying. Barnardo's Young Carers Service provides YC with opportunities for positive experiences, including 1-1 sessions, group activities, residential breaks, and a Befriender. YC has built a positive relationship with his volunteer befriender and enjoys group activities with other Young Carers. Various grants have been secured to support YC's participation in activities like karate lessons, coding classes, and trips, as well as accessing foodbanks and other financial aids due to the family's financial strains.

Activities for Children and Young People

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work Team** has been in Northfield, Dyce, Oldmachar and Bridge of Don Associated School Group (ASG) primary and secondary schools since 2021. The team offers a range of informal learning activities such as 1-2-1 support, Youth Awards, drop-ins and school holiday programmes. These

activities support and improves young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

267 youth work activities were delivered in North ASG's during 2024, with participants gaining either a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award.

A pupil from Northfield academy who takes part in youth work programmes had this to say:
"youth work has helped me with my confidence, help me make new friends, talk about stuff I haven't told anyone".

Roots of Empathy P2, P3 at Quaryhill and Bramble Brae Primary Schools

The Community Learning and Development Family Learning Team worked with staff at Quarryhill and Bramble Brae Schools using an evidence programme for ages 5-13 in order to develop respect and understanding for themselves and others, as well as build relationships. A supported volunteer parent and their infant visited each school for 9 of the 27 sessions at each school throughout the year. The baby's development was observed, it's feelings labled and the children were encouraged to reflect on their own and others feelings. **25 children from each school** took part.

> *"the children really enjoyed having the baby visits, teachers noticed a difference on how the children expressed their feelings."*
>
> **Family Learning Worker**

Oldmachar Youth Club identified a need for a social space for secondary school-age young people to avoid social isolation and have a safe club to enjoy games and activities. The youth club has provided a safe and engaging environment for young people, helping them build confidence and social skills. The project supported **30 people with 10 volunteers contributing approximately 468 hours**. Participants have expressed appreciation for the safe and fun environment provided by the youth club.

As a result of successful funding bids, **Sport Aberdeen** have been able to complete the refurbishment of the tennis courts at **Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre**, with new surface, fencing and floodlighting installed during 24-25. A successful launch event was held in June 2024, which attracted over **200 people**. Play & fitness equipment have also been installed as part of the phase 2 improvements. Total investment in the project was over £60,000.

Northfield Climbing Wall Sport Aberdeen's Active Schools team and Community Sport team recently reactivated the indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy as a result of a successful funding application. The teams joined forces and secured £3900 in November 2024 from Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership's Health Improvement Fund, covering the cost of inspection and recertification of the wall and helping to **train 32 people to deliver bouldering sessions**. Bouldering is a discipline of rock climbing, performed at a low height without ropes or harnesses, and has many benefits for physical and mental health.

The indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy was originally installed in 2017, unfortunately, the wall fell out of use due to staff turnover at the school and the loss of qualified teaching staff to support climbing sessions. A bustling opening event was held on Thursday 27 March 2025 to celebrate the facility being back in action. This was all made possible through close partnership working between Sport Aberdeen, Northfield Academy staff and a range of community groups via the priority neighbourhood partnership that is active in the area**.** As at March 2025, **50 young people have taken part** in school taster sessions and there are plans for setting up school lunch club sessions, and an all-girls bouldering group.

Looking ahead to the future, plans include attracting further support and funding to reactive roped rock climbing, embedding the activities as a regular part of the curricular offering at the school, supporting local clubs to develop performance pathways and enabling other external groups within the community to use the climbing wall out with school hours.

"Through bouldering you get to know different people better. Bouldering makes me feel supported and lets me trust others. I have been able to do a lot more than I thought I could. At the start of the year, on the residential trip, I nearly cried when we went climbing so bouldering has really helped my confidence. Now that I've tried it, it would be really good to be able to climb more regularly and have others try it out too." **Northfield Academy pupil**

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond.
It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone, and during the 2024-25 school year all S4 pupils were trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. Overall**, 81 naloxone kits** were supplied across North Locality during 2024-25.

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led

initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which **18%** were from the North Locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

Alcoholic Anonymous at Northfield Community Centre

Alcoholic Anonymous meet at Northfield Community Centre weekly with between **16-20 attendees** each session. Northfield Community Centre was chosen as a venue as participant's privacy is respected and members can attend from throughout the city.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour	Positive destinations	Mental Health
There were **1014** reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across North Locality during 2024. This is a **1.8%** improvement on the 1033 incidents reported during 2023. **173** incidents took place in Northfield and **171** incidents in Bucksburn, these were the highest neighbourhoods across the North Locality	**92.6%** of North Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination, this is the lowest in Aberdeen City. With **85.29%** of Northfield Academy leavers achieving a positive destination	**20.5%** of people who live in North Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is higher than the Aberdeen City figure of **17.4%** and the highest per locality in Aberdeen City
Teenage Pregnancies	**Counselling for Young People**	**Working Together with Parents**
In North Locality, **35 per 1000** girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This is above the Aberdeen City average rate of **19.8 per 1000** girls and young women. The North Locality has the highest	**100%** of schools in North Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	**27** new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children

proportion of teengage pregnancies across in Aberdeen City.		
Young People Volunteering	**Healthy Eating**	**Community Empowerment**
1622 young people from North Locality received a Saltire Award. **3623** young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City.	**15.9%** of people in North Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to **40%** of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**369 people** attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering, held at the Beach Ballroom on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. **58** attendees were from North Locality.
Alcohol Awareness	**Drug Related Deaths**	**Drug Related Hospital Stays**
48.6% of people in North Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. **20.2%** of people who live in North Locality do not drink alcohol. This figure is **29.1%** across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)	**81** naloxone kits supplied across North Locality in 2024	The rate of drug related hospital stays for the North Locality was **163.1 per 100,000** population. This is an improvement from **175.2 per 100,000** in 2022
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	**Deaths from Suicide**	**Life Expectancy**
Alcohol related mortality rates in North Locality are now **13.9 people per 100,000.** This is below the Aberdeen City rate of **19.9 people per 100,000.** North Locality had the lowest proportion of alcohol related mortality deaths across Aberdeen City	The rate of death from suicide in North Locality is **12.6 per 100,000**, this is higher than the citywide average of **11.1 per 100,000** of the population. The North Locality has the highest rate of deaths from suicide in Aberdeen City	Men who live in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live **81 years,** whereas men in Heathryfold and Middlefield can expect to live **73.2 years.** The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is **76.9 years.** Women who live in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live **85.6 years**, whereas women in Heathryfold and Middlefield can expect to live **74.7 years** – this is the area with the lowest life expectancy for women in Aberdeen City. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is **80.9 years.**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Explore options for a Northfield Pump Track
- Develop a support package for volunteers
- Support and celebrate local heritage

Our Place

OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local place:

Priority 5. Maximise use of disused outdoor space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Health Issues in the Community, a community development programme was delivered by ACHSCP at Middlefield Community Hub during 2024 to empower the local community to support health and wellbeing needs in the Middlefield area. Part of the course required attendees to research a health issue that was of concern to them or their community. Littering was raised as an issue and this led to the establishment of a community group to improve the local environment, **Keep Middlefield Clean** promotes upcoming litter picks, and information on recycling.

These litter picks were organised and attended by two community members, along with staff and volunteers from the Middlefield Community Hub and Middlefield area. Between March and June 2024, **nine litter picks over 16.5 hours were organised**, with an average of six adults and children collecting a total of **66 bags of rubbish** along with larger items such as mattresses, carpets, bikes,

trampolines and traffic cones. Regular litter picks now take place and cover the Middlefield area including the Scatter Burn.

"We want to make it a safe place for people to be able to walk about and enjoy"

" … and know that there are people who care about the area we live in."

"… let's keep it litter free and looking nice."

Cummings Park Flat have a garden which is maintained by volunteers and occasionally by the Community Payback Team. Part of the garden is allocated to grow fruit and vegetables including strawberries, apples, plums, raspberries, rhubarb, potatoes and tomatoes in their greenhouses. The fruit and vegetables contribute to participants having a healthy diet and encourages people to grow their own. The flat garden is an open garden in which welcome to help themselves to the produce, with local children often getting the fruit. The volunteers report working in the garden contributes to their wellbeing and gain satisfaction from seeing the results of their work. One of the volunteers is in their 80s and said they missed working in the garden during a recent illness. The thought of coming back to the garden inspired her to get better.

"I get a sense of making an effort and contributing, even though I don't like gardening! I also pick up litter on my way and from the garden and recycle it where possible. It's helped me grow as a person. I like recycling as it can turn a useless item in to something useful. I wish people wouldn't drop litter though!"

Heathryburn Primary School created a **community garden** to engage families in the cycle of food growing and encourage positive mental wellbeing through outdoor activities. The garden has provided a space for families to learn about gardening and enjoy outdoor activities together. The project supported **over 50 pupils.** The garden has become a popular spot for families to gather and learn about gardening.

Middlefield Community Project run a **Bike Hub** every Thursday. This is where local people can come and get their bikes repaired, or be taught how to do it themselves thus encouraging people to develop new skills and to recycle as opposed to throwing away and buying new. The project also accepts donations of bikes to repair, clean, and hand out to children in the area who perhaps couldn't afford a bike. The project **repairs 20 bikes per month** at The Middlefield Hub, and during 2024-25 handed out over **50 bikes** to local children and families.

Northfield Community Centre members have taken part in **two litter picks** during 2024. One was part of the Aberdeen 24 hour litter pick**. 30 children collected 35 bags of rubbish** from around the centre using equipment allocated from Aberdeen City Council. They were supported by six centre volunteers, a local Councillor, and a Community Planning member of staff. The second litter pick was around Lintmill shops, with **12 children and six volunteers collecting 23 bags of rubbish**.

"The kids loved it and they didn't want it to finish" – **Northfield Litter Pick Volunteer**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council's Family Learning Service supported groups from **Cummings Park** on outside **wellbeing walks** due to social contact restrictions. The parents enjoyed this way of interaction so much they have continued since. In the past year, the group meets at Cummings Park Centre and have enjoyed walks in Auchmill Woods and Aberdeen beach. At the end of each walk the group have a coffee and a supportive chat as a debrief on how their week has been. If the weather was poor, the group took part in activities inside the community centre, and this led to the creation of the Cummings Park Boccia Group. The group understands how taking part in outdoor activities contributes to their general wellbeing and mental health. Attendance varies between **2-8 people per session**.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
65.2% of North Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the **74%** of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)	**4** Supported community food growing projects happening across North Locality	**2** community groups being supported to look after community green space in priority neighbourhoods
Cycling	**Walking**	**Community Resilience Group in North Locality**
4.4% of people in the North Locality cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice, this is the lowest in Aberdeen City (City Voice 51, 2024)	**53.1%** of people in North Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to **42.1%** in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 51, 2024)	There is **one** Community Resilience Group in North Locality which serves Bridge of Don and Danestone

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces
- We will support and encourage people to walk and cycle more
- Work with local communities on improving traffic management

- Establish more Community Resilience Groups
- More initiatives which promote responsible dog ownership.

Our Communities

OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our Communities:

Priority 6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their communities

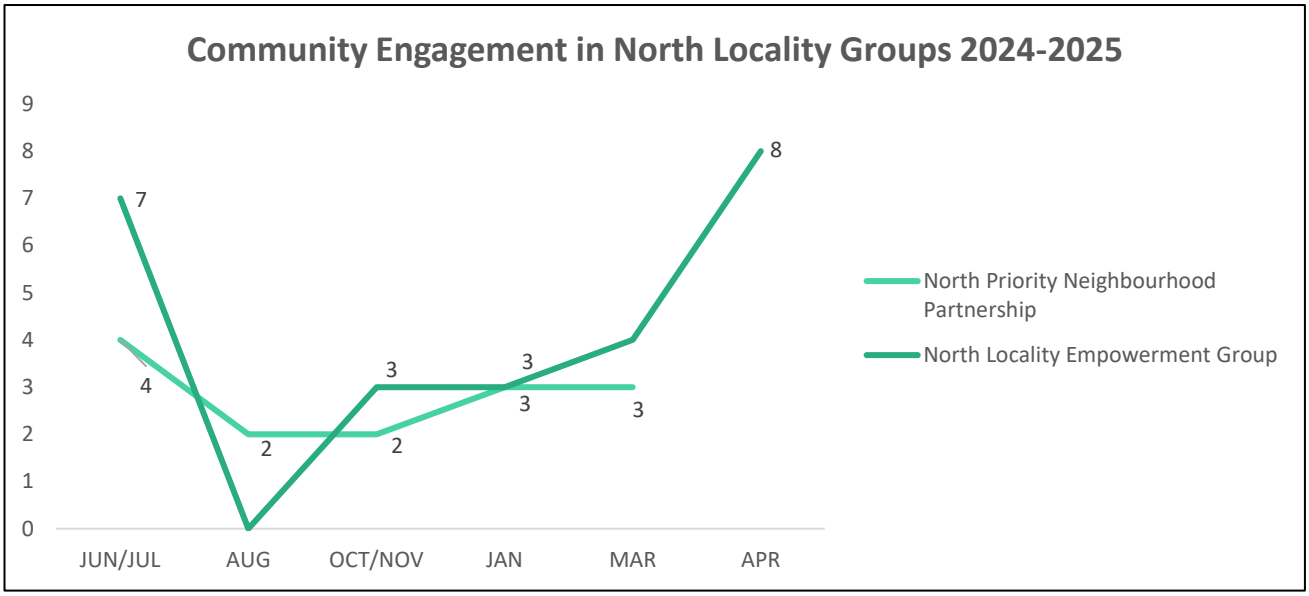
PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

There are many ways you can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for your local community and influence how public services are delivered in your area to meet your needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.

Community members in the North of the city can get involved through a range of methods:

- North Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagement



Stay updated

The **North Locality Empowerment Group** and the **Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership** are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the North Locality. As a member of a LEG and Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

Every few months, ACVO pull together a North funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update **here.**

As well as this, council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation **Newsbite** magazine, hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:

Staying mentally and physically active	Learning new skills and gaining self-confidence	Receiving support from staff
Recognition through local and national awards	Building a stronger sense of community and improving the neighbourhood.	Making new connections with like-minded people
Participating in social events and local projects	Strengthening local knowledge and sharing important information	increasing trust in communities

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more or contact the Locality Planning Team:

Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding

UDECIDE

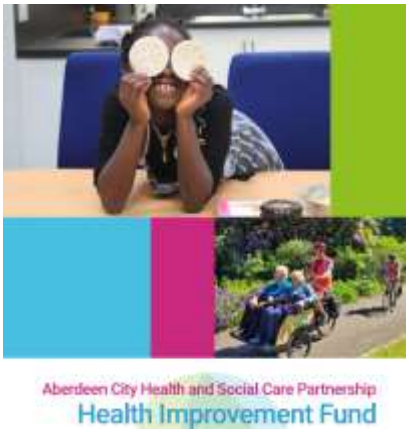
The Locality Planning Team led the delivery of a **UDecide Participatory Budgeting process**. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the North Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to **seven projects across those areas and 1 project was partially funded**. You can read more about the process here: UDecide Report 2025.

Funded UDecide Projects
Generation Games Intergenerational activities to bring people of all ages together combatting loneliness

Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities
Play Later Lights Portable lighting allowing young people to do safe positive games/activities at night *Locality Plan Priority Link: More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together*
Cummings Park Gamers Unite Gaming nights for the local community – social interaction and teamwork *Locality Plan Priority Link: More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together*
Aberdeen North Toddler Group Resources to make a Toddler group more child friendly. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities*
Try Wellbeing Activities 2025 Physical and arts & Crafts sessions supporting mental health with fun activities. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Support Community groups to know about Health and Wellbeing and Health and Social Care Services in the Community*
The Flourish Project Sessions supporting Wellbeing and mental health for young people *Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities*
Community Cycle Maintenance Training Vocational Qualification for young people to fix and maintain bicycles. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop programmes to encourage outdoor activity*
Project Strive Dance performance and theatre for young people sharing the joy of live performance**.** *Locality Plan Priority Link: Diversionary Activities for young people*



The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) process is designed to enhance health and wellbeing across Aberdeen through community-led projects. It is open to anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City, offering community grants of up to £5,000. Projects must be innovative, community-led, meet local needs, and demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing. The decision-making process involves local screening panels composed of community representatives and staff, who allocate funds based on a scoring process aligned with the fund's principles. This ensures that projects are selected fairly and effectively to address the diverse needs of the community.

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
Active Schools Football Festivals - Sport Aberdeen The project will allow football festivals across Bridge of Don, Oldmachar and Northfield ASGs.

Grandmas Group - Danestone Community Centre A peer support group for Grandmas
ASN Floor Curling - Active Schools (Dyce ASG) to support ASN Floor Curling groups.
Football Pitch Costs - Stoneywood Parkvale FC Engaging local community through football.
Nurturing Young Minds - Bridge of Don and District Men's Shed 'Intergenerational working' project, between the above two groups, to educate the children
Blast From The Past - Bucksburn and Newhills Community Council Blast From The Past Leading to the Future - historical community engagement group.
Blossoming Brambles at Bramble Brae School - Bramble Brae School A nurture space within a school aims to provide a safe, supportive environment where children can develop their emotional well-being, social skills, and resilience through tailored, relationship-based interventions.
Walking Football - Beacon & Bucksburn Community Learning Association Walking football (with instruction). Improve Health and Mental wellbeing.
The Flourish Project - The King's Community Foundation Our Flourish project is an 8 week training programme, for young people aged 10-14, supporting and promoting positive mental and emotional health. It equips them with skills to develop a healthy self-esteem, allowing them to uncover inner strengths that they didn't know they had.
Family Fun Activities - Children 1st This project will provide recreational and wellbeing opportunities to children, young people and families who face a range of barriers to equal participation in their community.
Compassionate Buildings and Spaces - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Creating Dementia Friendly environments and meaningful engagement within Sheltered Housing
Childhood Multi-Sport Activity - Danestone Community Centre Multi-sport activities tackling childhood obesity
The Bridges Choir - Absafe SCIO Intergenerational Community Choir
Bucksburn Initiative - Beacon and Bucksburn Community Learning Association Fostering Community Connections and providing Mental Health Support
Northfield Academy Climbing Wall reactivation - Sport Aberdeen The re-activation of the Northfield Academy Indoor Climbing Wall.
Physic and Sensory Gardens - Springhill Community Garden Creating physic and sensory garden areas in Springhill Community Garden, which currently maintains food growing beds, ornamental borders, and natural habitats for pollinators and wildlife. The garden is located on a former bowling green, with ample space to create educational and therapeutic areas.
Afristyle "Peer Support Dance" - Afristyle Dance Club A peer support dance project
Food, Finance, Facts & Fun – Cfine Local Charity partners working together to support their beneficiaries nutritionally and financially through education. The aim is for staff within the different orgs to be given the opportunity to attend and take part in a full day basic cooking on a budget class in order to promote classes to their own service users.

