

Aberdeen City

Local Child Poverty Action Report

2021 - 2022

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Ratified by NHS	
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Foreword

TBC

Caroline Hiscox
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Introduction

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017¹ (the Act) sets out four interim income targets to be met by 2023, and four statutory targets to be met by 2030, encouraging Local Authorities and Health Boards to work towards those targets. The Act introduced a statutory requirement that Local Authorities and Health Boards must jointly produce an annual report and action plan that outlines the actions that they are taking, and will take, to reduce child poverty.

It is a complex task to measure poverty accurately and as such, four measures have been introduced to aid in measuring against the targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The targets are set on an 'after housing costs' basis; the income families have left after they have paid for their housing:

- **Relative poverty:** a child is in relative poverty if they live in a household where equivalised income for the financial year in question is less than 60 per cent of the median equivalised net income for that financial year.
Target: Less than 10% of children will live in households that are in relative poverty
- **Absolute poverty:** a child is in absolute poverty if they live in a household with an income below 60 per cent of the median equivalised net income in 2010–11.
Target: Less than 5% of children will live in households that are in absolute poverty.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2017/6/contents/enacted>

- **Combined low income and material deprivation:** a child is in combined low income and material deprivation if they live in a household with an income below 70 per cent of the equivalised median net income for that year and are unable to afford a number of basic goods and services (material deprivation).
Target: Less than 5% of children will live in households with combined low income and maternal deprivation
- **Persistent poverty:** a child is in persistent poverty if they have been living in Scotland and in relative poverty for three of the past four years.
Target: Less than 5% of children will live in households in persistent poverty

Context

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 aligns with other statutory duties and local reporting requirements to support the direction towards tackling child poverty. The **Fairer Scotland Duty**² places an overarching statutory duty on public bodies to have due regard to exercising functions in such a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. The **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**³ (specifically Articles 3, 6, 12, 26 and 27) are of particular support to the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**⁴(UNCRC) is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world, coming into force in the UK in 1992. The vision and ambition to help children and young people experience their rights has been set out within the ‘progressing the human rights of children in Scotland: 2018-2021 Action Plan’⁵. This includes raising awareness of children’s rights and involving them in policy decisions. We are committed to achieving UNICEF Child Friendly City Status, and a partnership approach has been implemented to ensure that children have the opportunity to be involved in implementing decisions that will affect them.

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-interim-guidance-public-bodies/pages/>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents/enacted>

⁴ <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

⁵ https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/progressing_human_rights_children_scotland.pdf

Each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) must prepare and publish a Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which sets out local outcomes as prioritised by the CPP, and in doing so is required to endeavour to reduce inequalities to outcomes that result in socio-economic disadvantage. This is a duty placed on CPP's under the **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**⁶. In September 2019, Aberdeen City Council adopted Community Planning Aberdeen's LOIP as the Child Poverty Action Plan for the years 2019-22. Equally, the **Education (Scotland) Act 2016**⁷ requires that education authorities must apply due regard to the need to carry out school functions in a way designed to reduce inequalities of outcome for those pupils experiencing them as a result of socio-economic disadvantage.

Child Poverty in Aberdeen City

In 2019 Aberdeen City was home to 228,700 people, and of these 35,423⁸ (15.4%) were children aged from birth to age 16. There are 48 primary schools and 11 secondary schools, and as of March 2019 there were 542 Care experienced children and young people in the city. 93.2% of school leavers achieved a positive destination. Of Aberdeen City's 283 data zones 29 are in the 20% most deprived, which is 2.08% of the national share. 104, 7.45% of the national share, are in the 20% least deprived.

78.5% of the population aged over 16 are employed which is slightly higher than the Scotland comparison (74.5%), with average gross weekly pay (by place of residence) being £599.40; slightly higher than the Scottish average of £577.70. 19.4% of those over age 16 in Aberdeen City are 'economically inactive'. This includes students, those with long or short term illness, retired people, people looking after family or home, and those that may be discouraged from working. Of these, 24.6% want to be working and are actively seeking employment. There are 13,900 workless households in Aberdeen City, however the sample size is too small to give an accurate estimation as to the number of these households with a child (or children) up to the age of 16.

The most recent Strategic Needs Assessment identifies that around 5500 children in Aberdeen are living in poverty. A standard definition of child poverty means growing up in families without the resources to 'obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities' which are the norm in 21st century Scotland. The [Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023](#) identifies six strategic outcomes including adequacy and improvement of housing supply; the prevention of homelessness;

⁶ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/contents/enacted>

⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/8/contents/enacted>

⁸ <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates/mid-2019>

improvement in private sector renting, and reducing fuel poverty. These are supporting outcomes which create the right conditions for tackling child poverty through a focus on mitigation for all families.

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)⁹ gives us some high level data that enables a comparison against certain indicators as a gauge of poverty over recent years. These cannot be mapped across as a direct measure against the targets in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 but can be used to monitor child poverty and its drivers at a local level.

Values

Community Planning Aberdeen established an Anti-Poverty Group in August 2021 following delivery of a refreshed Strategic Needs Assessment. The group enjoys wide representation from the Council, NHS Grampian, 3rd sector and further education. Our joint Child Poverty Action Plan has been developed through the Community Planning Partnership, with a commitment from all partners to work together in tackling child poverty. The joint Child Poverty Action Report has passed through single agency and multiagency governance routes for ratification prior to publication.

Actions to address child poverty are also embedded throughout the LOIP. Specific child poverty actions are developed through the Tackling Poverty Action Group, which has good engagement from all Community Planning Partners, including the Third Sector. The Tackling Poverty Action Group is accountable to the Integrated Children's Services Board who has oversight of the LOIP as it relates to children and young people, and a responsibility to drive forward the integration of children's services.

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)¹⁰ is the national approach to supporting children and young people. It is intended as a framework that will enable organisations who work on behalf of children and their families to provide a consistent, supportive approach for all. GIRFEC is based on children's rights and the principles reflected in the UNCRC¹¹. The aim is for children in Scotland to grow up feeling loved, respected and able to meet their full potential at home, at school and in the wider community. Every child and young person should be **Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included**. GIRFEC recognises that every child and young person is unique and that their wellbeing will be influenced by their own

⁹ https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>

¹¹ <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

experiences and changing needs as they grow, therefore there are no set levels of wellbeing, but rather the provision of a framework by which to identify and address needs early. It is an approach that requires a united and integrated multiagency system, and is the foundation on which we develop our action plan to tackle child poverty in Grampian.

In February 2020 the Independent Care Review¹² published a series of reports highlighted the strong link between poverty and looked after children, and the need for a systemic change in how we support families particularly by recognising and responding to the stresses of living in poverty. The multi-agency redesign of Family Support services is underway, with four thematic groups:

- Children and Young people in conflict with the law
- Children on the edge of care
- Children and families dealing with trauma
- Children with disabilities

Progress on this is being monitored through the Chief Officer Group and Child Protection Committee.

Progress Overview: 2021/22

The following templates provide an overview of progress against the actions that we said we would take to start tackling child poverty in year one. Feedback from the Poverty and Inequality Commission has been particularly helpful in enabling us to refine our approach and applying this to the development of our future plans.

The three main drivers of Child Poverty:¹³

Employment: Income from parent's work and earnings is not sufficient to lift them from poverty

Household costs: The costs of living that household have to cover are too high

Social Security: Income from social security, particularly for families with children, and is now inadequate to lift families from poverty

¹² <https://www.carereview.scot/conclusions/independent-care-review-reports/>

¹³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-chance-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2018-22/>

	On target and within timescales.
	Some risk to targets or timescales. Mitigation required.
	Significant risk to targets, timescales or objective. Requires escalation.

