



# Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment

2021



Community Planning  
Aberdeen

# Contents

<b>The Aberdeen Overview</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 What is a Population Needs Assessment	7
1.2 Data used and limitations	7
1.3 Consultation	8
1.4 Layout	8
1.5 Sustainable Development Goals	8
<b>2. Our Economy</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Economy	9
2.2 Business	10
2.3 Labour market	11
2.4 Earnings	15
2.5 Poverty and deprivation	15
<b>3. Our People: Demography</b>	<b>18</b>
3.1 Population	18
3.2 Migration	19
3.3 Population projections	20
3.4 Births	20
3.5 Deaths	21
3.6 Estimated life expectancy	22
3.7 Healthy life expectancy	23
3.8 Households	24
<b>4. Our People: Children &amp; Young People</b>	<b>26</b>
4.1 Child population	26
4.2 Looked after children	26
4.3 Mental health and wellbeing	28
4.4 Education	30
4.5 Children – early years	35
4.6 Child health	38
4.7 Smoking, alcohol and drug use	41
4.8 Juvenile crime	42

<b>5.</b>	<b>Our People: Adults</b>	<b>43</b>
5.1	Health behaviours	44
5.2	Mental health	46
5.3	Key diseases	48
5.4	Hospitalisations	49
5.5	Home care and care homes	49
5.6	Looking after own health and wellbeing	51
<b>6.</b>	<b>Our Place</b>	<b>52</b>
6.1	Our City	52
6.2	Communities	52
6.3	Housing	53
6.4	Crime	55
6.5	Criminal justice and social work	57
6.6	Safety	57
6.7	Environment	58
<b>7</b>	<b>Further Information</b>	<b>63</b>

# The Aberdeen Overview

A summary of key findings from the  
Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment – January 2021

## Our Economy



- City Growth
- Business
- Employment
- Earnings
- Skills & Workforce
- Tourism
- Poverty

## Our People



- Pre-natal & best start
- Child health
- Child protection
- Looked after children
- Mental health
- Education
- Youth justice



- Older people
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Mental health
- Physical health
- Crime and justice
- Homelessness
- Hospitalisation

## Our Place



- Priority neighbourhoods
- Place standard
- Environment
- Community safety
- Volunteering
- Active travel
- Data and digital

# Economy



## Covid-19 Impact

KPMG forecast that Aberdeen will be one of the worst impacted economically with a large decrease in output in 2020 and a strong bounceback in 2021. They project that overall Aberdeen City will be the 5th worst affected area in Scotland due highly impacted industries: air transport, coke and refined petroleum.



## City Growth

Historically, GVA per head for Aberdeen City has been significantly higher than the average for Scotland. After a sharp fall in March, Scotland's GDP has continued to increase month by month. But as of September 2020, output remains 7.6% below the level in February prior to the direct impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic



## Business

There has been a slight drop in the number of businesses in Aberdeen. In 2020 99.3% of enterprises were classified as micro, small or medium and 0.7% were large (over 250 employees). The rate of micro and small businesses applying for Covid business support grants has been half the rate seen across Scotland, suggesting that many businesses in the City have been resilient.



## Employment and Furlough

As of June 20, the rate of unemployment in the City was 2.7%, compared to 3.3% for Scotland. Claimants increased by 128% between Mar-Nov 20 to 6% of the working age population, signalling rising unemployment. Furlough has helped reduce unemployment. As at 30 Sep 20, 9,700 people were on furlough. This is 6.2 per 100 compared to 5.2 for Scotland and 2nd highest rate of all LAs.



## Earnings

The median gross weekly pay is £582.20 compared to £595 for Scotland. Employees earning less than the living wage decreased from 18% in 2016 to 11.9% in 2019.



## Young Workforce

2020 figures for participation of 16-19 years olds in Education, Employment or Training has remained steady over the past 3 years from 89.8% in 2018 to 89.9% in 2020. However, school leavers and younger workers in particular are likely to feel the lasting effects of the pandemic on the labour market. The percentage of leavers successfully achieving a modern apprenticeship fell from 80% to 77%



## Tourism

Latest data available shows that in recent years the number of domestic visitors to the City has decreased, although there has been an increase in international visitors and air passengers. Covid-19 has had a considerable impact on the tourism industry due to global travel restrictions and "stay at home" messaging. Hotels are reporting a revenue drop of 60-80% compared to last year.



## Employment sectors

In 2019 over 8% of employees worked in the Accommodation and Food sector and 2% worked in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation. These sectors have been most impacted by the virus so far. Scottish Enterprise ranked Aberdeen as the third highest (after Glasgow and Edinburgh) in terms of potential redundancies with over 10,000 jobs estimated to be at risk in Aberdeen City.



## Digital Skills

The digital technology sector is growing rapidly and reliance on digital technologies has become even more apparent during the pandemic – working from home, connecting with friends and family, and undertaking basic everyday tasks such as shopping and banking. Access to digital tools and ability to perform digital tasks continues to increase, as does the demand for skills with employers.



## Poverty and Deprivation

In 2020 the proportion of Aberdeen datazones in the 40% most deprived areas of Scotland has increased from 28% to 33.2%. Conversely, 36.7% of datazones are in the 20% least deprived areas of Scotland. The pandemic has pushed many people into poverty and financial insecurity, but most often impacting those who were already lowest paid.



## Food Poverty

In March 2020, 6.4% of City Voice respondents reported that, because of lack of money or other resources, they were hungry but did not eat. Covid 19 has had a significant impact on food security and as of 3 December 2020, of the 21,100 residents who called the Covid-19 crisis line, 5,076 calls required food assistance with 91% of those resulting from unavailable funds.



## Fuel Poverty

23% of households are in fuel poverty – lower than the 25% average rate for Scotland. This is higher in Social housing (48%) than owner-occupied housing (10%). Extreme fuel poverty is estimated to affect 12% of households in Aberdeen. Again, there are differences between social housing households and owner occupied households.

# People



## Pre-Natal Health

13.7% of women in the City with a known smoking status were recorded as a 'current smoker' at their first antenatal appointment lower than the Scottish average. Teenage pregnancies per 1,000 in Aberdeen were 31.1 compared to 30.5 for Scotland. In the period 2016/17 to 2018/19 (3-year aggregate) the rate for maternal drug use was 17.1 (crude rate per 1,000 maternities) which is higher than the rate for Scotland of 15.4.



## Best Start in Life

In Aberdeen between 2016/17 to 2018/19, 85% of babies born were a healthy birth weight. The proportion of babies exclusively breast-fed at 6-8 weeks (2017/18 - 2019/20) is higher (39.9%) compared to Scotland (31.2%). National data indicates that COVID-19 is likely to impact on the developmental milestones of 2-4 year olds due to the various impacts of lockdown restrictions.



## Child Health

In 2018/19, 69.7% of P1 pupils in Aberdeen had no obvious tooth decay – slightly lower than the average rate for Scotland of 71.6. In 2018/19 79.5% of p1s were classified as 'healthy weight' – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland of 76.6%.



## Child Protection

In July 2019, there were 119 children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) in Aberdeen City. This is an increase from 68 in 2018. The rate of children on the CPR (per 1,000 children aged 0-15 years) was 3.4 compared to 2.8 in Scotland. 59 of the cases were due to neglect and 45 due to parental drug/alcohol use.



## Looked after children (LAC)

In July 2019 there were 542 LAC in Aberdeen, 1.4% of the 0-17 years population. The proportion of LAC in kinship care was at lower in Aberdeen at 36%, compared to Scotland (54.2%) [19]. In 2018-19, 24.9% of LAC had more than 1 placement in the past year – higher than the rate for Scotland of 19.7% [20]. Local intelligence indicates there has been an increase in kinship care over Lockdown.



## Educational Outcomes of LAC

In 2018/19 82.4% of LAC in the city left school with 1 or more qualification at SCQF level 4 – higher than Scotland at 69.8%. In 2018/19, 76% of LAC in Aberdeen had a positive destination compared to 71% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate for 2017/18 of 79% and lower than the rate for all children of 93.2%



## Children's Mental Health

Public Health Scotland have reported that the COVID-19 Lockdown has had a negative impact on the sleep, behaviour, mood, physical activity, concentration, and eating for children aged between 2 and 7 with similar outcomes for 18-24 year olds. There has been a 280% increase in referrals of children and young people to the NHS Grampian CAMHS Eating Disorder specialist team in 2020 compared to 2019.



## Attainment and Achievement

The number of young people achieving National 4 is 88% which is lower than the pass rate in 2016 which sat at 94%. The number of young people achieving A-C at National 5 has increased in 2020 to 88.7%. This is higher than in the previous four years at 78.6% in 2016 and the 5 year low of 76.7% in 2019.



## Positive Destinations

In 2018/19, 93.2% of school leavers in Aberdeen had a positive destination, this is compared to 88.1% in areas of deprivation. COVID -19 is likely to have a significant impact on school leavers in the next few years. Groups most likely affected will include girls, ethnic minorities, those in poverty and care experienced young people.



## Child Poverty

In 2018/19 an estimated 7,471 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City were living in poverty – equivalent to 21.5% of children. This is an increase from 19.2% in 2014/15.














## Attendance and Exclusions

In 2018/19, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 94.5% and for secondary schools the rate was 91.6%. In 2018/19 there were 1,221 cases of exclusion in Aberdeen City – an increase from 1,072 in 2016/17.

## Youth Justice

In 2019/20, 714 young people were identified as being involved in criminality, up from 672 in 2018/19. In the same period, the total number of offences increased from 1,481 to 1,595, the first increase in 4 years. Figures between April and July 2020 saw a decrease where 185 8-17 year olds committed offences, compared to 361 in 2019/20.

 <p><b>Mental Health</b> In 2019/20, 16.6% of Aberdeen's population is prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis, lower than Scotland but an increasing trend, mirrored nationally. In 2019 there were 25 probable suicides in Aberdeen (20 male &amp; 5 female), a reduction of 5 since 2018. As a result of social isolation and the socio-economic impacts of Covid-19, mental health is an area of concern.</p>	 <p><b>Dementia &amp; Older People in the Community</b> In 2019, Dementia and Alzheimer's disease were the leading cause of death for females in Aberdeen City (13.2% of all female deaths) and the second most common cause of death for males (8.0% of all male deaths). The proportion of people aged 65+ years is widespread throughout the city ranges from 7% in Old Aberdeen, City Centre and George Street to 25% in Dyce.</p>	 <p><b>Life and death</b> In 2017-19, female HLE was 62.5 years and male HLE was 60.6 years (both down on last year and continuing the downward trend). In 2019 there were 2,161 deaths in Aberdeen – a slight decrease from 2,170 deaths in 2018. At 6th December, there were 158 deaths in Aberdeen where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate (77 female and 81 male).</p>
 <p><b>Drugs</b> In each of the last two years, the number of drug-related deaths has fallen and was at 44 in 2019. Of these, 31 were males and 13 were females. In the period 2015-19, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 0.21 deaths per 1,000 population (compared to 0.19 in 2014-18) and is higher than Scotland (0.18). There are indications that Covid-19 and subsequent restrictions have increased levels of drug and alcohol misuse.</p>	 <p><b>Alcohol</b> In the period 2016-19, 25% of adults in Aberdeen were drinking above the guideline recommendations of 14 units per week (4% reduction from 2014-17) Alcohol related deaths for the city reduced from 41 in 2014-2018 to 38 in 2015-2019) similar to the rate for Scotland. Whilst alcohol-related hospital admissions have increased to a rate of 759 per 100,000 population in 2018/19 to 711 in 2019/20 and higher than Scotland rate of 673.</p>	 <p><b>Obesity &amp; Physical Activity</b> In 2016-19 it was estimated that 23% of the City's adult population was obese (classified as a BMI of 30+), lower than the rate for Scotland of 29% and a decrease from 25% in 2014-17. In period 2016-19 combined 70% of adults level of physical activity met the recommended guidelines, an increase of 3% since 2015-18 and 4% higher than Scotland.</p>
 <p><b>Community Justice</b> In 2018-19, 725 people living in Aberdeen City had a first ever court conviction – down from 809 in 2017-18. Of these, 32 were under 18 years and 120 were aged 18-20 years. Of the 2,483 offenders in the 2016-17 cohort, 29.5% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence. In 2019-20, 680 Community Payback Orders were successfully completed, up from 644 in 2018-19.</p>	 <p><b>Crime</b> In 2019/20 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen were Group 6, Miscellaneous Offences, including assault and anti-social behaviour type crimes and offences(5,833), Group 7, Road Traffic Offences(5,577) and Group 3, Crimes of Dishonesty (5,218). Since 2016/17, rates (per 10,000 population) have decreased for all crimes and offences except for non-sexual crimes of violence where the rate has increased from 17.4 per 10,000 population to 22.4.</p>	 <p><b>Domestic Abuse</b> In 2019/20 there was an increase of 42 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen (2,528) and there 162 recorded crimes for domestic abuse. Resulting from Covid-19 and the impact on access to support services there have been concerns about a rise in domestic violence. Between April &amp; October 2020, there were 85 domestic abuse crimes recorded in Aberdeen compared to 88 for the same period in 2019.</p>
 <p><b>Smoking</b> In the period 2016-19, an estimated 18% of adults in Aberdeen were current smokers - down from 23% in 2014-17 and similar Scotland figure (17%). A higher proportion of males (20%) than females (17%) were smokers. It is estimated that 5% of adults use e-cigarettes (6% males, 4% females).</p>	 <p><b>Homelessness &amp; Housing</b> In the year 2019-20, there were 1,486 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation in Aberdeen City Council. This is a decrease of 8.7% (141 applications) on the number of applications in 2018-19. At 31st March 2019 there were 4,116 applicants on the Local Authority's waiting list and 2,124 on the transfer list for housing.</p>	 <p><b>Emergency Admissions</b> The rate of emergency hospitalisations has been gradually decreasing over the past 10 years, from 7,813 per 100,000 population in 2007-09 to the current level of 7,024. Over the same period, the rate in Scotland has increased. Data for Apr to Sep 2020 has shown a decrease in both emergency admissions and A&amp;E attendance compared to the same period in 2019 and suggests this has been due to Covid-19.</p>

# Place



## Priority Neighbourhoods by Locality

Based on SIMD

### South

- Torry
- Kincorth

### North

- Mastrick
- Middlefield
- Northfield
- Cummings Park
- Heathryfold

### Central

- Seaton
- Tillydrone
- Woodside
- Stockethill
- George Street
- Ashgrove



## Place Standard

When asked about different aspects of their neighbourhood, availability of green space and feeling safe in your neighbourhood were the highest scoring areas in March 2020. Lowest scoring areas were economy and access to jobs and as well as the ability to participate in decisions and help change things for the better.



## Green Space

In March 2020, 65% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with their local green space, down from 71% in 2019. A Scottish report has found that use of green space during lockdown varied, with some groups increasing the frequency of their visits and others, particularly older people, reducing their visits. Those who used green space reported it benefitted their mental health.



## Emissions

In 2018 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Aberdeen totalled 1,210.4 kt (down from 1,875.1 in 2005). Of this, 44.4% is attributed to industry and commerce, 28.9% to domestic use and 26.9% to transport.



## Waste

Household waste generated in Aberdeen has decreased each year since 2016. The amount of household waste going to landfill has reduced by 74% since 2016 and the % of waste being recycled has increased from 39% to 49.9%. Waste managed by other methods (e.g. incineration) has also increased and was 32.4% in 2019.



## Flooding

80% of average annual damages for flooding in the North East are within Aberdeen. This means the total average annual damages for Aberdeen are £17,370,000pa.



## Youth anti-social behaviour

In 2019, a total of 2,761 Youth Anti-social Behaviour calls reported to the Police. This is a considerable increase from 1,740 in 2018. In the year to September 2020, there were 1,426 calls reported to the Police.



## Dwelling Fires

In 2019/20 there were 256 accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen and 35 deliberate dwelling fires. Aberdeen has a higher rate of both fires than Scotland at 214.2 and 29.3 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 165.6 and 19.8. Impairment due to alcohol/drugs was suspected to be a contributory factor to accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen in 15.6% of cases.



## Road Safety

During 2019, there were 118 road collisions in Aberdeen, involving 148 fatal, serious or slight injuries. Sadly, this included 3 fatalities from 3 separate collisions. There were 53 individuals seriously injured in 47 collisions, while 92 individuals were slightly injured in 68 collisions. The number of people seriously injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (from 34 in 2017).



## Volunteering

In response to Covid-19, over 7,000 volunteers were recruited through for Aberdeen alone (March–July 2020) and over 25% are over 60. Pre Covid-19 there was close to 80,000 people assisting volunteering, contributing to a combined 4.4m hours of help every year. The increase is mirrored nationally with volunteering participation in Scotland increasing by 26%.



## Active Travel

In 2019, 21% of people reported walking as their main mode of travel (same as 2018) and 2% reported cycling (up 1%). Driving a car was the most common at 53%. Covid-19 has impacted on the number of trips and the modes of travel. In Aberdeen, data shows that the level of cycle users in Nov 2020 was up 37% compared to Nov 2019 and the daily number of pedestrians was up 62%.



## Digital and Data

Effective use of data and digital technology can help the way we deliver public services and empower people in our communities. 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. However, the UK Data Strategy recognises weaknesses in how public service organisations currently share and use data to help our communities.



# Introduction

## 1.1. What is a Population Needs Assessment?

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

This PNA will update the information provided in the [Population Needs Assessment](#) which was carried out in 2018.

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

## 1.2. Data used and limitations

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

As there are few official statistics that give local authority level data in (near to) real-time, most of the data included in this document is pre-COVID-19 and so will not capture the impact that the pandemic has had. Where more recent data is available (e.g. Claimant Count) this has been included. In some cases, Scotland level data or information has been added to help give an indication of which areas are most likely to be impacted.

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

such as neighbourhoods or intermediate zones where there is likely to be greater imprecision around estimates and confidence intervals are likely to be broader.

### 1.3. Consultation

Within this Population Needs Assessment information on the Customer and Citizens perspective has been included. In most cases, this has been done using Aberdeen City Voice. Aberdeen City Voice is Aberdeen's citizens' panel. There are over 1,400 citizens on the panel who have agreed to give their views on a range of issues. Full access to the questionnaires and reports can be found at [Aberdeen City Voice](#).

### 1.4. Layout

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

### 1.5 Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were developed in 2016. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth – 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. Through out this document you will see reference made to the goals, acknowledging where there are gaps in current data.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# Our Economy



## 2. Our Economy

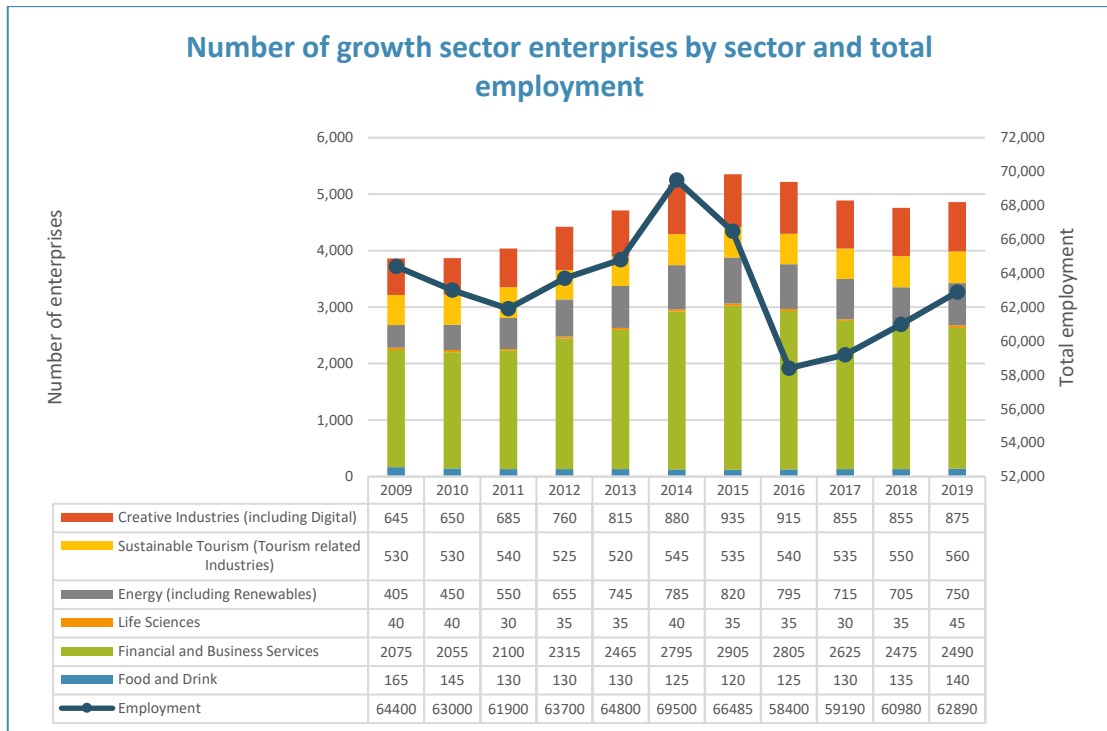
**COVID-19 overview - Scotland:** Scotland's GDP grew 1.5% in May following sharp falls of 18.9% in April and 5.5% in March. Compared to February, Scotland's GDP was 22% lower in May. This is significantly bigger than any previous economic contraction. In September, Scotland's GDP is provisionally estimated to have increased by 1.6% compared to August. This is the fifth consecutive month of increasing GDP, but output remains 7.6% below the level in February prior to the direct impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic [1].

KPMG forecast that Aberdeen City will be one of the worst impacted economically with a large decrease in output in 2020 and a strong bounceback in 2021. They project that overall Aberdeen City will be the 5<sup>th</sup> worst affected area in Scotland. This is partly due to the industries that are likely to be most impacted nationally, and that have a high footprint in Aberdeen: air transport, coke and refined petroleum.

### 2.1. Economy

**Gross Value Added (GVA):** In 2018 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a GVA (current prices) of £18,235 million – equivalent to 12.8% of Scotland's total GVA [2]. GVA per head for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire was £37,288 (current basic prices) which was higher than the average GVA per head for Scotland of £26,134 and an increase from £36,014 in 2017 [3].

**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 2019 there were 4,860 growth sector enterprises in Aberdeen City with slightly over half of these (52.1%) being financial and business services. Between 2015 and 2018, the number of growth sector enterprises fell from 5,350 to 4,755 but increased between 2018 and 2019. Total employment in growth sector enterprises was 62,890 in 2019 – an increase from 60,980 in 2018 [4].



Source: Scottish Government, Growth Sector Statistics, Local authority area statistics database [4]

**Oil and Gas:** In 2019 it was estimated that there were around 30,600 people directly employed in the Oil and Gas Industry in the UK (no figures for Aberdeen City available). Indirect employment (i.e. within the wider industry supply chain) was around 121,000. A further 117,5000 jobs were supported through induced employment (i.e. those who are supported as a result of the wider economic activity stimulated by the Oil and Gas Industry). The total number of jobs supported by Oil and Gas increased between 2018 and 2019 (from an estimated 259,000 in 2018 to an increase to around 269,000 in 2019). This is the first year-on-year increase since 2014 [5]. However, the recent drop in oil price and the coronavirus pandemic have had a major impact on the industry. Oil and Gas UK estimate 30,000 jobs in the sector in the UK could be lost as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the low oil price with around 10,000 of these in the North East [6].

**Tourism and travel:** In 2018 there were 574,000 domestic visitors and 250,000 international visitors to Aberdeen City. The number of domestic visitors to the City decreased between 2017 (592,000) and 2018, while the number of international visitors increased (from 243,000 in 2017) [7]. **Air passengers:** In 2019 there were 2.91 million terminal passengers through Aberdeen Airport. This is a drop from 3.05 million in 2018 and lower than the peak of 3.72 million in 2014 [8]. **Rail passengers:** In 2018-19 there were 2,661,142 entries and exits at Aberdeen train station. This is down from 2,948,186 in 2017-18 and lower than the peak of 3,742,646 in 2014-15 [9]. Tourism has been badly affected by COVID-19. Restrictions, particularly early in the summer, shut down many tourism businesses. Hotels in Aberdeen that are more reliant on business or corporate trade have fared particularly badly, reporting a revenue drop of between 60% and 80% compared with 2019 [10].

## 2.2. Businesses

**Impact of COVID-19 on businesses - Scotland:** Analysis from the Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey (BICS) shows that in Scotland, the vast majority of businesses (with 10+ employees) are, and have been, trading through the crisis. In the period 19<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November, an estimated 92.7% of businesses (with 10+ employees) were trading. However, this proportion varied by sector, being lowest in Accommodation and Food Services (62%) and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (88%). While most business are trading, many (50% on average) are doing so with lower turnover. Again, this varies by sector, with a higher proportion in some sectors reporting a decrease in turnover. The worst affected sector was Accommodation and Food Services where, in the period 5<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November, 86% of businesses reported that turnover has decreased compared to what they would normally expect for this time of year. Across all industry sectors, 5.8% of businesses reported that they had no or low confidence that their business will survive the next three months. This percentage increased to 24.9% for Accommodation and Food services [11].

**Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) – Second Grant claims:** On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020, there were a total of 4,000 SEISS second grant claims in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 68 claims per 100 potentially eligible population. This is similar to the average rate for Scotland of 69 claims per 100 potentially eligible population [12].

**Business grants:** At 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 2,370 COVID-19 Business Support Grants had been awarded in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 21 per 100 small and micro businesses (compared to an average of 42 per 100 in Scotland) and is the lowest rate of any Council [12].

**Businesses:** In 2020 there were 8,690 enterprises and 11,555 local units in Aberdeen City <sup>1</sup>. This is down from 8,800 enterprises and 11,625 local units in 2019. In 2020, most enterprises (86.5%) were classified as Micro (employing up to 9 people), 10.2% were small (10 to 49 people), 2.6 were medium (50 to 249 people) and 0.7% were large (employing over 250 people). The number of enterprises is currently lower than the peak of 9,185 in 2015 [13].

**Business births and deaths:** In 2019 there were 1,150 new businesses in Aberdeen City – a slight increase from 1,135 in 2018. The number of business births each year has been broadly stable since 2016. In 2019 there were 1,105 business deaths – slightly higher than 1,070 in 2018, but lower than the peak of 1,450 business deaths in 2016. One-year survival rates of 2018 business births was 90.7% in Aberdeen compared to 90.8% in Scotland. Five-year survival rates of 2014 business births was 40.3% in Aberdeen compared to 42.3% in Scotland [14].

**Business Gateway start-ups:** In 2018-19 there were 524 Business Gateway Start-ups – a slight drop on the number of start-ups in 2017-18 (534) but higher than the 2016-17 figure of 416.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

This is equivalent to a rate of 23 per 10,000 population – higher than the rate for Scotland of 16.7 per 10,000 population [15].

### 2.3. Labour market

**COVID-19/overview - Scotland:** In the short-term, the labour market has been impacted through lockdown, which completely closed some parts of the economy. Longer term damage is likely to come through changing behaviours, which will impact different industries in different ways, and businesses closing as a result. Between March and October 2020, the number of employees in Scotland fell by over 70,000 [16].

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) has helped to reduce unemployment in the short term. There has to be a question whether these jobs will ever return, however, and it should be noted that many of these jobs are already low paid and with limited hours. The Institute for Public Policy Research estimate that across the UK over a million jobs currently furloughed will not return in March [17]. These jobs are primarily held by those who are more likely to have no qualifications. According to the BICS for November, while around 10.1% of the workforce was on furlough leave, this was as high as 36.4% for the Accommodation and Food sector and 26.4% for arts, entertainment, and recreation. Many of the lowest paid employees work in these sectors and in positions that cannot be done remotely, meaning that employees in these sectors are most likely to experience loss of hours and pay, and in the long-term unemployment. In the period 5<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November, only 5.2% of the workforce in Accommodation and Food Services sector were working remotely compared to an average of 23.7% across all industry sectors [11].

School leavers and younger workers in particular are likely to feel the lasting effects of the pandemic on the labour market. As early as April, younger workers reported being much more severely impacted by the economic impact of COVID-19 than older workers, reporting fewer hours worked, being more likely to have lost their jobs, and feeling more insecure about their long-term economic prospects. Young people are also far more likely to be employed in sectors that were most vulnerable to the lockdown and continue to be most affected, for example non-food retail, restaurants and hotels, and passenger transport [18]. As noted by Resolution Foundation, the impact of previous economic recessions has been felt most keenly by those leaving education and entering employment, and the evidence suggests that this experience will be repeated with this recession.

**Furlough – Aberdeen City:** In Aberdeen City, at 30th September there were 9,700 people on furlough. This is equivalent to a rate of 6.2 per 100 16-64 year-olds compared to the rate for Scotland of 5.2. It is the second highest rate of all local authorities – only East Renfrewshire is higher. City of Edinburgh has the third highest rate at 6.1 per 100 16-64 year-olds [12].

**Working from home:** A high proportion of employees in Aberdeen City are in positions that can be done from home at 41.4%. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> highest proportion in Scotland.

**Employment and employment sectors:** In 2019, there were an estimated 172,000 jobs in Aberdeen City of which 118,000 (68.6%) were full-time and 54,000 (31.4%) were part-time. The most common sectors/industries were Human Health and Social Work Activities (16.3% of jobs), Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (15.7%), Mining and Quarrying (11.0%) and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (10.5%). Just over

8% of employees worked in the Accommodation and Food sector, similar to the Scottish average, and 2% worked in Arts, Entertainment and Recreation. These two sectors have been most impacted by the virus and lockdown so far [13]. Analysis by Scottish Enterprise which considers the sectoral make-up within Local Authorities ranked Aberdeen City as the third highest (after Glasgow City and City of Edinburgh) in terms of potential redundancies with over 10,000 jobs estimated to be at risk in Aberdeen City [19].

**Economic activity<sup>2</sup>:** In the year from July 2019 to June 2020, 81.1% of Aberdeen’s working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active compared to 77.1% in Scotland. A higher proportion of males (84.7%) than females (77.7%) were economically active. Of those who were economically active, 78.7% were in employment in Aberdeen City compared to 74.6% in Scotland.

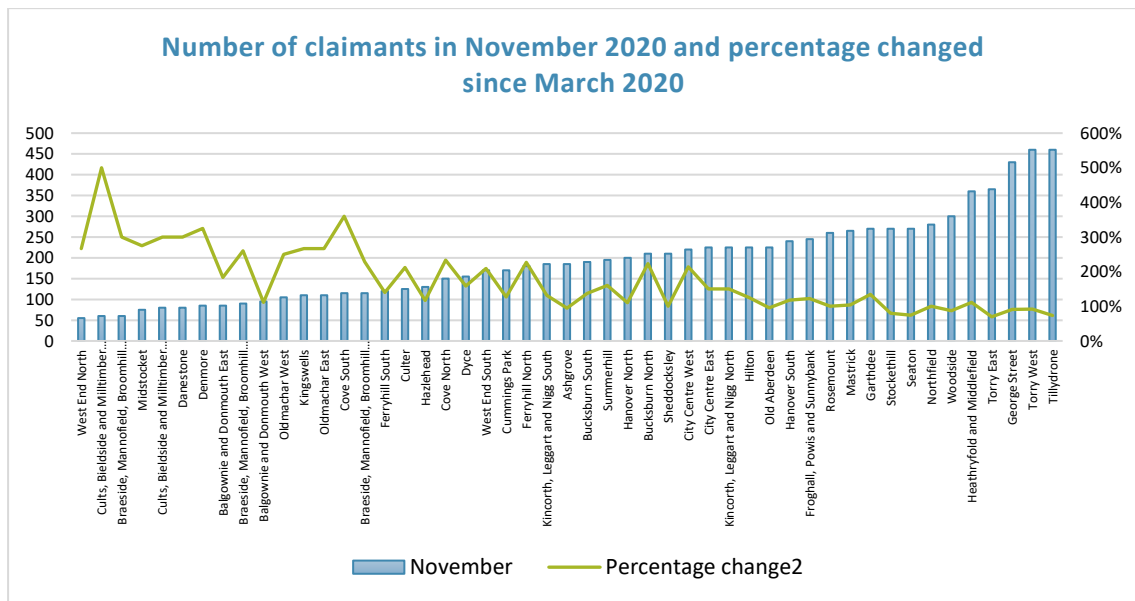
**Economic inactivity:** In the year from July 2019 to June 2020, 18.9% of Aberdeen’s working age population were economically inactive. A higher proportion of females (22.3%) than males (15.3%) were economically inactive. Of all of those who were economically inactive, 27.4% were long-term sick, 25.6% were looking after home/family, 20.2% were students and 12.2% were retired. Three quarters (75.6%) of those who were economically inactive did not want a job [13].

**Claimant count<sup>3</sup>:** Between March and November 2020, the Claimant Count in Scotland increased from 114,650 to 210,750 – an increase of 83.8%. In the same period the number of claimants in Aberdeen City increased from 4,165 to 9,495 – an increase of 128%. This is equivalent to a rate of 6% of the working age population (16-64 years) which is the same as the rate for Scotland. More claimants in Aberdeen City were male (5,900) than female (3,600) and most claimants (58.1%) were aged 25-49 years. The number of claimants varies across the City (Intermediate Zones), being highest in Tillydrone and Torry West which both have 460 claimants and lowest in West End North where there are 50 claimants. However, all areas of the City have seen an increase since March, with the percentage increase in the number of claimants ranging from 70% in Torry East to 500% in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber West (although the numbers here are still relatively low) [13].

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

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



Source: Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Labour Market Profile – Aberdeen City, Claimant Count [13]

**Unemployment (model-based):** In the year from July 2019-June 2020, the unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 2.7% (of those who were economically active). This was lower than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 3.3%, but slightly higher than the rate of 2.5% in the year April 2019 to March 2020 [13].

**Workless households:** In 2019 there were an estimated 13,900 workless households (i.e. households where no-one aged 16 years or over is in employment) in Aberdeen City – an increase from 12,800 in 2018. This is equivalent to 16.1% of all households compared to 17.7% in Scotland. In Scotland (no data available for Aberdeen City), it is estimated that 11.1% of children are in workless households [13].

**Job density:** In 2019 there were an estimated 192,000 jobs in the City – equivalent to 1.22 jobs per person aged 16-64 years (compared to 0.82 for Scotland) [13].

**Qualifications:** Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City has a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to NVQ4 and above (54.9% in Aberdeen and 45.3% in Scotland) [13].

**Modern apprenticeships:** In 2020 Q2, there were 1,057 Modern Apprenticeships currently in training. This is down from 1,125 in the same period last year. The percentage of leavers successfully achieving a Modern Apprenticeship also fell from 80% in 2019 Q2 to 77% in 2020 Q2 [20]

**Digital skills:** The digital technology sector is growing rapidly and is a key contributor to economic growth – creating an unprecedented demand for skills with employers across all sectors. Skills Development Scotland reports that annual vacancies in ICT in Scotland average 13,000, and that 75% of employers reported that they found it difficult to recruit employees with the right technical skills or experience [21]. 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 2016-18, National 5 participation in Computing Science fell by 19% (versus Mathematics, which fell by <1%) with a participation rate at 15% of Mathematics’ participation rate. Participation in Higher Computing Science fell by 8% over the same period (versus Mathematics, which fell by 1%) with a participation rate at 22% of Mathematics’ participation rate. Most of the pupils who take



Computing Science are males. By the time pupils take the Higher Computing Science qualification, only 16% of them are female on average; an imbalance that continues as they move on through university and into industry [22]. In Scotland, 79% of those undertaking Computing Science courses were males and in 2017, only 23% of digital technology roles were held by women [21].

Digital skills are also important in non-‘tech’ roles. Estimates from a DCMS<sup>4</sup>-commissioned module of the February 2020 Office for National Statistics ‘Opinions and Lifestyle’ survey found that nearly half (48%) of the working population use ‘basic’ data skills at work a lot, and just under a quarter (24%) use more advanced skills, such as data analysis and making graphs, a lot in their current job [23].

Digital technologies are also part of daily life for most people. Reliance on digital technologies has become even more apparent during the pandemic – working from home, connecting with friends and family, and undertaking basic everyday tasks such as shopping and banking. A series of questions relating to digital technology was asked in the City Voice survey. In March 2020, when asked about access to digital tools, 82.1% of City Voice respondents reported having access to a laptop or PC, 80.6% to a smart phone and 67.5% to a tablet. Overall, 94.6% 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 81% in 2020). City Voice respondents were also asked a series of questions about their ability to perform digital tasks. Based on responses, 79% of respondents were identified as having ‘basic digital skills’ – an increase from 71% in 2018 [24].

## 2.4. Earnings

**Average weekly wage:** In 2020, the median gross weekly pay for people living in Aberdeen City was £582.50 – slightly lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £595.00. As in Scotland, the median weekly pay was higher for males (£621.30) than for females (£529.50). Both males and females living in Aberdeen earned less than those in Scotland. While the difference for males was relatively small (£621.30 compared to £626.30), females living in Aberdeen City earned considerably less than those in Scotland (£529.50 compared to £562.50). The average (median) weekly pay decreased between 2019 and 2020 (from £599.50 to £582.50) for people living in Aberdeen City, while in Scotland it increased from £578.30 in 2019 to £595.00 in 2020 [13].

**Living Wage:** In 2019 there were an estimated 17,000 people (11.9% of employees) in Aberdeen City who were earning less than the Living Wage (£9.30). The proportion of employees earning less than the Living Wage in Aberdeen City has decreased from 18.0% in 2016 [25]. In 2020, there were 47 employers in Aberdeen City who were signed up to the Real Living Wage [26].

## 2.5. Poverty and deprivation

**COVID-19 overview:** The pandemic has pushed many people into poverty partly due to reduced income as result of reduced hours, reduced levels of pay from the furlough scheme and loss of employment. Analysis by the Legatum Institute suggests that 690,000 more people

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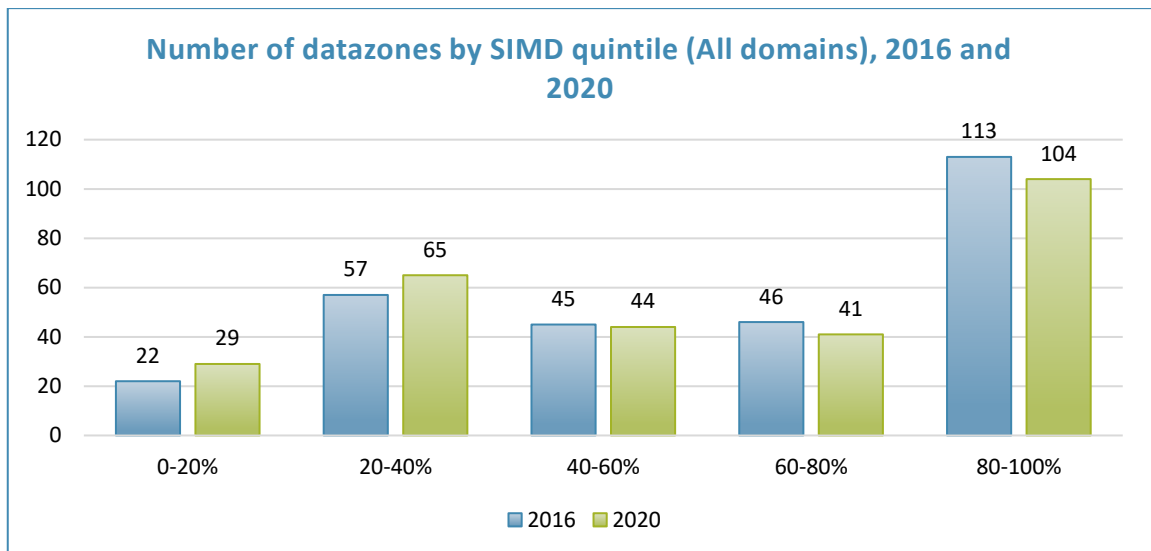
<sup>4</sup>Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

across the UK are now in poverty than would have been the case had the pandemic not occurred [27]. This has not been evenly spread, with certain groups more likely to experience these negative effects, most often those who were already lowest paid and closest to poverty.

As well as young people, two groups who are likely to be particularly affected are women and people in Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. Women tend to work in less secure and lower paid jobs and have therefore felt the worst effects of the impact on the labour market. The Institute for Fiscal Studies highlight that mothers are more likely to have quit or lost their job, or to have been furloughed, compared to fathers since the start of lockdown, and that the gap between pay and hours for men and women has increased. People from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Communities tend to work in less secure and lower paid jobs. The Equality and Human Rights Commission argue that this has been further exacerbated during the pandemic, with people who identified as BAME reporting that they were less likely to be furloughed and more likely to have been made unemployed [28]. This has further widened already existing gaps in income and meant that many people from these communities are more likely to experience poverty.

Linked to a rise in poverty is growing financial insecurity. Research by the Money and Pensions Service suggests that as many as one in five adults are struggling to pay bills and that people are increasingly using savings to cover living costs [29]. As the worst affected employees by the economic disruption have been lower earners who are less likely to have savings to fall back on when experiencing reduced income, there is a growing trend of financial insecurity. Figures from the Scottish Household Survey showed an already high level of financial insecurity in Aberdeen City with 11.1% in 2019 reporting that they “Don’t manage very well and have some financial difficulties” or “Are in deep financial trouble”. This is compared to 8.8% in Scotland and an increase from 9% in 2018 [30].

**Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)**: Based on overall rankings of deprivation (i.e. All Domains), Aberdeen City’s position has worsened between 2016 and 2020. The number of datazones in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland has 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 has 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 [31].



Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020V2 [31]

**Relative poverty:** In Scotland in 2018/19 an estimated 19% of people in Scotland are living in relative poverty (below 60% of median income) after housing costs and it is estimated that 56% of those in relative poverty are in working households (i.e. households where at least one person is working). It is estimated that 23% of children in Scotland are living in relative poverty after housing costs [32]. Provisional data for 2018/19 estimates that 5,198 (15%) children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative Low Income families<sup>5</sup> [33].

**Child poverty:** Research published by the End Child Poverty coalition reported that in 2018/19 an estimated 7,471 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City were living in poverty (below 60% median income after housing costs). This is equivalent to 21.5% of children and an increase from 19.2% in 2014/15 [34].

**Universal credit:** Between March and November 2020, the number of people on Universal Credit in Aberdeen City more than doubled from 7,966 in March to 17,829 in November (provisional). In October 2020, over a 40.2% (6,930) of those on Universal Credit were in employment [35]. The number of people on Universal Credit varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 68 in West End North to a high of 921 in Tillydrone. In November 2020, 4,916 people in the South locality were claiming Universal Credit compared with 5,361 in the North locality and 7,528 in Central.

**Food poverty:** In March 2020, 6.4% of City Voice respondents reported that, because of lack of money or other resources, they were hungry but did not eat [24]. In the period April 2018 to September 2019, 30,448 food parcels were distributed from Independent food banks (not including Trussell Trust) in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. This is an increase from 27,062 parcels in April 2017 to September 2018. Across Scotland the impact of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on food security. Research from the Independent Food Aid Network identified an 113% increase in independent emergency food parcel distribution by independent foodbanks in Scotland from February to July 2020 [36]. As at 3 December 2020, of the 21,100 Aberdeen residents who called the COVID-19 crisis line, 5,076 calls required food assistance with 91% of those resulting from unavailable funds.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

**Fuel poverty:** In 2016-18 an estimated 23% of households in Aberdeen were in fuel poverty with 12% being in extreme fuel poverty. A higher proportion of those in social housing were in fuel poverty than those in owner occupied housing (48% compared to 10%) [37]

**Homeless applications:** In the year 2019-20, there were 1,486 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation in Aberdeen City Council. This is a decrease of 8.7% (141 applications) on the number of applications in 2018-19 [38].

# Our People

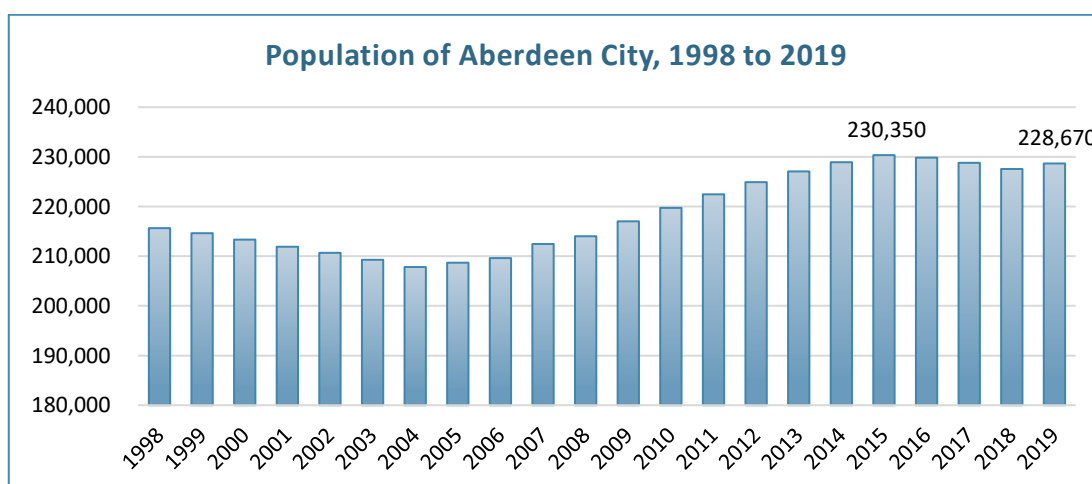


## 3. Demography

### 3.1. Population

**Population:** In June 2019, Aberdeen City had an estimated population of **228,670** [39]. This equates to 4.2% of Scotland’s total population. In terms of population size, Aberdeen City is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest local authority in Scotland. There are slightly more females (114,873) than males (113,797) in the city with females making up 50.2% of the population. The population varies considerably by neighbourhood, ranging from a low of 1,812 in Cummings Park to a high of 13,535 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield.

**Population change:** Following an 11-year period of year-on-year increases, Aberdeen’s population peaked in 2015 (230,350) and decreased in each of the 3 subsequent years before increasing again between 2018 (227,560) and 2019 (228,670).



Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Estimates Time Series Data [40]

**Age structure:** Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen has a relatively young population. The median age in Aberdeen is 38 years compared to 43.4 years for Scotland. Comparison of broad age structures shows that Aberdeen has a higher proportion of working age people (69.1% compared to 64.5%) and a lower proportion of under 16 year-olds (15.5% compared to 16.9%) and people of pensionable age (15.4% compared to 18.7%) than does Scotland. Within

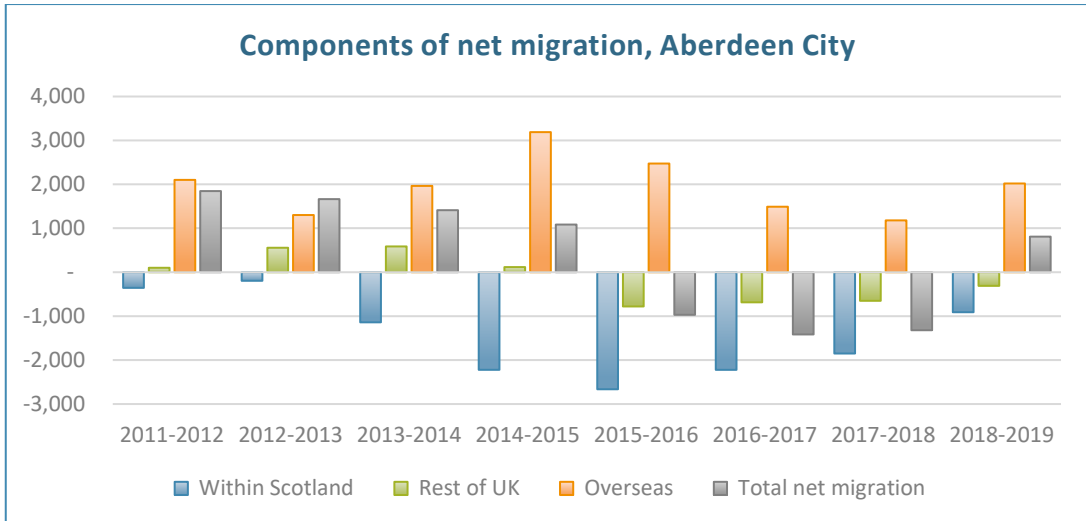
Aberdeen, however, the age structure varies considerably by neighbourhood. The proportion of children (0-15 years) ranges from 25% in Middlefield to 7% in Hanover. The proportion of 16-64 year-olds ranges from 60% in Hazlehead to 86% in George Street and the proportion of people aged 65+ years ranges from 7% in Old Aberdeen, City Centre and George Street to 25% in Dyce [41].

**Country of birth and Ethnicity:** Aberdeen City has a diverse population. Recent figures (year ending June 2020) from National Records of Scotland estimate that 24.7% of the City's population was born outside the UK (compared to 9.8% for Scotland). Of those, it is estimated that 41.1% are from EU countries and 58.9% from non-EU countries (compared to 50% for both groups in the year to end December 2019). The estimated proportion of those born outside the UK has fluctuated in the last few years, from 24% in the year ending June 2017, down to 19% in year ending June in both 2018 and 2019, before rising again to 24.7% in the year to end June 2020. [42]. At the time of the 2011 Census, Aberdeen City had the third highest proportion of non-white ethnic minority people in Scotland at 15.6%. This was more than double the Scotland rate at 7.6% [43].

**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 [44]. At the time of the 2011 Census, 26.5% of the population reported having one or more long-term health conditions (compared to 29.9% in Scotland) and 16% reported having a long-term health condition that limited their activities (compared to 19.7%) in Scotland [43]. In the Scottish Health Survey (2016-19), 24% reported having a limiting long-term illness in Aberdeen City compared to 33% in Scotland. This proportion was higher in females (28%) than males (19%) [45].