Health Diversity Network – GREC Network of volunteers to increase health literacy among ethnic minority Gypsy/Traveller community
Pillow Maah - Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership Maah, currently functioning as a pillow-type companion sensor, measures individuals' behaviour over a month while its soft, comforting form supports well-being. Although this initial version does not feature actuation, it lays the groundwork for a future, fully interactive Maah equipped with dashboards and data-driven feedback.
Boxing for All - Byron Boxing Byron Boxing Club is a not for profit Aberdeen based Boxing Club, lead and managed by passionate volunteers, offering expert tuition in boxing, fitness, promoting discipline, peak fitness, physical well-being, support and general well-being whilst also offering a diversionary project to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in the community.
Postnatal Pathways - Mastrick, Sheddocksley & Summerhill Community Council Weekly support groups for postnatal mothers, offering expert advice and emotional support.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the North Locality, **20 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £390,000.**

Consultation & Engagement

Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025. This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Get Active @ Northfield and another at Kings Community Church, we prepared a children and young people's version and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.

The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection report, HMIE reported that CLD's **"Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP"**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to

encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test here.

Your Locality Planning Team

We recognise the value of partnering with communities to foster a thriving environment for everyone. By working closely with local communities through our locality planning team, we aim to be more responsive, supportive, and action-focused. Input from the community is essential to this process.

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In the North Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade and Kev. You can get in touch with the team by emailing localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Iain Robertson

Transformation Programme Manager

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Jade Leyden

Locality Planning and Community Development Manager

Aberdeen City Council

Kev Donald

Community Development Officer

Aberdeen City Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Aberdeen City - South Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25

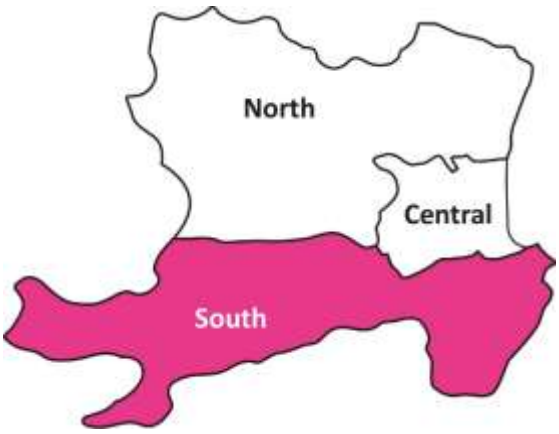
South Locality Neighbourhoods:

Culter; Cults, Bieldside, Milltimber & Countesswells; Hazlehead; Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill, Seafield; Garthdee; Ferryhill; Torry; Cove; Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg

Community Planning Aberdeen

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the South Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The South Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the nine neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our South Locality Empowerment Group and Torry Partnership.



The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the South Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the South Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Torry and Kincorth. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.

Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the South Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to achieve the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the South Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 9

Our Place – Page 22

Our Community – Page 27

Our Economy

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out two priorities to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce number of people living in poverty
Priority 2. Improve and create employment opportunities.

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Supporting our most vulnerable families

Community food provision and community pantries

Following a successful Health Improvement Fund application, the **Greyhope Soup and Sannies** began in November 2024. It has gone from strength to strength with numbers growing each month. On average **35 people** come along to Greyhope Community Hub to enjoy a free nutritious lunch, while meeting up with old and new friends. The soup and sandwiches are made on site in the community café, where four amazing volunteers serve the food.

Attendee Feedback:

"Delicious food, will be back again"

"The soup was nice but really loved the chocolate cake"

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **11 Cash First recipients were from South Locality**, with 64% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In the South Locality, **£5,510.00** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Cash First Aberdeen

Benefit uptake

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **95 people from South Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

To further support families, ABZ Works hosted the secondment of a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure eligible families have the help they need to access support. 25 families have been supported through this project in 2024-25.

The Bridge Centre partnered with the Aberdeen North Foodbank and by extension the foodbank networks around the city, The centre signposts people to food poverty groups. The Bridge Centre also runs an 'Intro to Electrics course'. From this course, **five people have moved into employment or education**, and all 14 participants have left with improved CVs and stronger networks. The Bridge Centre also runs cooking classes which helps people to budget better and improve their confidence to cook. Finally, the Coffee Bar in the Bridge Centre had a number of volunteers go on to employment or further education and even more upskill and be trained in the hospitality industry

Fuel Poverty & Affordable heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen which delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In South Locality, 433 enquiries were received, of these 128 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of the support from Scarf, including support to heat their home, general and energy advice, home visits and onwards referrals, **19% of households were removed from fuel poverty.**

The Aberdeen Trusted Trader scheme is a local business partnership scheme aimed at increasing consumer confidence, promoting good practice within local business, and helping protect citizens from doorstep crime. Trading Standards Trusted Traders have been vetted by Aberdeen Trading Standards and the scheme is supported by Police Scotland and consumeradvice.scot (a part of Advice Direct Scotland).
All Trusted Traders have agreed to trade fairly and sign-up to a Code of Practice. The Code covers:

- Transparent procedures for quoting and carrying out work
- Only charging a fair and reasonable price
- Dealing with complaints promptly

All residents of Aberdeen City can access the scheme by searching
https://www.trustedtrader.scot/Aberdeen/

Improve and create employment opportunities

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Souperb are a social enterprise based in Torry and funded through UDecide participatory budgeting in March 2025 to offer soup and a roll in a warm and friendly safe space with no cost to entry to people at risk of food poverty. The social enterprise aims to build up a pool of volunteers and collaborate with Lochside Academy and other community partners to help young people gain experience in running a community cafe. Souperb endeavours to source quality produce from CFINE, supermarkets and other suppliers at no cost.

Support for Entrepreneurial Initiatives Recognising that flexible working arrangements are often key to balancing family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person which has supported 19 parents in 24-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In South Locality, **five parents** benefited from this initiative.

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credits or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **11 new businesses were set up in South Locality** through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZWorks' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.

"This is an extremely important service as some people can't travel, for me having business support on my doorstep is perfect. My support adviser has helped me get my business up and running advising me on things I didn't know existed, helping me through my business plan and financial plan, and without this support I would never have managed to get to where I am today" ***– A new business owner from Torry***

Financial Support for Childcare Costs ABZ Works has continued its commitment to helping parents remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring parents can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In the South Locality, five families have benefited from this support.

Paid Work Experience Placements in ELC Settings ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the early learning and childcare (ELC) sector has seen the successful placement of 10 paid work experience opportunities which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In the South Locality, **four placements** have been provided.

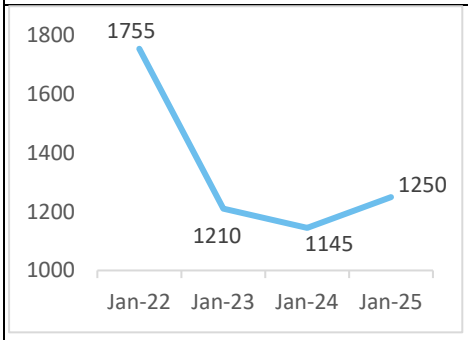
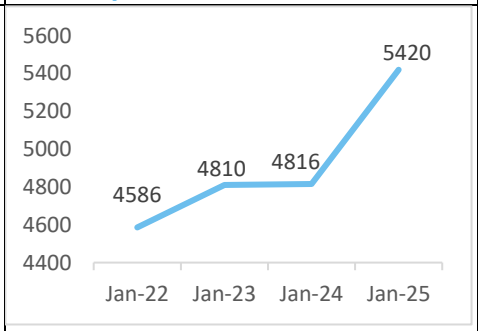
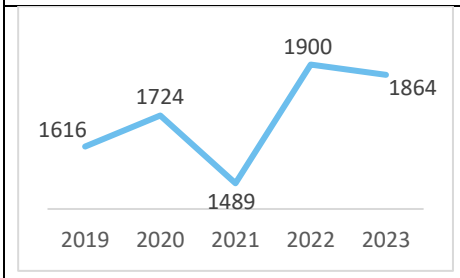
On Tuesday, 8 October 2024, NESCol's City Campus hosted the **Promoting Positive Pathways** event, organised in partnership with Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen, Scotland's Rural College, Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce North East, and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. The event aimed to upskill **100 teachers** from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by improving their knowledge of regional education pathways through workshops and a lunchtime learning marketplace. Workshops focused on pathways from school to further and higher education, employment, and apprenticeships, based on teacher feedback. The learning marketplace provided an opportunity for attendees to interact with stallholders from educational institutions and organisations, enhancing their understanding. Following the event, teachers shared their newly acquired knowledge with

colleagues in their respective schools, contributing to a better understanding of educational and career pathways for students in the region.

The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **1123 young people** from South Locality.

The **Family Learning team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **14 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the South Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2024/25?

Food Insecurity	Food Poverty	Rent Assistance
10.4% of people in the South Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to **10.9%** of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 50, 2024)	**4.9%** of households in South Locality went without food for a day compared to **5.1%** of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)	**95** people from South Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund
Fuel Insecurity	**Fuel Poverty**	**Digital Employability Support**
10.3% of people in South Locality worried they would need to choose between heating and eating, compared to **16%** of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 50, 2024)	**5.6%** of households in the South Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to **6%** of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)	**8** people in South Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs
Claimant Count	**People on Universal Credit**	**Fuel Poverty**
		**24** households in South Locality were supported out of fuel poverty by Scarf
Children in low income families	**Business Start Ups**	**Digital Access and Skills**
	Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported **11** people in South Locality to start their own business	**89.1%** of South Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with **91.6%** across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- Work with partners to improve housing insultation and retrofitting opportunities
- Work with partners to make public transport more accessible and affordable across the South Locality
- Utilise more empty buildings
- Improve affordability and accessibility of public transport

Our People

OUR PRIORITIES

South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out two priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 3. Support children and young people
Priority 4. Focus on early intervention, prevention and re-enablement actions

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Providing activities for Children and Young People

Opportunities and activities

Denis Law Legacy Trust organised a free-to-attend family fun day in Torry packed with activities to support active lifestyles and fun while bringing young people to the fore of leadership in their own community. The event was a great success, engaging the community in various activities and promoting physical fitness and leadership skills among young people. The project **supported 480 people with 20 volunteers contributing 90 hours**. Families have expressed appreciation for the fun and engaging activities provided at the event.

Community Food Initiatives North East ran Families Cooking Together (FCT), providing cooking and information sessions for families where adults and children can come together to learn new skills, build confidence, and improve health and wellbeing. The sessions have been well-attended, helping families develop healthier eating habits and improve their overall wellbeing. The project **supported 147 people with 4 volunteers contributing to the work**. Families have reported enjoying the sessions and feeling more confident in their cooking abilities.

The Torry Dancers have had a successful year with great attendance across all five dance classes. The dancers have been out in the community performing for several groups, including June's Bench opening, Provost Hogg Court, Balnagask Community Centre, Brimmond Court and for two community events in the Greyhope Community Hub. We are returning to Provost Hogg in May 2025 for another performance and the last time we were there, the girls took time to mix with elderly residents which was very much enjoyed on both sides. The dancers gain confidence when out dancing for events and the feedback from parents is positive too as they agree it's very beneficial for their

children. At the moment we are busy rehearsing for our summer show in June 2025 which the dancers and families are very excited about.

Big Noise Torry

Big Noise Torry plays a vital role in providing freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people across Torry. **Around 800 children and young people engage in Big Noise weekly** and are supported through **1,024 hours of musical provision** across three schools and the Greyhope Community Hub. Big Noise have welcomed over **1,500 audience members when attending 30+ community events** and performances, strengthening local pride and participation. The Big Noise Holiday clubs annually provided **192 hours** of free childcare, meals, and engaging activities to support families facing poverty, directly aligned with the South Locality Plan's priority of reducing child poverty.

Other noteworthy support provided by Big Noise included:

- The Big Noise Youth Voice and Young Leaders programmes with **27 older young people** participating, building employability and leadership skills,
- Sustained early intervention through weekly "Little Noise" baby music sessions (**19 families signed up**) and inclusive support for children with additional needs reinforced early prevention aims.
- Community musical groups, such as "The Noise" and monthly care home concerts, promoted social connections for people across generations.
- More than **100 additional community members** joined activities like Big Sing sessions, drumming, and ceilidhs, promoting inclusion and wellbeing.

Big Noise's work directly supports the South Locality Plan's focus areas of reducing poverty, improving employability, supporting children and young people, and increasing community involvement, while promoting mental wellbeing, healthy choices, and inclusion throughout Torry and beyond. Find out more about Big Noise Torry here.

Young People's Mental Wellbeing

Gray Street Allotment Association applied for funding to purchase equipment for an intergenerational gardening project with Broomhill Primary School;. The project **supported 300+ people with three volunteers contributing approximately 300 hours.** Children have expressed excitement about gardening and have learned valuable skills through the projects.

Inchgarth Community Centre provided several pre-school activities which benefited both children and parents, while offering opportunities for P1 and P2 children which also brought parents together. The activities have successfully engaged children and parents, helping them build stronger connections and improve their overall wellbeing. The project supported **680 people** with **two volunteers contributing 96 hours**. Families have expressed appreciation for the engaging activities and the opportunity to connect with others.

Cults Academy ran **Confidence to Cook** sessions, allowing young people the opportunity to gain a certificate, improve confidence in cooking, and learn about healthier eating on a budget. The sessions have been well-attended, helping young people develop essential cooking skills and confidence. The project **supported 10 people.** Participants have reported feeling more confident in their cooking abilities and enjoying the sessions.

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work Team** has been in the Lochside, Hazlehead and Cults Associated School Group (ASG) Primary and Secondary schools since 2021. The team delivers a range of informal learning activities such as Confidence to Cook, Youth Awards, 1-2-1 support and the AMPED project. These activities support and improves young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

279 youth work activities were delivered in the South ASG during 2024. **44 participants** gained either a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award. **23 participants** took part in the Confidence to Cook programme during 2024 and received a certificate on completion.

Positive Destinations for Care Experienced young people

The ACHSCP Public Health Team train practitioners to deliver the PEEP (Parents as Early Education Partners) programme. PEEP recognises that parents and carers are children's first and most important educators.

The Peep Learning Together programme supports parents and carers to:

- Value and build on the home learning environment by making the most of everyday learning opportunities.
- build and strengthen attachment relationships with their child through listening, talking, playing, singing and sharing books together.
- help babies and children to make the most of their opportunities by becoming confident communicators and active learners, ready for school

Hazlehead Primary School ran **Peep sessions** for young families to promote positive parenting and make connections with others in the local community. The sessions have provided valuable support and information for families, helping them build stronger connections and improve their parenting skills. The project **supported 80 people**. Families have expressed gratitude for the support and connections made through the PEEP sessions.

Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

Fit like? Family Wellbeing Hubs are a group of services working together to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. The Hubs help with:

- Finance and benefits
- Family relationships and communication
- Coping with daily pressures
- Promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- Talking about traumatic things that have happened

There is a Fit Like Hub based in Tullos Community Centre in the South Locality.

Supporting People to Make Healthy Choices

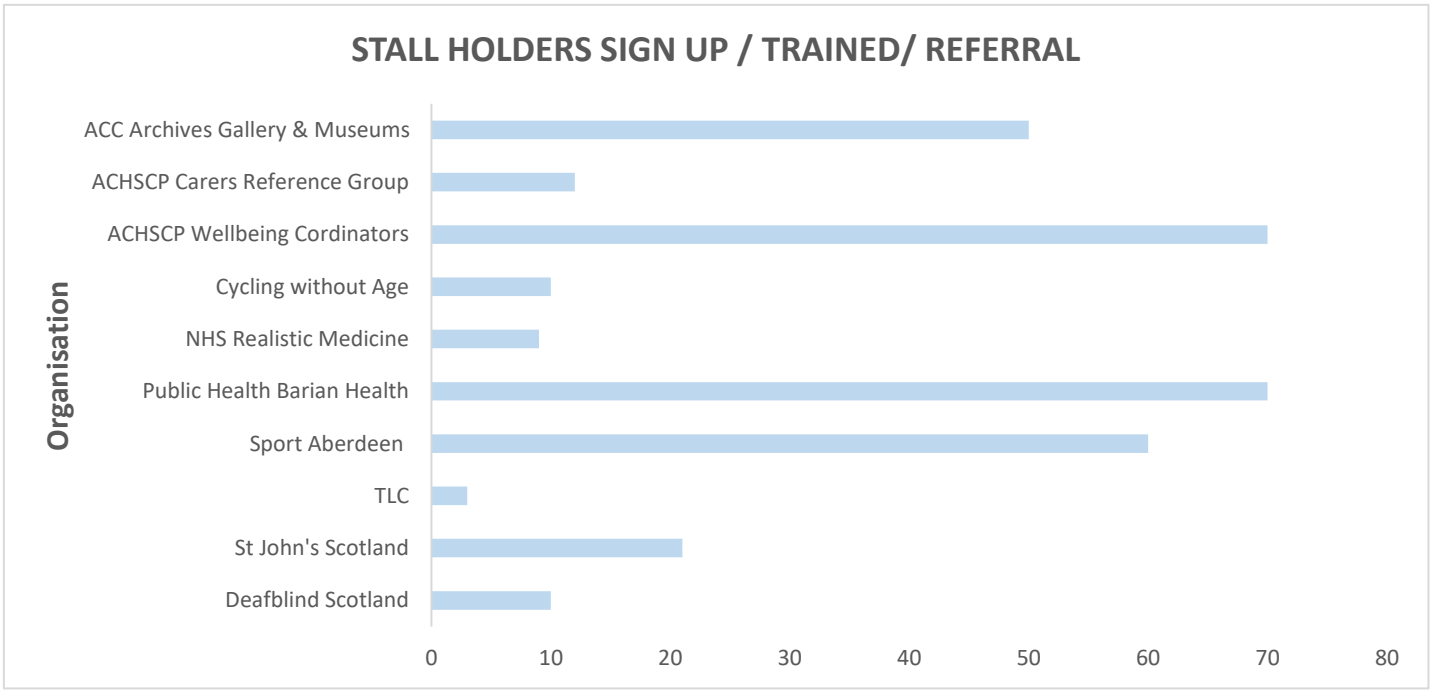
Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics that are often uncomfortable and sometimes are stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outline below:

- 369 people attended the Gathering, including **46 community delegates** from the South Locality
- 8 speakers

61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors

- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below:



The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:

The annual Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with 61 people in attendance, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

Community Feedback

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach

Currently over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of the pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, a Healthy Weight Aberdeen event was held with 111 people from a range of sectors in attendance. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024 and visit | Aberdeen City HSCP for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a Healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Through **our Healthy Life Choices project** we supported **12 adults** from low income families in South Locality priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority

neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.