NHS REPORTING

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
<p>Reinforce and promote the importance of attending for antenatal care, with the aim to increase the number of vulnerable mothers eligible and in receipt of the Best Start Grant</p> <p>Income maximisation teams to continue supporting people to claim for their eligible benefits.</p>	Increased uptake of social security	<p>NHS Grampian</p> <p>ACC Department of Work and Pensions</p> <p>Social Security Scotland</p>	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
<p>Best Start Grant and Foods Data</p> <p>At the beginning of the pandemic the number of face-to-face appointments were reduced in the antenatal and postnatal period, and these consultations were undertaken instead by 'Near Me' or telephone. Face-to-face appointments resumed as quickly as was possible within the guidelines as the limitations of delivering safe physical and mental health care to mothers and their babies virtually was recognised and well understood. An increasing number of pregnant women were not accessing maternity care due to a COVID-9 related fear of coming into the hospital or seeing their GP.</p> <p>In March 2020, The Grampian wide Breastfeeding Peer Support Service paused all face-to-face contact from within the postnatal wards and neonatal unit, community group support and 1:1 support. The service went online using 'Near Me' and with promotion through social media. This isolated many families as well as peer support volunteers who had limited access to internet or were not confident in using technology.</p>					

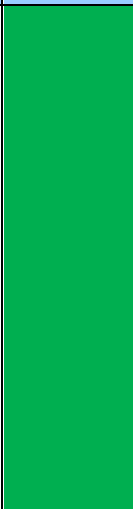
Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Promote the Neonatal Expenses Fund with the aim of identifying vulnerable parents who are eligible, so that they may can be supported so spend as much time as possible with their babies while they are receiving care in the neonatal unit.	Reducing the cost of living	NHS Grampian Friends of the Neonatal Unit	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
All parents who have a baby admitted to the neonatal unit are provided with the information that they require with regard to the Neonatal Expenses Fund. Through liaison within the clinical management structure, an application form has been included within the universal information pack provided to all families on admission. The aspiration for the future is to develop a mechanism for data collection, enabling an oversight of uptake of the fund and to use this information to further target promotion so that all vulnerable, eligible families can benefit.					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Provide more support to children and families in the earliest years through delivery of the Universal Health Visiting Pathway (UHVP) and Family Nurse Partnership Programme.	Increased uptake of social security Reducing the cost of living	NHS Grampian	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
<p>All Health Visitors and Family Nurses are talking to families about financial inclusion and income maximisation through routine enquiry within the UHVP.</p> <p>Based on national guidance initially, from April 2020, the 11 – 14 day post-natal and the 6 – 8 week baby contacts were undertaken face-to-face within the Universal Health Visitor Pathway. The guidance has varied during the course of the pandemic dependant on Covid-19 levels. The impact of these changes has resulted in reduced opportunity for discussion and for complete assessment within the family home environment. Between March 2020 and April 2021 Health Visitors and Family Nurses did not routinely perform face-to-face contacts for children between 13 months and starting school, in compliance with the national COVID-19 guidelines. Primary 1 assessments were paused during August 2020 and August 2021.</p> <p>We are fortunate to have passionate colleagues at Robert Gordon University who have led research projects in relation to poverty in Grampian. One of these projects, looking at the experiences of women, and of professionals, in the implementation of the early years Financial Inclusion Pathway has been accepted for presentation at the Global Public Health Nursing Conference to be hosted (virtually) in Japan in January 2022. The Parenting on a Low Income gives some insight into the challenges and compromises that parents face when experiencing poverty. Both have been submitted for consideration to the Scottish Public Health Faculty Conference, and we hope to be able to share this important research at that forum too.</p> <p>As part of the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare, the Links Nursery and Hub opened on the 16th August 2021. The renovated building is in heart of one of our priority areas is now an important part of our continuum for up to 90 children and their families who would benefit from a multi-agency response. The service aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high quality provision, learning and experiences for all the children and families attending our setting. • Improve children's outcomes and help close the poverty- related attainment gap. • Increase family resilience through improved health and wellbeing of children and parents 					

- Support parents into work and study or training.

Currently 21 Eligible 2s and 25 3–5-year-olds access the ELC provision. Approximately 44.2% of children who attend the Early Learning and Childcare provision have English as an additional language (EAL).

The Links Nursery and Hub has a Health Visitor on site and one Band 3 Nursery Nurse and benefits from close working relationships with the Family Learning Team. As the provision develops, there is the possibility of introducing additional multi-agency representation based on site, i.e. SALT and Children's Social Work. This model provides an opportunity to test the benefits of the co-location and will be used to inform our approach to delivering services as a partnership.

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
<p>Develop an intelligence led and evidenced based approach for the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF), so that the allocation of funding directly to schools will help to close the attainment gap</p> <p>Use of Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Funding totalling £ 635,732.56 to benefit those pupils in each of the 7 identified Challenge Schools</p> <p>Minimise the costs of the school day and maximise the uptake of free school meals and school clothing grants by eligible families.</p> <p>All schools to consider poverty proofing within their own unique context.</p>	<p>Reducing the cost of living</p> <p>Income from Employment</p>	<p>Partnership Child Poverty Action Groups</p> <p>Social Security Scotland</p> <p>Education and Children's Services</p> <p>Local Authority Poverty Action Groups</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	
Progress					
<p>Scottish Attainment Challenge (PEF) Funding totalling £ 2,845,080 has been used to benefit those pupils in receipt of free school meals.</p> <p>7 SAC schools – 4 primary and 3 secondaries utilise further funding to minimise the impact of poverty on children and families and mitigate against its most adverse effects in respect of pupil attendance, engagement, attainment, opportunities and achievement. Many interventions target families as well as children and young people.</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Continue to grow and sustain 'Making every Opportunity Count' (MeOC) at a Community Planning Partnership level	<p>Reducing the cost of living</p> <p>Increased uptake of social security</p>	All services within the Community Planning Partnership	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
<p>The aspiration is that MeOC be the framework by which conversations could be had about all aspects of Financial Inclusion. It was agreed that the ethos and principles of MeOC would provide the structure for the development of the Child Poverty Action Report, incorporating all that is being delivered.</p> <p>Opportunities to introduce the MeOC model have been identified, however there is still work to be done to roll it out more widely and embed it as a sustainable framework.</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Via Healthier, Wealthier Children: (Developing financial inclusion referral pathways in Scotland's funding plan) develop and implement a Midwifery and Early Years Practitioners pathway, policy and procedure to financial support services across Grampian.	Reducing the cost of living. Increased uptake of social security.	NHS Grampian Local Authority Poverty Action Groups Social Security Scotland	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
<p>Prior to the pandemic we had commissioned an income maximisation pilot with the intention of a link worker having a presence within RACH, the maternity hospital and neonatal unit to provide support with benefits, debt management or crisis support to families with children. The pilot was launched earlier this year, and due to ongoing infection control measures continues to be delivered virtually. It had been hoped that the necessity for virtual delivery would be advantageous in enabling equity of the offer across Grampian, however uptake has been slow so far. We believe this is due to the importance of relationship building for a model such as this to be a success, and this has been challenging when delivered remotely. Income Maximisation Pilot August and September gives an overview of the support provided so far.</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Investment in Scottish Housing Quality Standard , including replacement window and insulation work to address fuel poverty in homes.	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
<p>23% of households are believed to be in fuel poverty in Aberdeen.</p> <p>In 2021/22 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60.40% of homes met the Scottish Housing Quality Standards • 61 new window installations were undertaken • 1739 new heating systems were installed <p>Energy Efficient Standard for Scottish Housing (ESSH2) – 23.3% of properties within scope of ESSH2 (22,251 are within scope)</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Attainment and Transitions to Adulthood Improvement Group established to increase the number of young people living in priority areas who progress to a positive and sustained destinations Increase in the number of apprenticeships offered in priority areas	Income from Employment	Aberdeen City Council Skills Development Scotland	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
Reported below.					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
10,000 free meals will be provided to children through the award winning Food and Fun initiative	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council CFINE ACVO Community Groups	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
<p>Due to the lockdowns experienced this year, the Food and Fun programme did not run as normal, Instead food vouchers were distributed through Fit Like hubs, and directly to parents. Vouchers were also distributed to account for free school meal provision. In total the value of this was £1,706,690.</p> <p>During Summer 2021 the Summer of Play provided 7551 bookable opportunities for children and young people, with over 15000 bookings made. This partnership programme had a value of £418k, and had an average enjoyment rating of 9.5/10.</p> <p>https://news.aberdeencity.gov.uk/thousands-of-reasons-to-celebrate-summer-of-play/</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Continue to expand the provision of free sanitary products	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian CFINE	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
<p>The number of sites where free sanitary products can be accessed continues to grow and is currently at 54.</p> <p>During lockdown periods we have adapted approaches to continue maximising access to free products. This has included providing vouchers to families and direct delivery to homes.</p>					