### 3.2. Migration

**Migration:** Population change is driven by two main components: 1) natural change (births minus deaths) and (2) net migration (the sum of migration to/from Scotland and internal migration). It also includes other changes (e.g. changes in prisoner and armed forces population) although these tend to make up a smaller proportion of changes. The recent decreases in population were driven by a combination of increased net out-migration (mainly from Aberdeen City to other parts of Scotland) combined with reduced net in-migration from overseas, resulting in overall negative net migration to the City. However, while there was still negative net UK migration between 2018-19, this was lower than in previous years. Also, the levels of positive net migration from overseas increased, resulting in overall positive net migration (810 people). In addition, there was also positive natural change (i.e. more births than deaths) of 328. These combined to result in the increase in population between 2018 and 2019 [46].

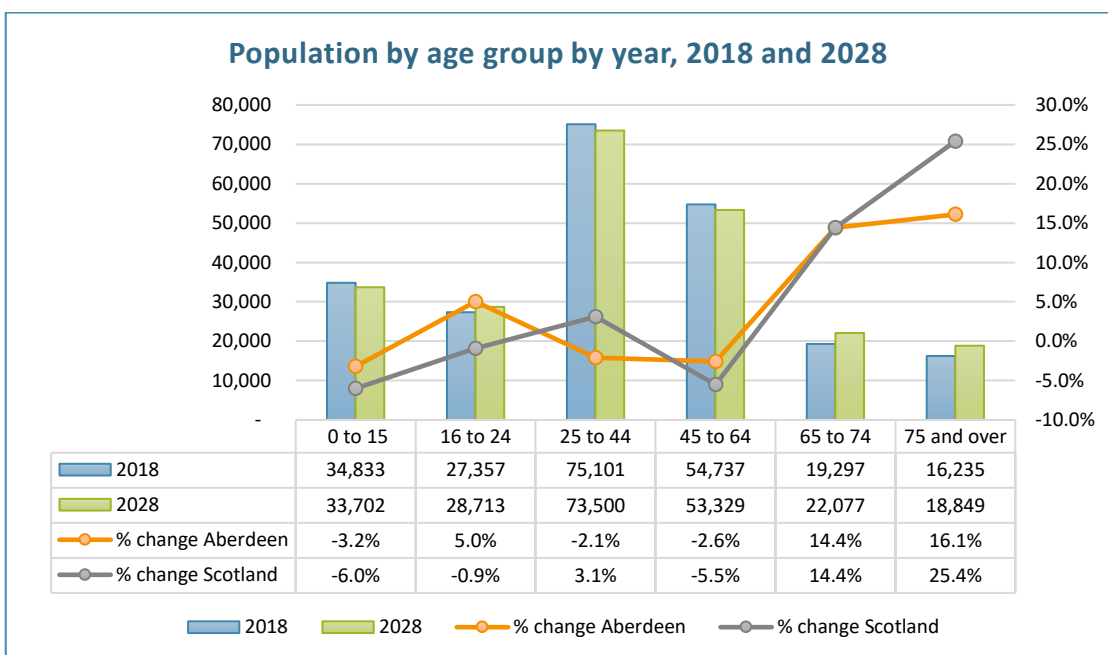


Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-year Population Estimates, Scotland [47]

### 3.3. Population projections

**Population projections:** 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 [48].

**Projected change by age group:** The projected change is not consistent across all age groups. In Aberdeen City, decreases are projected in the 0-15 year age group (-3.2%), the 25-44 year age group (-2.1%) and in the 45-64 year age group (-2.6%). Increases are projected for the other age groups, with the largest increase being in the 75 years and over age group (16.1%). In terms of size, however, 25 to 44 years is projected to remain the largest age group with the 75+ years group projected to remain the smallest group [48].

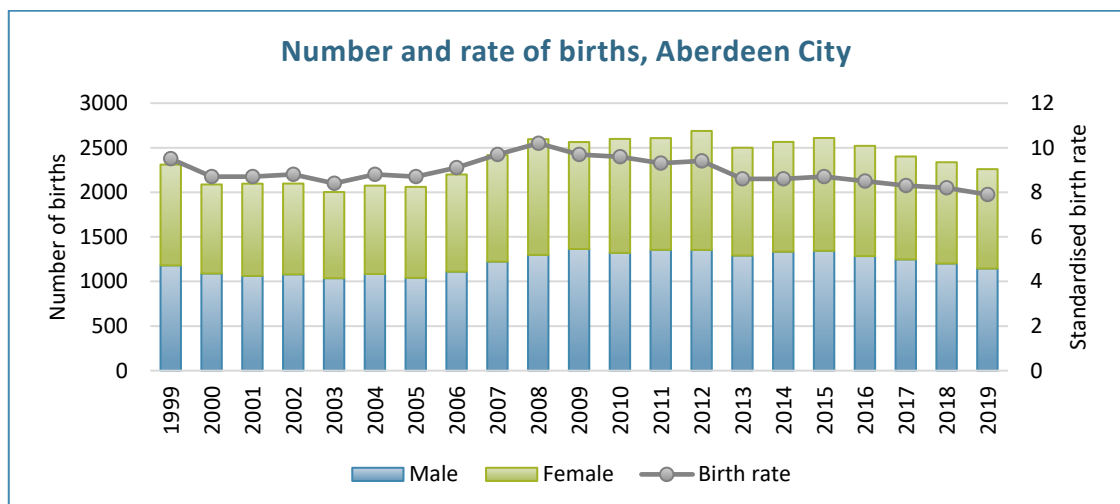


Source: National Records of Scotland, Population projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based) [48]

**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 [48].

### 3.4. Births

**Births:** In 2019 there were 2,260 births in Aberdeen City – a decrease of 3.3% from 2,337 births in 2018. Of these births, 1,114 (49.3%) were female and 1,146 (50.7%) were male. Between 2018 and 2019 the standardised birth rate fell from 8.2 to 7.9 per 1,000 population and is the equal third lowest (along with Dundee) in Scotland. Glasgow City (7.7) and City of Edinburgh (6.7) have the lowest standardised birth rates. The standardised birth rate for Scotland is 9.1 per 1,000 population. The most common age group for mothers is 30-34 years and the least common age group for mothers is 0-19 years. Compared to 20 years ago, more births are now to older mothers, with the number of births to women aged 0-19 years decreasing by 68.3% and the number of births to women aged 40 years and over increasing by 96.5%. The number of births varies across the city. The [Intermediate Zone](#) with the highest number of births in 2018 (2019 data not yet available) was Tillydrone (85 births) and the Intermediate Zone with the lowest number of births was City Centre East (22) [49]. The rate of births ranged from a low of 5.9 per 1,000 to a high of 17.4 per 1,000 [50].



Source: National Records of Scotland, Vital Events Reference Tables [51]

### 3.5. Deaths

**Deaths:** In 2019 there were 2,161 deaths in Aberdeen City – a slight decrease from 2,170 deaths in 2018. Of these deaths, 1,067 (49.4%) were female and 1,094 (50.6%) were male. The age-standardised death rate was 1,134.5 per 100,000 population compared to 1,159.6 in 2018. In Scotland, the standardised death rate decreased from 1,139.5 in 2018 to 1,107.6 in 2019. The highest number of total deaths were in the 85-89 years age group. For females, the most common age group was 90 years and over and for males the most common age group was 80-84 years [51].

Death rates vary across the city. Based on Intermediate Zones, the most recent data is for 2017-19 (3-year aggregate). Age-sex standardised rates range from a high of 2,257 per



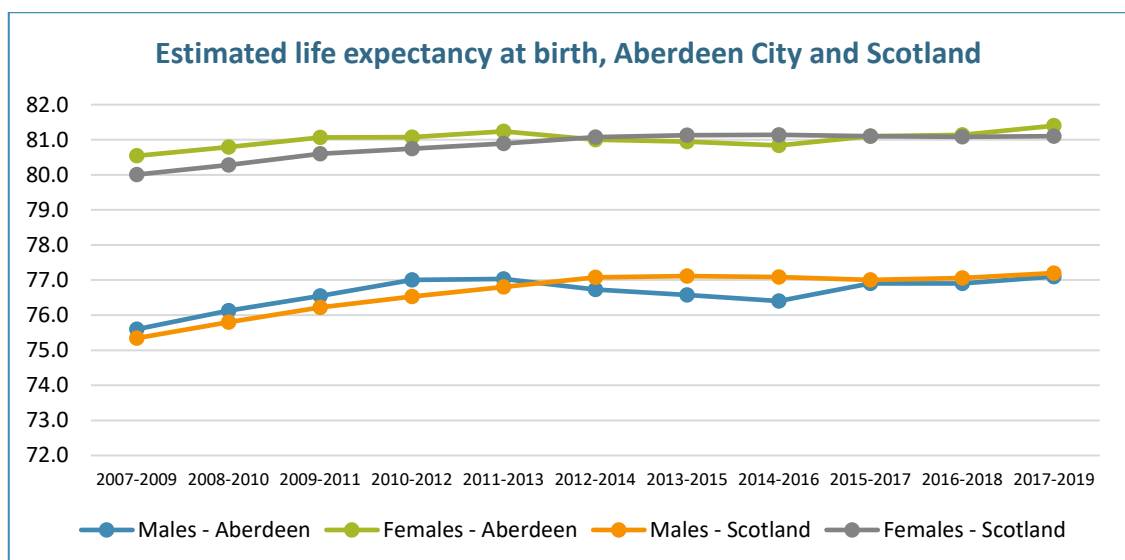
100,000 population in Woodside to a low of 692 in Kingswells. The equivalent rate for Aberdeen City is 1,164 [50].

**Early deaths (15-44 years, all causes):** The rate for early deaths also varies across the City. In the period 2017-19, the rate of early deaths ranged from 0.0 per 100,000 population in Balgownie & Donmouth East and Oldmachar West to 300 per 100,000 population in Torry West. The equivalent rate for Aberdeen City was 94.3 [50].

**COVID-19 deaths:** In 2020, there were 191 deaths in Aberdeen City where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate (93 female and 98 male). Of these, 97 were in a care home setting, 86 were in a hospital setting and 8 were at home/non-institutional setting [52]. In Scotland, the COVID-19 death rate in the most deprived areas is 2.2 times that in the least deprived areas (based on data from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020) [53]. Analysis by National Records of Scotland also shows that deaths among people in the South Asian ethnic group were more than twice as likely to involve COVID-19 as the White ethnic group [54].

### 3.6. Estimated life expectancy at birth

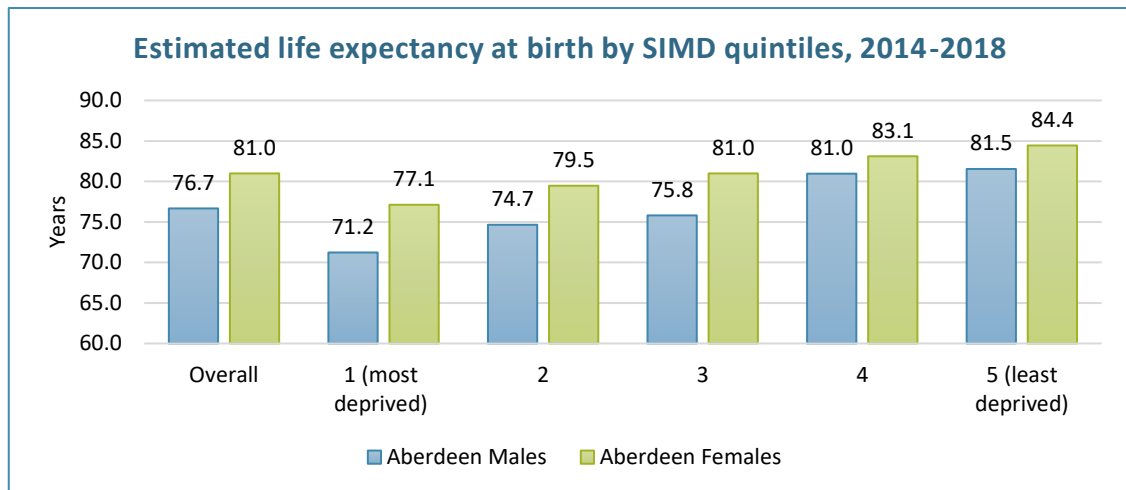
**Estimated life expectancy:** In general, Life Expectancy (LE) at birth is higher for females than for males. In 2017-19 in Aberdeen City LE at birth was estimated to be 81.4 years for women and 77.1 years for men, i.e. on average, a baby girl born in Aberdeen City in 2017-19 could expect to live for 81.4 years while a baby boy born in Aberdeen City in the same period could expect to live for 77.1 years. The estimated LE at birth for females is slightly higher than that for Scotland (81.1 years), while for males it is slightly lower than for Scotland (77.2 years) [55]. 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.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy in Scotland, 2017-19 [55]

**Estimated life expectancy by deprivation:** Estimated life expectancy is strongly associated with deprivation. In Aberdeen City in 2014-2018, estimated life expectancy for men in quintile 1 (most deprived) was 71.2 years compared to 81.5 years for men in quintile 5 (least deprived) – a difference of 10.3 years. For women, the difference in estimated life expectancy was less

marked, at 77.1 years for women in quintile 1 compared to 84.4 years for women in quintile 5 - a difference of 7.3 years [55]. Comparison with data from 2013-2017 shows that the gap in estimated life expectancy between most and least deprived quintiles in Aberdeen City has increased for males (previously 9.7 years) and decreased slightly for females (previously 7.4 years).

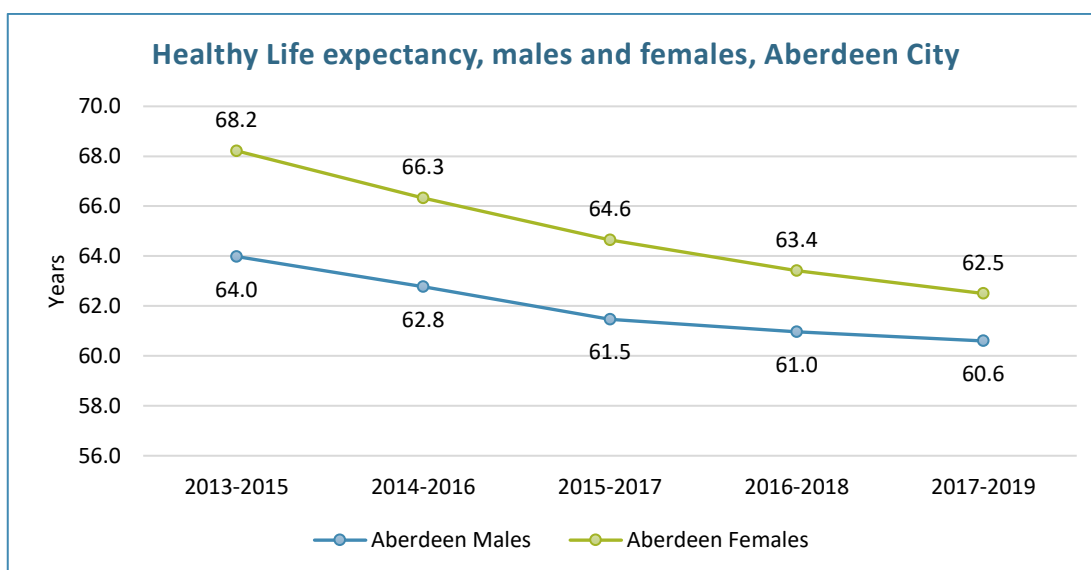


Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy for Administrative areas within Scotland, 2016-2018 [56]

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 2015-2019 (5-year average). For males, estimated LE at birth ranges from a low of 69.2 years in Seaton to a high of 83.9 years in West End North – a difference of 14.7 years. For females it ranges from a low of 72.3 years in Woodside to a high of 88.2 years in Balgownie & Donmouth East – a difference of 15.9 years. [50].

### 3.7. Healthy life expectancy

**Healthy life expectancy:** While Life Expectancy (LE) counts total years of expected life regardless of level of health, Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) represents the number of years that an individual can expect to live in good health. In 2017-2019, males in Aberdeen City had an estimated life expectancy at birth of 77.1 years and a healthy life expectancy of 60.6 years, giving an expected period of ‘not healthy’ health of 16.5 years. This means that a baby boy born in 2017-19 could expect to live 78.6% of his life in healthy health (compared to 79.9% for Scotland). In 2017-2019, females in Aberdeen City had an estimated life expectancy at birth of 81.4 years and a healthy life expectancy of 62.5 years, giving an expected period of ‘not healthy’ health of 18.9 years. This means that a baby girl born in 2017-2019 could expect to live 76.8% of her life in healthy health (compared to 76.3% for Scotland). Healthy life expectancy in Aberdeen City has decreased for both males and females in the past 4 data periods. In Scotland, HLE is strongly associated with deprivation. HLE for females in the most deprived areas in Scotland (SIMD deciles) is 50.1 years compared to 71.6 years for females in the least deprived areas – a difference of 21.5 years. For males, HLE for those in the most deprived areas is 47.0 years compared to 72.1 years for males in the least deprived areas – a difference of 25.1 years [56].

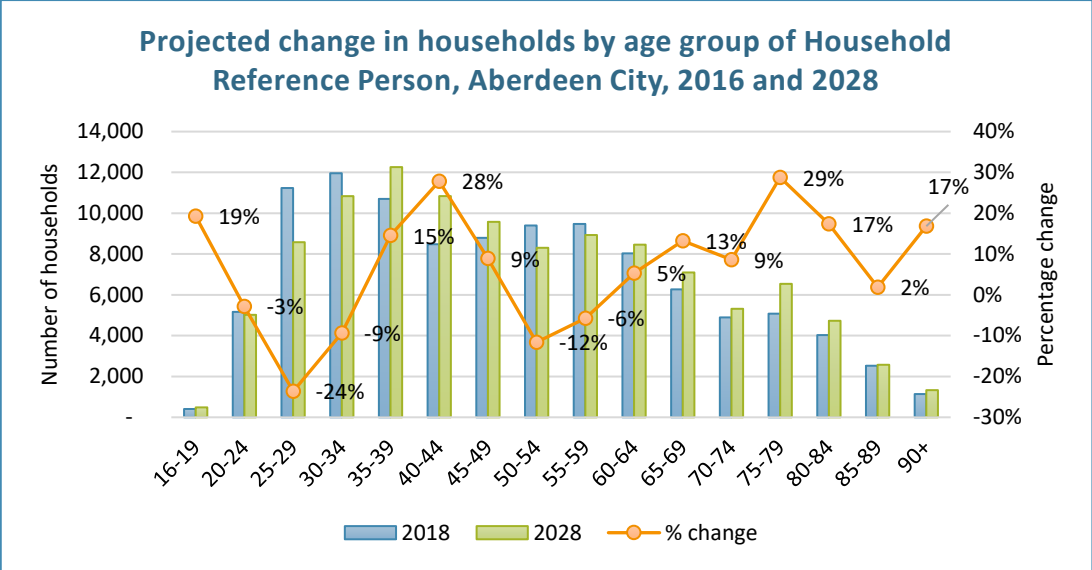


Source: National Records of Scotland, Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland [56]

### 3.8. Households

**Households:** In 2019, there were 108,381 households in Aberdeen City an increase of 0.7% from 107,586 households in 2018, and the same as the rate of increase for Scotland as a whole. Since 2001, the number of households in Aberdeen has increased by 11.8% which is lower than the average rate for Scotland of 13.7%. The average household size was 2.03 compared to 2.15 for Scotland [57].

**Household projections:** 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 [58].

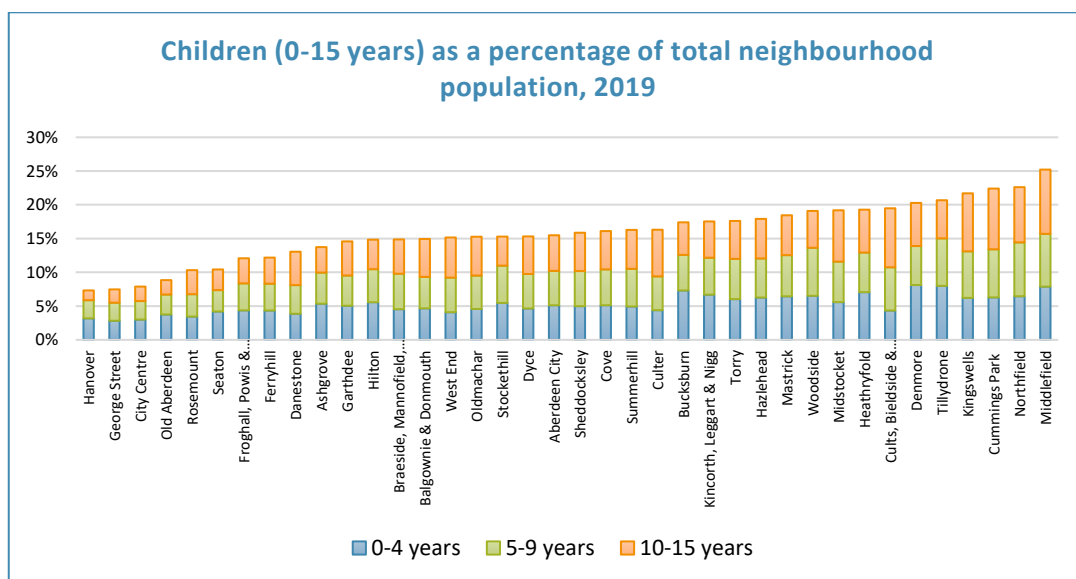


Source: National Records of Scotland, Household Projections for Scotland, 2018-based [58]

## 4. Children & Young People

### 4.1. Child population

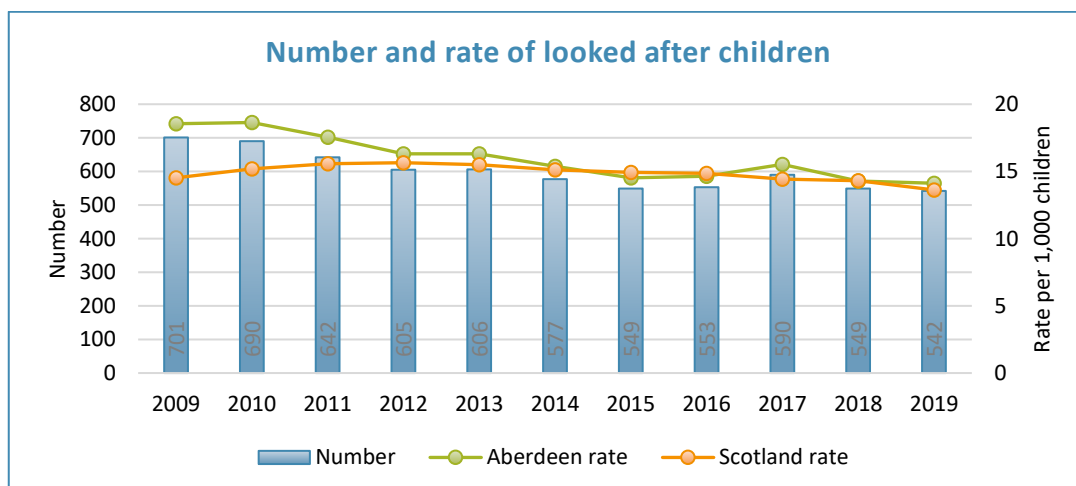
**Child population:** In 2019, there were 35,423 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City – 15% of the city’s population [41]. The number and proportion of children varies by neighbourhood. In terms of numbers, Old Aberdeen has the smallest child population (299) while Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber has the largest (2,274). Hanover has the smallest proportion of children (7.3% of the population of the neighbourhood) and Middlefield the largest (25.2%).



Source: National Records of Scotland, Small Area Population Estimates, 2019 [41]

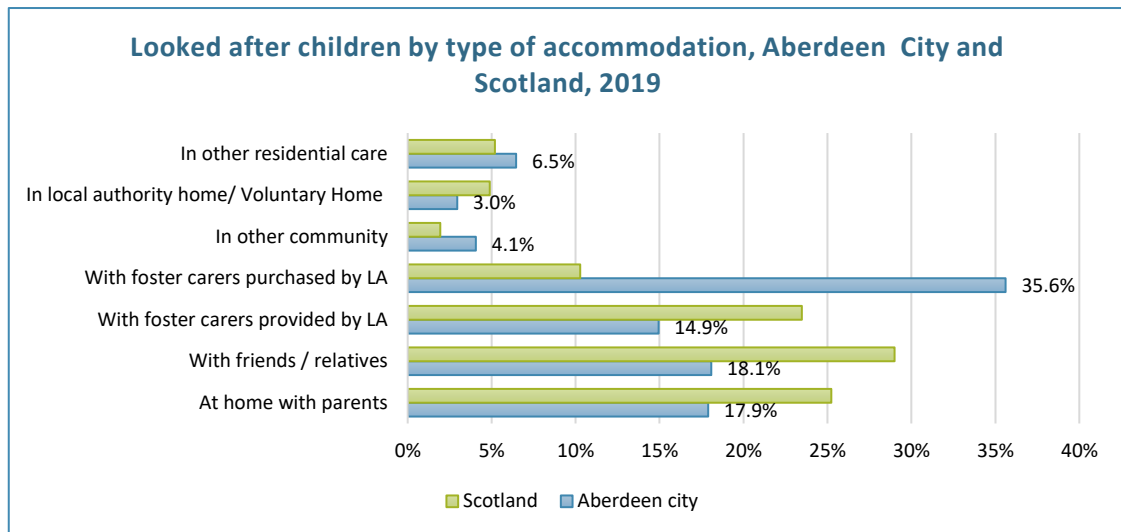
### 4.2. Looked after children

**Looked after children (LAC):** On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 there were 542 looked after children (LAC) in Aberdeen City – equivalent to 1.4% of the 0-17 years population. This is the same as the rate for Scotland. Most (60%) looked after children in Aberdeen City are boys, and over a quarter (26%) are under 5 years old. Five percent of looked after children are known to be from an ethnic minority group and 26% are known to have a disability [59].