The Torry Health Matters network was established in 2024 to strengthen working relationships and increase communication between services, organisations, and community members to specifically focus on the health and wellbeing of the Torry community.

During 2024, the Torry Health Matters set up the following community projects:

- A thriving weekly Knit and Natter group **10-15 people** attend on regular basis
- A monthly Soup and Sannie event where **30-45 people** attend
- A weekly Bumps to Bairns parent and child group **5-8 families** attend

The network's focus in 2025 will be on two specific themes: Men's health and wellbeing, and Family Health and Wellbeing. Torry Health Matters will work closely with NHS Grampian's Putting People First initiative to plan a series of Torry Men's Health MOT events as part of Men's Health week 9th -15th June. Other projects in the pipeline include Jog Torry; and developing health and wellbeing activities within Provost Hogg Court.

Boogie in the Bars are day time discos which aim to support older people and people with learning disabilities at risk of social isolation, physical & cognitive decline, and loneliness. The Boogies always provide attendees with a light lunch.

The Boogie in the Bar at the **Abbott Bar, Kincorth** has been running for just over two years with **1750** people attending. There have been several friendships made over that time with friends meeting up outside the Boogies to socialise which is great to hear!

Feedback:

"I have made some lovely new friends since coming here. I feel happy again"

"Love coming here, everyone is so friendly"

The Boogie in the Bar at the White Cockade, Torry was established in June 2024 and was initially the first Monday of every month but unfortunately did not get high numbers of people attending. This prompted the ACHSCP Wellbeing Team to reach out to local care homes and sheltered housing units in Torry which allowed residents to find out what suited them, and a decision was taken to move the Boogie to the first Thursday of every month starting on 6 February 2025. Between

February and March 2025, **97 local people** attended the Boogie at the White Cockade, with very positive feedback. The South Locality is fortunate to have Natalie, a community volunteer who DJs at both the White Cockade and Abbott, she is very appreciated by all staff members , volunteers, and attendees.

Attendee Feedback:

"My husband, who has dementia wasn't sure about coming. He now can't wait to come along. We now go to The Abbott as well."

Health and Wellbeing Support for Households Affected by RAAC

On 24 and 25 June 2024, health and wellbeing drop-in sessions were held in the Bridge Centre, Torry to offer health and wellbeing support for households affected by Raac housing in Balnagask. Key officers and workers from ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, Penumbra, SAMH's Link Practitioner Service, and Mental Health Aberdeen **supported 10 local people** through signposting to Penumbra 1st Response, Well Aberdeen, and Self-harm services; Mental Health Aberdeen's Raac support group held during August-September 2024, and Mental Health Aberdeen's Torry Counselling service; and the Peep Families Learning Together programme.

Issues discussed and addressed at the sessions included:

- Mental health and anxiety
- Children's mental health
- Family support
- The Council's response and how they had been communicating with affected households
- Lack of stability and inconsistency of information shared with regards to RAAC housing
- Timing of moves
- School transitions and worries about additional costs such as school uniform costs
- Transition and anxiety associated with re-location
- Future of Torry and the local community

Support for Young Carers

Despite the substantial support available for young carers in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **40 young carers** supported in the **South Locality**

Young Carer Case Study

An 18-year-old student was referred to the Barnardos Young Carers Service in August 2020 for support due to their substantial caring role for their mother, who has Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E). The Young Carer (YC) provides emotional support, assists with shopping, personal care, and household activities. They also manage their own health needs and have faced mental health challenges throughout their childhood.

Initially, YC received fortnightly one-to-one sessions to understand the impact of their caring role and to access breaks from caring. Over time, the focus shifted to exploring healthy coping strategies, building self-esteem and confidence, developing peer relationships, and managing poor mental health. Regular communication with professionals and the family helped support YC comprehensively. The YC's mother also engaged with Adult Support Groups, becoming more independent in accessing her own support. YC has participated in social opportunities through various groups and activities, accessed financial support, and used their experience to help create an in-school Young Carers group, raising awareness and establishing a Young Carers lead at their school.

healthy minds

The Council's **Community Learning and Development Healthy Minds Team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds supported **15 participants in the South Locality with a total of 42 learner hours.**

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond.
It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development events to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone and from the 2024-25 school year, all S4 pupils trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. Overall **94 naloxone kits** were supplied across South Locality during 2024-25.

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which 19% were from South Locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November 2024, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention delivered 50 training sessions across Aberdeen City which were attended by 663 people. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. In the South Locality, SAMH's Link Practitioner Service participated in a dedicated outreach event on 25 June 2024 to support the wellbeing of tenants and owners affected by RAAC concrete in their homes in Balnagask.

SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people.

Evaluation data has shown that **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

"Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you"

"Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it."

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour	Positive destinations	Mental Health
There were **893** reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across South Locality during 2024. This is a **1.9% improvement** on the 910 incidents reported during 2023. **213** incidents took place in Torry, this was the highest per neighbourhood across South Locality.	**94.2%** of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. With **91.44%** of Lochside Academy leavers achieving a positive destination	**16.9%** of people who live in South Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is slightly lower than the Aberdeen City figure of **17.4%**
Teenage Pregnancies	**Counselling for Young People**	**Working Together with Parents**
In South Locality, **20.9 per 1000** girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This just above the Aberdeen City average rate of **19.8 per 1000** girls and young women.	**100%** of schools in South Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	**27** new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children
Young People Volunteering	**Healthy Eating**	**Community Empowerment**
1123 young people from South Locality received a Saltire Award. **3623** young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City	**15.4%** of people in South Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This has increased from last year's figure of **10.1%** (City Voice 50, 2024)	**369 people** attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. **46** attendees were from South Locality.

Alcohol Awareness	Drug Related Deaths	Drug Related Hospital Stays
51.1% of people in South Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. The South Locality has the highest proportion of people (**31.9%)** who do not drink alcohol across Aberdeen City (**29.1%)** (City Voice 49, 2024)	94 naloxone kits supplied in South Locality during 2024-25	The rate of drug related hospital stays for South Locality was **118.1** per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from **135.3** per 100,000 in 2022
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	**Deaths from Suicide**	**Life Expectancy**
Alcohol related mortality rates in South Locality are now **14.4 people per 100,000**. This is below the Aberdeen City rate of **19.9 people per 100,000**	The rate of death from suicide in the South Locality is **10.4 per 100,000**, this is below the citywide average of **11.1 per 100,000** of the population.	Men who live in Braeside can expect to live **84.2 years,** whereas men in Torry East can expect to live **71.5 years.** The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is **76.9 years.** Women who live in Braeside can expect to live **84.7 years**, whereas women in Torry East can expect to live **76 years**. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is **80.9** years.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Increase positive destinations for vulnerable learners
- Work with partners to make childcare accessible and affordable for all

Our Place

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local place:

Priority 6. Identify and maximise use of green space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Encourage community growing spaces

Inchgarth Community Garden was created in 2018 by volunteers at Inchgarth Community Centre, and has grown in size and beauty ever since. With lovely areas to sit and enjoy the world go by, to enjoy reading a book or lunch, or learning and volunteer, there's something for all at the garden. With lots of food growing there is plenty of free food too. There is also can access to toilets, a cafe, an excellent playpark, and picnic benches. It's a truly lovely space for all to enjoy, and a warm welcome is assured to all.

Tullos Community Garden

In 2024, the garden had a successful year with numerous events and community collaborations. Highlights include the Big Garden Bird Watch, two well-attended family events, and the formation of the Aberdeen Community Garden Network (ACGN), which helped with garden improvements. The garden celebrated its sixth birthday with a local turnout and activities, while volunteers from various groups, including Barnardo's and Ashtead Technology, contributed to significant projects. The CFINE HOPE team enhanced the garden's compost system, and a memorial was held for a founding member. Regular volunteering sessions continued, though turnout was sometimes low. A CFINE songwriting course also took place, linking

the garden with the community. The garden group wishes to extend their thanks to key supporters and volunteers.

Cook and Create – Freelance Creative Practitioners

Cook and Create was a project targeted at primary aged children to encourage food skills and healthy eating within a creative and inclusive environment. The project was run over three sessions, each session consisted of cooking and eating a healthy meal together and participating in some arts and crafts to finish the day. While eating the meal, the participants were able to speak about the ingredients used within the meal and explore the importance of healthy eating together. The work undertaken during the art sessions was utilised to create a recipe book for all participants to share with their families upon Cook and Create project finishing.

".. a portion of the recipe for each child to take away at the end of the session. This ensured that participants had adequate access to healthy food whenever we were able to support this and it also supported sharing of what was learnt in the sessions with family and friends after the session ended."

Safe and Welcoming Environment

Asylum and Refugee Care ran an eight-week program for asylum seekers using social and therapeutic horticulture practices to enable integration into the local community by improving English language skills, horticultural skills, and wellbeing through meaningful gardening and outdoor activities. The programme has successfully helped asylum seekers integrate into the community and improve their overall wellbeing. Participants have reported improved language skills and a sense of belonging in the community.

During 2024-25, **Greyhope Bay** have organised **nine litter pick events**, which was attended by **130 volunteers**. It is estimated that **1170 bags of rubbish** were collected during the litter picks. Aberdeen City Council supported the local litter picks by providing Greyhope Bay with the kit and equipment.

Support people to make healthy choices

Jog Torry was funded through **UDecide participatory budgeting** in March 2025 to organise a community fitness celebration day to motivate the wider community to improve their health and wellbeing. The aim is to kickstart jogging in Torry with two blocks of coach-led sessions, with encouragement for two participants from each group of 20 to go on and complete the Jog Scotland training enabling them to run the Torry group as volunteers, helping the programme to be self-sustaining.

It is envisaged the fitness day will take place at St Fitticks Park and include a 5km round the park for the first couch to 5km course completers. The fitness day will also provide refreshments for the community and will host information stalls on various themes including community walking groups (paths for all), chair based aerobics, Sport Aberdeen offers, and other fitness opportunities in the area. Local parents at Greyhope Primary School have already expressed interest in linking up with the project. The project is supported by the Torry Health Matters Group as it helps to meet one of its core aims to improve adult fitness, mental health, and prevent diabetes.

St Fitticks Park Walking Group started in June 2024 through support and encouragement from Sport Aberdeen.

The walks start at the Bridge Centre in Torry at 11am on Fridays. Up to **10 people** participate regularly on the walks.

The **Friends of St Fittick's Park** have had a busy and successful year, offering family workshops, community gatherings, and environmental activities in Torry. Highlights include nature-based events like "Build a Bee Hotel," mammal detection workshops, and regular litter picks, collecting around **50 bags of litter and five shopping trolleys**. The classroom, which celebrates its first birthday in June, has been a hub for community engagement and will continue to host events in 2025, including a bioblitz and citizen science activities. The group has received support from various local and national organisations, and they look forward to a busy summer season.

"Mum, we were at the nature park and it was brilliant!"

One of the comments from an excited child after a recent Friends of St Fittick's Park family event.

Kaimhill School Enhanced Provision created a sensory garden for children with additional support needs. The garden has provided a safe and engaging environment for children to explore and learn, helping them feel more regulated and connected. The project **supported 50 children** and has become a favourite spot for them to explore and learn about nature.

Deevale Greenspace Growers

The Community Development team identified and surveyed the greenspace area is behind flats on Deevale Gardens, Cairnvale Place, Cairngorm Drive and Faulds Gate in Kincorth in May 2023. 90 homes were visited and **59 responded**.

Residents were surveyed to find out if they would like to see the development of the greenspace at the back of their homes for the benefit of the local community. We held two garden meetings with interested residents to explore residents ideas. The project focussed on developing a growing plot for the garden. The project has been successful in growing a range of vegetables throughout the summer 2024.

One grower has started documenting the progress through poetry.

The growers supported hosted a 1st birthday celebration to showcase the garden with residents with tea and homemade cakes. At the event, residents were asked for ideas for Phase 2 for example flower planting, seating options to make it a welcoming and social space and extending the growing space.

Social Juice is a community interest company dedicated to upcycling surplus fruit to invest in new community orchards and environmental projects. This year Social Juice has created its first batch of cider and perry from surplus apples and pears to start building an income stream to support community projects. We are inviting donations of surplus fruit from the gardens and orchards across Aberdeen to expand what we do. During 2024 we have been able to supply locally grown apples and pear trees for five community groups in Aberdeen, with orchard planting projects at Torry, Cove, Mounthooly, Woodside and Tillydrone. These will provide locally grown apples and pears for people in those areas, flowers for pollinators and a rich environment for wildlife. In Torry, Social Juice was honoured to receive three grant awards to revive St Fittick's Edible Garden and transform it into community biodiversity hub to help our local wildlife including pollinators. The grants from the Just Transition Participatory Budget, the Coast and Communities Fund, and Nature Hubs Fund Social Juice has secured so far are half the battle and we need help from the Torry community to create a community garden for the benefit of all. Contact us if you are interested on info.socialjuicecic@gmail.com.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
69.6% of South Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the **74%** of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)	**12** supported community food growing projects happening across South Locality	**5** community groups being supported to look after community green space in Torry and Kincorth
Cycling	**Walking**	**Community Resillience**
10.6% of people in the South cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice (City Voice 51, 2024)	**64.2%** of people in South Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to **47.4%** in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 51, 2024)	There are **2** Community Resilience Groups in the South Locality. These groups cover Culter; and Cults, Bieldside, and Miltimber

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces
- Review the impact of cyclists and other users on the Deeside Line

Our Communities

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our Communities:

Priority 6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their communities

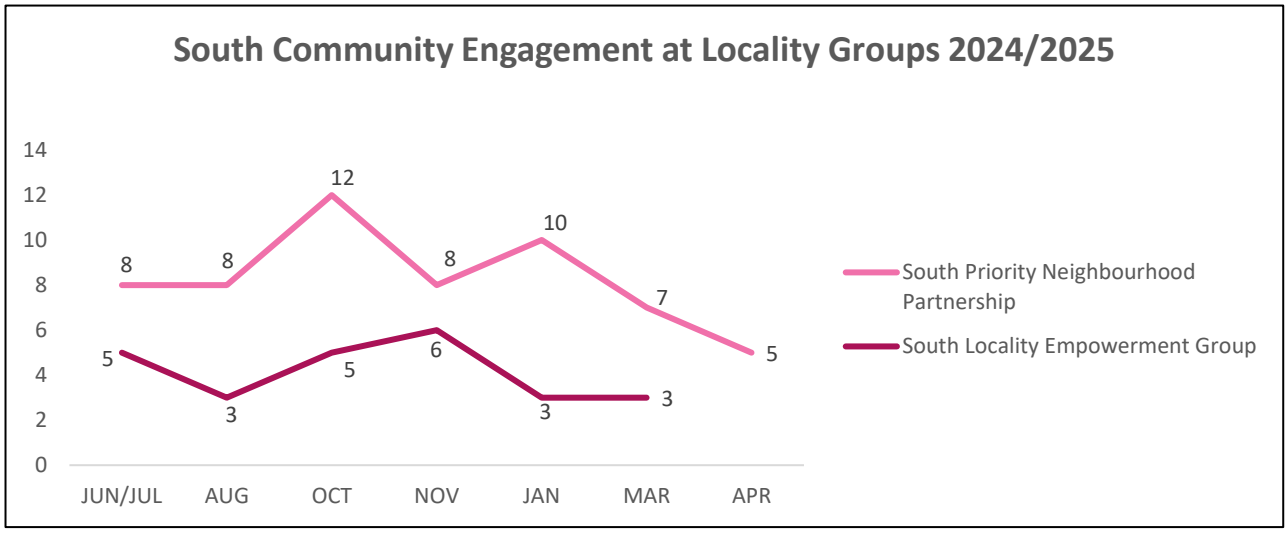
PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

There are many ways you can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for your local community and influence how public services are delivered in your area to meet your needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.

Community members in the South of the city can get involved through a range of methods:

- South Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- Torry Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagement



Stay updated

The **South Locality Empowerment Group** and the **Torry Partnership** are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the South Locality. As a member of a LEG and Torry Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

Every few months, ACVO pull together a South funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update **here.**

As well as this, council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation **Newsbite** magazine, hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.

In March 2025, with help from SHMU, a group of community members launch the **Connected Torry** website, for local people to find out more about what's on it the area, about local groups and read local news stories.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more or contact the Locality Planning Team:

Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding

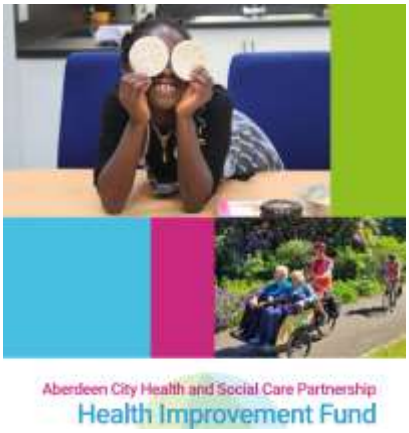
The Locality Planning team led the delivery of a UDecide Participatory Budgeting process. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Torry and Kincorth who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the South Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to 9 projects across Torry and Kincorth and 1 project was partially funded. You can read more about the process here: UDecide Report 2025.