Action Description	Poverty Driver Impacted	Responsible Services	Due Date	Review Date	RAG Status
Development of UNICEF Child Friendly Cities accreditation programme	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian Police Scotland UNICEF	March 2022	March 2021	
Progress					
<p>Action currently being refined with responsibilities shared across the partnerships. The foundation of this programme is based on engagement, participation and co-production with children and families in order for us to deliver action that will have the greatest impact. We continue to develop opportunities to hear from, and understand, the experiences of children and families.</p> <p>A number of key milestones have been reached and several key pieces of work have been undertaken and delivered against our action plan.</p> <p>Cooperation and Leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update of Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and associated guidance documents will ensure that children’s rights are fully considered in decisions that affect the lives of children and young people as part of committee processes. Data and Insights considering how children’s rights will inform re-design work over 2021/2022 Young people involved in the development of ABZ works website <p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of new approach to raising public awareness of CFC journey and children’s rights was launched on World Children’s Day (20th November 2021). This takes the form of a series of multiagency focussed short videos which will highlight and showcase work being undertaken and successfully delivered. Stats from Police Scotland of related World Children’s day related posts suggest and organic reach of 64,000 views/hits. Communication Training with UNICEF UK for internal comms staff (ACC, NHS, Police Scotland)/Public Communications Group scheduled for early 2022 with a view to a further training for external comms staff and other partner organisations. <p>Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education service developing an audit tool to support schools to fully take account of all 54 articles 					

- NHSG Board member identified as champion / ambassador for children's rights
- Ongoing work by Police Scotland to improve relationships between the police and children and young people.
- NHSG engaging directly with children and young people to develop 'key messages for the workforce aligned to staff wellbeing transformation programme

Child Friendly Services

- Multi-agency Fit Like Hubs established in light of data
- Young Leaders of learning support self-evaluation of schools. New programme launched and training for children taking place in January 2022.
- Young people being asked to help design school buildings of the future
- NHS have identified priority areas of activity for next quarter – engagement with children and young people re school nursing and neurodevelopmental pathways
- Continuing to embed children's right into the framework for the developing Integrated Family Portfolio (NHS operational model)
- Ensuring remobilization and renewal plans reflect children's rights (NHS)

Participating

- A youth participation network has been formed which will ensure that children and young people are able to directly influence decision-making. Initial meetings have taken place to ensure sustainable mechanisms for youth engagement are created and supported. This will be central to the programme's youth governance structure.
- A youth engagement toolkit has been jointly developed by Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen Foyer. This will support consistency of approach to meaningful youth engagement through robust guidance. The toolkit is currently being tested and finalised before public launch (early 2022).
- Preliminary design work undertaken to create a public facing area within the CPA website to raise awareness of the CFC programme and communicate progress.
- Multi-agency project to develop a youth hub at Tesco (Woodend) which has subsequently been shortlisted for the Chief Constable's Excellence Awards

Place

- Development of focussed and interactive engagement sessions with several primary schools to provide opportunities for children to consider and influence proposed new Union Street Central pedestrianised area, the transformation of the Beachfront and the creation of a new Beach Urban Park. Wider engagement also promoted with young people and youth groups. Results of this engagement will influence aspects of the detailed design work for both the City Centre Masterplan and Beach transformation as well as provide a new model for broader engagement on civic projects.

- Proposed Local Development Plan submitted to Scottish Ministers for examination in Public (22 July) – Child Friendly version of the plan to follow once examination completed.
- Discussion with Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS) regarding children and young people’s version of the Place Standard Tool. Draft version expected to be available in August for piloting. Discussions ongoing about ACC participating in this.

With the new model of distributed leadership, there is an increased sense of shared ownership and collective responsibility which will enable us to continue making good progress with our CFC journey.

ACC REPORTING

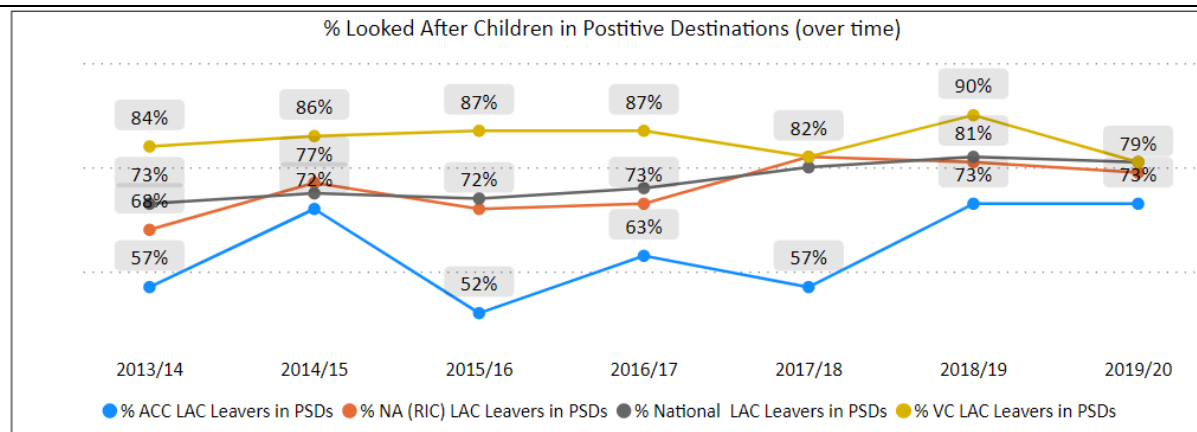
Activity undertaken	Partners involved in activity	Assessment criteria
Economy		
Support to those on, or transferring to, Universal Credit, and those on benefits.	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>NHS Grampian</p> <p>Department of work and Pensions</p> <p>Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE)</p> <p>Social Security Scotland</p>	<p>At the end of 2021/2022 there were 13,583 household on Universal Credit in Aberdeen City. Of these, 3350 were single with children, and 1470 were a couple with children.</p> <p>Financial Inclusion Team assisted 304 new households with children and 64 households with children that were opened before 1 April 2020 to access unclaimed benefits.</p> <p>This enabled a cumulative gain of £574,299.28 for these households in 2021/2022</p> <p>The provision of financial inclusion resource to all schools to make support available to all families.</p>
Investment in Scottish Housing Quality Standard, including replacement window and insulation work to address fuel poverty in homes	Aberdeen City Council	<p>23% of households are believed to be in fuel poverty in Aberdeen.</p> <p>In 2021/22 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60.40% of homes met the Scottish Housing Quality Standards • 61 new window installations were undertaken • 1739 new heating systems were installed <p>Energy Efficient Standard for Scottish Housing (ESSH2) – 23.3% of properties within scope of ESSH2 (22,251 are within scope)</p>