Source: Scottish Government, Children’s Social Work Statistics, Scotland, 2018-19 [59]

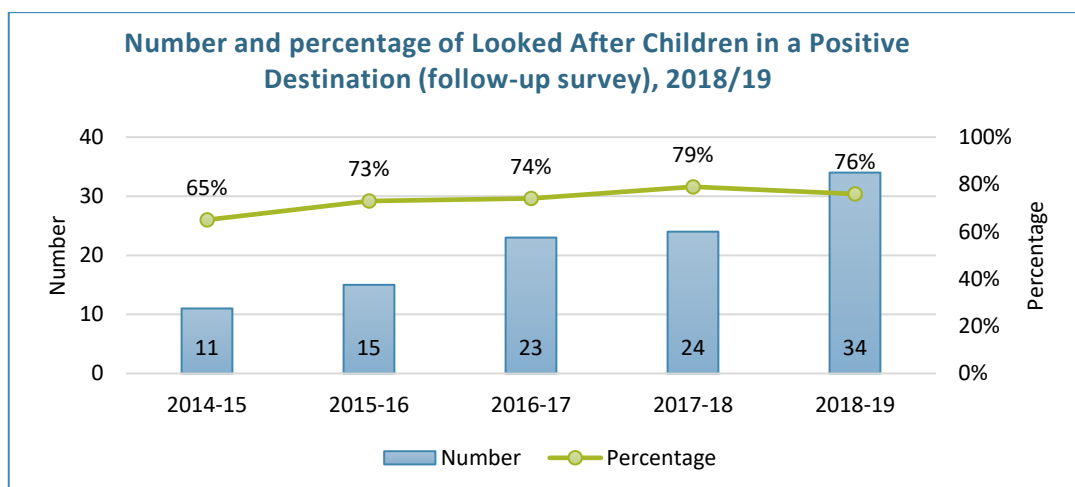
**Accommodation:** Foster care is the most common setting for looked after children in Aberdeen City. At 36%, the proportion of looked after children in kinship care (at home with parents or with friends/relatives) is lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (54.2%) [59]. In 2018-19, 24.9% of LAC had more than 1 placement in the past year – higher than the rate for Scotland of 19.7% [15].



Source: Children’s Social Work Statistics 2018/19 [59]

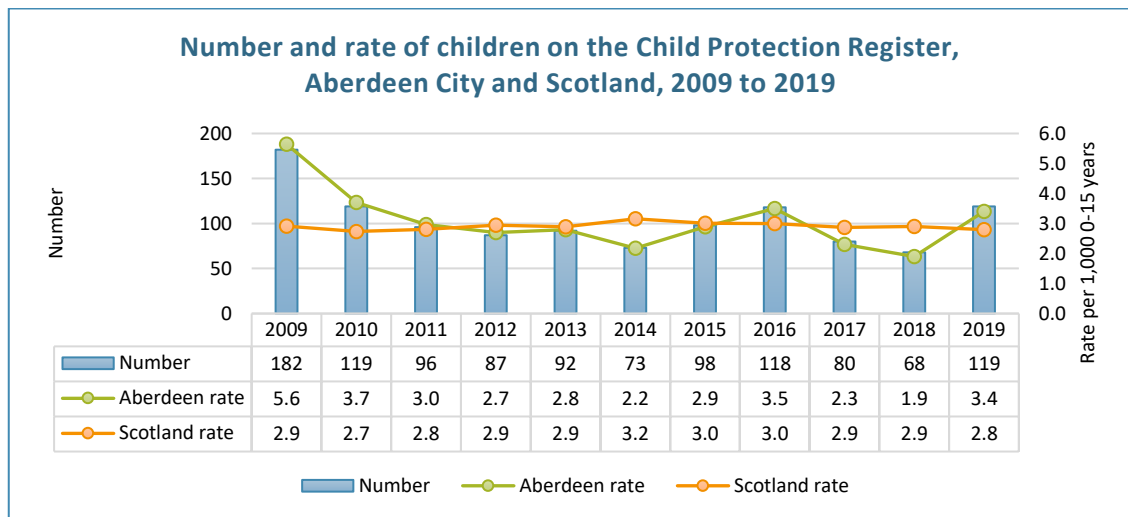
**LAC educational outcomes:** In 2018/19 82.4% of looked after children in Aberdeen City left school with 1 or more qualification at SCQF level 4 – higher than the rate of 69.8% for Scotland and an increase from 76.0% in 2017/18 [60]. In 2018/19 the attendance rates for looked after children in Aberdeen City was 88% compared to 87% for Scotland. [The exclusion rate](#) (per 1,000 pupils who were looked after) was higher in Aberdeen (248 per 1,000 pupils compared to 152 per 1,000 pupils in Scotland). In Aberdeen, as in Scotland, the exclusion rate was higher in males (279 per 1,000 pupils) than females (202 per 1,000 pupils) [60].

**LAC positive destinations:** In 2018/19, 76% 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% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate for 2017/18 of 79% and lower than the rate for all children of 93.2% [60].



Source: Scottish Government, Education Outcomes for Looked After Children 2018/19 [60]

**Child protection:** At 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019, there were 119 children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) in Aberdeen City. This is an increase from 68 in 2018. The rate of children on the CPR (per 1,000 children aged 0-15 years) was 3.4 compared to 2.8 in Scotland [59]. Provisional data shows the most common concerns identified at case conferences of children who were on the child protection register at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 were neglect (59) and parental substance (both drug and alcohol) misuse (45). In 2018-19, 6.2% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months – higher than the rate in 2017-18 of 2.7%. In Scotland 7.2% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months. This is an increase from 6.1% in 2017-18 [15].



Source: Children’s Social Work Statistics 2018/19 [59]

### 4.3. Mental health and wellbeing

**COVID-19 – Overview:** The mental health of children and young people has been particularly badly hit this year. Public Health Scotland have reported a negative impact in sleep, behaviour, mood, physical activity, concentration, and eating for children aged between 2 and 7. In addition, 4 in 10 children this age had not spoken to their friends at all between March and July [61]. Similarly, poor outcomes were also reported amongst those aged between 18 and 24, with this group more likely to report stress, loneliness, not coping well, and suicidal thoughts or feelings. 15% of people in this age group reported suicidal thoughts or feelings compared to 11% for the Scottish population as a whole [62]. Recent data also suggests a possible rise in eating disorders, with the number of referrals<sup>6</sup> of children and young people to the NHS Grampian CAMHS Eating Disorder specialist team increasing by 280% in 2020 compared to 2019. [63].

**Aberdeen City COVID – 19 Wellbeing Survey:** An extensive wellbeing questionnaire was issued to all pupils, families and staff associated with Local Authority run educational settings in order to establish of how the Lockdown period had impacted wellbeing and how members of the school community were feeling about a return to school buildings. 5374 children and young people (a return rate of just under a quarter) completed the survey with responses spread from Nursery through to S6. The full report can be found here (INSERT LINK).

Almost all learners felt very safe learning at home with 75% selecting the highest response and over 97% scoring 4 or above. This extremely high percentage dipped a little when asking

<sup>6</sup> Referral covers all of Grampian and not just Aberdeen City.

how safe children and young people felt about a return to school with only 80% reporting confidence.

18% of respondents reported poor sleep.

28% of children and young people reported that they found it difficult to manage homework and schoolwork easily. Further analysis suggests that those in the senior phase of secondary felt their most acute challenges in this area and uncertainty around SQA grades is likely to have impacted young people considerably.

Learners were asked what would support their wellbeing further. Responses were extremely mixed with only a few common themes emerging. These included:

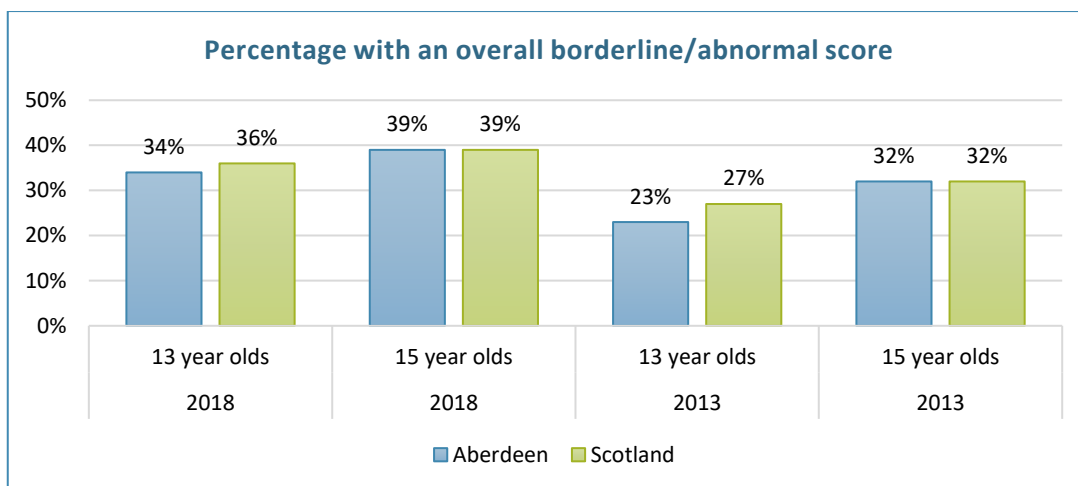
- Seeing friends more often/playing with friends
- Going back to school
- Exercise

**Impact on Parents and Carers:** Although 90% of families felt confident in supporting their child during lockdown (suggesting that the supports from schools, the provision of a Digital Hub and access to support through the Virtual School was effective) just under 10% of respondents didn't. Just under 30% reported that their stress levels were not manageable and over 40% unable to make time in their lives for activities that were good for them. Just under 20% of respondents struggled to find meaningful ways of staying connected to their friends and family.

**SALSUS Survey:** Information on mental health and wellbeing is provided through the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) with the most recent data being for 2018 [64]. The previous survey which contained local authority data was in 2013. In SALSUS, emotional and behavioural problems are measured using the Goodman Strengths and Difficulties (SDQ) questionnaire and mental wellbeing is measured using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWB).

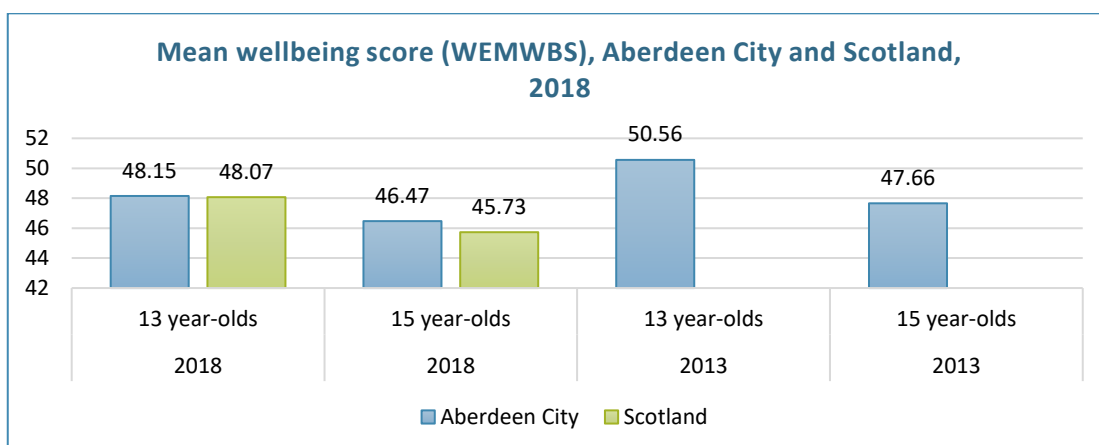
**SDQ:** The questionnaire includes five scales – emotion, conduct, hyperactivity/inattention, peer relationships and pro-social behaviour. Scores are grouped into bands 'normal', 'borderline' and 'abnormal'. In 2018, 34% of 13 year-olds and 39% of 15 year-olds in Aberdeen City had an overall 'borderline/abnormal' score. This is an increase from the previous survey (2013) when the figures were 23% and 32% respectively [65].





Source: Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) 2018: Summary findings for Aberdeen City Council [65]

**WEMWBS:** The WEMWBS gives a mean wellbeing score based on responses to statements concerning their mental wellbeing. The lowest possible score is 14 and the highest is 70. In 2018 the average wellbeing score for 13 year-olds was 48.15 and for 15 year-olds it was slightly lower at 46.47. These scores are lower than the equivalent scores in 2013 (50.56 and 47.66 respectively), but slightly higher than the scores for Scotland [64].



Source: Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) 2018: Summary findings for Aberdeen City Council [64]

**Child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS):** The NHS in Scotland provides mental health services for children and young people with a wide range of mental health conditions including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, behaviour problems, depression and early onset psychosis. This treatment is provided through Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services. In the quarter ending September 2020, 343 patients were seen in the Grampian Health Board. Of these 85.7% were seen within the 18 week target period (compared to 60.6% in Scotland). In the month to end September 2020 there were 394 patients waiting to be seen, of these 15 (3.8%) had been waiting over 18 weeks [66].

#### 4.4. Education

**COVID-19 – overview [67] :** A wealth of research continues to emerge around the impact of the current pandemic on children and young people. Young People are a particularly vulnerable group who will be significantly impacted by COVID-19. There is widespread

agreement that those who leave education over the next few years will be more negatively impacted than their peers who left school pre-lockdown. There are some groups of young people who will be impacted more than others and these include:

- Those who are disabled - potential for less extensive pathways being available to support transition and employment opportunities
- Girls – most likely to leave school and take up relatively low skilled jobs in sectors which have diminished
- Those living in poverty as levels of poverty and all of the risk associated with living in poverty will have been exacerbated by the pandemic. The gap will have widened.
- Those experiencing poverty for the first time (Aberdeen is currently a redundancy hot spot)
- Those who are BAME – a community more likely to be unemployed, on zero hour contracts, and occupying low paid and in ‘at risk’ roles and so there is likely to be reduced employment opportunities
- Care Experienced Young People – already at a disadvantage in accessing employment, training, etc and sustaining that. They will be pushed further down the labour queues.

**School and pupil numbers:** In 2019 there were 13,915 primary school pupils and 9,106 secondary school pupils in Aberdeen City. There were also 135 pupils enrolled in Special Schools. The total number of pupils was 23,156. 34.5% of primary pupils and 36.6% of secondary pupils had additional support needs. The most common reason for support for both primary and secondary pupils was English as an additional language. In 2019, 5,338 (23%) of all pupils in Aberdeen City did not have English as their main home language. The three main home languages (other than English) are Polish, Arabic and Russian [68].

**Attendance:** Percentage attendance is calculated in relation to the total number of possible attendances (half-days). In 2018/19, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 94.5% and for secondary schools the rate was 91.6%. The respective rates for Scotland were 94.5% and 90.7%. There was variation in attendance rates by school. For secondary schools in the City, attendance rates ranged from a low of 82.2% (Northfield Academy) to a high of 94.5% (Cults Academy) [69].

**Exclusions:** In 2018/19 there were 1,221 cases of exclusion in Aberdeen City – an increase from 1,072 in 2016/17. This is equivalent to a rate of 52.9 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. The rate of exclusions was higher in secondary schools (105.8) than in primary schools (19.7). The number of pupils excluded was also higher in secondary schools (481) than primary schools (145) [70].

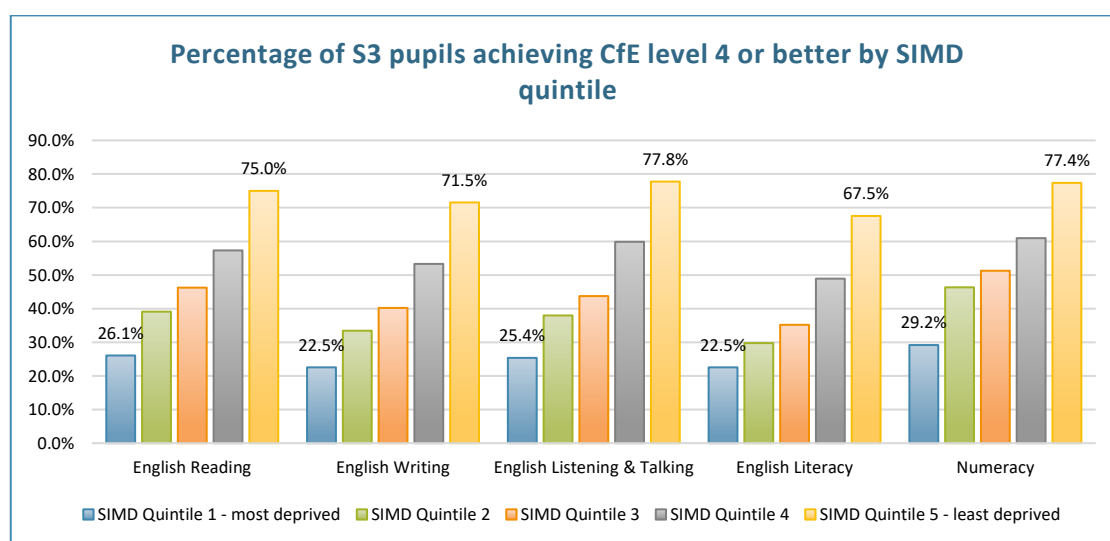
**Attainment – Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels:** Previously classed as experimental statistics, this label has now been removed. Data on achievement against expected levels (Early Level, First Level, Second Level, Third level or better and Fourth Level) is given at four stages – P1, P4, P7 and S3 – in five areas: reading, writing, listening and talking, literacy and numeracy. In 2018/19, with a few exceptions, the proportion of pupils in Aberdeen City achieving the expected level is similar to or lower than the equivalent proportion for Scotland as a whole [71].

Percentage of pupils achieving expected levels						
		P1	P4	P7	S3	S3

		Early Level	First Level	Second Level	Third Level or better	Fourth Level
Reading	Aberdeen City	78%	78%	78%	86%	56%
	Scotland	82%	78%	80%	91%	55%
Writing	Aberdeen City	76%	74%	72%	85%	51%
	Scotland	79%	73%	74%	90%	52%
Listening and talking	Aberdeen City	86%	87%	85%	86%	57%
	Scotland	87%	85%	86%	91%	57%
Literacy	Aberdeen City	73%	71%	70%	83%	48%
	Scotland	76%	70%	71%	88%	48%
Numeracy	Aberdeen City	82%	77%	74%	84%	60%
	Scotland	85%	77%	76%	90%	59%

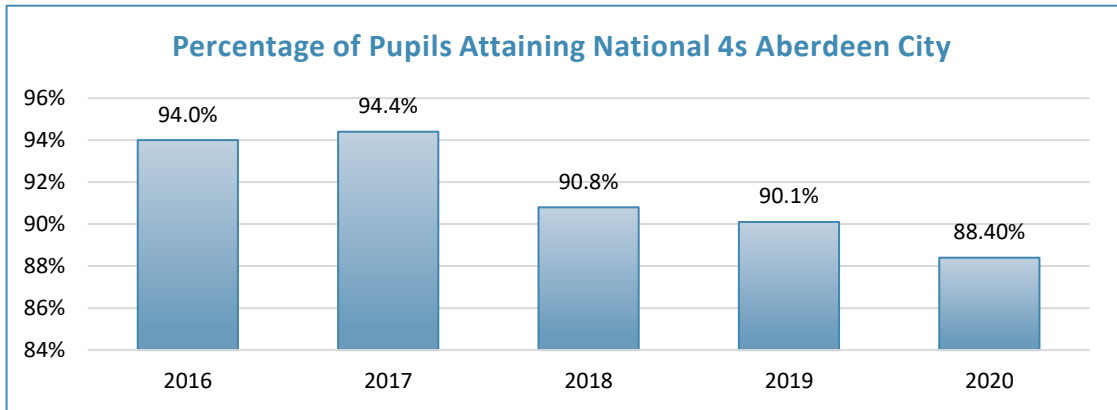
Source: Scottish Government, Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels 2018/19 [71]

Achievement of expected levels varies by deprivation. In Aberdeen City in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% (SIMD 2016) achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%. As an example, the chart below shows the percentage of S3 pupils achieving Fourth Level in each of the five areas [71].



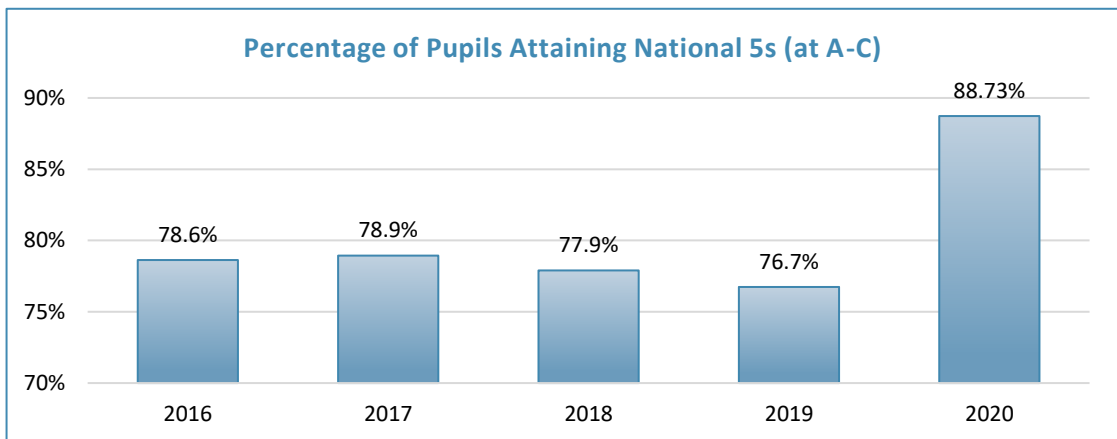
Source: Scottish Government, Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels 2018/19 [71]

**National 4:** The number of young people being presented for a National 4 has decreased from 3,528 in 2016 to 2,593 in 2020. Attainment currently sits at 88% which is lower than the pass rate in 2016 which sat at 94% [72].



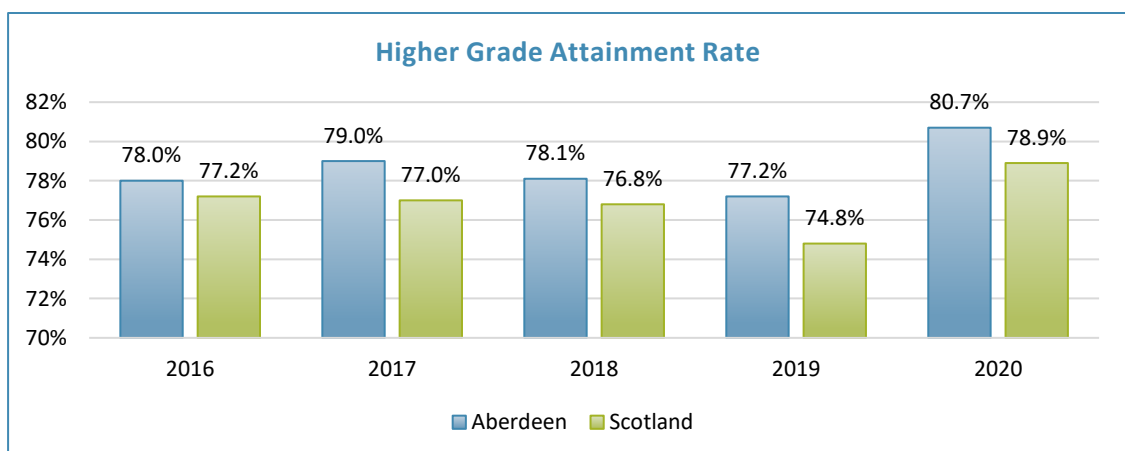
Source: ACC, Strengthening the Senior Phase Report [72]

**National 5:** The number of young people achieving A-C at National 5 has increased in 2020 to 88.7%. This is higher than in the previous four years at 78.6% in 2016 and the 5 year low of 76.7% in 2019 [72].