Funded UDecide Projects
Schools First Aid Training Services CIC – South Training children the essentials and basics of First Aid. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training*
Christmas Lights for Provost Watt Drive in Kincorth Christmas lights and a light switch on celebration, bringing the community together *Locality Plan Priority Link: Celebrate and increase awareness of community led projects*
Gardner Green Space Creating safe and welcoming green spaces for residents to socialise and enjoy nature. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Promote use of greenspace and improve access to greenspace*
Kincorth Rainbows Youth Community Group Providing a safe, girls only space for the members to be themselves, learn and develop. *Locality Plan Priority Link: More freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities*
51st Aberdeen Brownies Inspiring and empowering girls aged 7-10, helping them develop valuable life skills *Locality Plan Priority Link: More freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities*
Souperb Free soup and roll, giving young people the experience of running a community Café. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
Peep TALK group Family group supporting young children's speech, language and communication. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training*

Recreation Club (Our Lives Our Community) A club helping mental resilience, health and wellbeing, healthy relationships, community spirit. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Identify and develop actions to address the mental wellbeing of young people*
JOG TORRY Kickstarting Jogging in Torry with a community fitness celebration day. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop opportunities/spaces for more physical activity in the area- Torry 10k.*
Torry Clean & Green Initiative Revitalising Torry, fostering clean, safe public spaces through school roadshows *Locality Plan Priority Link: Increase litter bins*



The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) process is designed to enhance health and wellbeing across Aberdeen through community-led projects. It is open to anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City, offering community grants of up to £5,000. Projects must be innovative, community-led, meet local needs, and demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing. The decision-making process involves local screening panels composed of community representatives and staff, who allocate funds based on a scoring process aligned with the fund's principles. This ensures that projects are selected fairly and effectively to address the diverse needs of the community.

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
Young Carers Confidence to Cook skills – Barnardos Confidence to Cook skills Sessions will be offered to Young Carers.
Sporting Equipment for All – Albury Sports Hub Replacing and renewing worn equipment and provided extra equipment for young users.
Project Netball – Active Schools (Lochside ASG) A safe and encouraging club for young girls to play netball recreationally and competitively.
Unleash Your Drive – Golf & Mental Toughness Tools – Active Schools (Cults ASG) Using golf in schools as a context for pupils learning mental toughness tools.
Intergenerational Gardening Project – Gray Street Allotments Association Creating a garden in a designated area at Broomhill Primary School Play Ground. Helping children.
Torry Dance Group – Torry Dance Group Free zumba and highland dance tuition.
Confidence to cook for menopause and women's health – Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership A project to equip women with the skills, knowledge and confidence to cook, eat and prepare healthy meals that will have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing especially in preparation for the menopause and hormonal changes.
Torry's Bumps & Babies - NHS Childsmile To provide a warm and welcoming setting where new Mums / Mums to be, can meet

Connecting the Dots From the Ground Up -Torry Health Matters Network Torry Health Matters –promoting community health & wellbeing activities, improving communication between and access to services, directed by the community's priorities.
Walk and Talk therapy in St. Fittick's Park - Friends of St Fittick's Park Improving mental health and wellbeing by supporting people to get access to being outdoors in nature and the opportunity for conversations during nature walks. We will offer creative workshops for people to participate in arts and crafts activities, as well as individual outdoor walk and talk sessions with a qualified counsellor.
Community Media for Change (Torry) – SHMU A community media project, which will deliver positive health outcomes for individuals and the wider community of Torry.
Hope and Meal Project - North East Black Ethnic Minorities We will establish a monthly dinner club in Aberdeen, providing nutritious meals and support for the homeless and those in need. This safe space will foster community spirit and social interaction. Our goal is to improve the well-being of vulnerable individuals by addressing hunger and isolation.
Unity in Wellness Project - Pillar of Hope A free, culturally sensitive befriending service for BAME adults in Aberdeen with long-term health conditions, who face a higher risk of social isolation, poor health outcomes, and marginalization. The service is delivered by trained volunteers, providing tailored befriending support to help improve their well-being.
Gairn Community Garden - Gairn Community Garden Garden with raised beds, play areas, and seating to promote social interaction and health.
Get fit for Project - Inchgarth Community Centre. Provide free fitness and wellbeing activities for those facing the barriers and challenges to participation listed above, with the view to improving people's health and wellbeing across a wide section of our community.
Step Ahead – In Your Power A person-centric 'one-stop-shop' that helps individuals: 1. understand who they are 2. Identify what support they need to realise their potential 3. find the right delivery method 4. and deliver that support to them, enabling them to live a healthy, empowered life within our community.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the South Locality **20 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £370,000**

Consultation & Engagement

Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025. This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Greyhope Community Hub and another at Airyhall Library, a children and young people's version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.

The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection report, HMIE reported that CLD's **"Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP"**

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test here.

Your Locality Planning Team

We recognise the value of partnering with communities to foster a thriving environment for everyone. By working closely with local communities through our locality planning team, we aim to be more responsive, supportive, and action-focused. Input from the community is essential to this process.

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In the South Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, Teresa, and Vibha. You can get in touch with the team on localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Iain Robertson

Transformation Programme Manager

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Jade Leyden

Locality Planning and Community Development Manager

Aberdeen City Council

Vibha Gaikwad

Public Health Co-Ordinator

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Teresa Dufficy

Community Development Officer

Aberdeen City Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Aberdeen City - Central Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25

Central Locality Neighbourhoods:

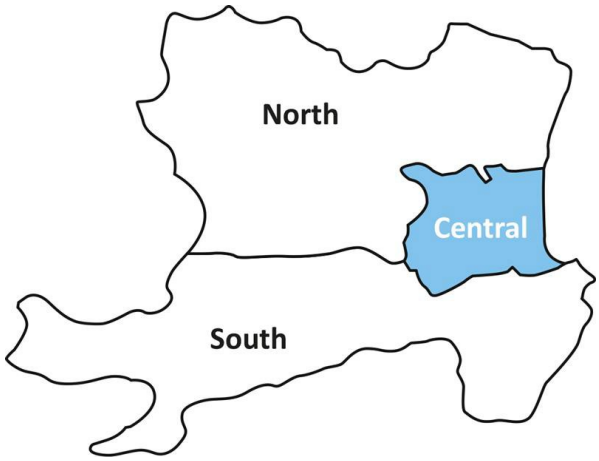
Ashgrove, City Centre, Froghall, George St, Hanover, Hilton, Midstocket, Old Aberdeen, Powis, Rosemount, Tillydrone, Seaton, Stockethill, Sunnybank, West End and Woodside

Community Planning Aberdeen

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the Central Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The Central Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the sixteen neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our Central Locality Empowerment Group and Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership.

The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the Central Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the Central Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Ashgrove, George Street, Tillydrone, Seaton, Stockethill, and Woodside. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.



Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the Central Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to deliver the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the Central Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 11

Our Place – Page 26

Our Community – Page 30

Our Economy

OUR PRIORITIES

The Central Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Supporting our Communities who Experience Poverty

Community food provision and community pantries

The Seaton Pantry receive two deliveries per week from CFINE's Fare Share scheme. Most of this food is at the end of its useful life; the principle being to reduce food wastage. Our principal aim however was to reduce hunger in the community. The pantry also provides free period products and sometime toiletries, cleaning product and baby products.

The pantry serves around 60 people a week but we know those community members have families. We estimate that up to **8640 people** were supported through the Seaton Pantry during 2024-25. Ther Pantry also works closely with the Council's Family Learning Team, Co-Operative Supermarket's Coboodle initiative, the Russell Trust, the Vaccination ansd Wellbeing Hub, Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR), Family Learning groups, Adult Learning ESOL classes and counselling service, Abernecessities, Community Outreach Group (C.O.G), Citizen Advice Bureau, and the Cash First Project.

The Pantry provides volunteering opportunities, we currently have **eight volunteers** who have been a great asset to the pantry for the past year.

The pantry has had a significant impact on the local community. Local people have reported it has been life change knowing they can access food and other items at the centre without being questioned or judged.

Seaton Soup and Sannies is jointly delivered by ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, and Seaton Community Hub. It has been running for over three years, initially starting once a month however very quickly moved to twice a month. Up to **30 participants** attend each session from sheltered housing complexes within the Seaton area. Fleet transport provide a bus for those who are unable to attend independently. A small group of dedicated volunteers help ensure this runs every month as it would not be possible without them.

Feedback from Attendees:

"I am very satisfied coming here; I am glad I was introduced to it"

"The food is excellent, and the staff are very helpful"

"It's lovely enjoying time away from home, meeting other people and not cooking"

Cornhill Soup and Sannies is jointly delivered by ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, and Cornhill Association. This was established on 16 January 2025 following a successful application to the Health Improvement Fund. The number of attendees has increased each month, with 23 people attending during May 2025. Due to the awarding of UDecide participatory budgeting , the project team is now able to increase these sessions to twice a month which started in May 2025. This will give more local people the ability to attend. The kitchen is currently run by a dedicated volunteer, and a new volunteer joined the team in April. As part of the dedicated Stay Well Stay Connected LOIP project, Sport Aberdeen will periodically deliver chair based exercises at these sessions to increase the mobility of attendees

Cash First Aberdeen

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **31 Cash First recipients were from Central Locality**, with 52% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In the Central Locality, **£16,700.00** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **185 people from Central Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion To further support families, ABZ Works hosted a secondment of a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure that eligible families have the support needed to access the support they are entitled to. In Central Locality, **44 families** have been supported.

Fuel Poverty & Affordable Heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen which delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In Central Locality **1,032 enquiries** were received, of these 390 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of support received from Scarf, including help to heat their home, general and energy advice, home visits and onwards referrals, **19% of households were removed from fuel poverty.**

The NESFit project, funded through Health Improvement fund, "Campaign for Warm Healthy Homes," aims to improve the health and wellbeing of householders by providing health monitoring equipment for their homes. This equipment will be lent out to monitor environmental factors that affect health, helping individuals to better understand and manage their living conditions. The project focuses on creating healthier home environments, which can significantly impact overall physical and mental health. By empowering residents with the tools and knowledge to monitor their home environments, NESFit seeks to foster a proactive approach to health and wellbeing.

English as a Second Language (ESOL) Support Adult Learning have delivered 487 ESOL activities to 996 learners a total of 28,739 learner hours. Core ESOL classes follow a communicative approach focusing on developing learners' basic English skills to a level which will allow them to function in society.

Classes start at literacy level, where learners are taught how to read and write the roman alphabet and go up to Pre-Intermediate level (A2, National 3).

Learners are able to prepare for SQA ESOL awards at National 2 and 3 Level. They also have the opportunity to complete SQA Core Skills Numeracy Level 2 awards.

As well as core classes, ESOL learners also have the opportunity to participate in short courses on a range of topics, such as Scottish culture and visit places around Aberdeen, such as the Art Gallery or Old Aberdeen. Weekly board games sessions at the Maritime Museum also provide learners with an opportunity to develop their speaking skills in a different setting.

The Culture Cafe at Fersands and Fountain offers a safe place for people to come and practice their English language. Our workers and volunteers organise a programme that encourages discussion about various subjects. Often guest speakers come from agencies with useful information about their services. **Twenty four people** attended one of the meetings which usually ends up with a meal being served. Its nice to see people making new friends and the mix of nationalities is great too. Several of the attendees have started volunteering and many others now use other community services.

Sport Aberdeen provided football sessions for asylum seekers and refugees housed in Aberdeen. The football sessions have provided participants with access to high-quality facilities and kit, helping them stay active and integrate into the community. The project has been successful in promoting physical fitness and social inclusion. The project supported **100 people with 6 volunteers contributing 80 hours**. Several participants have been scouted by local football clubs and are now playing in local leagues.

Strengthen Opportunities for Business Growth

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credits or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **28 new businesses** were set up in Central Locality through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZWorks' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.

Selkies Wonders: Case Study

Michelle Grey founded Selkies Wonders, a business specializing in handcrafted potion bottles and "nerdy" cross-stitch art inspired by fictional literature. She first engaged with Business Gateway in 2023 at the Tillydrone Community Campus, seeking support to launch her creative enterprise.

Facing her own health challenges, Michelle saw starting her own business as a path to recovery and self-reliance. With the help of Business Gateway and ABZWorks, she developed her business plan and financial forecasts, and secured startup funding for materials.

Michelle's participation in ABZWorks workshops and mentoring sessions boosted her confidence and capability. Encouraged to reach out to author Sarah J. Maas, Michelle became an official merchandiser for the author—a significant milestone for her business.

Additionally, she secured a £450 "Give It a Go" grant from The King's Trust, aiding her early growth. Michelle now regularly attends craft fairs and has a stockist in Banff, where she also hosts successful "make your own potion" workshops. Michelle's story highlights the importance of accessible, community-based business support services in turning visions into reality.

Support for entrepreneurial initiatives which recognises the importance of flexible working arrangements to balance family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person which supported 19 parents in 2024-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In Central Locality, **seven parents** have benefited from this initiative.

Support Development of Employment Opportunities

Paid Work Experience Placements in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Settings ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the ELC sector has seen the successful placement of 10 paid work experience opportunities which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In Central Locality, **four placements** have been provided.

Sunnybank Community Centre provided affordable yoga, employability skills for non-native English speakers, and a book challenge for primary age children. The yoga classes and employability skills workshops have been well-attended, helping participants improve their physical health and job prospects. The book challenge has incentivized children to read at home, promoting literacy and learning. The project supported **28 people with 1 volunteer contributing 16 hours**. The yoga classes have helped participants manage stress and improve their overall wellbeing.

St Machar Academy pupils participated in the Careers in Health event, a collaborative effort between Nescol and RGU, held over two days (29-30 October 2024). This event aimed to raise awareness of career pathways in the health sector. The S4 pupils, along with students from 11 other schools, visited both Nescol's City Campus and RGU's campus at Garthdee. They engaged in various activities related to careers in Health, exploring pathways in Healthcare, Fitness Health and Exercise, and Life Sciences.

On Tuesday, 8 October 2024, Nescol's City Campus hosted the **Promoting Positive Pathways event**, organised in partnership with Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen, Scotland's Rural College, Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce North East, and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. The event aimed to upskill around 100 teachers from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by improving their knowledge of regional education pathways

through workshops and a lunchtime learning marketplace. Workshops focused on pathways from school to further and higher education, employment, and apprenticeships, based on teacher feedback. The learning marketplace provided an opportunity for attendees to interact with stallholders from educational institutions and organisations, enhancing their understanding. Following the event, teachers shared their newly acquired knowledge with colleagues in their respective schools, contributing to a better understanding of educational and career pathways for students in the region.

The Digital Skills Project led by **ABZ Works** aimed to upskill people who needed both basic and sector specific digital skills to enhance their employment opportunities. As at 31 March 2025, **58** people have accessed digital support, with **20 now in positive destinations** (6 in employment, 4 in education, 8 in further training and 2 volunteering). In addition, **27** people have received a laptop to apply for jobs, with **11 from Central Locality**. These laptops were issued by ABZWorks and funded via **No One Left Behind**. The laptops have provided participants with the suitable resources to help apply and interview for jobs from home, participate and complete online employability courses and support them to complete home tasks set out by employability training providers to help move them towards gaining employment.

ABZ Works also funded a programme in January 2024, where **seven** participants engaged in digital and employability activities, resulting in **four** participants moving into positive destinations. Based on this success, two new programmes were funded by ABZ Works, a digital and media skills, delivered by **SHMU in Woodside**, and a specific IT training programme, delivered by **Aberdeen Foyer** have been delivered during 2024 to offer an enhanced range of digital activities. **Seven people** from the Central Locality completed sector specific training and one person gained employment. This programme has also just received a 12 month extension that offers **40 more places** for 2025-26.

The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **878 young people from Central Locality**.

Affordable and Accessible Childcare

Financial Support for Childcare Costs ABZ Works has continued its commitment to helping parents remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring that families can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In the Central Locality, **six families** have benefited from this support.

Printfield Community Project have been making childcare more affordable and accessible to increase parental employment. **27 children** have registered with Woodside Partnership After School Club. Parents and Carers are charged £8 and £7 per session respectively.

Sector-Based Training for Expanded Childcare Access To address long-term capacity issues in the childcare sector, ABZ Works has commissioned training activities targeted at enhancing skills and broadening access. This programme has reached **29 individuals, including 10 parents**, providing them with specialised sector-based training. The goal is to empower participants with the skills needed to support and expand high-quality childcare services in our communities. In Central Locality, **14 individuals** have received training.

Fersands and Fountain's Afterschool Club provide a nurturing environment and pick children up from Kittybrewster and Woodside Primary Schools ensuring they arrive at our centre where qualified staff are ready to care for them and offer healthy snacks. Our programme is designed to be fun and engaging, involving a variety of activities that include cooking, dancing, arts and crafts, team games, board games, quizzes, and sports games in our gym hall. Children love joining in Zumba and fitness sessions, participating in musical games, facing exciting challenges, and enjoying movie nights. This is a Joint Partnership with Printfield Community Project.

Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

Fit like? Family Wellbeing Hubs are a group of services working together to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. The Hubs help with:

- Finance and benefits
- Family relationships and communication
- Coping with daily pressures
- Promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- Talking about traumatic things that have happened

The **Family Learning Team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **10 SQA Awards** in session 2024-25 across the Central Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2024/25?

Food Insecurity

7.3% of people in the Central Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to **8.1%** of people living in priority neighbourhoods
(City Voice 50, 2024)

Food Poverty

4.1% of households in the Central Locality went without food for a day compared to **8.1%** of households in priority neighbourhoods
(City Voice 50, 2024)

Rent Assistance

185 people from Central Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund

Fuel Insecurity

21.8% of people in Central Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to **26.3%** of people living in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)

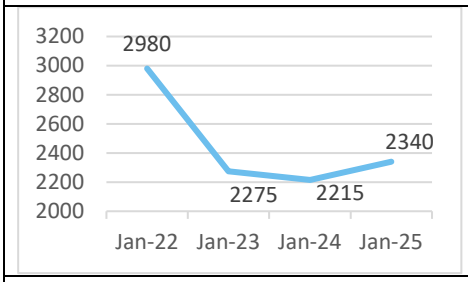
Fuel Poverty

5.7% of households in Central Locality had to seek support to pay for heating, compared to **8.1%** of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)

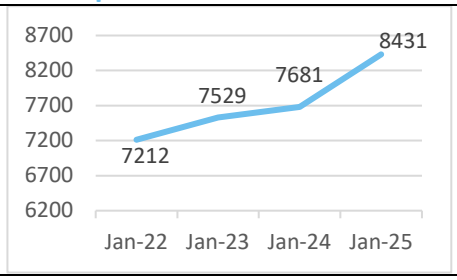
Digital Employability Support

11 people in Central Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs

Claimant Count



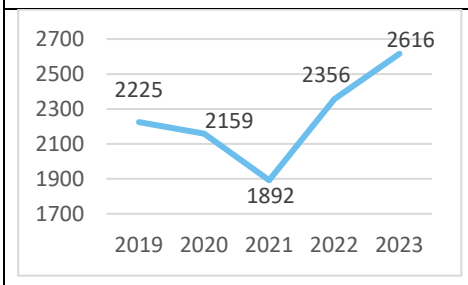
People on Universal Credit



Fuel Poverty

74 households in Central Locality were supported out of fuel poverty by Scarf

Children in low income families



Business Start Ups

Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported **28** people in Central Locality to start their own business

Digital Access and Skills

91.4% of Central Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with **91.6%** across Aberdeen City
(City Voice 49, 2024)

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Utilise more empty buildings and visually improve local areas
- Strengthen relationships with local businesses
- Visually improve the area to encourage use/business
- Encourage more employers to sign up to the real living wage

Our People

OUR PRIORITIES

Central Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out three priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 2. Improve mental wellbeing of the population
Priority 3. Ensure people can access services timely through a person-centred approach
Priority 4. Create safe and resilient communities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Improve Mental Wellbeing of Population

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work Team** has been in the St Machar and Aberdeen Grammar Associated School Group (ASG) Primary and Secondary schools since 2021. The team offers a range of informal learning activities such as 1-2-1 support, Youth Awards and drop-in sessions to support and improve young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

246 youth work activities were delivered in the Central ASG during 2024. **165 participants** gained a Hi5/Dynamic Youth Award.