<p>Provision of Heat with Rent for Council Housing</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Heat and Power Ltd</p>	<p>Number of 2 bedroom or larger family homes benefitting from Heat with Rent – 1909</p>
<p>Use of Scottish Attainment Challenge (PEF) Funding totalling £ 2,845,080 to benefit those pupils in receipt of free school meals</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council Third Sector partners School Communities</p>	<p>All schools analyse the poverty related attainment gap in their own context, and the impact of poverty on pupil attainment, to plan appropriate targeted interventions to address this. All SAC plans are quality assured by the central education quality team and by the Education Scotland Attainment Advisor.</p> <p>The majority of city schools have implemented a range of interventions using PEF funding, some of these are targeted at specific pupils, others support a wider group. Many pupils, particularly in schools with high allocations of PEF funding, are accessing more than one intervention and it is therefore difficult to accurately identify which specific intervention has led to assessed improvements. In some cases, it is likely there has been a cumulative beneficial effect of several targeted interventions. Although this makes accurate evaluation and reporting more difficult, ultimately, of course, the result is positive for children and young people.</p> <p>Almost all schools report encouraging early evidence of improvements around mental health and wellbeing, resilience, emotional wellbeing and pupil engagement. As well as reference to specific data such as pupil attendance, schools report positive changes in areas such as improved pupil confidence in their own abilities and increased engagement in learning.</p> <p>The majority of schools are beginning to note improvements in attainment in literacy and numeracy for pupils targeted for specific interventions. In some schools this has led to a reduction in the poverty related attainment gap, as the rate of improvement for targeted pupils has outstripped others. This is particularly noticeable in the primary schools which also benefit from Scottish Attainment Challenge funding.</p> <p>Across the city there is evidence of the wider impacts associated with the additional funding. There has been an increase in collaborative working, both within and across schools and teachers planning and working together has contributed to the development of a more positive and collegiate ethos underpinned by the sharing of practice across individual schools and across Associated School Groups. In some cases, for example, this has included pooling of resources and collaborative</p>

		<p>working to source professional learning opportunities for staff on specific priorities e.g. The Visible Learning Approach.</p> <p>The majority of city schools have considered sustainability as part of their planning work, and this has led to a focus on building staff skills and capacity, sharing and embedding of practice, and improving use of data in planning and evaluation. However, it is recognised that the availability of additional resource has been key to achieving positive impacts, particularly for the most disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>Many schools have a high concentration of children living in lower SIMD quintiles and eligible for free school meals. All schools, however, have children living in families facing financial adversity. The education service has used education recovery funding to help allocate some financial inclusion resource to all city schools to provide support to all families to maximise the uptake of benefits they are entitled. Lifting families out of poverty by maximising the family income will most directly and positively impact on children and young people.</p> <p>The amount of information available to schools to inform the equity agenda is vast, this plethora of information presents a risk that school leaders will be unable to develop a clear strategy for implementation. In order to address this the Closing the Gap Improvement Group collaborated to develop an <u>Equity Framework</u> to help capture lessons learned and guide considerations and practice at school level. Schools report that having the digital resource supports local planning. The resource was published in August 2021 and will be kept under review.</p> <p>The framework identifies three key themes which have made the greatest difference locally with each explored in greater depth within the framework. The framework also provides a structure to share best practice across schools.</p>
<p>Use of Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Funding totalling £ 635,732.56 to benefit those pupils in each of the 7</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>Third Sector partners</p>	<p>7 SAC schools – 4 primary and 3 secondary utilising funding to minimise the impact of poverty on children and families and mitigate against its most adverse effects in respect of pupil attendance, engagement, attainment, opportunities and achievement.</p> <p>5 key areas are now known to significantly improve educational outcomes for children living in poverty, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of leadership; • Improving the standard of Learning, Teaching and Assessment; • Improving the suitability of the curriculum;

<p>identified Challenge Schools</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving wellbeing; and • Addressing poverty (in financial terms and the poverty of aspiration) <p>All five areas continue to be focussed on by the education service with improvement being realised in each.</p> <p>Poverty manifests itself quite differently across school communities and there are a range of considerations for staff as they work to understand how best to address barriers to improving outcomes at community level.</p> <p>PEF Funding is used to support children and young people (and their families if appropriate) affected by poverty to achieve their full potential. Although Pupil Equity Funding is allocated on the basis of free school meal eligibility, head teachers can use their professional judgement to bring additional children into the targeted interventions and approaches if they and their families are facing situational hardship and poverty. It is likely that many more children in our schools may now be affected by poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and schools keep plans under routine review.</p> <p>The Aberdeen City Council PEF Guidance provides a framework for schools to plan their approach. Schools are guided to understand how poverty impacts on their school community in order to set a longer-term school vision to guide the targeted use of resource.</p> <p>The improved visibility of data through the school profiles is greatly aiding evaluation and planning. Schools and officers are now able to interrogate data over time. The profiles also allow interrogation of data by groups, such as those who are Looked After, by gender and those with additional support needs. The next version of the school profiles will allow interrogation by SIMD quintile. This accessibility of data is potentially transformational, and work is ongoing to link live data to these profiles so that change can be seen in real time on one dashboard. This will enable schools to move away from the use of multiple spreadsheets and see a visual representation of the impact of interventions in real time.</p> <p>Experience over the last few years shows that no one individual intervention is likely to directly lead to improvement in one of the key measures, rather a range of well-pitched interventions tailored to the bespoke needs of a school community are likely to have the most impact. In general terms, interventions delivered by in house teams such as Family Learning and Youth Work often offer greatest impact for the lowest cost, and this has informed our use of education recovery funding</p>
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	<p>which now sees Youth Work, Family Learning and Financial Inclusion officers available to across all city schools.</p> <p>As a result of the considerable differences from school to school, school senior leaders are guided to understand local circumstance by using a range of quantitative and qualitative data. This analysis informs the targeting of resource at a local level, includes consideration of how Support for Learning may operate and informs consideration of any additional interventions that may be required.</p> <p>Live data evidences a significant rise in levels of attendance.</p> <p>There has been a steady decline in the number of exclusion incidents across all schools. Reductions are due to the change in policy, the range of interventions put in place at school level, the significant focus on supporting wellbeing and, in some cases, changes in school leadership.</p> <p>All the primary schools were able to demonstrate improvements in some attainment measures up to the first period of school closure. The last 2 years have significantly impacted on attainment trends. Work continues to address this at city-wide and local school level.</p> <p>Secondary attainment has increased across all schools. The different assessment methodologies utilised over the last two years however, impact on the data quality. Staying on rates have increased.</p> <p>Destinations data for this last session has still to be validated. The latest provisional data available to us suggested significant improvement in this area. There is also a positive trend for those who are care experienced in validated data sets.</p>
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A guidance leaflet was developed for school leaders to inform thinking on how to reduce the cost of the school day and all costs were removed from August 2021. Almost all schools have worked in partnership with parents to introduce uniform recycling schemes

Uptake in the provision of free school meals has been increasing after a focussed drive. Increased uptake ensures that eligible children and young people receive a nutritious meal at lunchtime and that the school benefits from an allocation of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) which currently amounts to £1200 per pupil.




There is evidence that some young children have delayed language acquisition and a subsequent need to ensure that we have a means of upskilling our workforce to address this. Our work with the PEEP (Parents as Early Educators) programme and recognises the importance of supporting parents in their vital role as early educators of their children. Post COVID-19 we will continue to work with our NHS colleagues to develop a shared, evidence-based approach to supporting the development of young children's speech, language and communication skills.