Source: ACC, Strengthening the Senior Phase Report

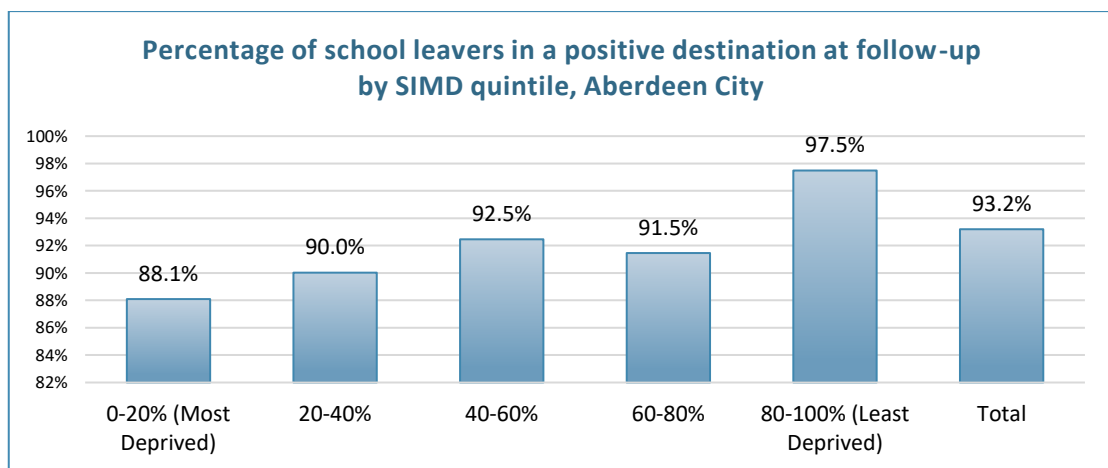
**Higher:** The attainment rate for Higher is up by 3.53 percentage points and is highest since 2015. This sits significantly higher than the attainment rate for Scotland at 78.9% [72].



Source: ACC, Strengthening the Senior Phase Report

**Positive destinations:** Follow-up destinations for school leavers are for outcomes approximately 9 months after the end of the school year. The figures for 2018/19 relate to early April 2020 and therefore will not reflect the full impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. In 2018/19, 93.2% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, an increase from 91.9% in 2017/18 and slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 92.9%. The most common destinations were higher education (38.4% of school leavers), further education (27.9%) and employment (23.8%) [73].

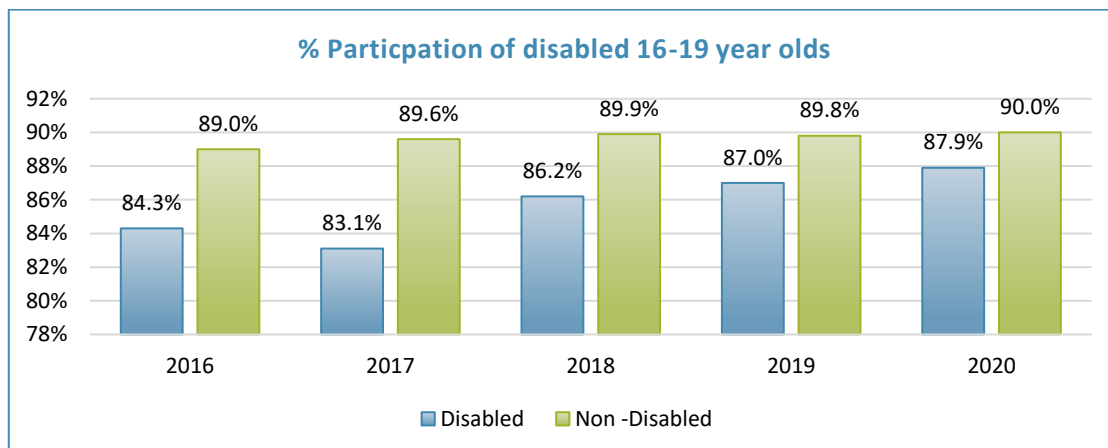
The percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination varied by deprivation (based on SIMD) with 88.1% of school leavers in the most deprived quintile having a positive destination compared to 97.5% of those in the least deprived quintile [73].



Source: Scottish Government, Summary statistics for follow-up leaver destinations, No. 2: 20 [73]

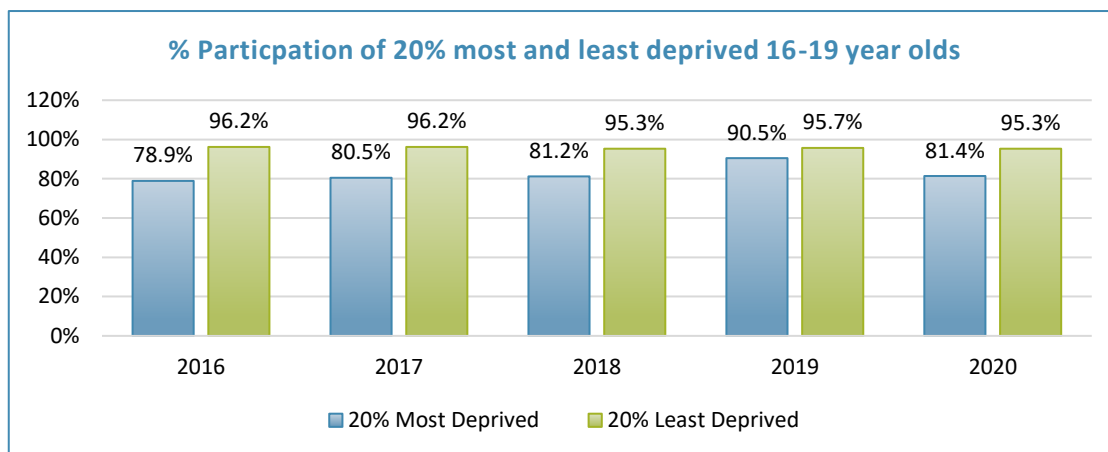
**Participation in Education Employment or Training:** The Skills Development Scotland Participation measure provides information on the current position of all children and young people between the age of 16 to 19 years, where they remain in school or have since left. 2020 figures indicate that participation has remained steady over the past 3 years from 89.8% in 2018 to 89.9% in 2020 [74].

**Participation of Disabled Young People:** Participation of disabled young people has increased over the past 5 year from 84.3% in 2016 to 87.9% in 2020. This is slightly lower than participation among non-disabled young people who in 2020 had 90% participation rates [74].



Source: Skills Development Scotland: Annual Participation Measure [74]

**Participation levels in the 20% Most Deprived Communities:** In 2020, participation rates were lower for those in the 20% most deprived areas (81.4%) than for those in the 20% least deprived areas (95.3%). While the percentage of young people ‘participating’ in the least deprived 20% remained constant between 2019 and 2020, the proportion of young people ‘participating’ in the 20% most deprived areas dropped substantially (from 90.5% in 2019) [74].



Source: Skills Development Scotland: Annual Participation Measure [74]

**Foundation apprenticeships (FAs):** Four cohorts of pupils have participated in FAs. In Aberdeen City there are 93 FAs currently in training in Cohort 4 (started in 2019). This is an increase from 17 in Cohort 3 (started in 2018). The total number of FAs across the city has increased from 21 in 2016/18 to 128 in 2020/21 [75].

**Free school meals (FSM):** In February 2020, 51.1% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were registered for FSM in mainstream local authority schools. All P1-P3 primary school pupils are entitled to free school meals. The proportion of P4-P7 pupils who were registered for FSM varied by school, ranging from a low of 0% to a high of 56.3%. At secondary school level, a total of 12.5% of pupils were registered for a FSM, although again there was variation between schools with the proportion of pupils registered ranging from a low of 7.9% to a high of 25.9%. At Aberdeen City’s special schools 24.4% of pupils were registered for FSM. As of 12 December 2020, 4,238 free school meal vouchers had been provided city-wide since March 2020.

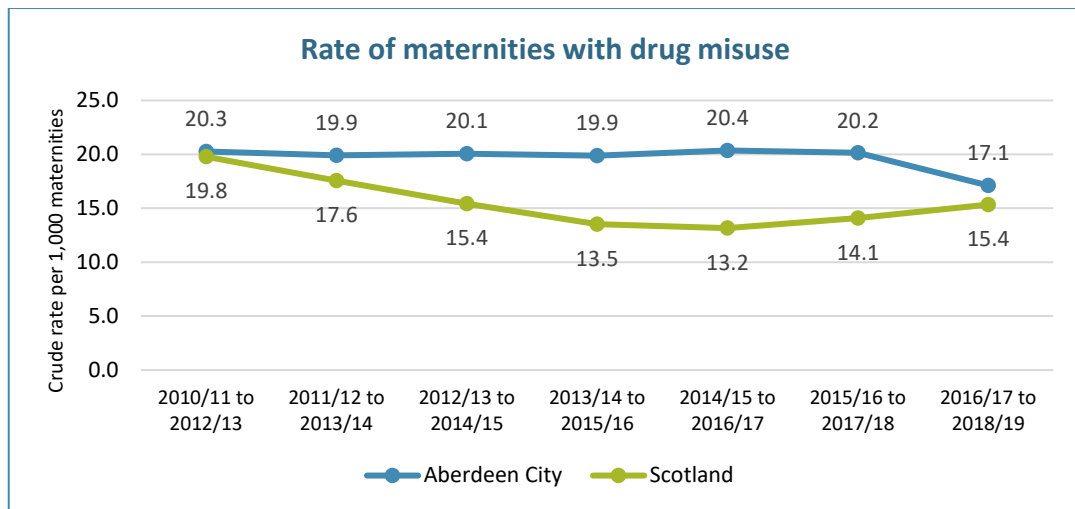
#### 4.5. Children – early years

**COVID-19 Impact:** There is concern that COVID-19 and in particular, the infection control measures, including lockdown, have had a profound impact on 2-4 year-old children in Scotland. This is an age group that sees rapid development and it is important that children are able to develop fully at each stage to reach their full potential. Issues such as restrictions on mixing with other children, some children not being able to access good quality outside space easily and limited access to children’s services could result in poorer outcomes for some young children [76].

**Smoking during pregnancy:** In 2016/17 to 2018/19 (3-year aggregate), 13.7% 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 lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland

and have decreased gradually over the past few years. Rates of smoking during pregnancy vary across the City (HSC localities) at 11.9% in Aberdeen South, 13.2% in Aberdeen Central and 16.1% in Aberdeen North [50]. Based on Intermediate Zones, rates range from a low of 0% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 35.7% in Torry East [49].

**Maternities with drug use:** In the period 2016/17 to 2018/19 (3-year aggregate) there were 43 maternities with drug misuse recorded. This is equivalent to a rate of 17.1 (crude rate per 1,000 maternities) which is higher than the rate for Scotland of 15.4. The rate of maternities with drug use had been consistent at around 20 per 1,000 maternities before the decrease in the most recent figures [50].



Source: ScotPHO Profiles [50]

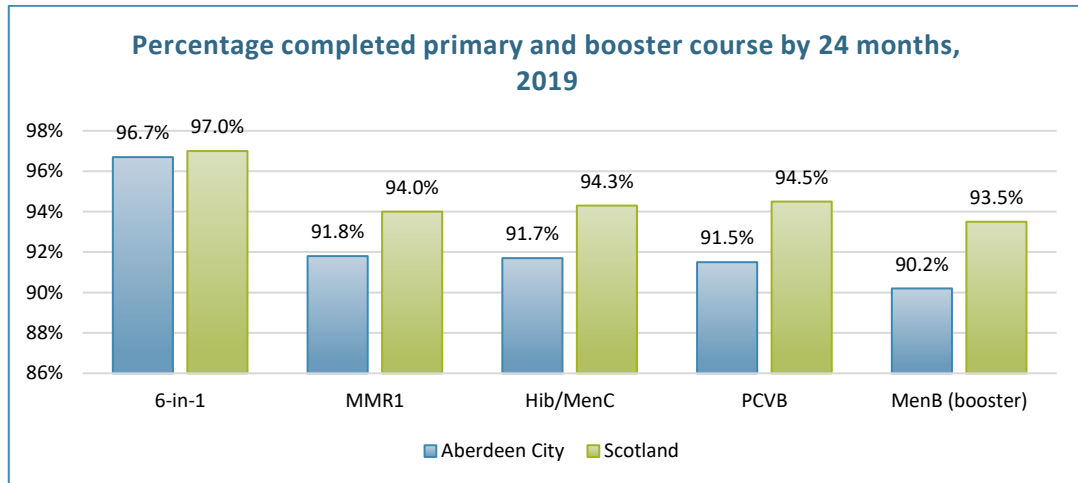
**Healthy birth weight:** In 2016/17 to 2018/19 (3-year aggregate), 85% of babies born in Aberdeen City were a healthy birth weight compared to 83.8 % in Scotland. The proportion of babies who are a healthy birth weight has remained relatively stable over the past few years – ranging between a low of 83.9% to a high of 85.1% in the period from 2010/11 to 2012/13 to 2016/17 to 2018/19. Rates vary across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) ranging from a low of 79.5% in Bucksburn North to a high of 90.8% in Garthdee [50].

**Premature births:** In 2016/17 to 2018/19 (3-year aggregate), 8.2% of births in Aberdeen City were premature, similar to the rate for Scotland of 8.4%. The rate of premature births varied across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 3.8% in Cove South to a high of 14% in Garthdee [50].

**Breast-feeding:** In 2017/18 to 2019/20 (3-year aggregate), 39.2% of babies in the City were exclusively breast-fed at the time of their 6-8 week review. This is significantly higher than the Scottish average of 31.2%. 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 19.0% in Heathryfold & Middlefield to a high of 68.2% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East [50].

**Exposure to second-hand smoke:** In 2017/18 to 2019/20 (3-year aggregate), 7.7% of babies were reported as being exposed to second-hand smoke at their 6-8 week review. This is similar to the rate for Scotland of 7.8%. The percentage of babies exposed to second-hand smoke has decreased in both Aberdeen City and Scotland. In previous years, the rate in Aberdeen had been consistently higher than that in Scotland [50].

**Immunisation:** In Scotland there is a national target for 95% of children to complete courses of routine childhood immunisations by 24 months of age. Rates of babies who have completed the primary and booster courses for these immunisations by 24 months are lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland [77]. Uptake of immunisation varies by Intermediate Zone. In 2017-19, percentage uptake of 6-in-1 at 24 months ranged from 92% in Tillydrone to 100% in Balgownie and Donmouth East and uptake of MMR ranged from 81% in City Centre East and Culter to 97% in Balgownie and Donmouth East [50].

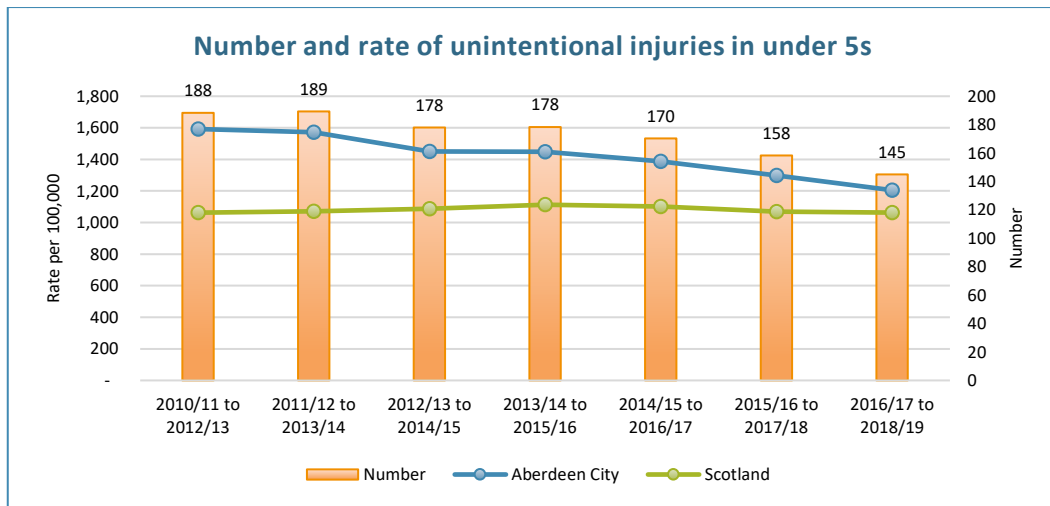


Source: Public Health Scotland, Childhood Immunisation Statistics Scotland [77]

**Developmental concerns at 27-30 months:** During 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 2016/17-2018/19, 6% of children in Aberdeen City had one or more concern identified at the 27-30 month review. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 15.9%. The percentage of children with one or more developmental concern varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 0.0% in Dyce, Cults, Bielside & Milltimber West and Balgownie & Donmouth East to a high of 15.9% in Torry West [50].

**Unintentional injury in children under 5 years:** In 2016/17 to 2018/19 there were 145 emergency hospital admissions for unintentional injury in children under 5 years (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 1,205 per 100,000 population – higher than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 1,063. Both the number and rate of unintentional injuries have fallen in recent years [50].





Source: ScotPHO Profiles [50]

## 4.6. Child health

### The National Picture

**Child Health Service Usage since March 2020:** The start of lockdown in Scotland in late March through to April saw a steep fall in the use of health services among the general population of around 50-60%. Among children aged 0-14 years this fall was more stark at around 60-80%. This was seen universally across all paediatric services but was most pronounced in Out of Hours GP consultations.

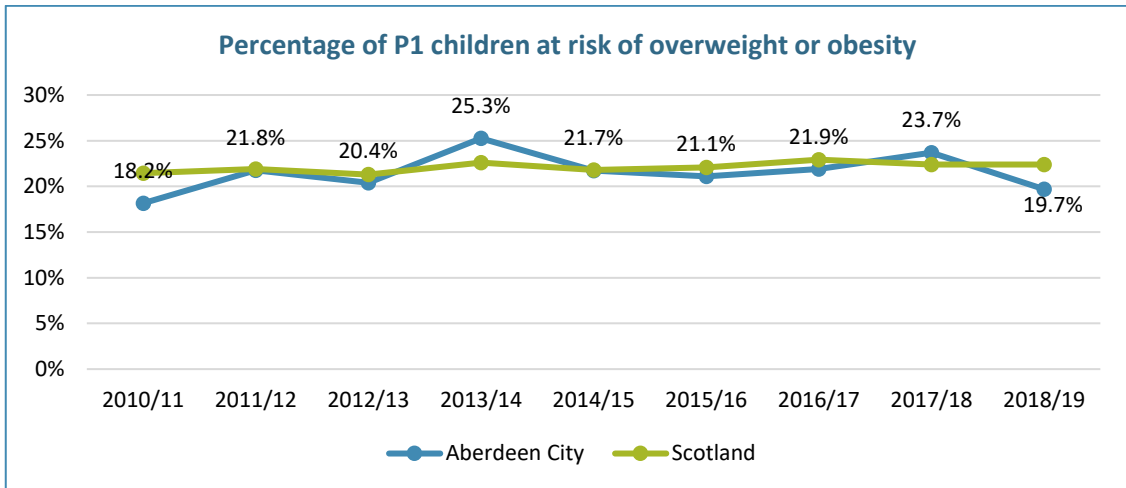
Since the beginning of the pandemic, levels of attendance have been below those seen in previous years, and while attendance and use of paediatric emergency and unscheduled services has started to recover, there remains to be variable reduction in use among those aged 0-14 years.

After falling significantly during lockdown, service use had a gradual recovery from late April and as Scotland moved through the three phases of the routemap, with the 5-14 age group generally showing the largest increase. However, following further restrictions being imposed, firstly in the West of Scotland (01 September), then Nationally (07 October), followed by the implementation of the 5-tier Strategic Framework (02 November), emergency and unscheduled service use has once again fallen, particularly for the under 5 age group.

Adult Emergency service use generally recovered more quickly than service use by children, with use comparable with pre-covid levels for most emergency and unscheduled health services during late August. Adult service use has subsequently declined with the further restrictions, but not to the same extent as children. While it is acknowledged that the levels of health service usage may be lower due to the change in public liberty during lockdown and subsequent restrictions, the rate at which services are being utilised as lockdown eases varies substantially among different age groups, service type and in different geographical areas.

**Healthy weight/BMI:** In 2018/19, valid height and weight measurements were recorded for 1,480 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen City (equivalent to 62.7% of the 5 year-old population). Of these, 79.5% were classified as 'healthy weight' – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland

of 76.6%. 19.7% of P1 children in Aberdeen City were classified as being at risk of overweight and obesity (compared to 22.4% in Scotland and 23.7% in 2017/18) [78]. (It should be noted that at 62.7%, coverage in 2018/19 was lower than in previous years. In 2017/18 coverage was 86.5%). In 2018/19, 79.5% of P1 children were classified as having a healthy weight (BMI between the 5% and 95% of the 1990 UK reference range for their age and sex) compared to 76.6% for Scotland. The percentage of P1 children who were a healthy weight varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from 61.9% in George Street to 100% in Hanover North [50].

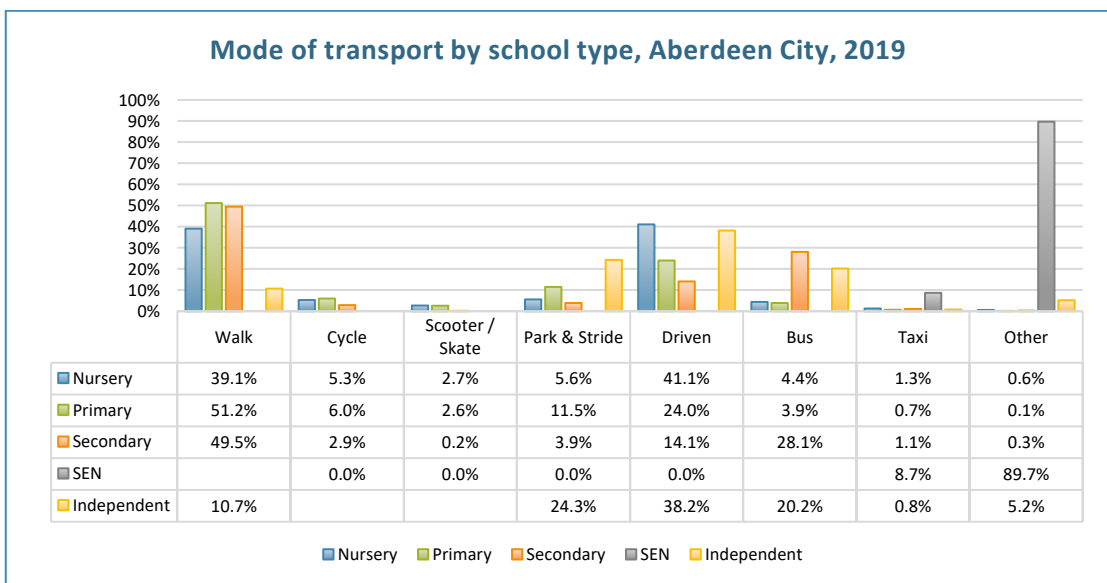


Source: Public Health Scotland, Data and Intelligence, Primary 1 Body Mass Index (BMI) statistics, Scotland [78]

Overweight is classified as BMI  $\geq$ 85<sup>th</sup> centile and  $<$ 95<sup>th</sup> centile

Obese is classified as BMI  $\geq$ 95<sup>th</sup> centile

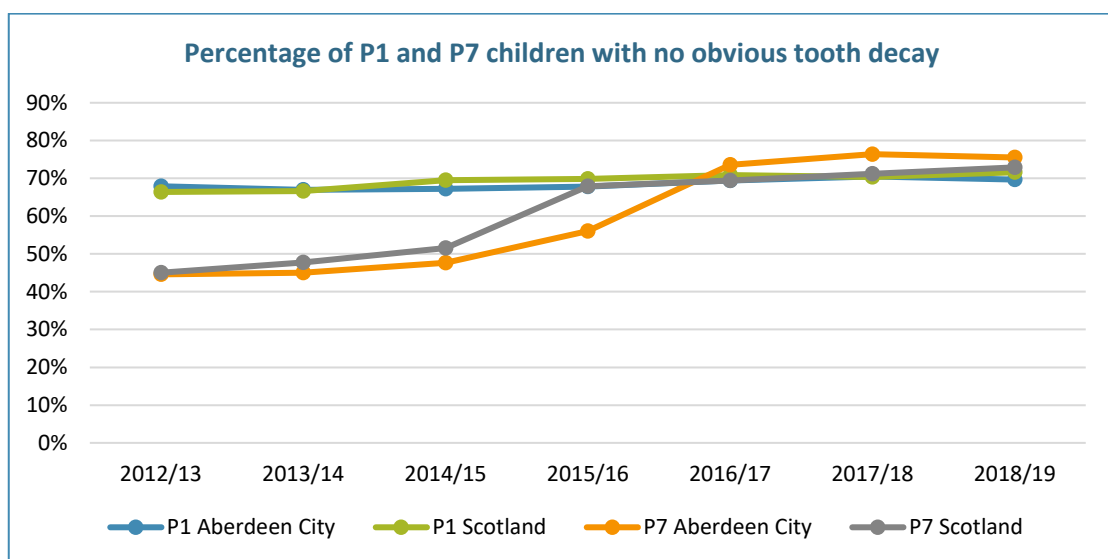
**Active travel to school:** In 2019, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (47.3%), followed by being driven (21.6%) and bus (13.2%). Mode of travel varied by type of school. Walking was the most common mode of travel for both primary (51.2%) and secondary (49.5%) pupils, while nursery children were most commonly driven to school (41.7%) with 39.1% walking. Pupils at SEN schools most commonly travelled by an 'other' mode (89.7%). The most common mode of travel for pupils at independent schools was being driven (38.2%) [79].