Cairncry Community Centre hosted a number of festive celebrations during December 2024 to support those who may not otherwise be able to join in with Christmas meals and parties, due to financial or personal constraints. The main event included a 3-course Christmas Day lunch which was open to local residents who could not access food or were lonely or isolated. A free meal was provided, along with entertainment and a gift. The celebrations reduced social isolation, improved mental health and aimed to reduce the stigma around food access.

"The day really emphasised community spirit and the importance of coming together."

Fersands and Fountain SCIO supported adults in the Woodside community to reduce isolation, anxiety, and stress through positive activities. The project has successfully kick-started a range of adult services, helping participants make new friends, enjoy positive activities, and reduce fear, anxiety, and stress. Community spirit has increased, and participants have access to more information and advice. The project supported **72 people with 7 volunteers contributing 800 hours**.

A participant who was previously isolated now actively participates in community events and activities.

Grampian Society for the Blind, operating as **North East Sensory Services (NESS),** delivered yoga classes for adults with serious sight and/or hearing loss to improve physical and emotional wellbeing. The yoga classes have been highly beneficial, helping participants manage the impacts of their sensory loss and improve their physical and emotional wellbeing. The project provided accessible exercise opportunities for those with serious sight and hearing loss. The project supported **nine people with two volunteers contributing 52 hours**. A participant reported improved balance and reduced anxiety after attending the classes.

S.T.A.R. - Seaton Taking Action For Regeneration runs a community hub offering various services including food bank vouchers, work support, and general help and advice. The community hub has become a vital resource for the local community offering a range of services and support**.** The Chill Out Room has provided a safe space for all ages and abilities, helping reduce stress and improve mental health. The project supported **70 people** during 2024-25.

In 2024 Betty Simpson, a tenant who now lives in Sheltered Housing, **won a National award from Tenant Information Service** (TIS). She was the first winner of the Lifetime Achievement award. This award recognises an extraordinary individual tenant who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to effecting positive change across the Scottish social housing sector, during their lifetime. Betty is a real ambassador for building strong and resilient communities, she has championed tenant participation for over 25 years , she has had a profound impact on the lives of many tenants as a tenant living in Greig Court and now Loch Court Sheltered Housing.

Lewis McGill, one of the City's Council's tenants from Seaton has won two National awards during 2024. The first award was from the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) – the Alan Ferguson Tenant of the year; and Lewis was also runner up for the Frances Nelson MBE Award for outstanding contribution to Tenant Participation. Lewis has developed the Facebook pages for the Seaton Multi story housing units and has set up Citywide Sheltered & Amenity Housing

and Tenants & Resident Partnership pages in various communities across the City. There are now over **4,000 members.** Lewis encourages engagement and participation wherever he goes and is a true Tenant Participation Champion.

Music 4 U based at **Ivories Coffee Shop** provided music-based social activity for those with additional support needs, health conditions, and the wider community. The Music Café has provided a welcoming environment for participants to enjoy music and social interaction. The project has helped improve mental health and build friendships among those with additional support needs. The project supported **35 people with two volunteers contributing 20 hours.** A participant performed their first solo at the Music Café, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

The Dee Swimming Club Boogie in the Bar is a daytime disco for older adults and people with learning disabilities who are at risk of loneliness and social isolation. Boogies facilitate social interaction, friendships, and physical and cognitive exercise. The Boogie at Dee Swimming Club was set up in 2023 and has only grown in popularity. The ladies on the Dee Swimming Club Committee have been amazing as they do all the catering, pre-disco set up, and serving every month. This Boogie has wonderful DJs that volunteer their time to make it a real afternoon disco. This boogie is extremely busy, each month with around **70-80 people attending**. Boogie in the Bar also received National Lottery community funding in 2024 which will ensure Boogies can continue to be delivered into 2026 and hopefully beyond.

Feedback from participants:

"Thank you for giving your time to this"

"I will definitely be back"

"Please keep the boogie going"

Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie's Aberdeen) ran free exercise groups including Qigong and yoga for people with cancer and their families. The exercise groups have been well-attended, providing participants with a chance to build confidence, energy, and enjoy activities they may not otherwise have had access to. The project has made a positive impact on the physical and mental health of people with cancer and their families. The project supported **120 people**. A participant shared that the Qigong classes helped them cope better with their cancer treatment.

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention **delivered 50 training sessions** across Aberdeen City which were **attended by 663 people**. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. There were four Introduction to Suicide Prevention training sessions delivered within Central Locality. This included the Lighthouse Women's group and community based sessions in Seaton, Woodside and Tillydrone. A total of **27 people attended these sessions**.

SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people. Evaluation data has shown **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

"Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you"

"Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it."

The Council's Community Learning and Development **Healthy Minds Team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds supported **49 participants** in Central Locality with a total of **664 learner hours**. One local person from Central Locality had an art installation displayed in Edinburgh as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival and went on to run art workshops for other Healthy Minds users.

Increase knowledge and Understanding of Health Provision in Central Locality

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:
The annual women's health and wellbeing fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with **61 people in attendance**, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

Community Feedback

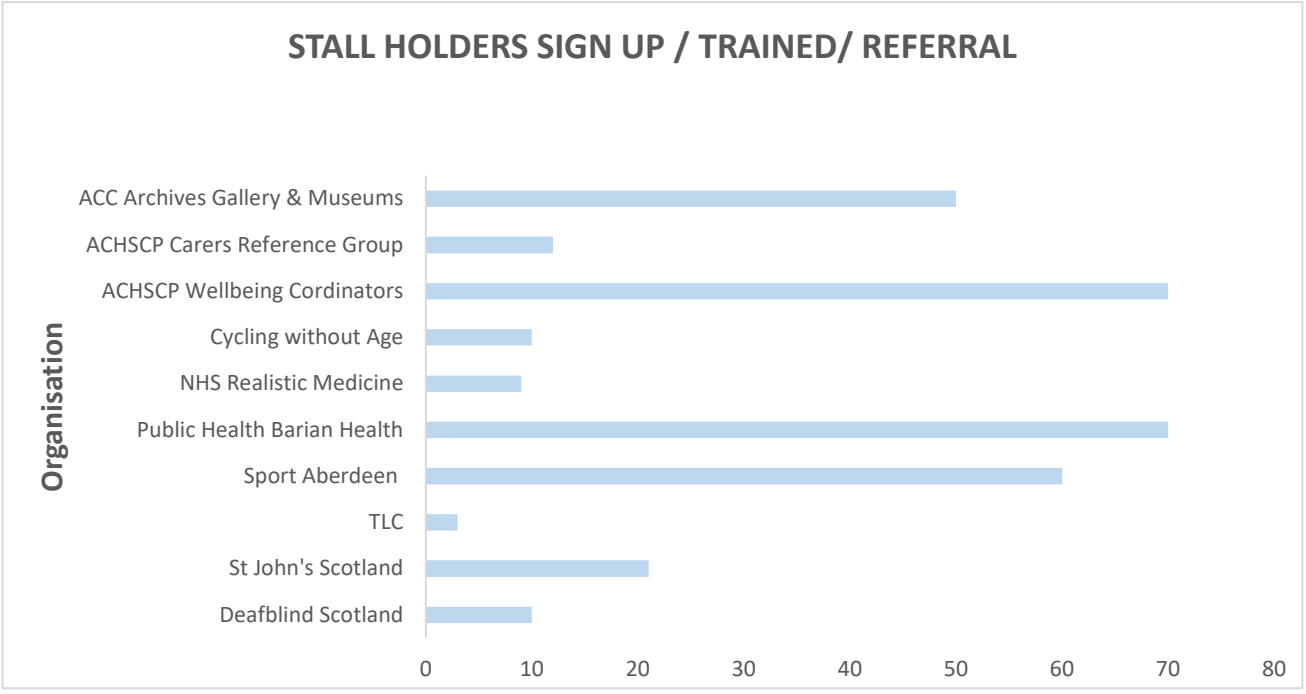
"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"

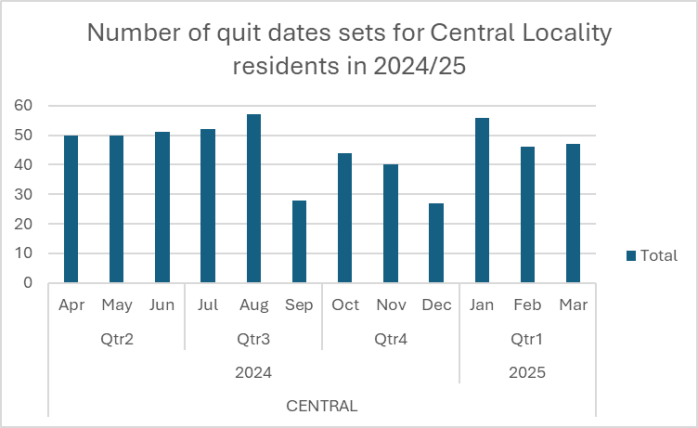
Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics which are often uncomfortable and sometimes stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outlined below:

- 369 people attended the Gathering, including 60 community delegates from the Central Locality
- 8 speakers
- 61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors
- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below



Smoking Cessation



There are three Gold Standard pharmacies in Central Locality providing advanced public health services and have in-house public health champions who can help with all aspects of health and social care using referral pathways. **548 people** from Central Locality accessed smoking cessation support during 2024-25. A breakdown on the number of quit days they set during the year is shown in the chart opposite.

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach

Over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, the Healthy Weight Aberdeen approach event held. **111 people** from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024 and visit | Aberdeen City HSCP for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Through **our Healthy Life Choices project** we supported 59 adults, **23** from low income families in Central Locality to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight during 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.

Innovative approaches to addressing health issues

What Moves You CIG ran dance sessions to improve physical and mental health for people with Cancer, and their families. The dance sessions have been well-received, with participants reporting improved physical fitness and mental wellbeing. The project has provided a fun and engaging way for people to stay active and connected. The project supported **30 people** with **three volunteers contributing 90 hours**. A participant with mobility issues showed significant improvement in their movement and confidence.

ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team and Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT) delivered the Scottish Football Association's Power of Football training programme at Pittodrie Stadium between September-November 2024. The eight week programme uses football to enhance participants' knowledge about menopause and their personal journeys, helping them comprehend the impact on their well-being, relationships, and professional lives. **Seven women completed the training** programme in November 2024, and a further 24 women have signed up to the programme waiting list for 2025. Two co-ordinators from ACHSCP & AFCCT are currently undergoing training to become accredited facilitators and are on track to be ready by June 2025. Feedback from women who completed the programme has been very positive, **a small sample of participant feedback is outlined below:**

"Definitely feel more educated and equipped with techniques."

"Keep doing what you're doing. You're all doing a fantastic job. You all made me feel very welcome and comfortable."

"I've enjoyed each week because I've learned something new each time and spent time with a lovely bunch of ladies."

The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Fersands and Fountain After School Club

At our Afterschool Club, we prioritize the safety and happiness of children by providing a nurturing environment. We pick children up from Kittybrewster and Woodside Primary Schools, ensuring they arrive safely at our centre where qualified staff are ready to care for them and offer healthy snacks. Our programme is designed to be fun and engaging, involving a variety of activities that include cooking, dancing, arts and crafts, team games, board games, quizzes, sports games in our gym hall and more. Children love joining in Zumba and fitness sessions, participating in musical games, facing exciting challenges, and enjoying movie nights. This is a Joint Partnership with Printfield Community Project.

Community Appointment Day – Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub – 5 February 2025

Chronic Pain Community Appointment Day - Free to Attend

Come along to our Chronic Pain Community Appointment Day - Everyone welcome. Have a chat with our team about "What Matters to You" and take part in an Information and Q&A session delivered by NHS Grampian Chronic Pain Management Team. Gain some peer support in our Pain Cafe, speak to Allied Health Professionals (i.e. Physiotherapy, Dietetician, Occupational Therapists etc) and visit our community partner stalls which will include the following:

- NHS Grampian Chronic Pain Team
- Aberdeen Fibromyalgia Support Group
- University of Aberdeen Pain Research Team
- Aberdeen Action on Disability
- Nuffield Sport Pain Programme
- Department of Work & Pensions
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Support
- Carers Support
- Allied Health Professionals
- Sport Aberdeen
- Versus Arthritis
- Pain Concern
- Employability Support
- Aberdeen in Recovery
- Alcohol & Drugs Action
- Financial Support
- Wellbeing Co-ordinators
- Housing Support

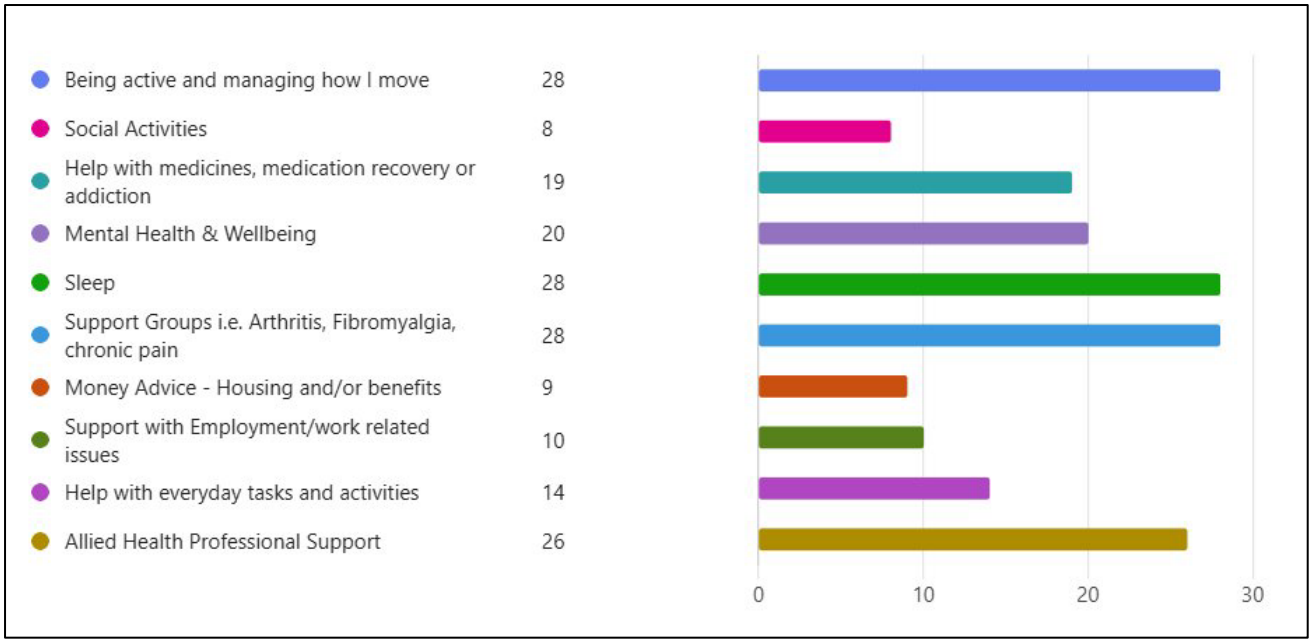
Information available in other languages and formats by contacting Equality and Diversity on 01224 551116 or emailing gram.communications@nhs.scot

Community Appointment Days (CADs) are an innovative way of improving population health, social care, wellbeing by focusing on prevention and early intervention. CADs are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen. CADs promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions, the idea is that this improves patient outcomes and overall population health, and helps to protect primary and secondary care services which are under severe pressure from growing waiting lists. CADs bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them. This recognises that the current system is set up to manage one condition at a time, whereas CADs take a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue. Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to trial a CAD in Aberdeen City as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. The 2023 Scottish Health Survey found that 38% of Scottish adults experienced chronic pain, this highlighted

the importance of focussing not just on current waiting lists, but taking a more population level approach to prevent people from experiencing so much pain that they need referred to the hospital's Chronic Pain Team. There is a widespread recognition across all sectors supporting the Chronic Pain CAD that chronic pain cannot be resolved in hospitals, instead the most appropriate interventions need to be made in our communities.

The second Community Appointment Day in Aberdeen was held at the Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub on 5 February 2025, following the first CAD in Northfield on 27 November 2024. Evaluation data compiled by NHS Grampian Public Health and patient feedback is outlined below:

- **127 people attended** the CAD, with 61 people pre-booking their place, and 66 walk ins
- 77% of pre-booked attendees were female, which is largely reflective of the chronic pain waiting list
- The median age of pre-booked attendees was 64 years, although attendees ranged between 24-83 years
- **86% of pre-booked attendees had no previous contact with the Chronic Pain team**, highlighting the importance of taking an a preventative, population level approach
- 37% of pre-booked attendees learned about the CAD via social media and 23% via their GP
- The chart below shows which support pre-booked attendees received at the CAD



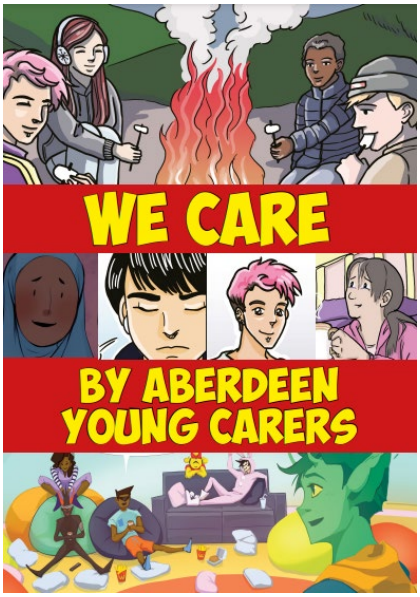
"It's been a relief to talk to people who understand and can offer help and support. Chronic pain has affected my confidence, as I don't go out and I'm unable to work, so to speak with people who are empathetic has been amazing."