Developing the Young Workforce

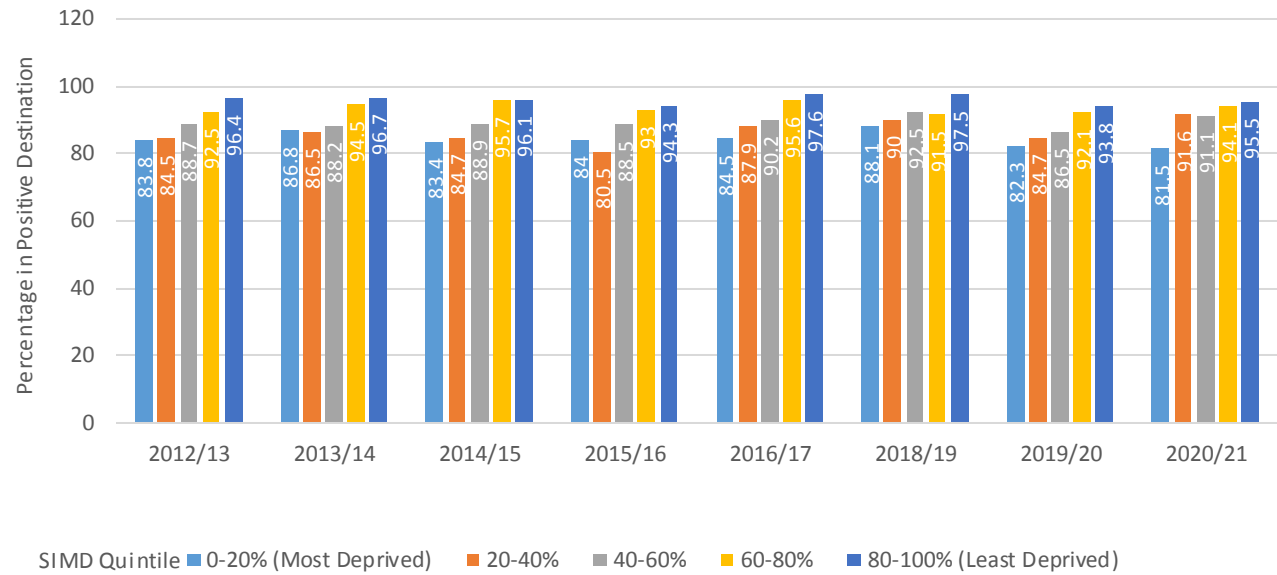
Aberdeen City Council
Skills

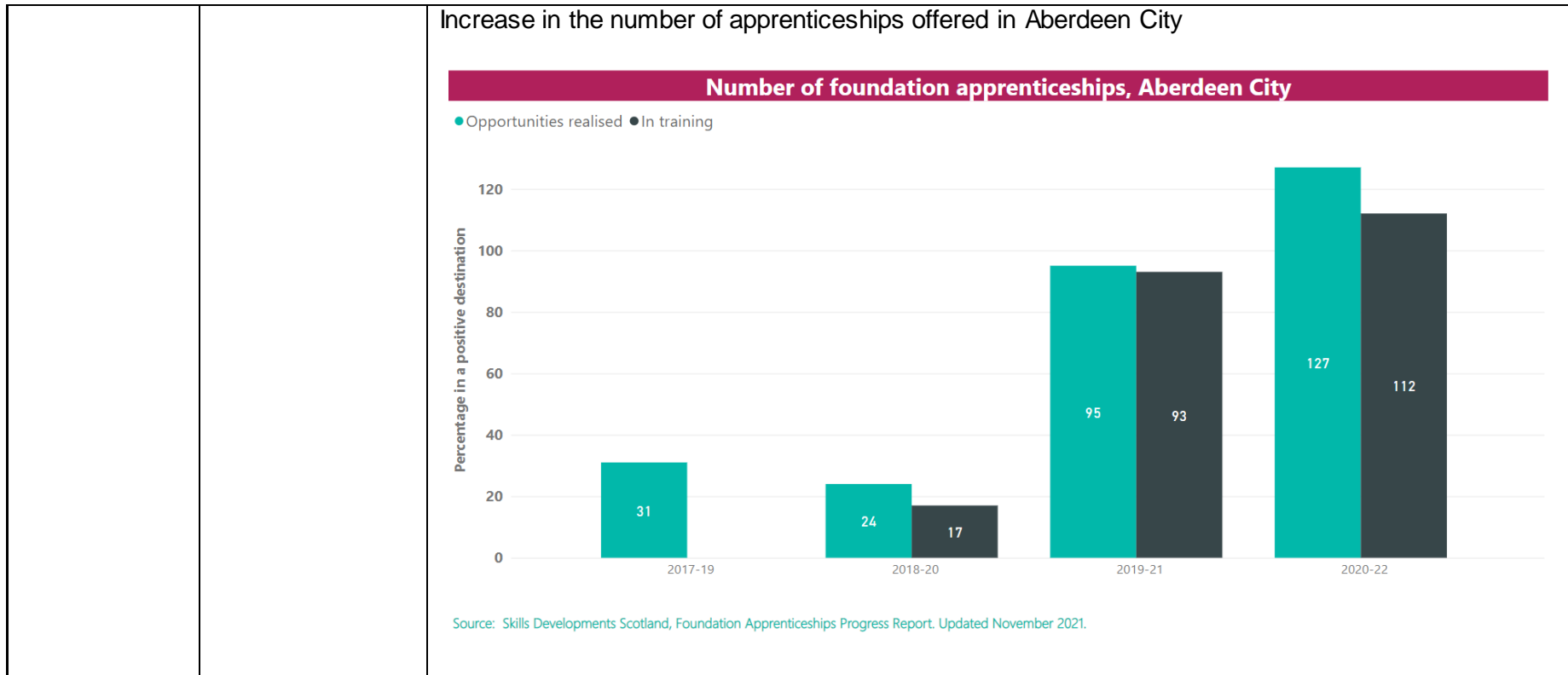
In 2020/21 92.1% of school-leavers went on to a sustained positive destination which was an increase on the previous year where 89.5% achieved a sustained positive destination.

	Development Scotland	<p>The Lift Off event, was held for the second year running with the title 'Lift Off and Grow' with the aim to inform and inspire young people about the variety of career and study opportunities in the region as it rises to the challenge of climate change.</p> <p>Delivered online with the support of DYW Board, Skills Development Scotland, North East of Scotland College and from a range of employers and providers, the event enabled senior pupils across Aberdeen City and this year, welcoming some schools in Aberdeenshire, to participate in an extensive programme of workshops, presentations and panel discussions. The event was opened by the keynote speaker Megan McCubbin, a zoologist, wildlife TV presenter and conservationist.</p> <p>The event was used not only to promote career pathways, but also to identify additional support services available to young people as they move on from school and to build on employer engagement and relationships.</p> <p>Development and updating of the ABZWorks website and social media channels continues on an ongoing basis to ensure content remains fresh and the platform provides local, accessible information about employability, skills and pathways into education and employment. Case studies and dynamic content such as animations and videos are uploaded to engage visitors to the website.</p> <p>The Attainment and Transitions Group began work on the ABZ Campus project which aims to increase progression routes and career pathways into the growth sectors through the re-imagined City Campus offer from 2023/24. The objective is to raise attainment and reduce the number of young people who are leaving school early, to align career pathways and progression routes with growth industry sectors in the North East of Scotland and to ensure that care experienced young people and young people with additional support needs have equity and access to career pathways. Six subgroups with a range of partners were established to progress the project addressing the themes of: HNC Pathways; Foundation Apprenticeships; National Qualifications; Employability; Young People with Additional Support Needs; Care Experienced Young People.</p> <p>The most current data for positive destinations is for the year 2020/21. The tables below contain the relevant data and reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on opportunities for young people.</p>
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		 Variance Tables Intial Leaver Destinations.xl
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		 Positive Initial and Sustained Destination


Percentage of school leavers in Positive Destinations (follow-up) by SIMD quintile, Aberdeen City