Source: Sustrans, Hands Up Scotland 2019 [79]

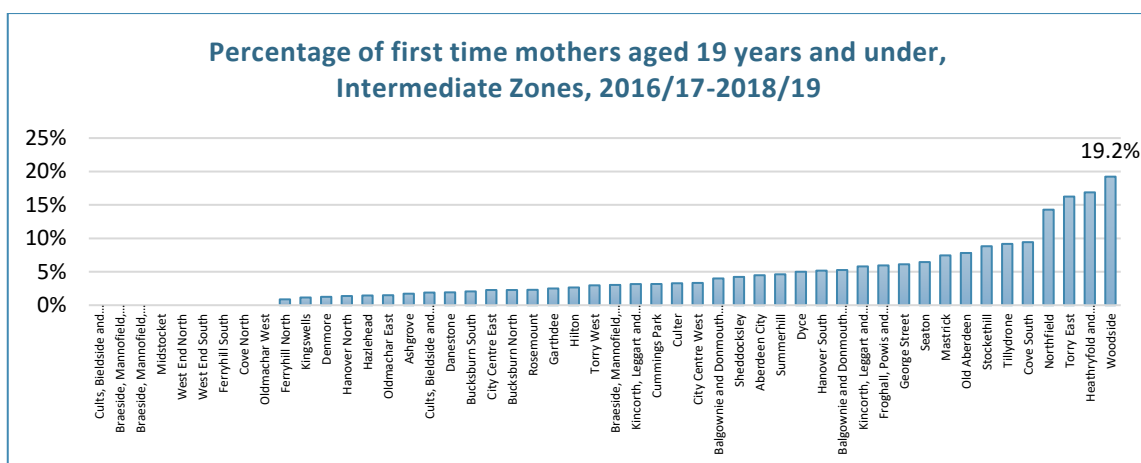
While still relatively high, the proportion of children who walk to school has fallen since 2010, with a noticeable drop between 2011 (58.3%) and 2012 (49.7%). Since 2010 the proportion of children cycling to school has increased (from 1.8% to 4.5%) as has the proportion of children using park and stride (from 7.4% to 9.9%).

**Dental health:** In 2018/19, 69.7% of P1 pupils in Aberdeen had no obvious tooth decay – slightly lower than the average rate for Scotland of 71.6%. Across the City (Intermediate Zones), the proportion of [P1 pupils](#) with no obvious tooth decay ranged from a low of 38% in City Centre East to a high of 91% in Midstocket. In the same period, the proportion of [P7 children](#) with no obvious tooth decay was 75.5% compared to 72.9% in Scotland. Again, there was substantial variation across the City with proportions ranging from a low of 40% in City Centre East to a high of 96% in Braeside, Mannofield and Seafield East. Since 2012/13 the percentage of P1 children with no obvious decay has increased slightly (from 68% to 70%). The proportion of P7 children with no obvious decay increased markedly between 2014/15 (48%) and 2016/17 (74%) and has increased further over the past two years to 76% [50].



Source: ScotPHO online profile tool [50]

**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 55.2 per 1,000 population (crude rate per 1,000 females aged 5-19 years) in 2006-08 to 31.1 in 2016-18 – similar to the rate for Scotland of 30.5 – although there was a very slight increase between 2015-17 (30.8) and 2016-18 (31.1). [50]. The percentage of first-time mothers who are aged 19 years and under varies across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from 0.0% to 19.2% [80]. The rate of pregnancies for females under 16 years has also decreased (although there was a slight increase between 2015/17 and 2016/18) from 10 per 1,000 females aged 13-15 years in 2009/11 to 2.7 in 2016/18. This is the same as the rate for Scotland [81].



Source: Statistics.gov.uk [80]

#### 4.7. Smoking, alcohol, and drug use

**Smoking:** Data on smoking is available from the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) [64]. The most recent data is from 2018 and gives results for 13 year-olds and 15 year-olds.

In the 2018 survey, 1% of 13 year-olds reported being regular smokers (usually smoking one or more cigarettes per week) and 2% of 13 year-olds reported being occasional smokers (sometimes smoke cigarettes but less than one per week). Almost a quarter (24%) of 13 year-olds said they felt it was 'ok' for someone their age to 'try smoking to see what it's like' – an increase of 6% from the previous survey and 5% higher than the rate for Scotland. Smoking was more common in 15 year-olds with 8% reporting they were regular smokers (an increase of 3% from 2013) and 6% reporting they were occasional smokers (also an increase of 3% from 2013). Half (50%) of 15 year-olds said they felt it was 'ok' for someone their age to try smoking – an increase of 1% from the previous survey and 5% higher than the rate for Scotland.

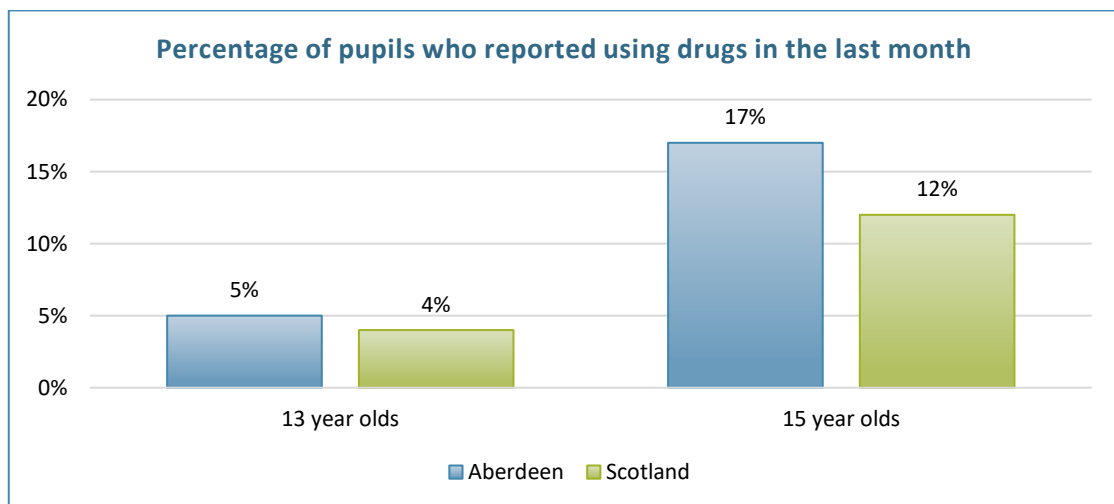
Pupils who had reported being regular smokers, were asked where they usually obtained their cigarettes/tobacco. The most common responses were 'get someone else to buy them' at 74% (up 22% from 2013 and 26% higher than Scotland) and 'get given cigarettes by friends/family/carer' at 62% (6% lower than 2013 and 13% higher than Scotland).

**E-cigarette use:** In addition to tobacco smoking, pupils were also asked about e-cigarette use. 16% of 13 year-olds and 36% of 15 year-olds reported either trying or using e-cigarettes (an increase of 11% and 24% respectively since 2013). With regard to regular use, 3% of 13 year-olds and 3% of 15 year-olds reported using e-cigarettes once a week or more.

**Alcohol use:** Data on alcohol use is also available from the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) [64]. In 2018, 5% of 13 year-olds and 18% of 15 year-olds reported that they had drunk alcohol in the week prior to the survey (increase of 2% from 2013 for both age groups). 60% of 13 year-olds and 84% of 15 year-olds thought it was 'ok' for someone their age to 'try drinking alcohol to see what it's like' (an increase of 15% for 13 year-olds and 2% for 15 year-olds from the 2013 survey). When asked if they had ever been drunk, 50% of 13 year-olds and 71% of 15 year-olds reported that they had been drunk, with 4% of 13 year-olds and 21% of 15 year-olds saying they had been drunk more than 10 times.

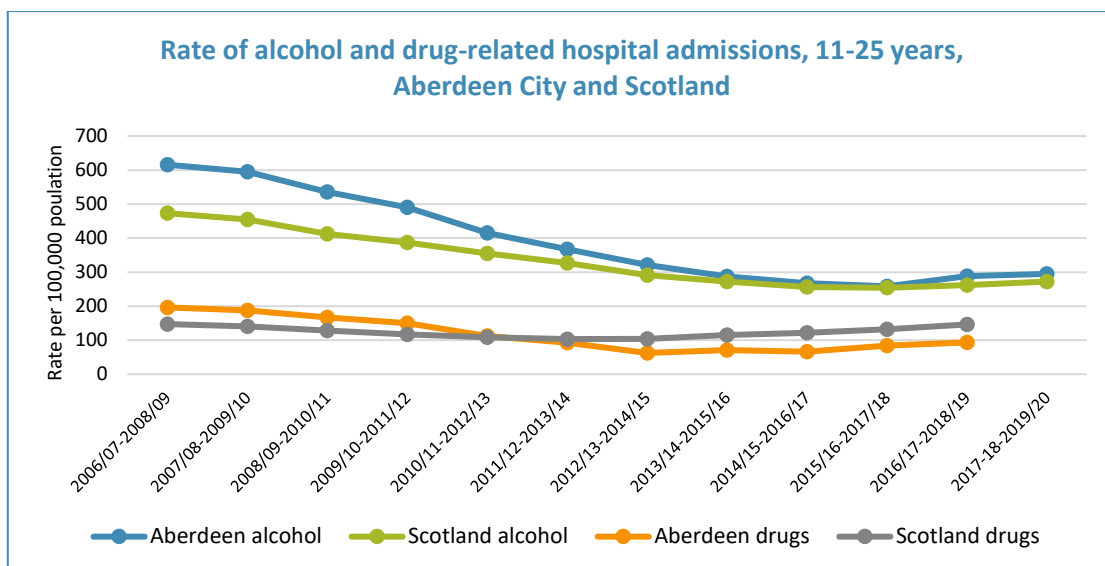
2% of 13-year-olds and 13% of 15 year-olds reported that they had managed to buy alcohol in the last 4 weeks.

**Drug use:** Data on drug use is available from the Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) [64]. In 2018, 5% of 13 year-olds and 17% of 15 year-olds reported using drugs in the last month – an increase of 4% and 10% respectively from the 2013 survey. 1% of 13 year-olds and 6% of 15 year-olds reported usually taking drugs at least once a week. When asked if they felt it was ‘ok’ for someone their age to ‘try taking cannabis (the most commonly used drug) to see what it’s like’, 10% of 13 year-olds and 43% of 15 year-olds said yes (increases of 7% and 29% respectively from 2013). When asked if they had been offered drugs, 27% of 13 year-olds and 56% of 15 year-olds reported that they had been offered drugs (increases of 14% and 22% respectively from 2013). When asked to rate how easy it would be to get illegal drugs if they want to, 31% of 13 year-olds and 64% of 15 year olds reported that it would be ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ easy to get illegal drugs. Pupils who had used drugs were asked if they felt that they needed to get help because of their drug use. 8% of 15 year-olds felt they needed help and 40% of 15 year-olds would like to stop taking drugs.



Source: Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) 2018: Summary findings for Aberdeen City Council [64]

**Alcohol- and drug-related hospital admissions, 11-25 years:** In the period 2017/18-2019/20 the rate (per 100,000 population) of alcohol-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 295.0 compared to 271.9 in Scotland. This is the second consecutive year of increase following a sustained period of decreases. In 2016/17-2018/19, the rate of drug-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 93.3 in Aberdeen City compared to 146 in Scotland. The rate of drug-related hospital admissions has increased in both Aberdeen City and Scotland in the last two periods [50].

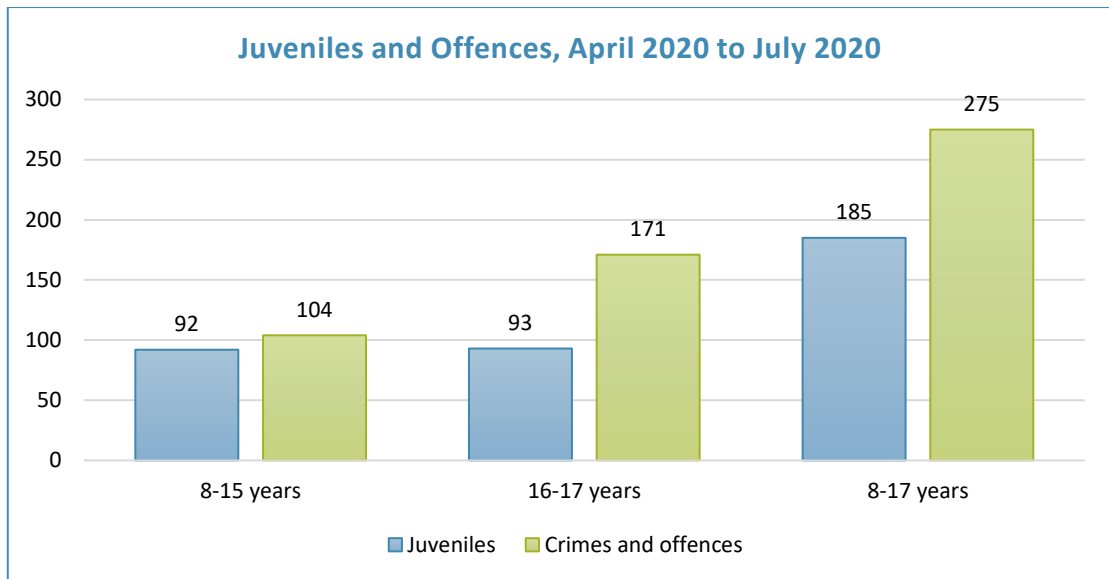


Source: ScotPHO online profile tool [50]

#### 4.8. Juvenile crime

**Juvenile crime:** In 2019/20, 714 young people (under 18 years) were identified as being involved in criminality – up from 672 in 2018/19. In the same period, the total number of Offences increased from 1,481 to 1,595 and the number of CrimeFiles increased from 889 to 1,012. These increases come after a four-year period of consistent decreases. In 2019/20, 435 of the juveniles were aged 8-15 years and 279 were aged 16-17 years. Approximately two-thirds (477) were male and one third (237) were female. The most common type of offence for 8-15 year-olds was Miscellaneous offences, while for 16-17 year-olds it was Other Crimes. A quarter (25.5%) of juveniles appeared on more than one CrimeFile [82].

**April 2020 to July 2020:** Data for the first quarter of 2020/21 shows a decrease in the number of young people accruing charges. Between April and July 2020, 185 8-17 year olds committed offences, compared to 361 in the same period of 2019/20. 275 crimes/offences were committed by 8-17 year olds in the first quarter of 2020/21 while in the same period in 2019/2020 there were 525 crimes/offences committed by the same age group [83]. Of the 8-15 year-olds, 67 were dealt with by Police Direct Measures. Of these, 25 were given a Recorded Verbal Juvenile Warning, 19 were referred to Social Work (EEI), 14 were given a Restorative Justice Letter and 9 were referred to Barnardos (EEI).



Source: Youth Justice Unit Management Data [83]

**Anti-social behaviour:** In 2019, a total of 2,761 Youth Anti-social Behaviour calls were reported to the Police. This is a considerable increase from 1,740 in 2018. In the year to September 2020, there were 1,426 calls reported to the Police [84].

**Referred to Children’s Reporter on offence grounds:** in 2019-20 there were 114 young people referred to the Children’s Reporter on offence grounds – an increase from 96 in 2018-19 [85]

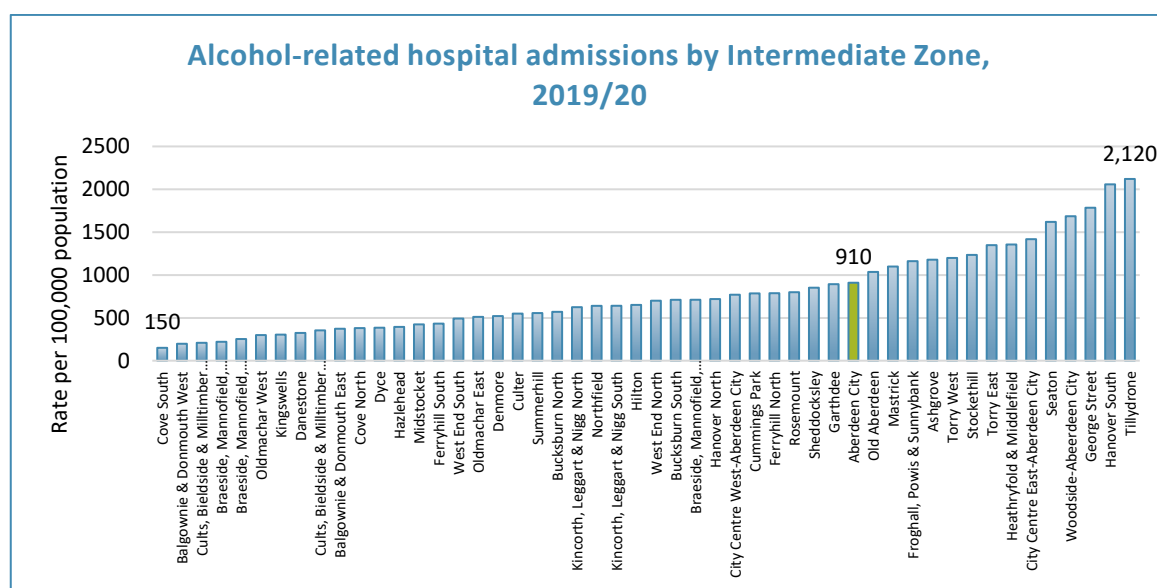
## 5. Adults

### 5.1. Health behaviours

**COVID-19 overview:** There are indications that the pandemic and subsequent restrictions have increased levels of drug and alcohol misuse. This may be due to a range of factors including changing work and leisure patterns, stress and anxiety and a reduction in support services and networks. A report published by Scottish Families affected by Alcohol and Drugs reported an 80% increase in Helpline contacts between 18<sup>th</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 compared with the same period the previous year. This included a 34% increase in contact from family members and a 244% increase in contact from people seeking support for their own alcohol and drug use [86].

**Alcohol:** In the period 2016-19, 25% of adults in Aberdeen City were drinking above the guideline recommendations of 14 units per week. This is higher than the rate for Scotland of 24% but lower than the rate for 2014-17 which was 29%.

**Alcohol-related hospital admissions:** In 2019/20 there were 1,557 alcohol-related hospital admissions in Aberdeen City – equivalent to a rate of 711 per 100,000 population which is higher than the rate for Scotland of 673 but a decrease from the rate of 759 in 2018/19. Across the City (Intermediate Zones), the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions ranged from a low of 150 in Cove South to a high of 2,120 per 100,000 population in Tillydrone [50].



Source: ScotPHO online profile tool [50]

The average number of alcohol-related Emergency Department presentations in Aberdeen City (ARI and RACH) pre-lockdown (2/1/20 – 18/3/20) was 39 per week, whilst the average attendances post-lockdown was 31.8 per week. Note this data is extracted using common alcohol related terms in the presenting complaint and some ICD-10 codes [87].

**Alcohol-specific deaths:** In 2019 there were 30 alcohol-specific deaths in Aberdeen City – down from 51 deaths in 2018. 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 2015-2019 this figure was 38 – down slightly from 41 in 2014-2018 [88]. Rates of alcohol-related deaths are available for the period 2014/18. In Aberdeen City the rate of alcohol-

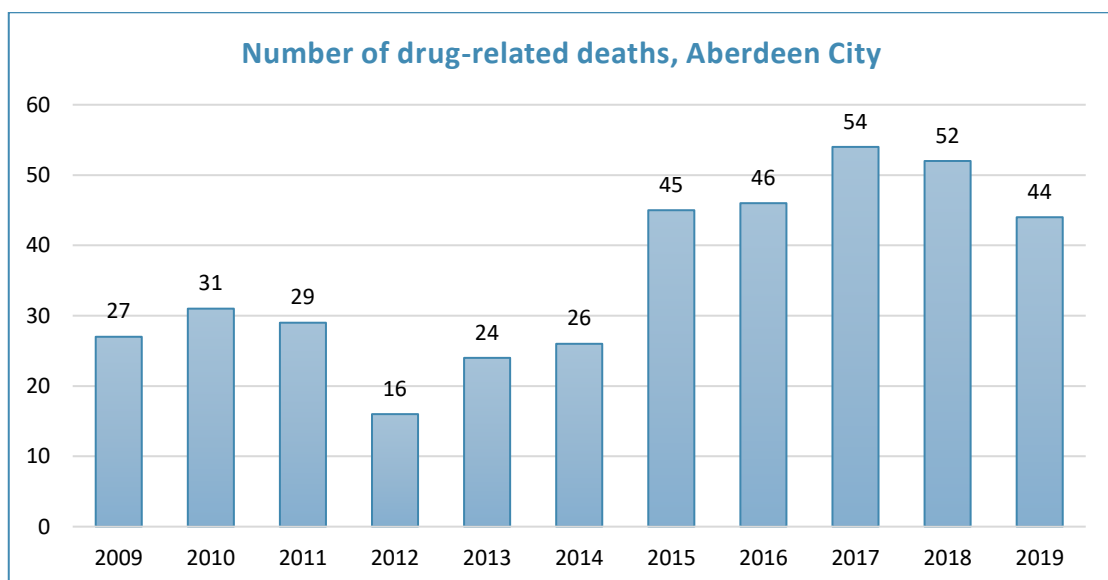


related deaths was 19.9 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 20.6 per 100,000 population and an increase from 18.4 in 2013/17. Rates of alcohol-related deaths vary (HSC localities) from 16.9 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen North, to 17.3 in Aberdeen South and 27.2 in Aberdeen Central [50].

**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 [89]. Estimated prevalence of problem drug use is higher in males (2.0%) than females (0.9%).

**Drug-related hospital admissions:** In 2016/17-2018/19 there were 438 drug-related hospital admissions (3-year rolling average number) which is equivalent to a rate of 182 per 100,000 population, compared to 200 per 100,000 population in Scotland. Following a period of decreasing drug-related hospital admissions, the rate has increased in the past two periods – from 166 in 2014/15-2016/17. The rate of drug related hospital admissions varies (HSC localities) from 222 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen Central, to 168 in Aberdeen North and 147 in Aberdeen South [50].

**Drug-related deaths:** The number of drug-related deaths in Aberdeen City increased substantially in the last few years, reaching a high of 54 in 2017. In each of the last two years, the number of drug-related deaths has fallen and was at 44 in 2019. Of these, 31 were males and 13 were females. Compared to 2008, females make up a higher proportion of drug-related deaths (11% in 2008 compared to 29.5% in 2019). As the number of deaths can fluctuate substantially on a yearly basis, annual rates for a 5-year period are also given. In the period 2015-19, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 0.21 deaths per 1,000 population (compared to 0.19 in 2014-18). This is higher than the rate from Scotland (0.18 per 1,000 population) and the 7<sup>th</sup> highest average annual rate of drug deaths of all local authorities in Scotland (improvement from 5<sup>th</sup> highest in 2018). In Aberdeen City, as in Scotland, drug-related deaths were highest in the 35-44 year age group (0.63 per 1,000 population in 2015-2019) [90].

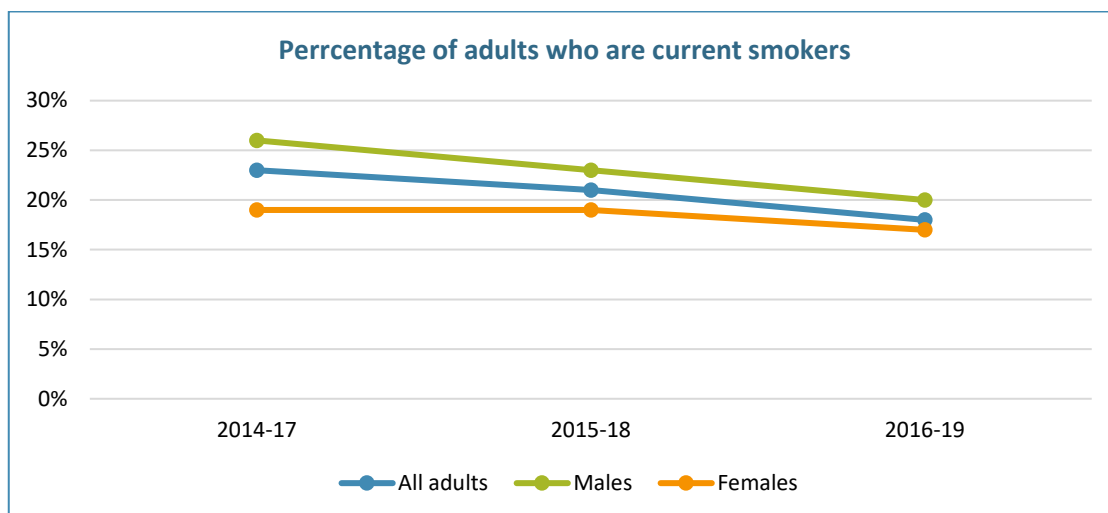


Source: National Records of Scotland, Drug Related Deaths in Scotland [90]

**Naloxone Provision:** For Aberdeen City community, the number of Naloxone kits distributed to persons at risk, family/friends and service workers varied from an average of 15.17 per week pre-lockdown to 15.3 post lockdown (26 March 2021).

**Referrals to Substance Misuse Service:** Pre lock down there was on average 11 referrals per week to the Integrated Drug Service, whereas post lockdown this reduced to 10.11 per week. The average number of referrals to Integrated Alcohol Service pre-lockdown was 15 per week, and post-lockdown was 11.57 per week.