"Well worthwhile. Hope there are more of these types of programmes."

"Grateful to attend this much needed event and for giving some fresh knowledge and contacts. A morale booster as well!"

Volunteering in the Community

Supporting Young Carers



Despite the substantial support available for **young carers** in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **60 young carers** supported in Central Locality.

Young Carer Case Study

A 12-year-old student at St Machar Academy, was referred to Barnardos Young Carer service in July 2021 through self-referral. The young carer (YC) cares for their brother with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), providing emotional, practical, and personal support. While the family had support for the parents and brother, YC lacked support. To address this, YC was registered for group activities and engaged well with others. YC was also assigned a volunteer befriender to provide social opportunities beyond their brother's interests.

The volunteer befriender noted that YC enjoys their outings, expresses opinions, and shows increased confidence. YC also participated in residential opportunities, including the Outward Bounds residential in April 2023 and the Scottish Young Carers Festival in August 2023, demonstrating teamwork, motivation, and resilience. YC's favourite activities were the crate climb and leap of faith.

Regular contact is maintained with YC's family to monitor the impact of the brother's ASD on YC and ensure YC receives adequate support. The family is also directed to additional support organisations like Quarriers Adult Carers Service and receives regular financial support opportunities.

Create local safe spaces to support outside activities

Activities for Children and Young People

peep
supporting parents and children to learn together

PEEP is a programme delivered by Aberdeen City Council, in partnership with ACHSCP which offers early intervention to families who may require some additional support for a short period of time to prevent escalation to more intensive support. Peep can also support families back into their community as part of, or following social work intervention. In 2024, ACHSCP and the Council set up a **PEEP Group at Lord Hay's Court**, which is a sheltered housing complex in Seaton. The sessions involve fun activities with the children, parents and older adults that attend. The group generally

has 3-4 parents and children, and a small group of residents from Lord Hay's Court. The group has been part of the Creating Intergenerational Communities pilot toolkit this year, with planning in place to extend these sessions into the South Locality.

Fersands Summer Holidays

A youth work summer programme was organised for and by 12-18 year olds**. Thirty two young people signed up** to 13 activities and outings including Balmedie , Dundee Swimming, Paddleboarding ,Go Karting, Bowling, Hill Walking and Mountain Biking, as well as a Wellbeing week of relaxing and stress free activities including a Fishing Trip and Yoga. The kids had great new experiences diving off high boards and sand dunes, learning about coping strategies such as Yoga and conversations for good mental health.

Raise awareness of substance use service and provision

Healthy Beginnings is a resource that was created to highlight the effects of alcohol and smoking in pregnancy and was adapted from #Drymester and ASH Scotland resources. Three sessions have been delivered to ascertain how the resource was received, and its potential use. The sessions reinforced information on alcohol in pregnancy but highlighted the higher prevalence of those with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) than attendees initially thought. Inclusion of short videos on the effect of alcohol on an egg, and the effects of smoke on an unborn child, were perceived as being impactful and useful in conjunction with other resources such as posters, leaflets, peer support and social media posts.

Attendees reported having more confidence in advising a pregnant mother to stop drinking alcohol than smoking, as smoking was seen as an addiction and more stressful to quit than alcohol. The effects of smoking on the mother-to-be and the growing foetus were understood but less was known of the effects of second-hand and third-hand smoke.

The resource provided information of support services for both alcohol and smoking during pregnancy, and the free Nicotine Replacement Treatment with behavioural support available from HealthPoint and Quit Your Way programme from community pharmacies across Grampian.

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond. It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools in Central Locality have staff members trained to administer naloxone and that from 2024-25, all S4 pupils had been trained in administering naloxone; in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. Overall **276 naloxone kits** were supplied across Central Locality during 2024-25

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which **45%** were from Central Locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour	Positive destinations	Mental Health
There were **1396** reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across Central Locality during 2024. This is a **8.6% improvement** on the 1527 incidents reported during 2023. Central Locality recorded the highest number of a youth anti-social behaviour incidents across Aberdeen City. **679** incidents took place in the city centre which was the highest per area across the Central Locality	**94.3%** of Central Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination, this is the highest in Aberdeen City. With **92.05%** of St Machar Academy leavers achieving a positive destination	**15.9%** of people who live in Central Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is below the Aberdeen City figure of **17.4%**
Teenage Pregnancies	**Counselling for Young People**	**Working Together with Parents**
In Central Locality, **21.90 per 1000** girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This is just above the Aberdeen City average rate of **19.8 per 1000** girls and young women.	**100%** of schools in Central Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	**27** new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children
Young People Volunteering	**Healthy Eating**	**Community Empowerment**
878 young people from Central Locality received a Saltire Award. **3623** young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City	**8.9%** of people in the Central Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to **10.5%** of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**369 people** attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering, held at the Beach Ballroom on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. **60** attendees were from Central Locality.
Alcohol Awareness	**Drug Related Deaths**	**Drug Related Hospital Stays**
49.1% of people in the Central Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. **28.7%** of people who live in Central Locality do not drink alcohol. This figure is **29.1%** across Aberdeen City	**276** naloxone kits supplied in Central Locality during 2024-25	The rate of drug related hospital stays for the Central Locality was **248.5 per 100,000** population. This is a slight improvement from **250 per 100,000** in 2022. The Central Locality continues to have the

(City Voice 49, 2024)		highest rate of drug related hospital stays across Aberdeen City
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	**Deaths from Suicide**	**Life Expectancy**
Alcohol related mortality rates in Central Locality are now **34.1 people per 100,000**. This is significantly higher than the Aberdeen City rate of **19.9 people per 100,000.** Central Locality has the highest proportion of alcohol related mortality rates across Aberdeen City	The rate of death from suicide in the Central Locality is **10.5 per 100,000**, this is below the citywide average of **11.1 per 100,000** of the population.	Men who live in West End North can expect to live **83.2 years**, whereas men in Old Aberdeen can expect to live **68.1 years** – This is the area with the lowest life expectancy for men in Aberdeen City. The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is **76.9 years.** Women who live in West End North can expect to live **88.1 years**, whereas women in Woodside can expect to live **74.4 years**. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is **80.9 years.**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Work with Community Safety Partnership to expand the no. of community safety initiatives
- Promote road safety
- Increase the number of people who have access to nutritious food

Our Place

OUR PRIORITIES

The Central Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local place:

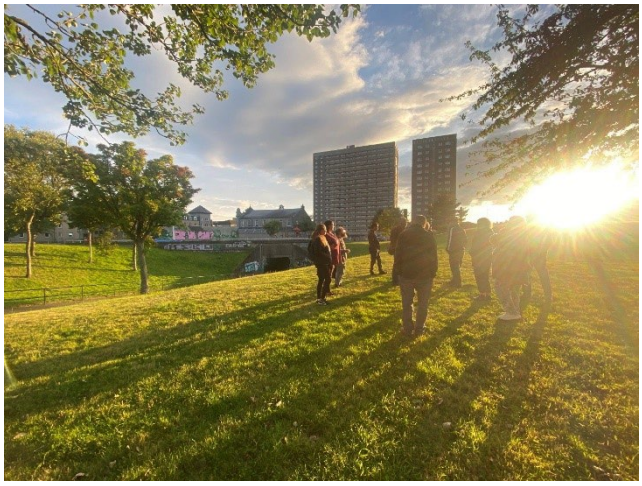
Priority 5. Maximise the spaces in communities to create opportunities for people to connect and increase physical activity.

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Encourage community growing spaces

Mounthooly Roundabout



The idea for the Mounthooly Garden was born out of the George Street Masterplan, which highlighted a lack of developed green spaces in the area. In response, we engaged with the community to identify their aspirations and needs, leading to the concept of a Forest Garden - a sustainable, edible ecosystem that serves both environmental and social purposes.

Aberdeen Community Planning, CFine Community Growing team, students from NESCOL and residents of George St and surrounding area held meetings over a year which culminated in a planting day. Mounthooly will be used as a community space, a location for learning, socialising and gardening. **22 participants** came to the planting day which saw 12 sapling apple and pear trees planted and there are plans to plant a further 8 more mature apple trees. These trees will form the basis of the Forest Garden. This project will contribute to improved access to healthy food in this area which has a lack of accessible green spaces.

The phased approach to planting allows project participants to dip their toes in, and find their way as they go along. As the project develops, we hope participants - particularly local residents will be eager and excited to take the lead in developing the garden further, choosing whether to incorporate more complex elements or components that may require additional maintenance. This approach aims to ensure the garden project is sustainable, genuinely community-informed and led, and a healthy, welcoming, safe space for everyone.

Rosemount Community Garden

A group of volunteers have come together to transform a previously unused area of greenspace within the Rosemount Community Centre grounds into a community garden. The group meets weekly to design and develop the garden into an attractive and educational space. Over the course of the project Skene Square Primary School and Midstocket Play Group have used the area and supported the creation of the community garden. The volunteers also collaborated with the Rosemount Community Centre Association for support with storage and access to the garden-site, and local Men's Sheds to borrow and share tools. The project aims to increase physical activity, improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation, as well as providing education around gardening and growing.

Mile End Primary School created a sensory garden in the school grounds to support learning and engagement. The sensory garden has been completed, providing a safe and inclusive outdoor environment for children. The garden has supported learning and engagement, helping children with additional needs feel more regulated and connected. The project supported **600+ people** with **20 volunteers contributing 45 hours.** The garden has become a favourite spot for children to explore and learn about nature.

Encouraging the Use of Greenspaces for Healthy Benefits

Mighty Oaks Menopause Health Walks began in 2023 in Powis, and is a group which empowers women to take control of the menopause through walking, talking, laughing and supporting each other. The walks take place twice a month on Wednesday evenings from Powis Community Centre between 5:30pm-7pm. The first hour is a gentle walk followed by a cup of tea and a natter. The group size varies throughout the year, however there is now a core group that continue to do this walk led by a volunteer from Powis Community Centre. Participants have reported they now walk multiple times a week which is a fantastic outcome.

Feedback from participants:

""Love it. Really good just to meet other women going through the same thing to share experiences and have a safe place to talk."

"You are doing great job, keep it up. It is good to come along sharing experiences and coping mechanisms."

Women's Health Social Bike Rides began in 2024 with ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team working in partnership with Sport Aberdeen to set up a social bike ride for women once a week. The group started off small but eventually had **six women attending weekly**, the group can only accommodate eight people, so this was a great achievement, we are hoping it will be as successful in 2025!

Over the last year **Sport Aberdeen** have also developed a cycling hub at the Raymond Kelly Pavilion in Seaton, which currently hosts the Grampian Inclusive Cycle Bothy programme for Aberdeen (twice a week) – designed to provide cycling opportunities which are more accessible to adults and young people with disabilities and additional support needs. Adult & Family Learn to Bike and Cycle confidence sessions have also been based there through our partnership with Scottish Cycling's Rock Up and Ride programme. Strong partnerships have also been formed with Sustrans, who have used the pavilion as a base for their iBike Schools programme which has focused on the St Machar Associated School Group area over the last two years

Tackle Waste in our Communities

With the winds that blow from the beach and the through the high rises there is a steady stream of litter being blown in Seaton. This was seen as an opportunity to bring the community together, **Fresh Community Wellness, Seaton management team and the Community Council** came together and organised a litter pick Barbeque day.

In total there were **30 volunteers** from the local community came together to enjoy the barbeque, connect with their community and help in picking litter. In total **25 bags of rubbish** were picked over the course of a few hours. There are plans to make this a regular community event.

ALC Aberdeen have received, refurbished and distributed **28 bikes** in Tillydrone over the last twelve months. They are given to children and young people who do not have access to a bike. The bikes are denoted to the ALC as owners think they have come to the end of their usefulness. Young people are supported to learn about bike maintenance to support them to look after the bikes they receive free of charge.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
87% of Central Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is significantly higher than the **74%** of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)	**12** supported community food growing projects happening across Central Locality	**6** community groups being supported to look after community green space in priority neighbourhoods
Cycling	**Walking**	**Community Resillience**
13.1% of people in the Central cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice (City Voice 51, 2024)	**74.6%** of people in the Central Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to **68.8%** in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 51, 2024)	There are **0** Community Resilience Groups currently operating within Central Locality

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Work with community partners to deliver more litter picks
- Establish Community Resilience Groups across the Central Locality
- More initiatives which promote responsible dog owners

Our Communities

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our Communities:

Priority 6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their communities

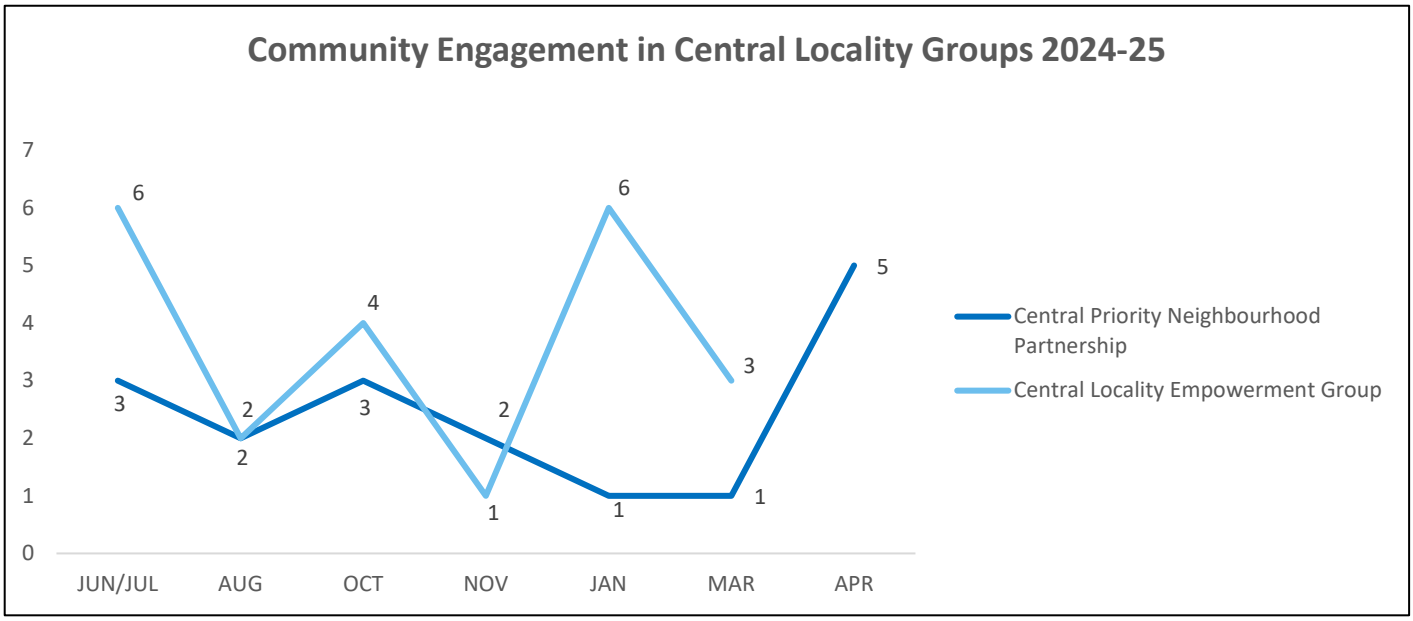
PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

There are many ways you can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for our local community and influence how public services are delivered in your area to meet your needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.

Community members in Central Locality can get involved through a range of methods:

- Central Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagement



Stay updated

Central Locality Empowerment Group and the **Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton Priority Neighbourhood Partnership** are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the Central Locality. As a member of a LEG and Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

Every few months, ACVO pull together a Central funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update **here.**

As well as this, council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation **Newsbite** magazine, hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more or contact the Locality Planning Team:

Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

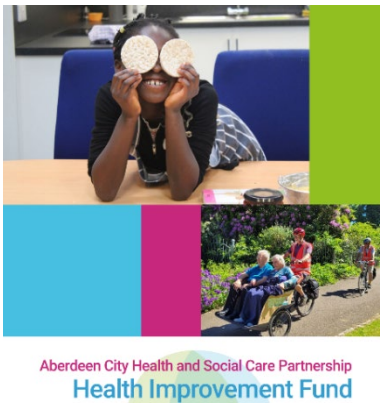
Community Funding

The Locality Planning team led the delivery of a **UDecide Participatory Budgeting** process. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Tillydrone, Woodside, Seaton, Stockethill, Ashgrove and George Street who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the Central Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to 7 projects across those areas and 1 projects was partially funded. You can read more about the process here: UDecide Report 2025.

Funded UDecide Projects
ALC School Breakfast Club Safe, warm breakfast Club for Academy and younger students. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
Tillydrone Community Flat Foodbank A lifeline for vulnerable residents supplying emergency food *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
Soup and sandwich Club Free nutritious meal club reducing social isolation and ensuring people don't go hungry *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
The Aberdeen North Foodbank Helping put food on the table and ensuring people do not go hungry, *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
U-Band Community band introducing people to Ukrainian culture. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Support English as Second Language (ESOL) families to access services*
Fun in the Sun! Four weeks of free, welcoming activities for 8-12 year olds in the Summer. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Create indoor and outdoor opportunities for activities (young people).*
Empowher Providing a safe, supportive space for women to discuss mental health *Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop programmes of activities to informally support mental wellbeing*
Schools First Aid Training Services CIC First Aid training covering basic and essential skills for P5-7. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training*



The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) process is designed to enhance health and wellbeing across Aberdeen through community-led projects. It is open to anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City, offering community grants of up to £5,000. Projects must be innovative, community-led, meet local needs, and demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing. The decision-making process involves local screening panels composed of community representatives and staff, who allocate funds based on a scoring process aligned with the fund's principles. This ensures that projects are selected fairly and effectively to address the diverse needs of the community.