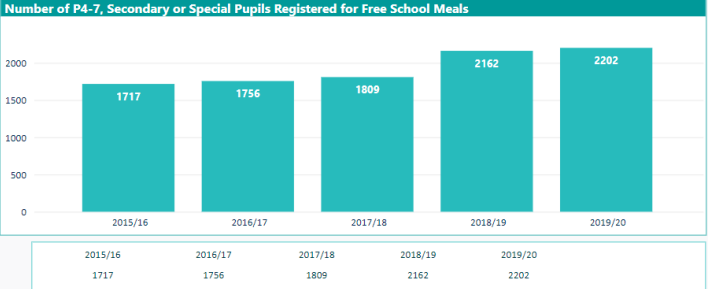
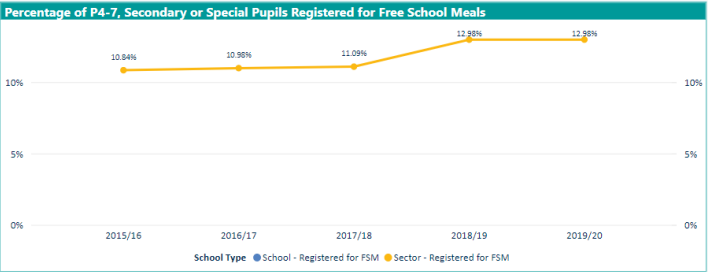




Children and Young People

Provision of £1.6million Fairer Aberdeen Fund through Participatory Budgeting approach to support local organisations	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) Community groups	Annual returns on activities as required under grant agreements from the following projects: Cummings Park Community Flat Printfield Community Project STAR Community Flat Tillydrone Community Flat CFINE Tackling Food Poverty Middlefield Community Project Under 11s Middlefield Youth Flat Fersands Youth Work
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<p>to deliver support to communities</p>		<p>Fersands Family Centre Twos Group and Family Support Worker St Machar Parent Support Project Home Start CAB Money Advice Outreach CFINE SAFE Pathways St Machar Credit Union</p> <p> Appendix-1-Fairer-Aberdeen-Annual-Rep</p>
<p>Free meals provided to children through the award winning Food and Fun initiative</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council CFINE ACVO Community Groups</p>	<p>Due to the lockdowns experienced this year, the Food and Fun programme did not run as normal, Instead food vouchers were distributed through Fit Like hubs, and directly to parents. Vouchers were also distributed to account for free school meal provision. In total the value of this was £1,706,690.</p> <p>During Summer 2021 the Summer of Play provided 7551 bookable opportunities for children and young people, with over 15000 bookings made. This partnership programme had a value of £418k, and had an average enjoyment rating of 9.5/10.</p> <p>https://news.aberdeencity.gov.uk/thousands-of-reasons-to-celebrate-summer-of-play/</p>

		<div data-bbox="696 193 1697 817"> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Free School Meals</h3> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Select School</p> <p>Aberdeen City Schools</p> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p>Number of P4-7, Secondary or Special Pupils Registered for Free School Meals</p>  <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>2015/16</th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>2017/18</th> <th>2018/19</th> <th>2019/20</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of Pupils</td> <td>1717</td> <td>1756</td> <td>1809</td> <td>2162</td> <td>2202</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Percentage of P4-7, Secondary or Special Pupils Registered for Free School Meals</p>  <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>2015/16</th> <th>2016/17</th> <th>2017/18</th> <th>2018/19</th> <th>2019/20</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Percentage</td> <td>10.84%</td> <td>10.98%</td> <td>11.09%</td> <td>12.98%</td> <td>12.98%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p>The new Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme provides funding for children attending eligible ELC settings, for 2 hours or more per day, to receive milk (or a specified alternative) and a healthy snack (a portion of fruit or vegetables) every day they attend. Aberdeen City Council is administering this scheme, on behalf of the Scottish Government. We are encouraging all ELC settings to register and provide the benefit to children in their care and allocate and monitor the funding locally. To date, 139 Early Learning and Childcare providers have registered to participate in the new Scheme and have received their first payments. 54 Local Authority ELC settings and 85 External ELC providers. There is a rolling registration so more providers can register throughout the year if they wish to participate in the Scheme.</p> </div>	Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Number of Pupils	1717	1756	1809	2162	2202	Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Percentage	10.84%	10.98%	11.09%	12.98%	12.98%
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Continuing support for Big Noise Torry / SISTEMA programme	Aberdeen City Council SISTEMA Scotland	Over 600 children reached and supported digitally through the Pandemic, with digital sessions available to children and young people outwith the Torry area as per the agreed roll out programme. User testimonies evidence the success of this approach.																								

<p>Provision of free sanitary products</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian CFINE</p>	<p>The number of sites where free sanitary products can be accessed continues to grow and is currently at 54.</p> <p>During lockdown periods we have adapted approaches to continue maximising access to free products. This has included providing vouchers to families and direct delivery to homes.</p>
<p>Expansion of Early Years</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p>	<p>Considerable work has been undertaken in preparation for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare including the development of a new ELC admissions process and preparations for the universal roll out of PEEP in all ELC settings following the successful completion of the PEEP Learning Together Programme by staff in all ELC settings. The programme is evidence-based and helps parents and carers to support their young children’s development by valuing and building on the play and learning opportunities in everyday life https://www.peeple.org.uk/ltp</p> <p>The Educational Psychology team have developed and offered Emotional Literacy for Support Assistants (ELSA). ELSA provides knowledge, practice and coaching on an incremental learning model for PSAs and mid-year evaluations are positive. In preparation for the expansion to 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare, the team have developed an invaluable Ready, Steady, Two resource to support staff to work with eligible 2s and those who have not met developmental milestones.</p> <p>From August 2021 all eligible families have been able to access 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare. As of June 2017 only 7% of 2 year olds, 82% of 3 year olds and 91% of 4 year olds accessed ELC provision in Aberdeen City. The expansion focussed in part on making provision more accessible and the accessibility of services and broader range of delivery models have helped realise a significant rise in uptake. At the current time, 9% of 2 year olds (33.03% of eligible 2 year olds) are attending, 90.7% of 3 year olds and over 98% of 4 year olds are accessing their offer of Early Learning and Childcare</p> <p>Most parents and carers who responded to a recent survey could identify clear improvements to their child’s development as a result of the expansion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of respondents, at almost 65%, identified an improvement in their child’s social skills with over half of the respondents seeing an improvement in their child’s communication skills.

- Almost half of all respondents recognised an improvement to their child's emotional development, creativity, listening skills and numeracy.
- Over a third of respondents highlighted improvements within literacy, fine motor skills, and physical development.
- A third of respondents had also seen an improvement in their child's problem solving and attention span.


We asked parents and carers what impact the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (from 600 hours to 1140 hours) has had on them and your family.

- 51.2% of respondents stated that they had more time for other responsibilities as a result of the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare.
- 38.7% of respondents indicated that they had more money/disposable income as a positive impact on their family.
- 28.5% are now considering a return to work or study.
- 26.1% stated improved wellbeing /respite as a positive impact from the expansion of ELC, with 24.3% of respondents finding they now have more time to themselves.


Work has been undertaken to improve knowledge of the impact of poverty on families. The introduction of ELC Excellence and Equity practitioners has had a positive impact on supporting children and their families in our priority areas. In partnership with community groups The Excellence and Equity Practitioners have been involved in initiatives such as 'Healthy Family Fun Day' which showcases a variety of services across the community that are available to support and advise families. Through the delivery of PEEP groups, outdoor learning sessions and Book Bug sessions they have supported the positive engagement of families in their children's learning. Early engagement with families through links with toddler groups has supported the building of relationships and smooth transitions into the ELC setting.

A full evaluation of the expansion is available here.