**Smoking:** In the period 2016-19, an estimated 18% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers compared to 17% in Scotland. A higher proportion of males (20%) than females (17%) were smokers. The percentage of adults who are current smokers has decreased from 23% in 2014-17. It is estimated that 5% of adults use e-cigarettes (6% males, 4% females) [45].



Source: Scottish Health Survey, [45]

**Obesity:** In 2016-19 it was estimated that 23% of the City’s adult population is obese (classified as a BMI of 30+). This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 29% and a decrease from 25% in 2014-17 [45].

**Physical activity:** In the period 2016-19, 70% 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. Twenty-two percent had low or very low levels of physical activity and 9% had some activity [45]. Based on data from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2019 82% 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 56%. The most common activities were walking (at least 30 minutes) at 65%, multi-gym/weight training at 19%, and running/jogging and swimming both at 13% [30].

## 5.2. Mental health

**COVID-19 – impact on mental health:** As a result of social isolation caused by lockdown, the health impacts of COVID-19, and the broader impact on the economy and society, mental health is an area of particular concern. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, 70% of people in the UK are very or somewhat worried about the effect of COVID-19 on their life. Longitudinal analysis of the Understanding Society data also showed a rising number of participants experiencing mental health problems, rising from 23.3% in 2017-19 to 36.8% in April this year. However, there are also significant differences between population groups, with several demographic groups experiencing particularly poor

mental health as a result of the pandemic. Some of the most impacted groups are children and young people; older people who are isolated; people with pre-existing mental health problems; people with long-term disabling physical health conditions; single parents; transgender people; unemployed people and those in insecure employment; Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities; and women [62].

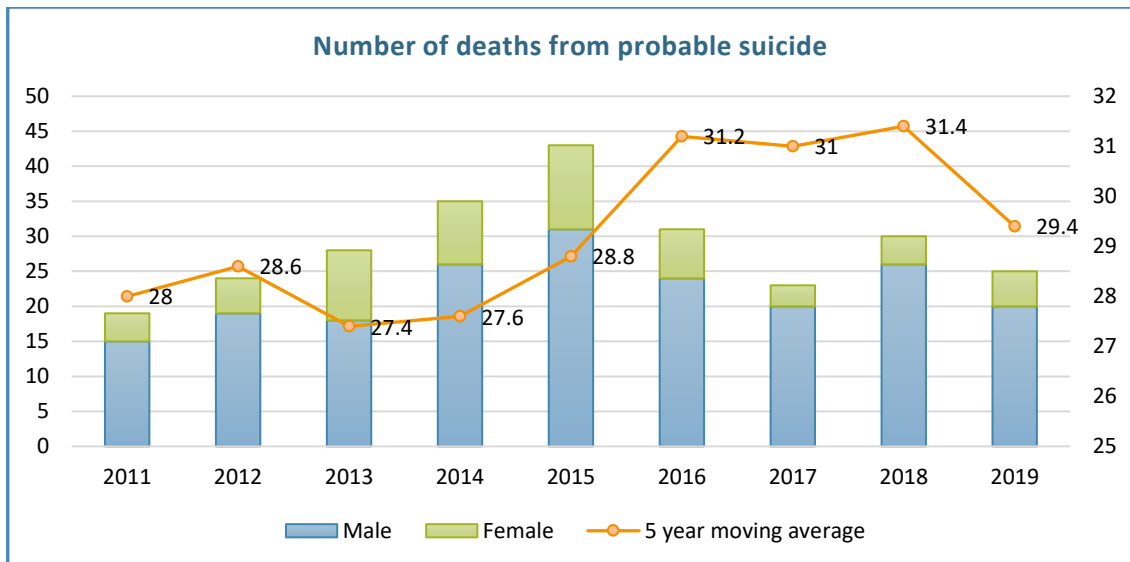
The ONS carries out the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, which asks about the impact of Coronavirus on multiple aspects of people's lives including mental health and wellbeing. Results are reported at NUTS 2 level. The North East Scotland region included both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Although sample sizes are small there are high levels of loneliness and anxiety, as well as low levels of happiness in North East Scotland [91].

**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 [92]. In 2019, dementia and Alzheimer's disease were the leading cause of death for females in Aberdeen City (13.2% of all female deaths) and the second most common cause of death for males (8.0% of all male deaths). Dementia and Alzheimer's was also the leading cause of death for females in Scotland (14.4%) and the second most common cause of death for males (7.6%) [93].

**Prescriptions for anxiety/depression/psychosis:** In 2019/20, 37,975 people in Aberdeen City were prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. This is equivalent to 16.6% of the population – lower than the proportion for Scotland of 19.7%. Consistent with trends in Scotland, the proportion of people receiving prescriptions for these conditions has increased in recent years, from 13% in 2010/11. The proportion of people prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis varied by HSC locality, at 15.6% in Aberdeen South and Aberdeen Central to 18.9% in Aberdeen North [50].

**Psychiatric patient hospitalisations:** In 2016/17-2018/19 there were 573 (3-year rolling average number) patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 257 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 256 per 100,000 population. Rates varied across the City (HSC localities), at 201 in Aberdeen North, 241 in Aberdeen South and were highest in Aberdeen Central at 349 per 100,000 population [50].

**Deaths from suicide:** In 2019 there were 25 probable suicides in Aberdeen City (20 male and 5 female). The number of suicides in the City peaked at 43 deaths in 2015 [94]. For the period 2014-2018 (5 year aggregate) the rate of 13.8 per 100,000 population is similar to the rate for Scotland of 13.2 per 100,000 population [94]. The rate of deaths from probable suicide varied by HSC locality. In 2014-2018 the rates per 100,000 population were 10.9 in Aberdeen South, 13.3 in Aberdeen North and 18.7 in Aberdeen Central [50].



Source: National Records of Scotland, Probable suicides: Deaths which are the result of intentional self-harm or events of undetermined intent [94]

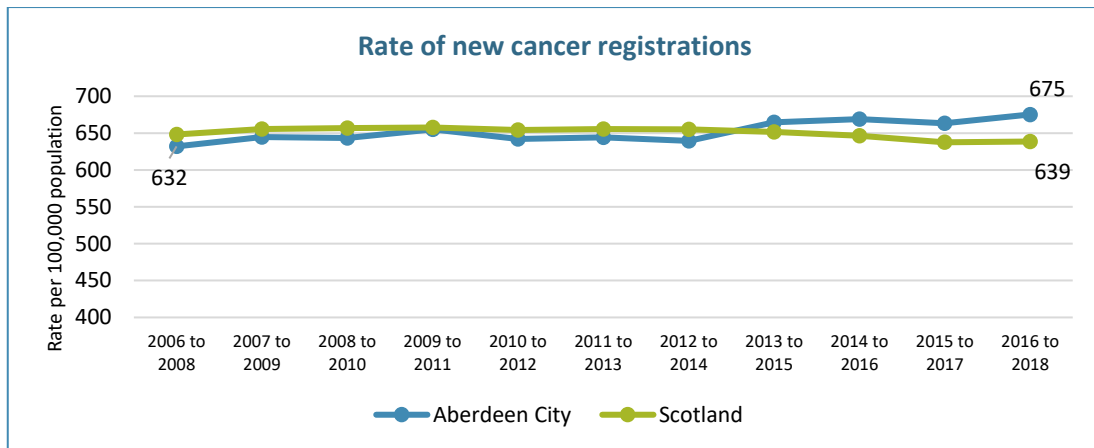
**Social Isolation:** Figures for Social Isolation are collated from the Primary Referral Reasons for the Links Practitioners service. This number we would predict to be much higher as most Social Isolation cases may go undetected or unrecorded. However, against other referral reasons for Links Practitioners - Social Isolation is in the top 5.

**Mental Health and Wellbeing:** In 2019 the majority of respondents (70%) to the Health and Social Care Service Users Survey 2019 were satisfied or very satisfied with their mental health and wellbeing while a further 15% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and the remaining 15% are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Those that dissatisfied or very dissatisfied are more likely than average to be male (19%) and aged under 60, 60 to 69 or 90+ (21%, 22% and 29%, respectively) [95].

### 5.3. Key diseases

**Key diseases:** In 2019, cancer and circulatory diseases (such as coronary heart disease and stroke) together accounted for over half (54.5%) of all causes of death in Aberdeen City. In 2019, almost a third (30.5%) of male deaths and over a quarter (28.6%) of female deaths were caused by cancer, and 25% of male deaths and 24.8% of female deaths were caused by circulatory diseases. Leading causes of death are given for specific disease classifications (e.g. types of cancer and circulatory diseases are listed separately). In 2018, Ischemic heart diseases were the leading cause of death for males (12.3% of a male deaths), followed by dementia and Alzheimer disease (8.0% of all male deaths). For females, dementia and Alzheimer disease was the leading cause of death for females (13.2% of all female deaths), followed by cerebrovascular disease (9.8% of all female deaths).

**Cancer:** In 2016-18 there were 1,261 new cancer registrations in Aberdeen (3-year rolling average). In contrast to the broad stable/downward trend in Scotland, the rate of new cancer registrations in Aberdeen City has increased and at 675 per 100,000 population is at its highest level for 10 years. The rate of cancer registrations varies by HSC localities, at 662 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, 677 in Aberdeen North and 690 in Aberdeen Central [50].



Source: ScotPHO online profile [50]

**Cancer early deaths:** In 2016-18 there were 287 early deaths (<75 years) from cancer (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 165 per 100,000 population – slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 156 per 100,000 population. Overall, the rate of early deaths from cancer has decreased over the last 10 years (from 191 per 100,000 population in 2006-08). The rate of early deaths from cancer varies across the City (Intermediate Zones), from a low of 58 per 100,000 population in Balgownie & Donmouth East to a high of 308 in Sheddocksley [50].

**Coronary heart disease (CHD):** In 2017/18-2019/20 there were 7373 patient hospitalisations with coronary heart disease (3 year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 390 per 100,000 population – higher than the rate for Scotland of 372 per 100,000 population. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, the rate of CHD patient hospitalisations has decreased over the past 10 years. The rate of CHD hospitalisations varies by Intermediate Zone, from a low of 176 per 100,000 population in Ferryhill North to a high of 777 in Tillydrone [50]. In 2016/18 the rate of early deaths (<75 years) from CHD was 50.8 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City. This is the same rate as Scotland. The rate of early deaths from CHD varied ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 0.0 in Braeside, Mannofield and Seafield East to a high of 160 per 100,000 population in Hanover South [50].

**Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD):** In 2016/17-2018/19, the incidence<sup>7</sup> of COPD in Aberdeen City was 229 (3-year average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 150 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 174 per 100,000 population. In 2016-2018 there were 113 deaths (3-year average), which is a rate of 76 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 75 per 100,000 population. In 2016/17 to 2018/19 there were 374 (3-year rolling average number) patient hospitalisations in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 244 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 287. The rate of patient hospitalisations for COPD varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 33 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 939 per 100,000 population in City Centre East [50].

#### 5.4. Hospitalisations

**Emergency hospitalisations:** In 2017-19 there were 14,669 emergency patient hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average) – equivalent to a rate of 7,024 per 100,000

<sup>7</sup> Total number of patients with a first admission in 10 years who were discharged from hospital or died.

population. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 7,624. The rate of emergency patient hospitalisations has been gradually decreasing over the past 10 years, from 7,813 per 100,000 population in 2007-09 to the current level of 7,024. Over the same period, the rate in Scotland has increased (from 7,531 in 2007-09). The rate of emergency patient hospitalisations varies across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) ranging from a low of 4,448 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 11,532 in City Centre East [50].

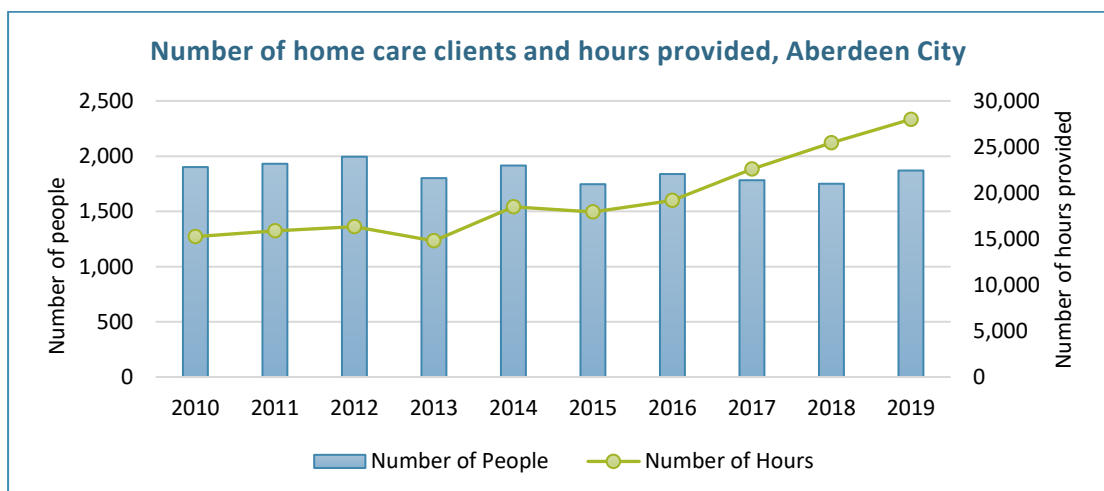
Recent data (provisional) suggests that the number of emergency hospital admissions may have been impacted by COVID-19, particularly at the start of lockdown. For example, in April 2020 there were 1,292 emergency admissions compared to 1,837 in April 2019. Total admissions for the period April to September were 9,546 in 2020 compared to 10,895 in 2019 [96].

**Patients aged 65+ years with multiple emergency hospitalisations:** In 2017-19 there were 1,866 patients aged 65+ years with 2 or more emergency hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate of 5,334 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 5,456 and a slight increase from the rate of 5,240 per 100,000 population in 2016-18. Rates vary across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)), ranging from a low of 2,517 in Kingswells to a high of 9,365 in Northfield [50].

**Accident and Emergency Attendances:** In 2019/20 there was a slight reduction in accident and emergency attendances in Aberdeen City with 46,897 visits down from 46,954 in 2018/19. Recent data (provisional) suggests that the number of emergency hospital admissions may have been impacted by COVID-19, particularly at the start of lockdown. For example, for the period April to September 2020 there were 15,470 attendances at accident and emergency compared to 24,300 for the period April to September 2019.

## 5.5. Home care and care homes

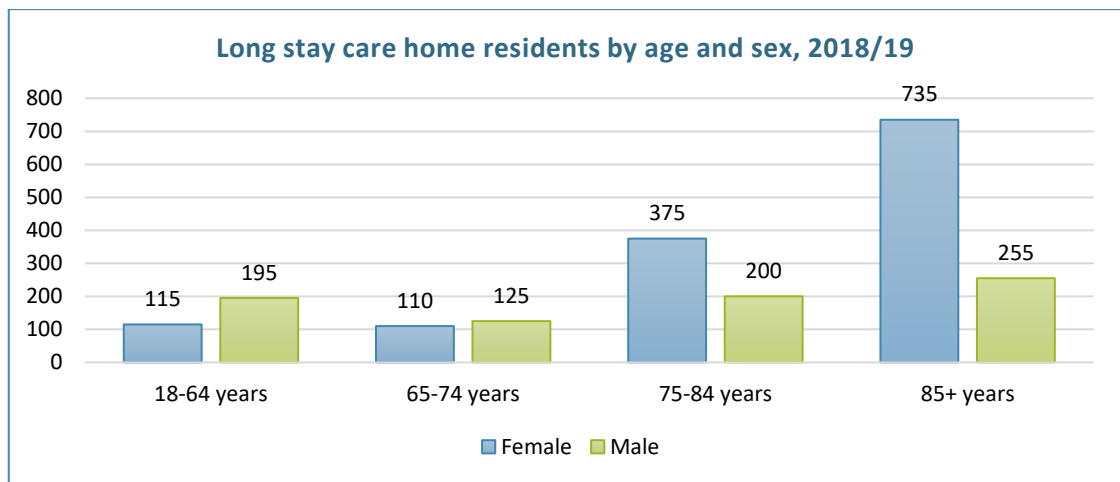
**Home care:** In March 2019 there were 1,870 people receiving home care in Aberdeen City, with a total of 28,005 hours of care provided. The number of people receiving care and the number of hours of care provided increased from 2018 where the figures were 1,870 and 25,455 respectively. Elderly/frail made up the largest client group (1,250 people), followed by people with a physical/sensory disability (730 people) [97]. (Note: the same individual can appear in multiple client groups.)



Source: Public Health Scotland, Social Care Insights [97]

**High levels of care:** In Aberdeen, in 2018/19 there were 469 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 27% of all people in this age group with high levels of care need – significantly lower than the Scottish average of 35% [50].

**Care homes:** In Aberdeen City in 2018/19 there were 2,510 people who were supported in a care home at any point in the financial year (i.e. people where some or all of the care home fee is paid by the Health and Social Care Partnership). Of these, 400 were short stay/respice and 2,105 were long stay (i.e. funded for a period of over six weeks). Of those who were long-stay, 1,800 were aged 65+ years, with over half (55%) of these being 85+ years. Almost three quarters (74%) of long-stay residents over 85 years were female [97].



Source: Public Health Scotland, Social Care Insights [97]

**Last six months of life:** In Aberdeen City, in 2019/20 the number of days in the last six months of life spent in the community was 339,810, an increase from 308,964 in 2018/19, but a slight decline from 341,684 in 2017/18.

## 5.6 Looking After Own Health and Wellbeing

**Own health and wellbeing:** In Aberdeen in 2018/19, 94% of adults reported being able to look after their health “very well” or “quite well”, this was the same percentage as in 2017/18, however a 3% decrease from 2015/16. In 2018/19, 73% of adults supported at home agreed that they were supported to live as independently as possible, this was a 9% and 7% reduction from 2017 and 2015 respectively, however higher than the figure for Scotland in both periods. Similarly, the percentage of adults supported at home who agreed they felt safe reduced in 2019 to 76% from 84% in 2017.

**Unpaid carers:** Latest data for 2020 to date, shows 2,761 unpaid carers, an increase of 1,048 from 2019.

**Available clubs and groups:** In 2019 a majority (63%) of respondents agreed that there were plenty organisations, clubs or groups in their community offering activities they could take part in. A significant proportion of respondents (68%) considered that it could be hard for them to get motivated to do things to look after their own health and wellbeing (this figure was particularly high amongst 60 to 69 year olds at 78%). The same proportion (68%) indicated that they could sometimes feel a bit down, which made it harder for them to look after their own health and wellbeing [95].

**Participation in local services and activities:** Over half of respondents (53%) indicated that they did not take part in any such activities. This figure was particularly high amongst 60 to 69 year olds (73%) and in the most deprived SIMD quintile (62%) [95]. Most respondents (92%) agreed that health and care support from professionals was there when they needed it. They were also quite likely to express positive views about outdoor spaces and the ability of themselves, and family and friends, to contribute to looking after their health and wellbeing. However, only 63% agree that there are plenty organisations, clubs or groups in their community offering activities they could take part in, this figure being especially low amongst males (52%). A significant proportion of respondents said that it can be hard for them to get motivated to do things to look after their own health and wellbeing and that they can sometimes feel a bit down, which makes it harder for them to look after their own health and wellbeing (68% in each case) [95].



# Our Place



## 6. Our Place

### 6.1. Our City

**Area:** Aberdeen City covers an area of 186 square kilometres and has a population density of 1,231 persons per square kilometre. In terms of population size, it is the 8th largest local authority in Scotland.

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

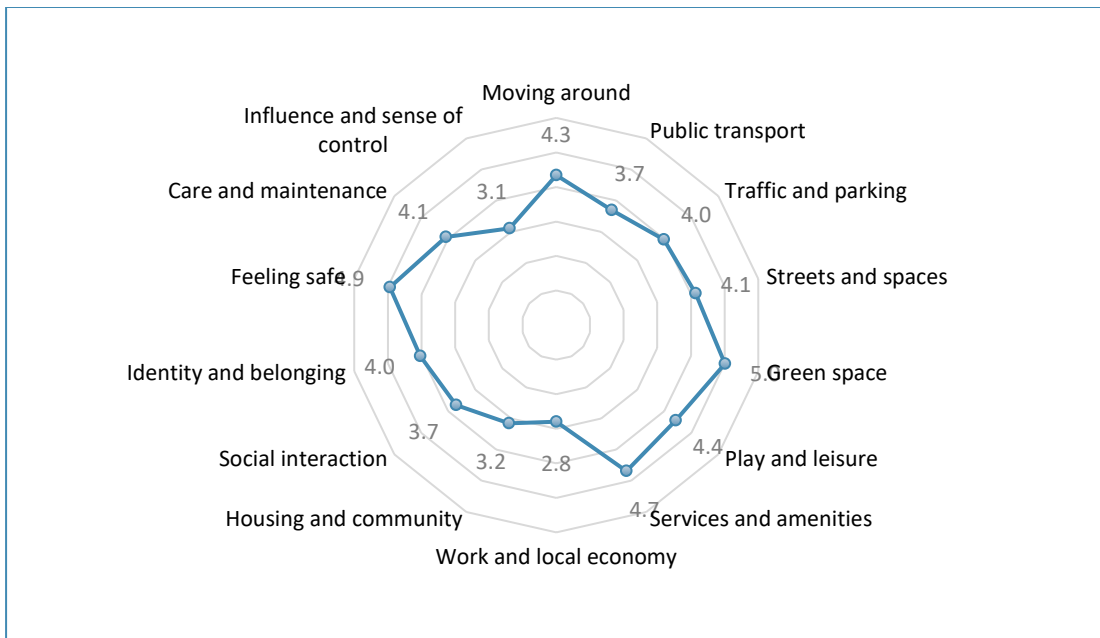
**Priority localities:** The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland. Following SIMD 2020, 13 of Aberdeen's neighbourhoods are recognised as deprived on this basis: Torry,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

### 6.2. Communities

**Community involvement:** In City Voice 44 (March 2020), 55.8% of respondents reported that they would like to be involved in decisions which affect their community but only 26% of respondents indicated that they felt they knew how to get involved. When asked what they felt would help them become more involved, the most popular choices were community events (50.9%) and face to face engagement (35.7%) and the most popular methods of giving their views about what is happening in their community were online surveys (67.5%) and questionnaires (65.1%) [24].

**Place Standard Questionnaire:** A shortened version of the Place Standard questionnaire was also included in City Voice 44. Participants were asked to answer a series of questions with their local neighbourhood in mind. Scoring was on a scale of 1-7, where 1 = lots of room for improvement and 7 = very little room for improvement. Overall, green space (Can you regularly experience good quality natural space?) and feeling safe (Do you feel safe in your

neighbourhood?) were the highest scoring areas with mean scores of 5.0 and 4.9 respectively. The lowest scoring areas were work and economy (Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality jobs?) and influence and sense of control (Do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?) with mean scores of 2.8 and 3.1 respectively [24].



Source: City Voice 44 [24]

**Volunteering:** In response to COVID-19 and to support the recovery, over 7,000 volunteers were recruited through national campaigns for Aberdeen alone (March 2020 – July 2020) and over 25% were over 60 years old. This is in addition to the volunteering that regularly occurs in city with close to 80,000 people assisting volunteering in Aberdeen, contributing a combined 4.4 million hours of help every year in Aberdeen. There has also been an eight-fold increase in volunteering enquiries to ACVO [98]. A research survey undertaken by Volunteer Scotland and Ipsos MORI has also highlighted that volunteering participation in Scotland had increased by 26% to 74% compared during COVID-19 (from 48% before lockdown was put in place). Over half - 59% of people - stated that they would continue volunteering 'post COVID-19' [99].

**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. 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 [100]. 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 [101].

### 6.3. Housing

**Dwellings:** In 2019 there were 119,523 dwellings in Aberdeen City – an increase of 1,392 (1.2%) on the number of dwellings in 2018. The number of dwellings varies by neighbourhood from 724 in Cummings Park to 6,676 in Braeside, Mannofield and Seafield. Most (59%) are in [Council Tax](#) bands A-C, with 26% being in bands D-E and 15% being in bands G-H [57]. The proportion of dwellings within each Council Tax band varies by neighbourhood. For example in Cummings Park, 99% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands A-C, while in Cults, Bielside & Milltimber, 68% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands F-H [102].

Over a third (39%) of dwellings have a [single adult discount](#) with the proportion of dwellings with these discounts ranging from a low of 24.6% in Cults, Bielside & Milltimber to a high of 51.1% in Woodside. 6.4% of dwellings have 'occupied exemptions' (e.g. student households), with the highest levels of exemptions being in Old Aberdeen (31%), George Street (28%), Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank (22%) and Seaton (20%) [57].

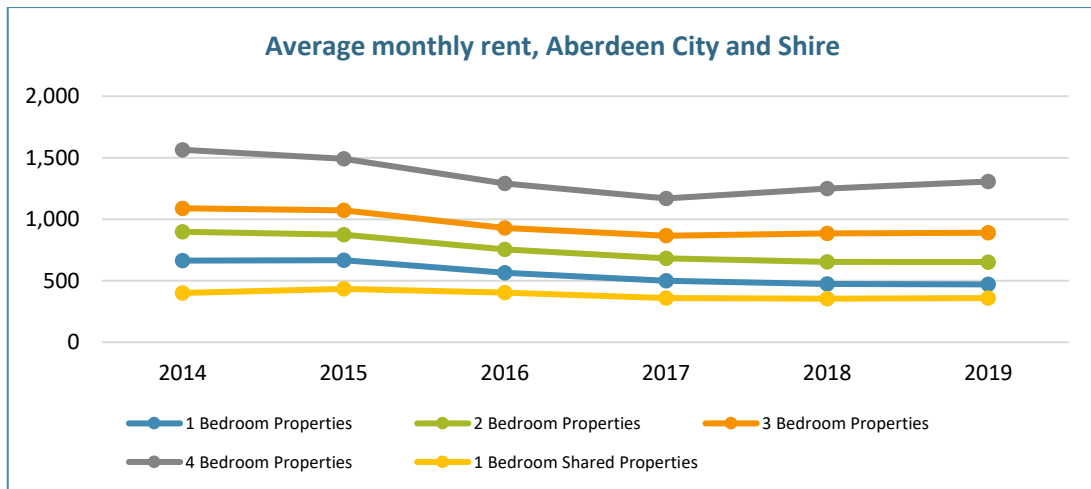
Second homes account for less than 1% of all dwellings in the City and in 2019 there were 5,697 vacant dwellings (4.8% of all dwellings) – an increase from 5,085 vacant dwellings in 2018. Most (55%) dwellings are flats, 18% are terraced, 16% are semi-detached and 11% are detached. At the time of the 2011 Census, 57.3% of households in the City were owned, 24.2% were socially rented, 17.0% were privately rented and 1.4% were rent-free.

**Housing stock:** In Aberdeen City in 2019 the Local Authority's housing stock totalled 21,974 – a slight decrease from 21,990 in 2018. Of the Council stock, 16,629 (76%) were flats and 5,345 (24%) were houses. Since 2009, the total housing stock owned by the Council has decreased by 4.2% - from 22,940 [103]. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 there were 4,116 applicants on the waiting list and 2,124 on the transfer list for housing [104].

**Supply of new housing:** In 2018-19, 1,144 new houses were supplied in Aberdeen City. Of these, 104 were local authority new builds, 911 were private new builds, 102 were housing association new builds and 27 were conversions [105].

**Supported housing:** A range of supported housing is provided by the Local Authority. Housing for older people includes 110 very sheltered and 1,890 sheltered dwellings of which 223 are wheelchair adapted. Some 2,789 dwellings have been fitted with a community alarm. Housing for people with physical disabilities included 428 dwellings adapted for wheelchair use, 437 for ambulant disabled and 1,900 with other adaptations [106].

**Private rental sector:** In 2019, the average monthly rent in Aberdeen City and Shire (Broad Rental Market Area) was £470 for a one-bedroomed property, £652 for a 2-bedroomed property, £889 for a 3-bedroomed property and £1,306 for a 4-bedroomed property. These were broadly similar to the average rents in 2018 with the exception of 4-bedroomed properties which increased from £1,249 in 2018. Rents for all property types are lower than pre-2015 levels [107].



Source: Scottish Government, Private sector rent statistics [107]

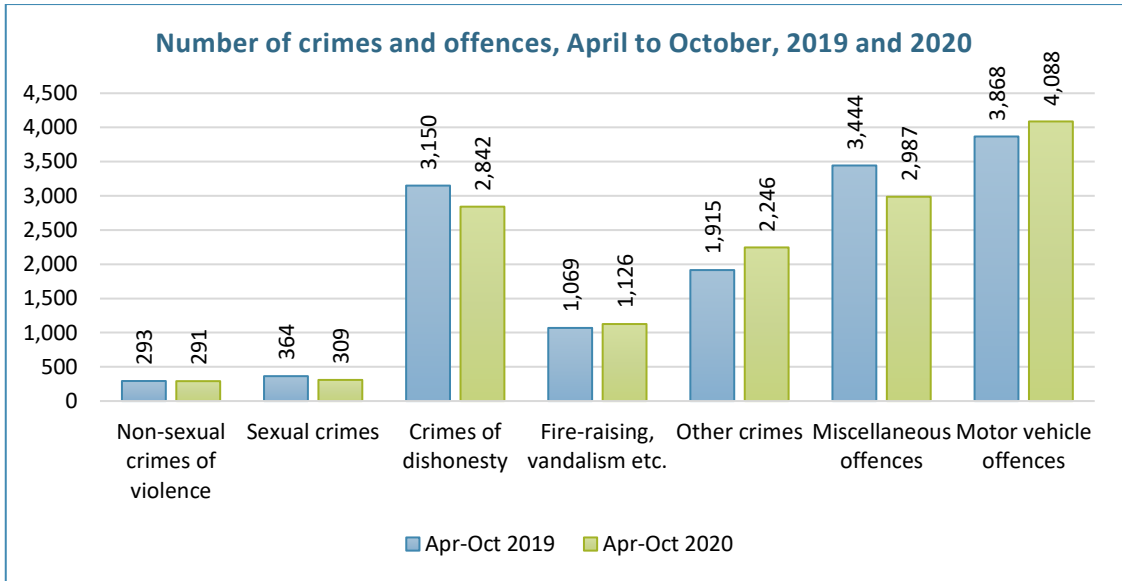
**House sales:** In 2019, the average purchase price for a residential property in Aberdeen City was £195,120 – a decrease from £196,047 in 2018. The average property price peaked in 2015 at £220,768. The number of properties sold increased slightly from 3,879 in 2018 to 3,943 in 2019 [108].

#### 6.4. Crime

**Crimes and offences:** In Scotland, crimes and offences are classified into 7 groups, with a new group for Coronavirus restriction crimes being added in 2019/20. In 2019/20 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Group 6, Miscellaneous, including assault and anti-social behaviour type crimes and offences (5,833); Group 7, Road Traffic Offences (5,577); and Group 3, Crimes of Dishonesty (5,218) [109]. Since 2016/17, rates (per 10,000 population) have decreased for all crimes and offences with the exception of non-sexual crimes of violence where the rate has increased from 17.4 per 10,000 population to 22.4 [109].

New official statistics were introduced from April 2020 to provide information about the volume and type of crimes and offences recorded in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>8</sup>. In Aberdeen City, the total number of crimes recorded between April to October 2020 was slightly higher than in the corresponding period in 2019. Between April and October there were 6,814 crimes recorded in 2020 compared to 6,791 in 2019. Conversely, the total number of offences was lower at 7,075 in 2020 compared to 7,312 in 2019 [110].

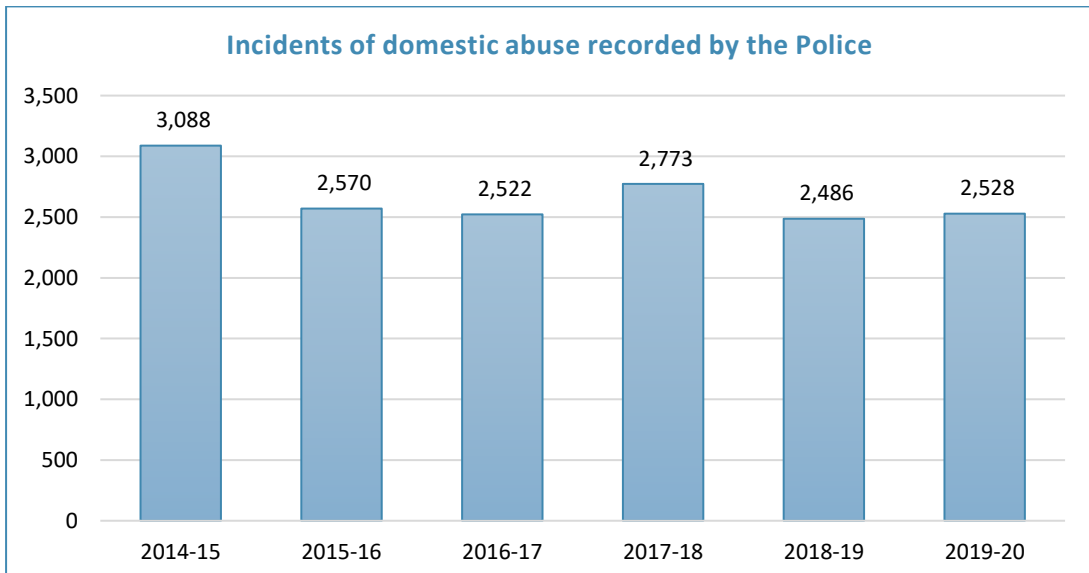
<sup>8</sup> While restrictions put in place to limit the spread of the virus will have had an impact on the number of crimes and offences recorded by the police, some caution is advised before necessarily attributing all of the changes to this situation. For example, longer term trends in some types of offending, which existed prior to the pandemic, may remain a factor. Crimes recorded by the police do not reveal the incidence of all crimes committed as not all crimes are reported to the police [110]



Source: Scottish Government, Recorded Crime in Scotland: October 2020 [110]

The rate of crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas ([Intermediate Zones](#)). In 2019, the rate of crime<sup>9</sup> range from a low of 4 (crude rate per 1,000 population) in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 247 in City Centre East [50].

**Domestic abuse:** In 2019/20 there were 2,528 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – an increase from 2,486 in 2018/19 [111]. Not all incidents of Domestic Abuse result in a crime being recorded. In 2019/20 there were 162 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse. Since the start of the pandemic there have been concerns about a rise in domestic violence, as access to support services and other networks of support has been less readily available. Between April and October 2020, there were 85 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse in Aberdeen City compared to 88 for the same period in 2019 [110].



Source: Scottish Government, Domestic abuse: statistics 2018-2019 [112] and Police Scotland, Management Information, Council Area Report: Quarter 4 2019/20 [113]

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

**Anti-social behaviour:** In 2019/20, there were 4,137 instances of anti-social behaviour reported to the Council – down from 4,495 in 2018-19.

## 6.5. Criminal Justice & Social Work

**First convictions and reconvictions:** In 2018-19, 725 people living in Aberdeen City had a first ever court conviction – down from 809 in 2017-18. Of these, 32 were under 18 years and 120 were aged 18-20 years. Of the 2,343 offenders (all ages) in the 2017-18 cohort, 29.7% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence [114].

**Police disposals:** In 2018-19 there were 847 Recorded Police warnings given in Aberdeen City. This is an increase from 659 in 2017-18. There were also 611 Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices given in 2018-19 – down from 807 in 2017-18.

**Diversion from prosecution:** In 2018/19 there were 114 Diversion from Prosecution Cases commenced of which 45 were 16 and 17 year-olds and 69 were 18+ years. This is a similar figure to 2017-18, when there were 116 Diversion from Prosecution Cases commenced in Aberdeen City, although the proportion of 16 and 17 year-olds has increased (from 27.6% in 2018/19 to 39.5%) [115].

**Community payback orders:** In 2019-20, 680 Community Payback Orders were successfully completed, up from 644 in 2018-19.

**Bail supervision orders:** In 2018-19, 26 Bail Supervision Orders were commenced by individuals. These Orders are agreed by the Court so that an individual is supervised by Justice Social Work instead of being remanded in prison (which can lead to negative outcomes for individuals in relation to employment, housing, family relations, etc, which can result in an increased likelihood of further offending). The number of individuals commencing Bail Supervision Orders increased to 45 in 2019-20.

**Custodial sentences:** In 2018-19, 602 people in Aberdeen City were given a custodial sentence – up from 581 in 2017-18. Of these, approximately one third (203) were for a period of up to 3 months. Of those given a custodial sentence in 2018-19, 520 (86.4%) were male and 22 were under the age of 21 years (all male) [116].

## 6.6. Safety

**Accidental dwelling fires:** In 2019/20 there were 256 accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen City (down slightly from 262 in 2018/19) which is equivalent to a rate of 214.2 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 165.6 in Scotland. Impairment due to alcohol/drugs was suspected to be a contributory factor to accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen in 15.6% of cases – similar to the rate for Scotland of 15.8%. There were 42 non-fatal casualties and no fatal casualties [117]. The rate of accidental dwelling fires varies across the City (Intermediate Zones). In 2018/19, the rate of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population ranged from a low of 0 in Kingswells, Bucksburn South, Dyce, Balgownie & Donmouth East and Denmore, to a high of 434 per 100,000 population in Hanover South [49].

In 2019/20 there were also 35 deliberate dwelling fires (rate of 29.3 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 19.8 for Scotland). In total there were 833 fires in Aberdeen City in 2019-20, of which 485 were primary fires, 340 were secondary fires and 8 were chimney fires. This is down from the total of 1,026 fires in 2018-19 [117].

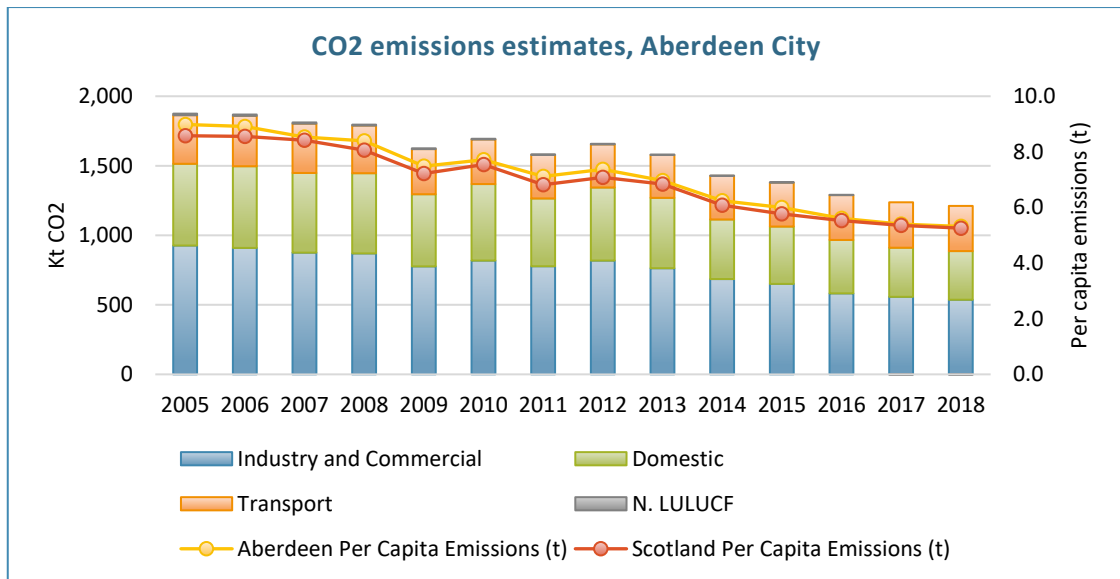
**Road safety:** During 2019, there were 118 road collisions in Aberdeen, involving 148 fatal, serious or slight injuries. Sadly, this included 3 fatalities from three separate collisions. There were 53 individuals seriously injured in 47 collisions, while 92 individuals were slightly injured in 68 collisions. Following a period of decreases, the number of people seriously injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (from 34 in 2017) [118]. In 2016-18, the rate of casualties from road traffic accidents varied across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 9 per 100,000 population in Denmore to a high of 150 per 100,000 population in Tillydrone [50].



Source: Transport Scotland, Key Reported Road Casualties in Scotland [118]

## 6.7. Environment – climate change

**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:** In 2018 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Aberdeen totalled 1,210.4 kt (down from 1,875.1 in 2005). Of this, 44.4% is attributed to industry and commerce, 28.9% to domestic use and 26.9% to transport. Since 2005, per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have fallen in both Aberdeen and Scotland, mostly due to the greening of the electricity grid and the Net Zero Vision for Aberdeen has put in place a local commitment to meeting the Scottish Government target of Net Zero Emissions by 2045. In 2018 the per capita levels were similar in Aberdeen and Scotland at 5.3 tonnes [119].



Source: GOV.UK, UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2018 [119]

**Adaption:** 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 Impacts Profile exploring weather events experienced in Aberdeen over the previous 5 years has been drafted and will be published in early 2021. This information complements existing national climate risk information and coupled with the Aberdeen Adapts framework for climate adaptation, will allow organisations to assess and adapt to the risks of our changing climate.

**Flood risk:** Scotland has been separated into 14 Local Plan Districts for flood risk management purposes. These districts are based on river catchments and coastal areas which cross administrative and institutional boundaries. SEPA, working with others, has produced a Flood Risk Management Strategy for each Local Plan District. The most recent Flood Risk Management Strategy produced by SEPA for the North East Local Plan District (2016-2021) identifies 4 areas in Aberdeen City that are potentially vulnerable to flooding – Peterculter, Bridge of Don, Denmore, and Deeside.

Average annual damages for each area:

- Aberdeen City – Deeside: £12 million (River 86%, Coastal 1% and Surface Water 14%)
- Aberdeen City – Bridge of Don: £4.5 million (River 81%, Coastal <1%, Surface Water 19%)
- Aberdeen City – Denmore: £570,000 (89% River)
- Aberdeen City – Peterculter: £300,000 (River 94%, Surface Water 6%)

The total average annual damages for the North East local plan area = £21,746,500. The total average annual damages for Aberdeen City = £17,370,000. This means that 80% of average annual damages for flooding in the North East are within Aberdeen City [120].

Nature based solutions are being employed across Aberdeen, at locations such as at Seaton Park, Middlefield and Maidenraig, 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.



## 6.8. Environment

**Greenspace:** Greenspace is important for a range of reasons, including health and well-being, economic benefit and environmental protection. 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 10%, much lower than comparable cities, Scotland as a whole, and national targets. Further analysis of the context, actions and trends in this area is required. Aberdeen’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 policies and interventions of all partners going forward.

In March 2020, 65% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with their local green space. This is down from 2019 when 71% reported that they were satisfied.

COVID-19: A report published for the Public Health Scotland Social & Systems Environment & Spaces Group looked at the use of green and open spaces during lockdown. The report found that use of green and open spaces was polarised with some people increasing the frequency of visits and time spent outside, and others making fewer or no visits. The most marked reduction in time spent in green and open spaces was amongst older people. Overwhelmingly, users reported that green and open space benefited their mental health during lockdown. Socio-economic inequalities in use of green and open spaces existed before lockdown, but lockdown did not reduce these and may have made them worse [121].

**Water environment:** Aberdeen is a coastal harbour city bounded by two major inland waterways, the 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 table below shows the overall condition of bodies of surface waters in and around Aberdeen [122].

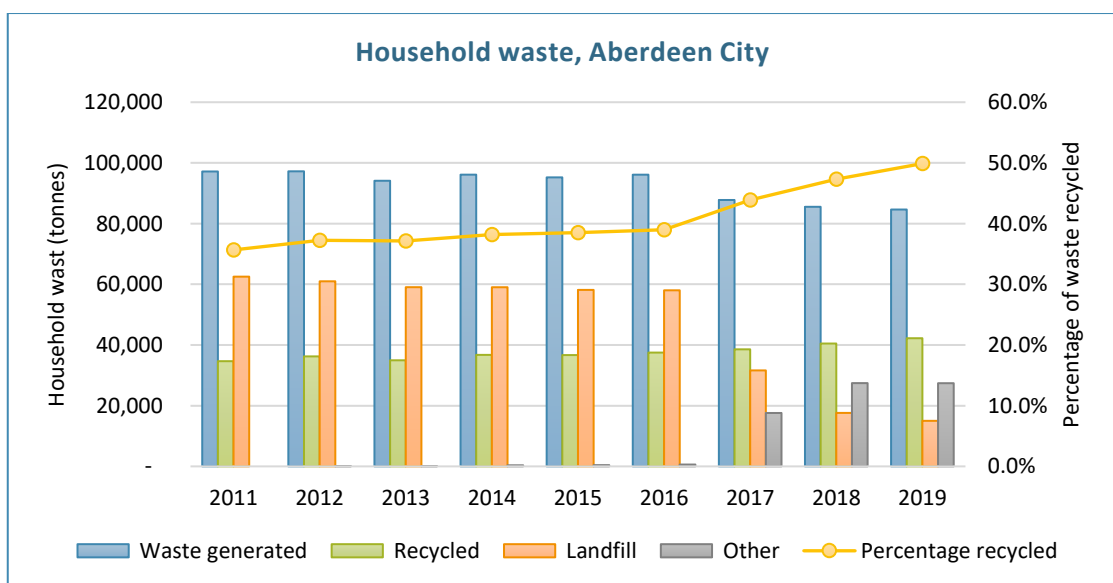
	2017	2018
South Mundurno Burn	Bad	Bad
Den Burn	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential
River Don - Dyce to tidal limit	Moderate	Poor
Bucks Burn	Moderate	Moderate
Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP	Poor	Poor
River Don - Inverurie to Dyce	Good	Good
Black Burn	Poor	Moderate
River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit	Bad ecological potential	Bad ecological potential
River Dee - Banchory to Peterculter	Moderate	Moderate
Culter Burn	Moderate	Moderate
Gormack Burn	Bad	Bad

Leuchar Burn	Poor	Poor
Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn	Bad	Bad
Dee (Aberdeen) Estuary	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Don Estuary	High	High
Don Estuary to Souter Head (Aberdeen)	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Cruden Bay to the Don Estuary	High	High
Souter Head to Garron Point	High	High

Source: [122]

**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 with their outlook is currently mixed. It is home to several European protected species and sites, such as the freshwater pearl mussel and the River Dee Corridor. Aberdeen has 1 Site of Special Scientific Interest, 4 Local Nature Reserves and 14 Local Nature Conservation Sites. Approx. 5 – 10% of our land is protected for wildlife, compared to a UK wide target of 30% by 2030. It is currently unclear what proportion of land outside protected areas is managed for wildlife. Further analysis of the context, actions and trends in this area is required.

**Household waste:** In 2019, 84,643 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City. The amount of household waste generated has decreased each year since 2016 and the amount of household waste going to landfill has fallen from 58,021 tonnes to 15,005 tonnes – a reduction of 74%. In the same period, the percentage of waste being recycled has increased from 39% to 49.9%. There has also been an increase in ‘other’ diversions from landfill (disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods) from 604 tonnes in 2016 to 27,407 tonnes in 2019 (equivalent to 32.4% of waste generated). The carbon impact of household waste has fallen from 253,014 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2016 to 180,260 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019 [123].



Source: Scotland’s Environment, Summary data on Scottish household waste generation and management [123]

**Active travel:** In 2017/18, an estimated 20.6% of people in Aberdeen City used active travel (walking or cycling) to get to work or education. This is a decrease from 26.1% in 2016/17 [50]. In 2019, 21% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (same as in 2018) and 2% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (up from 1% in 2018). Driving a car was the most common main mode of travel at 53% [124].

**Impact of COVID-19 on Transport and travel:** COVID-19 has had an impact on both the number of trips people make and the modes of travel they use. A report by Public Health Scotland suggests that one of the main outcomes has been a reduction in the use of public transport. Walking and cycling increased during lockdown and into Phase 1. During Phases 2 and 3 cycling journeys reduced but on the whole were higher than during a similar period last year, although in late August and early September levels of cycling were similar to last year. Walking journeys have also reduced and have been consistently lower than during a similar period last year as fewer people travel to work. However, there is evidence that suggests that during lockdown walking and cycling for recreation increased, although it is not known whether these habits will be retained in the longer term. The use of cars, while low during the initial lockdown, increased steadily between April and August [125].

In Aberdeen City, comparison of data from ACC Active Travel Counters shows that the level of cycle users in November 2020 was up 37% compared to November 2019 and the daily number of pedestrians was up 62%. Data from ACC Automatic Traffic Counters shows that while levels of traffic dropped immediately following lockdown in March, traffic levels have been steadily increasing and are now slightly higher than pre-lockdown levels. Similarly, bus services are now running at pre-lockdown levels, although bus occupancy levels are currently at around 50% of pre-lockdown levels [126].

**Air Pollution:** Information on PM10 concentrations are available for six sites in Aberdeen City (Anderson Drive, Errol Place, King Street, Market Street, Union Street and Wellington Road). In 2019, the annual mean PM10 concentrations was below the target of 18ug/m<sup>3</sup> at all six sites [127]. As part of work to measure changing travel behaviour resulting from COVID-19, regular updates for concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> are collected<sup>10</sup>. In November 2020, concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> at the six sites were 72% of those for November last year [126].

**Electric Vehicles:** As of 2020, Aberdeen City has 56 publicly available electric vehicle chargers installed in order to encourage the use of electric vehicles. This is an increase of 3 since 2019, but an increase of 26 since 2017 and equates to 4% of the total number of chargers available in Scotland.

This document does not include data for the following Sustainable Development Goals:



<sup>10</sup> Source data has been provided for NO<sub>2</sub> levels as it is a local pollutant from vehicles and is therefore suitable to demonstrate the impact of lockdown. PM10 levels have not been provided as they are influenced by wider sources and gives a less accurate picture of local impact.

## **7 Further Information**

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

**Contact** Anne McAteer, Research Officer, Community Planning Team

**Email** [communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk)

**Visit** [www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/data](http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/data)