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
SCIO Activities Group - Tillydrone Community Campus Intergenerational Arts & Crafts sessions. Chair based yoga/fitness sessions.
Sports & Exercise at the Breadmaker - The Breadmaker Sporting activities and exercise for Adults with learning disabilities
Developing the Team and Garden of Bonnymuir Green Community Trust. Adding a greenhouse to the Bonnymuir Green garden, & refreshing staff First Aid at Work training.
Food for all - Seaton Community Hub Providing a new approach to providing food for people in Seaton.
Knit and Chatter intergenerational sessions - Your Love Rara Integrated craft and mental health sessions to build bridges between generations.
Soup and Sandwich Club - Aberdeen City Council Soup and Sandwich lunch club once a month at Cornhill community Centre.
Aberdeen Foyer Winter Wellbeing Project - Aberdeen Foyer Provide inclusive space to share food, reduce isolation, increase employability through learning
Initial training for Grampian Birth Buddies - Grampian Birth Buddies Training a group of women to support their peers through the perinatal period.
Cornhill Community Art Space Programme - Cornhill Community Association Develop the community art space programme and add groups and classes to support local people struggling with their Mental Health through creative means.
Time for Me – Building skills and resilience – Quarriers Project will help carers gain skills, build confidence and have a break from caring.
Campaign for warm healthy homes – NESFit Aim to support and empower communities by giving them data to understand how their housing conditions affect their health. We will do this by purchasing health monitoring equipment to lend out to householders to monitor environmental factors that affect health.
Happy Children, Happy Families - Sunnybank Community Centre Association Messy Play and Playgroup sessions for families with young children. Youth Club for Primary age children.

Health and Diversity Network – GREC

The Grampian Health and Diversity Network (GH & DN) is an initiative by the Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) aimed at empowering ethnic minority community members to improve their own health and wellbeing.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In Central Locality, **27 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with **a value of £520,000.** In addition, the Fairer Aberdeen Fund allocated £25,000 to undertake a PB event in the Rosehill, Stockethill and Cornhill area during October 2024. A steering group made up of partners and community representatives prioritised the funding for initiatives to improve the community, support social inclusion, and tackle isolation and loneliness. Funding was awarded to six initiatives supporting parents and toddlers, youth work, and community activities.

Through the **Woodside Decides** initiative, Shmu and the Woodside Network have been testing how small funding pots can be utilised to encourage local residents to have a greater sense of control and influence within their community, and therefore to become more actively involved in Community Planning activity in their local area. Funding for this test of change was sourced from Community Planning Aberdeen, ACVO, North East Culture Collective and NESCAN Hub.

£18,000 of funds across 4 themes, and a range of community engagement events and activity has taken place over the past year. This has included open events, advertised widely, bringing together people from across the community, as well as more targeted events for women and older people. There have also been outreach activities within sheltered housing complexes, and a youth project at Printfield Community Project. So far around £8,000 has been allocated, whilst other initiatives are under way to allocate the remaining funds and approximately **170 people** have taken part or participated in Woodside Decides.

Consultation & Engagement

Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025. This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Aberdeen Sports Village and another at Rosemount Community Centre a children and young people's version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.

The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection

report, HMIE reported that CLD's **"Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP".**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test here.

Your Locality Planning Team

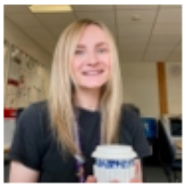
We recognise the value of partnering with communities to foster a thriving environment for everyone. By working closely with local communities through our locality planning team, we aim to be more responsive, supportive, and action-focused. Input from the community is essential to this process.

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In the Central Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, Chris and Graham. Contact the team on localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Iain Robertson

Transformation Programme Manager

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership



Jade Leyden

Locality Planning and Community Development Manager

Aberdeen City Council

Chris Smillie

Public Health Co-Ordinator

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Graham Donald

Community Development Officer

Aberdeen City Council

This page is intentionally left blank

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	2 July 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Treasury Management Strategy – Year-End Review
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/145
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jonathan Belford
REPORT AUTHOR	Neil Stewart
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5 and 6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the Council on Treasury Management activities undertaken during financial year 2024/25.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council: -

2.1 Note the Treasury Management activities undertaken in the 2024/25 financial year as detailed in this report.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Introduction

3.1 The Council approved a Treasury Management Policy for the financial years 2024/25 to 2026/27 on 7 February 2024. Part of this policy is to report a year-end review to full Council.

3.2 Historically, the Council's annual programme of capital investment has been funded by Treasury Management activities, such as additional long-term borrowing. It is a requirement of CIPFA "Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services" that Treasury Management is conducted in accordance with good professional practice, which this Council does.

Treasury Management 2024/25

3.3 The following is a summary of the significant Treasury Management activities which were undertaken during financial year 2024/25: -

3.4 Loans Pool Rate - The Council's average Loans Pool Rate takes account of all loan interest and expenses paid, as well as investment interest received during

the financial year. The Loans Pool Rate for 2024/25 was 4.20%, which can be broken down to 4.17% for interest, and 0.03% for expenses.

3.5 Long Term Borrowing – Six new Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) long-term loans totalling £120m were undertaken during financial year 2024/25. Each loan was for £20m and the average interest rate of the new borrowing was 4.59%.

3.6 PWLB Interest Rates – In October 2019 HM Treasury introduced a major change to PWLB public sector lending rates. There was an immediate increase to all PWLB borrowing rates of 100 basis points, adding an additional 1% to interest rates. This change meant that HM Treasury set its rates at an average of 180 basis points over the relevant gilt price.

3.7 The increase to lending rates was reversed in late November 2020, after a consultation exercise with local authorities and was announced as part of the UK government's autumn spending review.

3.8 Short Term Borrowing - In 2016, the Council made the deliberate decision to run down its external temporary borrowing (short-term loans from other Local Authorities). This was due to the level of funds received from the Bond Issuance. External temporary borrowing has since been built back up to a manageable level, with available rates currently below long-term borrowing levels. As of 31st March 2025, £351m of temporary borrowing was held from other local authorities. This level will be reduced and replaced by long-term PWLB borrowing as interest rates permit in 2025/26.

3.9 North East Scotland Pension Fund – The Council's Loans Fund has an ongoing Temporary Loan from the North-East of Scotland Pension Fund. This represents the Pension Fund's excess level of cash funds on hand, which is driven by the Pension Fund's cashflow requirements. This Temporary Loan is a means of earning the Pension funds a fair short-term interest rate from these funds, rather than a means of borrowing for the Loans Fund. As of 31st March 2025, the balance of the temporary loan was £29.4m.

3.10 Investments - As of 31st March 2025, the Council had temporary investments totalling £24.6m at an average rate of 4.52%. Investments were made in line with the current Counterparty List to the following institutions: -

- Virgin Money £4.8m
- Aberdeen MMF £18.1m
- Federated Hermes MMF £1.1m
- Insight MMF £0.6m

3.11 Common Good Fund Investment - A decision was taken by the Council in 2021 to invest £30m of Common Good cash in a Multi-Asset Income fund, which generates greater income for the fund, when compared with traditional fixed-term bank deposits. Several funds were considered for this purpose, and after a period of meetings and further due diligence, the decision was taken to proceed with Fidelity International's Multi-Asset Income fund.

To date this fund has raised £4.72m in interest. Average rate of return in 2024/25 was 4.83%.

3.12 Retail Price Index (RPI) – At the time of writing, the latest RPI rate (April 25) was 4.5%, a rise of 1.3% from the previous month. Rises to this rate have particular relevance to the Council in relation to its 2016 Bond issuance. Increases in the RPI rate are used to calculate indexation, which is paid alongside half yearly repayments of the Bond debt.

3.13 Moody's Credit Rating - The annual review meeting regarding the Council's credit rating took place on 30th September 2024. In late October 2024, Moody's confirmed it had made no changes to the Council's credit rating of A2, with a rating outlook of "stable". A copy of the Moody's Credit Opinion is attached at Appendix 1 for information. The next annual review meeting will take place in August 2025.

3.14 National Wealth Fund – Formerly known as the UK Infrastructure Bank, the National Wealth Fund (NWF) was announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves in October. The Fund will offer low-cost finance to local authorities delivering economic infrastructure projects in the UK. \

3.15 The revised fund plans to expand its remit beyond infrastructure in support of the UK Government's industrial strategy. The fund now has additional financial capacity and an enhanced risk budget to catalyse private investment in the market.

3.16 The fund offers an additional funding option to the Council going forward, and this will be considered as part of the overall funding approach for future projects, where appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Treasury Management activities influence the loans pool interest rates and aims to minimise the cost of borrowing. This directly impacts on costs chargeable to the Council's revenue budgets through the interest rates that are applied to capital financing costs. Whilst the level of borrowing a Council can undertake is now devolved from the Scottish Government to individual Councils, it will still be constrained by the requirement for capital investment to be affordable, sustainable and prudent. The main test of affordability will be whether the capital financing costs can be contained within the revenue budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report; however it should be noted that the issuance of the Bonds requires the Council to comply with the Market Abuse Regulations, the Disclosure and Transparency Rules, the Listing Rules and ongoing obligations as set out in the London Stock Exchange Admission and Disclosure Standards.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of 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	No significant risks identified			
Compliance	No significant risks identified			
Operational	No significant risks identified			
Financial	Loss of deposit in a failed bank or financial institution	The Council has strict lending criteria, only financial institutions with the highest credit ratings are included on the Council's Counterparty list. The list is compiled in conjunction with the Council's Treasury	L	**Yes**
Reputational	No significant risks identified			
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified			

8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Jonathan Belford, Chief Officer – Finance on 21st May 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not Required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 CIPFA “Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services ";
CIPFA “The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities**”;**
Link Asset Services "Treasury Management Annual Investment Strategy";
Scottish Government "The Investment of Money by Scottish Local Authorities".

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Moody’s Credit Opinion

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Neil Stewart
Title	Accountant
Email Address	nstewart@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	01224 067757

This page is intentionally left blank

CREDIT OPINION
18 October 2024

Update

Send Your Feedback

RATINGS

Aberdeen City Council

Domicile	Aberdeen, United Kingdom
Long Term Rating	A2
Type	LT Issuer Rating - Dom Curr
Outlook	Stable

Please see the ratings section at the end of this report for more information. The ratings and outlook shown reflect information as of the publication date.

Contacts

Lenaic Couderc +44.20.7772.1799
Analyst
lenaic.couderc@moodys.com

Timothy Doherty +44.207.772.1114
Ratings Associate
timothy.doherty@moodys.com

Sebastien Hay +34.91.768.8222
Associate Managing Director
sebastien.hay@moodys.com

CLIENT SERVICES

Americas	1-212-553-1653
Asia Pacific	852-3551-3077
Japan	81-3-5408-4100
EMEA	44-20-7772-5454

Aberdeen City Council (UK)

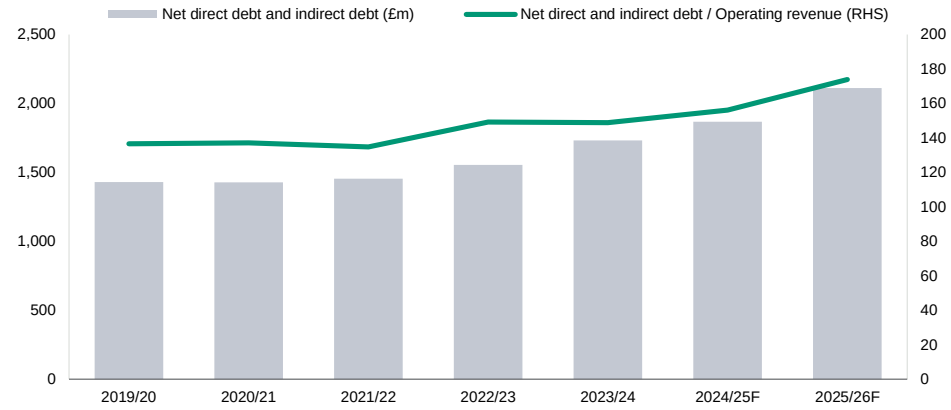
Update to credit analysis

Summary

The credit profile of Aberdeen City Council (Aberdeen, A2 stable) reflects a strong institutional framework, albeit with limited fiscal flexibility, a wealthy local economy and a strong track record of operating performance, balanced by a high and increasing debt burden and some exposure to commercial properties. Aberdeen's credit profile benefits from our assumption of a high likelihood that the government of the UK (Aa3 stable) would act in a timely manner to prevent a default.

Exhibit 1

We expect debt to continue rising over the next two years



Source: Aberdeen City Council and Moody's Ratings

Credit strengths

» Good track record of financial performance despite medium-term pressures

» Strong institutional framework for Scottish local authorities

» Wealthy local economy but highly concentrated in the energy sector

Credit challenges

» High and increasing debt levels weighing on debt affordability

» Increasing exposure to commercial properties

» Low reserves levels compared to peers

Rating outlook

The stable outlook reflects our view that Aberdeen will be able to manage current budgetary pressures without a material deterioration of its reserve buffers thanks to tight expenditure

control and its good track record of financial management. It also reflects the stable outlook on the UK sovereign rating.

Factors that could lead to an upgrade

Upward pressure on the ratings could emerge if the sector's funding settlement aligns with service demand and cost inflation, thereby supporting strong operating performance over the medium term. A decline in debt and a material increase in reserve buffers would be positive for the ratings. An upgrade of the UK sovereign rating would also result in upward pressure on the ratings.

Factors that could lead to a downgrade

Downward pressure on the ratings could result from a sustained deterioration in operating performance and a material depletion of usable reserves or a material increase in debt levels. A downgrade of the UK sovereign rating or a sustained weakening of the UK's institutional framework and extraordinary support mechanisms for local authorities could also lead to downward pressure on the rating.

Key indicators

Exhibit 2

Aberdeen City Council	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25F	2025/26F
Net Direct and Indirect Debt / Operating Revenue (%)	136.6	137.2	134.8	149.1	148.8	156.2	173.9
Interest Payments / Operating Revenue (%)	5.1	4.4	4.6	5.8	6.4	6.9	7.3
Primary Operating Balance / Operating Revenue (%)	4.9	10.9	7.8	6.0	6.2	5.0	4.7
Usable Reserves / Operating Revenue (%)	5.7	9.6	12.4	14.9	13.6	11.2	11.1
Regional GDP Per Capita (£)	48,920	43,673	45,815	52,517	50,935	50,624	50,382
Short-Term Direct Debt / Direct Debt (%)	14.8	16.6	15.7	20.1	23.9	22.1	19.5

Source: Aberdeen City Council and Moody's Ratings

Detailed credit considerations

Aberdeen's A2 ratings combine: (1) a Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) of baa1; and (2) a high likelihood of extraordinary support from the UK government would act in a timely manner to prevent a default.

Baseline credit assessment

Good track record of financial performance despite medium-term pressures

Aberdeen exercises prudent financial planning, for example projecting no council tax increase or additional government grants, which is supported by recent assessments from the Accounts Commission. As a result, it has an established track record of good budgetary performance with an average primary operating surplus of 6.7% over the last three years. Aberdeen has also delivered significant savings over the last decade.

That said, Aberdeen faces pressures from increasing demand for services and we forecast the primary operating balance to deteriorate in the coming years. Spending on homelessness and children social care has seen the largest increase over the last few years. Aberdeen forecasts a budget gap of £44 million over the next three years as staff and service costs will increase faster than revenue. The budget gap does not account for the remediation of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in over 500 council houses given the uncertainty related to the costs of demolishing and rebuilding affected properties. We expect some of these costs will be borne by the council and add to existing budgetary pressures.

Strong institutional framework for Scottish local authorities

The institutional framework for UK local authorities is mature, highly developed and underpinned by a number of key pieces of legislation. The UK local authority system is one of the most centralised in Europe. This results in a close link between the policies and resources of the government and local authorities. Local government is a matter devolved to the Scottish government, resulting in a slightly different funding and regulatory model compared to England.

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the issuer/deal page on https://ratings.moodys.com for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

The sector is supported by a stable institutional framework illustrated by the legal requirement to set a balanced budget; statutory codes of practice for capital spending, investments, treasury management and borrowing; and strong market access in the form of the PWLB, which also acts as the sector's lender of last resort. Similar to their English counterparts, grants, council taxes, business rates and user fees are the primary sources of revenue for Scottish local authorities. However, government grants make up a larger share of funding and can be spent more flexibly. Scottish local authorities are also more insulated from economic cycles as grant funding is adjusted to smooth fluctuations in business rates. However, we consider that fiscal flexibility has deteriorated due to consistently high expenditure pressures and funding levels that do not keep pace with cost inflation and demand.

Wealthy local economy but highly concentrated in the energy sector

Aberdeen has the highest GDP per capita in Scotland after Edinburgh, standing at £52,517 in 2022. This reflects the concentration of high value-added jobs, particularly in the energy sector. Aberdeen is a global centre for the oil and gas industry, which accounts for 24% of employment and generates over 50% of gross value added in the North East of Scotland.

However, this high degree of concentration exposes the local economy to short-term fluctuations in the sector. Over the longer run, Scottish oil and gas production will decline due to the depletion of reserves and global efforts towards carbon transition. That said, Aberdeen's budget is relatively insulated from those economic fluctuations.

Diversification away from oil and gas will be key for Aberdeen's long-term economic prospects. Significant investment is underway in sectors such as green energy, life science and tourism. Aberdeen has been able to form partnerships with the private sector and receives ongoing support from the Scottish and UK governments towards economic diversification.

High and increasing debt levels weighing on debt affordability

Aberdeen's debt burden is high, standing at 149% of gross operating revenue as of FYE2024. It increased significantly in the last five years from 137% in FYE2020 to support its development programme. We expect debt to increase further over the next three years to reach 185% of revenue by FY2027 to fund the council's investment plans. Aberdeen plans to invest £600 million over the period (50% of its operating revenue), of which 78% will be financed through borrowing. The main investment projects are related to town centre regeneration, schools and transport. However, we expect slippages in the delivery of its capital plans, which will likely lead to a slower debt increase than we currently forecast.

The majority of the council's debt is at long-dated maturities including PWLB loans (36% of total), a 38-year bond issued in 2016 (26%) and some LOBOs (6%). We also include in our definition of debt two PPPs contracts related to schools (7%) as well as a long-term lease on Marischal Square (3%).