<https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/documents/s124690/CUS.21.212%20Education%20Improvement%20Journey%20and%20NIF%20Cover%20Report.pdf>

<p>Aberdeen City Council National Improvement Framework Plan 2021/22 agreed.</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p>	<p>Scrutiny through Integrated Children’s Services Board; Education Operations Committee and annual reporting to Council</p>  <p>ACC NIF Service Self-Evaluation Docur</p>
<p>Reducing the cost of the school day.</p> <p>Minimise the costs of the school day and maximise the uptake of free school meals and school clothing grants by eligible families.</p> <p>All schools to consider poverty proofing within their own unique context</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p>	<p>Almost all schools have in place arrangements to ensure children and young people can access food at the beginning of the school day if they require it. Recognising that food poverty and the availability of affordable, healthy food at any time of the day continue to be of major concern for families, schools continue to work with other agencies and the third sector to improve access for all. Schools work with a range of suppliers to offer choice and reduce the costs of school uniform, also promoting cheaper, non-badged versions of uniform items which are widely available at much lower cost than badged items. Most schools offer one of a range of uniform “recycling” provisions where donated school uniform can be accessed for free or in exchange for outgrown items.</p> <p>A few schools use PEF funding to provide school uniform to all pupils and the clothing grant application process is signposted to all parents, with support to complete this if required. There are a few informal arrangements between schools where unwanted clothing is donated and available free to those who need it. A guidance leaflet and posters for primary and secondary schools have been developed to inform thinking on how to reduce the cost of the school day and all schools have reviewed their practice to ensure all learners can access the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. A few schools use PEF or other funding to support this.</p> <p>Schools continue to work with third sector and other agencies to signpost families to sources of financial support and advice.</p> <p>Provision of school clothing grants – 3702</p> <p>All costs of the school day were removed from August 2021.</p>
<p>Library provision and access</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p>	<p>1132 children & young people (Under 16) joined the library service 2021-22</p> <p>Bookbug bags gifted 21/22 - Total 8987</p>

		<p>Baby - 2413 Toddler 2094 Explorer 2423 P1 2057</p> <p>33 Early Years outreach activities attended by 442 children 789 children/YP attended 98 library events. Additionally, there were 90 online events with just over 32000 views</p> <p>Aberdeen Reading Challenge participation Summer 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 301 children and young people • 80 families
Adults		
<p>Provision of £1.6million Fairer Aberdeen Fund through Participatory Budgeting approach to support local organisations deliver support to communities</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)</p> <p>Community groups</p>	<p>Annual returns on activities as required under grant agreements from the following projects:</p> <p>Cummings Park Community Flat Printfield Community Project STAR Community Flat Tillydrone Community Flat CFINE Tackling Food Poverty Middlefield Community Project Under 11s Middlefield Youth Flat Fersands Youth Work Fersands Family Centre Twos Group and Family Support Worker St Machar Parent Support Project Home Start CAB Money Advice Outreach CFINE SAFE Pathways St Machar Credit Union</p>

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Provision of free sanitary products	Aberdeen City Council NHS Grampian CFINE	<p>The number of sites where free sanitary products can be accessed continues to grow and is currently at 54.</p> <p>During lockdown periods we have adapted approaches to continue maximising access to free products. This has included providing vouchers to families and direct delivery to homes.</p>
Expansion of Early Years provision	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Considerable work has been undertaken in preparation for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare including the development of a new ELC admissions process and preparations for the universal roll out of PEEP in all ELC settings following the successful completion of the PEEP Learning Together Programme by staff in all ELC settings. The programme is evidence-based and helps parents and carers to support their young children's development by valuing and building on the play and learning opportunities in everyday life https://www.peeple.org.uk/ltp</p> <p>The Educational Psychology team have developed and offered Emotional Literacy for Support Assistants (ELSA). ELSA provides knowledge, practice and coaching on an incremental learning model for PSAs and mid-year evaluations are positive. In preparation for the expansion to 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare, the team have developed an invaluable Ready, Steady, Two resource to support staff to work with eligible 2s and those who have not met developmental milestones.</p> <p>From August 2021 all eligible families have been able to access 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare. As of June 2017 only 7% of 2 year olds, 82% of 3 year olds and 91% of 4 year olds accessed ELC provision in Aberdeen City. The expansion focussed in part on making provision more accessible and the accessibility of services and broader range of delivery models have helped realise a significant rise in uptake. At the current time, 9% of 2 year olds (33.03% of eligible 2 year olds) are attending, 90.7% of 3 year olds and over 98% of 4 year olds are accessing their offer of Early Learning and Childcare</p> <p>Most parents and carers who responded to a recent survey could identify clear improvements to their child's development as a result of the expansion.</p>

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Improved knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences	Community Planning Partners Care Experienced Young People	<p>The roll out of the MCR Pathways programme to offer support to Care Experienced young people across the city continues with evidence that almost all pupils engaged with the programme to date have been increasingly able to talk positively about their school experiences. The wider achievement programme with Sport Aberdeen has offered greater engagement with the creative arts. Both programmes have helped increase timely attendance, increased confidence and reduced exclusions.</p> <p>The Champions Board met regularly throughout 2020/21, allowing Care Experienced Young People the opportunity to raise issues directly with Community Planning partners, and shape how services are delivered. This online support included sessions on cooking led by Champions, providing a practical and fun way for all to remain engaged.</p>
Reducing the cost of the school day	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Provision of free school meals – 8385 children enrolled, with increasing take up. Education Operational Delivery Committee agreed to provide additional funding to ensure families transferring to Universal Credit in certain circumstances did not lose their eligibility.</p> <p>Provision of school clothing grants – 3702</p> <p>All costs of the school day were removed from August 2021</p>
Place		
Investment in affordable housing through Strategic Housing Infrastructure Plan (SHIP)	Aberdeen City Council Registered Social Landlords Developers Scottish Government	<p>The Aberdeen City Affordable Housing Programme, developed by the council details a range of affordable housing projects including RSL and Council Social Rent. It also includes RSL mid-market rent, and LAR Housing Trust mid-market rent as well as Low-Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) which are properties that housing developers will deliver directly.</p> <p>In 2021/2022 there were 692 affordable housing completions. £20.658m was allocated to Aberdeen City Council in 2021/22. Additional funding of £9.09m was made available throughout the course of the year bringing the total allocation to £29.748m.</p>
Community Learning and Development	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Youth Work</p> <p>78 activities run</p>

		<p>150 participants 227 enrolments 76 new enrolments 4392 total learner hours</p> <p>Adult Learning</p> <p>80 activities run 80 participants 175 enrolments 16 new enrolments 1430 total learner hours</p> <p>Family Learning</p> <p>58 activities run 50 participants 55 enrolments 19 new enrolments 5155 total learner hours</p> <p>Healthy Minds</p> <p>98 activities run 67 participants 187 enrolments 10 new enrolments 1401 total learner hours</p> <p>Total learner hours: 12378</p>
<p>Agreement of Local Housing Strategy 2018- 23. Aim of</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is an adequate supply of housing across all tenures and homes are the right size, type and location that people want to live in with access to suitable services and facilities. 2. Homelessness is prevented and alleviated.

ensuring people in Aberdeen live in good quality sustainable homes, which they can afford and that meet their needs.	Community Planning Partners Private Rented Sector Local Housing Associations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. People are supported to live, as far as is reasonably practicable, independently at home or in a homely setting in their community. 4. Consumer knowledge, management standards and property condition are improved in the private rented sector. 5. Fuel poverty is reduced which contributes to meeting climate change targets. The latest Scarf HEAT annual report for 2021/22 indicates that the figure for fuel poverty is 52.2%. 6. The quality of housing of all tenures is improved across the city. 		
Development of UNICEF Child Friendly Cities accreditation programme	Aberdeen City Council Police Scotland UNICEF	<p>Significant work has been undertaken to evaluate our current practices and approaches and to inform the creation of a joint action plan which will be supported and delivered by a range of our Community Planning Partners. Through discussion with a range of professionals and young people, we will be prioritising a number of key areas in accordance with the award framework. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • Communication • Co-operation and Leadership • Place • Participating and, • Child-Friendly Services. <p>Please see further detail in the NHS section.</p>		
Community Benefit Clauses	Aberdeen City Council	<p>Clauses within contracts and frameworks requiring tenderers to commit to undertaking some form of social benefit in addition to the core purpose of the contract.</p> <p>Training & recruitment; providing sub-contracting opportunities or otherwise improving the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the local authority's area.</p> <p>For example, the provision of apprenticeship and placement schemes, Real Living Wage provision, employability engagement activities, promotion of adopting and fostering.</p>		
Scottish Welfare Fund	Aberdeen City Council	<p>During the year 2021/22 the following numbers of grants were distributed:</p> <p><u>Crisis Grants</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Single parents</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3401</td> </tr> </table>	Single parents	3401
Single parents	3401			

		<p>Couples with children 783</p> <p>Other with children <u>248</u></p> <p>Total 4432</p> <p><u>Community Care Grants</u></p> <p>Single parents 1052</p> <p>Couples with children 192</p> <p>Other with children 86</p> <p>Total 1330</p>
Priority Families	<p>Aberdeen City Council</p> <p>Action for Children</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Foyer</p> <p>Sport Aberdeen</p>	<p>The Priority Families Service supports families who are affected by multiple problems and at risk of poor life outcomes. A whole family approach is delivered through a dedicated Family Support Worker and a Police Officer with families receiving up to 12 months of intensive and persistent support in their own home, school and community to address the issues affecting them. The team also comprises an Employment Coach and an Activity Support Co-ordinator and is registered with the Care Commission.</p> <p>During Covid lockdown, whilst home -working and digital contact with families initially replaced face to face interventions, the service continued to provide invaluable emotional support to families, many of whom were affected by chronic social isolation. Parents reported increased anxiety levels, health concerns, financial worries, and increased stress as they managed their children whose educational and social routines had been significantly restrained. Although unable to enter family' homes, staff bought and delivered shopping for families and maintained daily/ weekly contact with families throughout. As restrictions gradually eased, staff moved from carrying out doorstep and garden visits to going for socially distanced walks with children, young people, and parents.</p> <p>Action for Children also received funding from the Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund to support families who were experiencing financial hardship. The service supported 21 families with vouchers for food and essential items over an 18-week period at £60 per week, totalling almost £25,000. In addition, capital funding was sourced which enabled the replacement of phones, laptops, televisions, and white goods where families had none or theirs were broken.</p> <p>Funding was also accessed from the Action for Children Emergency Fund to assist families that were at crisis point and moving further into poverty. Through this fund, families benefitted from clothes,</p>

		<p>utility costs, beds, other furniture and furnishings, a bike to go to school and multiple other items to the sum of almost £5,000.</p> <p>The most recent quantitative data (comparing 6 months pre-intervention and 6 months post intervention i.e. across an 18-month period) shows an:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83% reduction in criminal charges • 77% reduction Police Vulnerable Person's reports • 83% of parents reporting an improvement in routines, parental confidence, home conditions and adult health and wellbeing
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Priorities for 2022/23

During 2021/2022 there has been a very strong focus on continuing to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 across the City, and on supporting households struggling with the rising cost of living.

In addition to this work, work has continued where possible to work towards the LOIP outcomes through identified Improvement Charters. The following priorities have also been identified:

New Actions for 2022/23					
Via Healthier, Wealthier Children Fund (HWCF): Capturing the lived experience of children in poverty	Reduce the cost of living. Engagement and participation Enabling Tackling stigma	NHS Grampian Aberdeen City Council CFINE Robert Gordon University	March 2022	March 2021	
Update to March 2022					

In the generic feedback received against the first year LCPAR's, the need to capture the lived experience of people in poverty was highlighted as an opportunity whereby regions could strengthen their action plans by enabling those experiencing poverty in their communities to inform and influence planning activities. Further emphasis was put on this with the recommendations of the Independent Care Review (previously referenced) published in February 2020. The recommendations were based on the voices of care experienced children and young people; many of whom had experience of poverty.

A proportion of the HWCF has been allocated to develop a creative approach to capturing the lived experience of children in poverty. A creative based approach to engage with children attending a holiday programme with CFINE was intended, but has had to be deferred due to Covid-19. While this activity will indirectly give children and young people some knowledge and skills that may reduce the cost of living in the home (cost effective cooking, recycling), it will have added benefits not directly linked to the drivers of poverty, such as helping to tackle the stigma of poverty.

Seeking to understand the lived experience of children in poverty has become more important than ever as we begin to see the impacts of COVID-19 on our society. We will apply the GIRFEC framework in working with children to continue to hear their voices and will support and enable them to inform and influence actions.

Capturing the lived experience of low income families	Increasing uptake of social security Reducing the cost of living Increasing income through employment	NHS Grampian Robert Gordon University CFINE Fersands Project	March 2023	March 2022	
Update to March 2022					

NHSG has commissioned a study to capture lived experience of low income families. The study will be undertaken by Robert Gordon University in partnership with CFINE, the Woodside Pantry and the Fersands project. It had been anticipated that participants would be recruited, and interviews conducted in March and April 2020, however this has been deferred due to Covid-19. It is hoped that the study will now be able to commence in late summer/ early autumn.

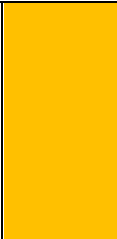
Measures to determine 'in work' poverty are difficult to determine, but one of the indicators used is the number of working families claiming Working Tax Credits. In data published for 2017/18 showed that working families in Aberdeen City were least likely to be claiming Working Tax Credits, indicating that as a local authority area the comparative rates of in work poverty are less than other parts of Scotland.¹⁴ However local data tells us that there are still families, where at least one adult is working, that are still experiencing poverty across Aberdeen. This is anticipated to be even more so, as we emerge from COVID-19.

Promote and distribute information and resources designed to address aspects of poverty	Increasing uptake of social security Reducing the cost of living Increasing income through employment	NHS Grampian Aberdeen City Council Third Sector Partners	March 2023	March 2022	
Update to March 2021					
Several new measures to support people experiencing poverty as a result of COVID-19 have been introduced, such as the furlough scheme, and financial grants for certain groups. Many third sector agencies are also offering support, such as One Parent Scotland Families, Scotland who are launching an energy fund ¹⁵ on 12 th June to support single parent families. We have a role in ensuring that those that can benefit from such opportunities are aware of them and can be supported to access them if required, and as such we will develop a forum/mechanism whereby people can access information easily, and in one place where possible.					

¹⁴ <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/life-circumstances/income-and-employment/data/working-age-poverty>

¹⁵ <https://opfs.org.uk/get-involved/news-and-events/news/100k-funding-for-fuel-payments-secured-by-one-parent-families-scotland/>

Investment in affordable housing through Strategic Housing Infrastructure Plan (SHIP)	Reducing the cost of living	Aberdeen City Council Registered Social Landlords Developers Scottish Government	March 2023	March 2022	
Update to March 2022					
<p>The Aberdeen City Affordable Housing Programme, developed by the council details a range of affordable housing projects including RSL and Council Social Rent. It also includes RSL mid-market rent, and LAR Housing Trust mid-market rent as well as Low-Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) which are properties that housing developers will deliver directly.</p> <p>In 2021/2022 there were 692 affordable housing completions. £20.658m was allocated to Aberdeen City Council in 2021/22. Additional funding of £9.09m was made available throughout the course of the year bringing the total allocation to £29.748m.</p>					

<p>Improve knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences with a view to better understanding the long term impacts of poverty and interconnected work-streams</p>	<p>Reducing the cost of living Income from employment</p>	<p>Community Planning Partners Care Experienced Young People</p>	<p>March 2023</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	
<p>Update to March 2022</p>					
<p>Actions to engage directly with care experienced young people are reflected in Corporate Parenting action plans. Learning and reflection as a result of the recent Care Inspectorate report¹⁶ on the review of inspections for children and young people in need of care will be incorporated into our planning.</p>					

¹⁶

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/5817/Review%20of%20findings%20from%20inspection%20programme%20for%20CYP%202018%20to%202020.pdf>