Aberdeen is more exposed to interest rate movements than peers with 24% of its borrowing being short-term. As a result, interest costs have increased and absorbed 7% of gross operating revenue in FY2024 up from 4.3% in FY2020. We expect debt affordability to deteriorate further in line with the expected increase in debt. In addition, the outstanding bond is linked to inflation, which exposes the council to inflation risks because only a limited proportion of its revenue increases with inflation.

Increasing exposure to commercial properties

Aberdeen has increased its exposure to commercial investments, demonstrating the council's higher risk appetite than a typical local authority. Aberdeen entered a 35-year finance lease in 2017 for the redevelopment of Marischal Square, consisting of a hotel, retail and office premises. The Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA), which comprises a multi-purpose arena, two hotels, car parking facilities and an anaerobic digestion plant, represents its largest risk exposure. The project was completed in 2019 at a cost of £425 million and is intended to support the diversification of Aberdeen's economy through leisure and business tourism. TECA is expected to contribute an additional 4.5 million visitors to the city, resulting in a £63 million gross value added by 2030. Operations were significantly impacted by the pandemic and the recovery has been slower than expected.

Aberdeen is exposed to fluctuations in commercial income from those projects although they remain a relatively minor portion of its budget at around 2% of gross operating revenues in FY2024. The council has also earmarked reserves that can be used to deal with commercial revenue volatility and is not planning any further commercial investments.

Low reserve levels compared to peers

Reserve levels are low compared to rated peers at 13.6% of operating revenue in fiscal 2024. We note that this is in line with the rest of Scotland where reserves tend to be lower given the more generous grant regime. Reserves significantly increased in the last three years reflecting one-off unspent grants received during the pandemic. Most of those reserves are earmarked for specific purposes and the extent to which they can be made available therefore varies. We forecast reserves to reduce over the medium-term to cover some of the budget gap and fund capital expenditures.

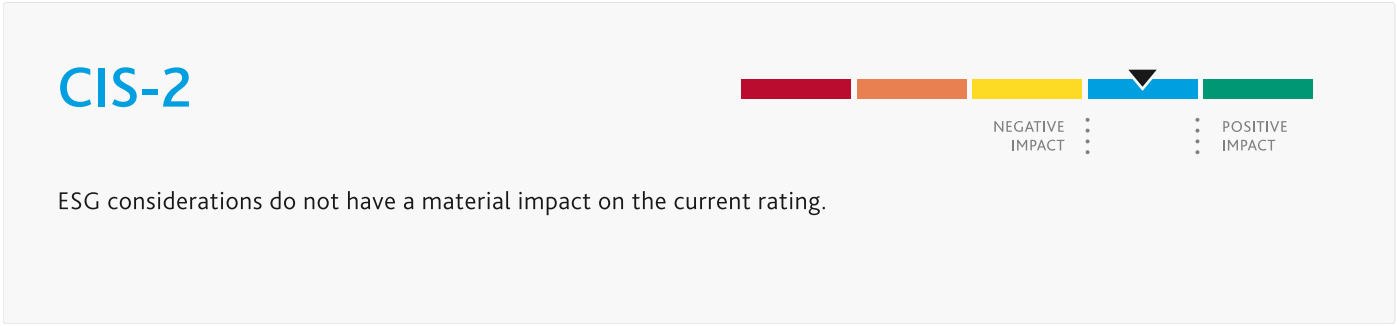
Extraordinary support considerations

We consider that there is a high likelihood that the UK government would intervene in a timely manner to prevent default. The UK government has regularly intervened when councils indicated a failure to balance budgets, providing the ability to fund operating deficits through capital sources, including borrowing. We note that those mechanisms remain untested in Scotland but it is our expectation they would be closely aligned to England. We also expect that PWLB would have the ability to act as lender of last resort in the event of severe liquidity stress in the sector.

ESG considerations

Aberdeen City Council's ESG credit impact score is CIS-2

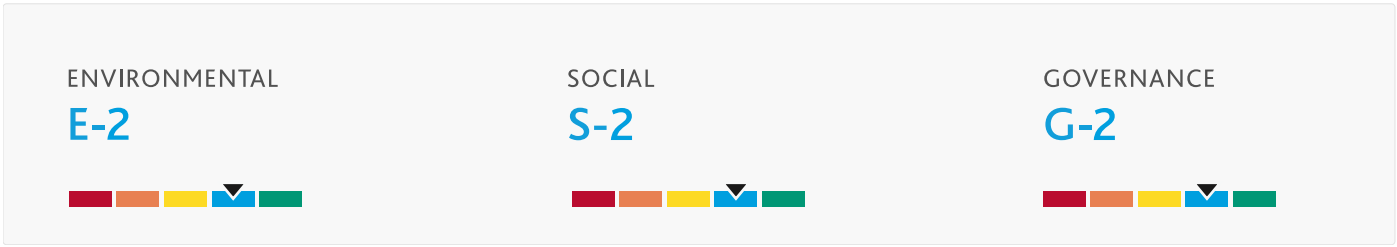
Exhibit 3
ESG credit impact score



Source: Moody's Ratings

Aberdeen's **CIS-2** indicates that ESG risks have a limited impact on its ratings. Environmental risks are low although the concentration of its economy in the oil and gas sector poses long-term challenges. Its main exposure to social risks relates to housing risks, due to housing shortages and unaffordability, which increases housing expenditure. However, its strong governance mitigates the impact of these risks on its ratings.

Exhibit 4
ESG issuer profile scores



Source: Moody's Ratings

Environmental

Aberdeen has limited exposure to environmental risks (**E-2**), which reflects a generally low exposure across most categories. However, the city is exposed to carbon transition risks due to its status as a global hub for the oil and gas sector. This high degree of concentration exposes the local economy to short-term fluctuations in the sector and will require significant investments to diversify away from fossil fuels. That said, its operating budget is relatively insulated from economic fluctuations and we expect that the private sector and the central and Scottish governments will fund most of the economic diversification efforts.

Social

Aberdeen has limited exposure to social risks (**S-2**), reflecting a generally low exposure across most categories. The one exception relates to housing, where Aberdeen is assessed to have a material exposure to risks due to the city's housing shortages and unaffordability. The lack of affordable housing directly impacts local authorities because of their statutory responsibility to supply housing for residents, consequently leading to increased expenditure pressures particularly on temporary accommodation.

Governance

Aberdeen has limited governance risks (**G-2**), reflecting its strong track record of budgetary management and high levels of transparency. However, these strengths are offset by a weakened institutional framework, characterised by limited fiscal flexibility, and increased debt and revenue risks due to investments in significant projects, such as a a multi-purpose arena and a mixed-use town

centre development. As the owner, Aberdeen bears the responsibility for all revenue losses associated with these projects, although they constitute a relatively minor portion of its budget.

ESG Issuer Profile Scores and Credit Impact Scores for the rated entity/transaction are available on Moodys.com. In order to view the latest scores, please click here to go to the landing page for the entity/transaction on MDC and view the ESG Scores section.

Rating methodology and scorecard factors

The assigned BCA of baa1 is in line with the scorecard-indicated BCA.

For details about our rating approach, please refer to Rating Methodology: Regional and Local Governments, 28 May 2024.

Exhibit 5

Aberdeen City Council

Regional & Local Governments

Baseline Credit Assessment – Scorecard	Score	Value	Sub-factor Weighting	Sub-factor Score	Factor Weighting	Total
Factor 1: Economy					**25%**	**1.37**
Regional Income [1]	1.13	74236.60	15%	0.17		
Economic Growth	12.00	ba	5%	0.60		
Economic Diversification	12.00	ba	5%	0.60		
Factor 2: Institutional Framework and Governance					**30%**	**2.25**
Institutional Framework	6.00	a	15%	0.90		
Governance	9.00	baa	15%	1.35		
Factor 3: Financial Performance					**20%**	**1.81**
Operating Margin [2]	9.80	6.16%	10%	0.98		
Liquidity Ratio [3]	13.54	4.97%	5%	0.68		
Ease of Access to Funding	3.00	aa	5%	0.15		
Factor 4: Leverage					**25%**	**2.60**
Debt Burden [4]	9.44	148.83%	15%	1.42		
Interest Burden [5]	11.87	6.37%	10%	1.19		
Preliminary BCA Scorecard-Indicated Outcome (SIO)						**(8.03) baa1**
Idiosyncratic Notching						**0.0**
Preliminary BCA SIO After Idiosyncratic Notching						**(8.03) baa1**
Sovereign Rating Threshold						**Aa3**
Operating Environment Notching						**0.0**
BCA Scorecard-Indicated Outcome						**(8.03) baa1**
Assigned BCA						**baa1**

[1] Regional GDP per capita in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, in international dollars
[2] Primary Operating Balance / Operating Revenue
[3] Cash and Cash Equivalents / Operating Revenue
[4] Net Direct and Indirect Debt / Operating Revenue
[5] Interest Payments/ Operating Revenue
Source: Moody's Ratings; Fiscal 2023.

Ratings

Exhibit 6

Category	Moody's Rating
ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL	
Outlook	Stable
Baseline Credit Assessment	baa1
Issuer Rating -Dom Curr	A2
Senior Unsecured -Dom Curr	A2

Source: Moody's Ratings

© 2024 Moody's Corporation, Moody's Investors Service, Inc., Moody's Analytics, Inc. and/or their licensors and affiliates (collectively, "MOODY'S"). All rights reserved.
CREDIT RATINGS ISSUED BY MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS AFFILIATES ARE THEIR CURRENT OPINIONS OF THE RELATIVE FUTURE CREDIT RISK OF ENTITIES, CREDIT COMMITMENTS, OR DEBT OR DEBT-LIKE SECURITIES, AND MATERIALS, PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND INFORMATION PUBLISHED OR OTHERWISE MADE AVAILABLE BY MOODY'S (COLLECTIVELY, "MATERIALS") MAY INCLUDE SUCH CURRENT OPINIONS. MOODY'S DEFINES CREDIT RISK AS THE RISK THAT AN ENTITY MAY NOT MEET ITS CONTRACTUAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AS THEY COME DUE AND ANY ESTIMATED FINANCIAL LOSS IN THE EVENT OF DEFAULT OR IMPAIRMENT. SEE APPLICABLE MOODY'S RATING SYMBOLS AND DEFINITIONS PUBLICATION FOR INFORMATION ON THE TYPES OF CONTRACTUAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS ADDRESSED BY MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS. CREDIT RATINGS DO NOT ADDRESS ANY OTHER RISK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: LIQUIDITY RISK, MARKET VALUE RISK, OR PRICE VOLATILITY. CREDIT RATINGS, NON-CREDIT ASSESSMENTS ("ASSESSMENTS"), AND OTHER OPINIONS INCLUDED IN MOODY'S MATERIALS ARE NOT STATEMENTS OF CURRENT OR HISTORICAL FACT. MOODY'S MATERIALS MAY ALSO INCLUDE QUANTITATIVE MODEL-BASED ESTIMATES OF CREDIT RISK AND RELATED OPINIONS OR COMMENTARY PUBLISHED BY MOODY'S ANALYTICS, INC. AND/OR ITS AFFILIATES. MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS AND MATERIALS DO NOT CONSTITUTE OR PROVIDE INVESTMENT OR FINANCIAL ADVICE, AND MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS AND MATERIALS ARE NOT AND DO NOT PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PURCHASE, SELL, OR HOLD PARTICULAR SECURITIES. MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS AND MATERIALS DO NOT COMMENT ON THE SUITABILITY OF AN INVESTMENT FOR ANY PARTICULAR INVESTOR. MOODY'S ISSUES ITS CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER OPINIONS AND PUBLISHES OR OTHERWISE MAKES AVAILABLE ITS MATERIALS WITH THE EXPECTATION AND UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH INVESTOR WILL, WITH DUE CARE, MAKE ITS OWN STUDY AND EVALUATION OF EACH SECURITY THAT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR PURCHASE, HOLDING, OR SALE.
MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS, AND MATERIALS ARE NOT INTENDED FOR USE BY RETAIL INVESTORS AND IT WOULD BE RECKLESS AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR RETAIL INVESTORS TO USE MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS OR MATERIALS WHEN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION. IF IN DOUBT YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR FINANCIAL OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISER.
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS PROTECTED BY LAW, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COPYRIGHT LAW, AND NONE OF SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE COPIED OR OTHERWISE REPRODUCED, REPACKAGED, FURTHER TRANSMITTED, TRANSFERRED, DISSEMINATED, REDISTRIBUTED OR RESOLD, OR STORED FOR SUBSEQUENT USE FOR ANY SUCH PURPOSE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM OR MANNER OR BY ANY MEANS WHATSOEVER, BY ANY PERSON WITHOUT MOODY'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT. FOR CLARITY, NO INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN MAY BE USED TO DEVELOP, IMPROVE, TRAIN OR RETRAIN ANY SOFTWARE PROGRAM OR DATABASE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FOR ANY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, MACHINE LEARNING OR NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING SOFTWARE, ALGORITHM, METHODOLOGY AND/OR MODEL.
MOODY'S CREDIT RATINGS, ASSESSMENTS, OTHER OPINIONS AND MATERIALS ARE NOT INTENDED FOR USE BY ANY PERSON AS A BENCHMARK AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED FOR REGULATORY PURPOSES AND MUST NOT BE USED IN ANY WAY THAT COULD RESULT IN THEM BEING CONSIDERED A BENCHMARK.
All information contained herein is obtained by MOODY'S from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. Because of the possibility of human or mechanical error as well as other factors, however, all information contained herein is provided "AS IS" without warranty of any kind. MOODY'S adopts all necessary measures so that the information it uses in assigning a credit rating is of sufficient quality and from sources MOODY'S considers to be reliable including, when appropriate, independent third-party sources. However, MOODY'S is not an auditor and cannot in every instance independently verify or validate information received in the credit rating process or in preparing its Materials.
To the extent permitted by law, MOODY'S and its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, licensors and suppliers disclaim liability to any person or entity for any indirect, special, consequential, or incidental losses or damages whatsoever arising from or in connection with the information contained herein or the use of or inability to use any such information, even if MOODY'S or any of its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, licensors or suppliers is advised in advance of the possibility of such losses or damages, including but not limited to: (a) any loss of present or prospective profits or (b) any loss or damage arising where the relevant financial instrument is not the subject of a particular credit rating assigned by MOODY'S.
To the extent permitted by law, MOODY'S and its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, licensors and suppliers disclaim liability for any direct or compensatory losses or damages caused to any person or entity, including but not limited to by any negligence (but excluding fraud, willful misconduct or any other type of liability that, for the avoidance of doubt, by law cannot be excluded) on the part of, or any contingency within or beyond the control of, MOODY'S or any of its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, licensors or suppliers, arising from or in connection with the information contained herein or the use of or inability to use any such information.
NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE OF ANY CREDIT RATING, ASSESSMENT, OTHER OPINION OR INFORMATION IS GIVEN OR MADE BY MOODY'S IN ANY FORM OR MANNER WHATSOEVER.
Moody's Investors Service, Inc., a wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary of Moody's Corporation ("MCO"), hereby discloses that most issuers of debt securities (including corporate and municipal bonds, debentures, notes and commercial paper) and preferred stock rated by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. have, prior to assignment of any credit rating, agreed to pay to Moody's Investors Service, Inc. for credit ratings opinions and services rendered by it. MCO and Moody's Investors Service also maintain policies and procedures to address the independence of Moody's Investors Service credit ratings and credit rating processes. Information regarding certain affiliations that may exist between directors of MCO and rated entities, and between entities who hold credit ratings from Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and have also publicly reported to the SEC an ownership interest in MCO of more than 5%, is posted annually at www.moodys.com under the heading "Investor Relations — Corporate Governance — Charter Documents - Director and Shareholder Affiliation Policy."
Moody's SF Japan K.K., Moody's Local AR Agente de Calificación de Riesgo S.A., Moody's Local BR Agência de Classificação de Risco LTDA, Moody's Local MX S.A. de C.V, I.C.V., Moody's Local PE Clasificadora de Riesgo S.A., and Moody's Local PA Calificadora de Riesgo S.A. (collectively, the "Moody's Non-NRSRO CRAs") are all indirectly wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiaries of MCO. None of the Moody's Non-NRSRO CRAs is a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization.
Additional terms for Australia only: Any publication into Australia of this document is pursuant to the Australian Financial Services License of MOODY'S affiliate, Moody's Investors Service Pty Limited ABN 61 003 399 657AFSL 336969 and/or Moody's Analytics Australia Pty Ltd ABN 94 105 136 972 AFSL 383569 (as applicable). This document is intended to be provided only to "wholesale clients" within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001. By continuing to access this document from within Australia, you represent to MOODY'S that you are, or are accessing the document as a representative of, a "wholesale client" and that neither you nor the entity you represent will directly or indirectly disseminate this document or its contents to "retail clients" within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001. MOODY'S credit rating is an opinion as to the creditworthiness of a debt obligation of the issuer, not on the equity securities of the issuer or any form of security that is available to retail investors.
Additional terms for India only: Moody's credit ratings, Assessments, other opinions and Materials are not intended to be and shall not be relied upon or used by any users located in India in relation to securities listed or proposed to be listed on Indian stock exchanges.
Additional terms with respect to Second Party Opinions (as defined in Moody's Investors Service Rating Symbols and Definitions): Please note that a Second Party Opinion ("SPO") is not a "credit rating". The issuance of SPOs is not a regulated activity in many jurisdictions, including Singapore. JAPAN: In Japan, development and provision of SPOs fall under the category of "Ancillary Businesses", not "Credit Rating Business", and are not subject to the regulations applicable to "Credit Rating Business" under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan and its relevant regulation. PRC: Any SPO: (1) does not constitute a PRC Green Bond Assessment as defined under any relevant PRC laws or regulations; (2) cannot be included in any registration statement, offering circular, prospectus or any other documents submitted to the PRC regulatory authorities or otherwise used to satisfy any PRC regulatory disclosure requirement; and (3) cannot be used within the PRC for any regulatory purpose or for any other purpose which is not permitted under relevant PRC laws or regulations. For the purposes of this disclaimer, "PRC" refers to the mainland of the People's Republic of China, excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

REPORT NUMBER 1412820

CLIENT SERVICES

Americas	1-212-553-1653
Asia Pacific	852-3551-3077
Japan	81-3-5408-4100
EMEA	44-20-7772-5454

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 9 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank