# LOCALITY 2 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2016

An analysis of the demand for public services within Locality 2. This document considers past and current trends, emerging issues, challenges and opportunities that will impact on public services delivery.

*October 2016 V3.2*

Community Planning in Aberdeen

## 1. Introduction

This Strategic Assessment has been produced on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen and aims to be a comprehensive analysis of the demand, supply and delivery of public services in Locality 2. Locality 2 covers the Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Mastrick, Middlefield and Northfield neighbourhoods.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) on a statutory footing and imposes duties on them around the planning and delivery of local outcomes, and the involvement of community bodies at all stages of community planning. Tackling inequalities will be a specific focus, and CPPs have to produce "locality plans" at a more local level for areas experiencing particular disadvantage.

In June 2016 Community Planning Aberdeen endorsed a proposal to develop plans for three localities:

| Locality 1 | Locality 2 | Locality 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Torry | Middlefield | Seaton |
| | Mastrick | Tillydrone |
| | Cummings Park | Woodside |
| | Northfield | |
| | Heathryfold | |

The Strategic Assessment looks at past and current trends across a wide range of community planning themes. It considers emerging issues and future trends and seeks to identify, assess and thereafter allow the Community Planning Partnership to undertake evidence-based prioritisation and planning within the wider Northfield locality.

The strategic assessment has been structured around the **Economy, People, and Place** themes to retain consistency with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and to ensure that there are clear links between the strategic vision and priorities for the city and those of individual communities.

## 1.1 Data Quality and Accuracy

Data at smaller geography is less robust and statistics are more sensitive. For the purposes of this assessment, data has been collated and analysed at data zone, intermediate zone or multi-member ward area. For this reason, most data that is available at smaller geographies is a rolling-year aggregate.

Throughout the course of this document there are a number of references to population projections. These projections are based on past trends in movement of people in and out of Scotland, births and deaths. The accuracy of projections reduces at smaller geographies and as we look further into the future. It is likely that there will be a slowdown in migration into Aberdeen in the coming years, and therefore it is likely that projections may be amended.

## 2. Northfield Locality Overview

Locality 2 contains some of Aberdeen's most deprived communities. Within the locality are Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Mastrick, Middlefield and Northfield neighbourhoods.

The data zones which make up these neighbourhoods sit predominantly within the Northfield multi-member ward area.

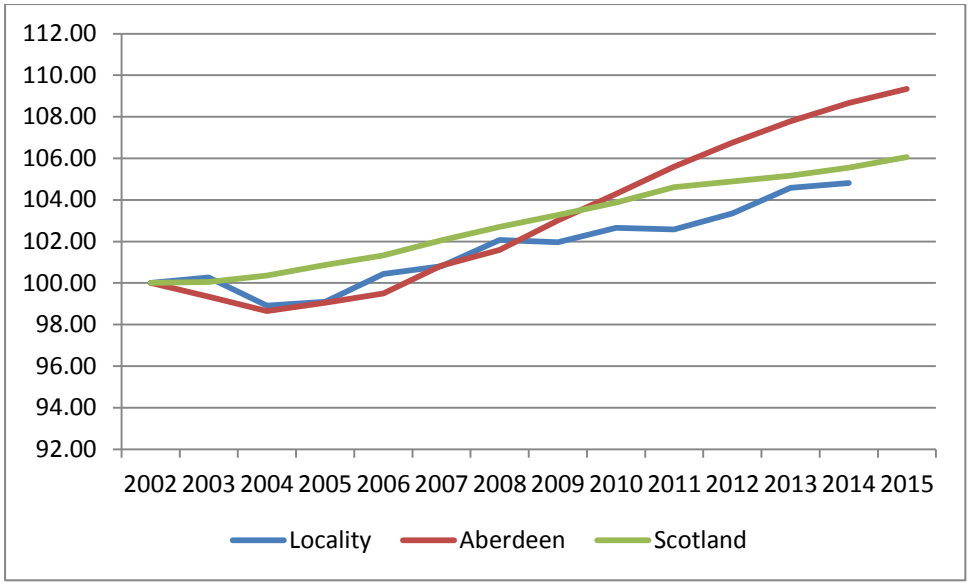
There are 26 data zones that, on a 'best fit' basis, make up Locality 2.

| Neighbourhood | 2001 data zones | 2011 data zones | Neighbourhood | 2001 data zones | 2011 data zones |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cummings Park | S01000181 | S01006715 | Heathryfold | S01000204 | S01006728 |
| | S01000187 | S01006716 | | S01000206 | S01006730 |
| | S01000189 | S01006718 | | S01000212 | S01006731 |
| Mastrick | S01000134 | S01006701 | Middlefield | S01000198 | S01006726 |
| | S01000136 | S01006702 | | S01000208 | S01006727 |
| | S01000142 | S01006703 | | S01000209 | S01006729 |
| | S01000148 | S01006704 | Northfield | S01000178 | S01006719 |
| | S01000150 | S01006705 | | S01000180 | S01006720 |
| | S01000155 | S01006706 | | S01000182 | S01006721 |
| | S01000160 | S01006707 | | S01000190 | S01006722 |
| | S01000163 | S01006713 | | S01000193 | S01006723 |
| | S01000167 | S01006714 | | S01000196 | S01006724 |
| | S01000168 | S01006717 | | S01000197 | S01006725 |

## 3. Population and Demography

The most accurate measure of population is the national Census, which was last conducted in Scotland in 2011. However, more up-to-date population estimates are available from National Records of Scotland and so, for a more accurate and present picture, it is these statistics that have been used.

Like Aberdeen City and Scotland, the population of the Northfield locality has risen (by almost 5%) between 2002 and 2014, although the rate of growth has been slower.




Not only has the population increased, but the age demographic of the local population has changed. In 2002, 22% of the localities population was a child aged under 16 and 15% was aged 65 or older. In 2014, 20% of the population are children, and slightly less than 14% are aged 65 or older. Correspondingly, the working-age (aged 16 to 64) has increased.

Not all areas within the locality have experienced the same changes however. The Middlefield neighbourhood seen the largest proportional increase in the overall population, and while the increase in Heathryfold was more modest, the increase in the over-65s was marked.

**Table 1: Locality 2 population by age group, 2014**

| | 0-15 | 16-24 | 25 - 44 | 45 - 64 | 65+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cummings Park** | 21.7 | 13.8 | 26.1 | 25.3 | 13.1 |
| **Heathryfold** | 19.0 | 11.9 | 26.9 | 28.1 | 14.1 |
| **Mastrick** | 17.4 | 11.4 | 26.4 | 27.7 | 17.1 |
| **Middlefield** | 25.1 | 14.4 | 28.8 | 22.0 | 9.70 |
| **Northfield** | 21.3 | 13.0 | 27.0 | 26.5 | 12.2 |
| **Locality** | 20.2 | 12.6 | 27.0 | 26.3 | 13.9 |
| **Aberdeen** | 14.7 | 14.8 | 31.6 | 23.9 | 15.0 |
| **Scotland** | 17.0 | 11.6 | 25.8 | 27.5 | 18.1 |

Clearly, the Northfield locality is a popular residential area for families with children, and this is most evident in the Middlefield neighbourhood, where a quarter of the resident population are aged under 16.

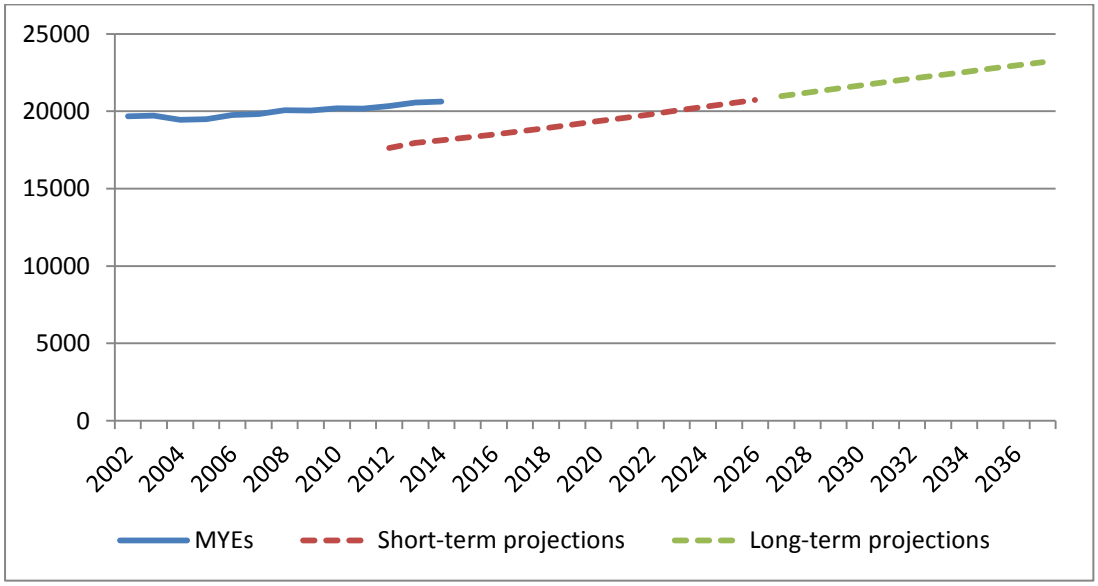
Locality 2 appears to be a fairly attractive area for economic migrants in which to settle, and this is particularly true in Middlefield. In the locality ten percent of the population were born in a country other than the UK or the Republic of Ireland, while in Middlefield, the proportion is around 22%.

Slightly more than 8% of the population within the locality have some difficulty speaking, reading or writing the English language, but in Middlefield, that proportion is around 14%. Difficulty, or poor competence, of English language in parents may impact on the reading, writing and verbal skills of their children.

## 4. Population Projections

National Records of Scotland have recently produced population projections to 2037 at small level geography. Projections are not available at neighbourhood level however the forecast is that the population of the Northfield ward (which, in the main covers the locality) will continue to increase over the next two decades.

**Figure 1: Population growth of locality and projected population of Northfield ward, 2002 - 2037**




Although not an exact match, the boundaries of the ward and the locality are broadly similar and therefore a significant increase in the population of the locality can also be anticipated.

It must be borne in mind however that these projections are based on past birth, death and migrations trends. Given the current economic difficulties in the city, and the recent decision by the UK electorate to leave the European Union, it is possible that these projections may be adjusted over the next few years. While it is anticipated that a rising population will be experienced, the increase may not be as sharp as is currently projected.

# ECONOMY

## DEFINING POVERTY

The Scottish Government[i] define a household as being in relative poverty if the household income is below 50% of the typical ("median") income. The most recent figures published for Scotland gives the relative poverty threshold, before housing costs, as:

- £190 per week for a single adult, or £9,900 per year;
- £284 per week for a couple with no children, or £14,800 per year;
- £341 per week, or £17,800 per annum, for a lone parent with children aged between 5 and 14;
- £435 per week, or £22,700 a year, for a couple with children aged between 5 and 14.

After housing costs are taken into consideration, the relative poverty thresholds for 2014/15 are:

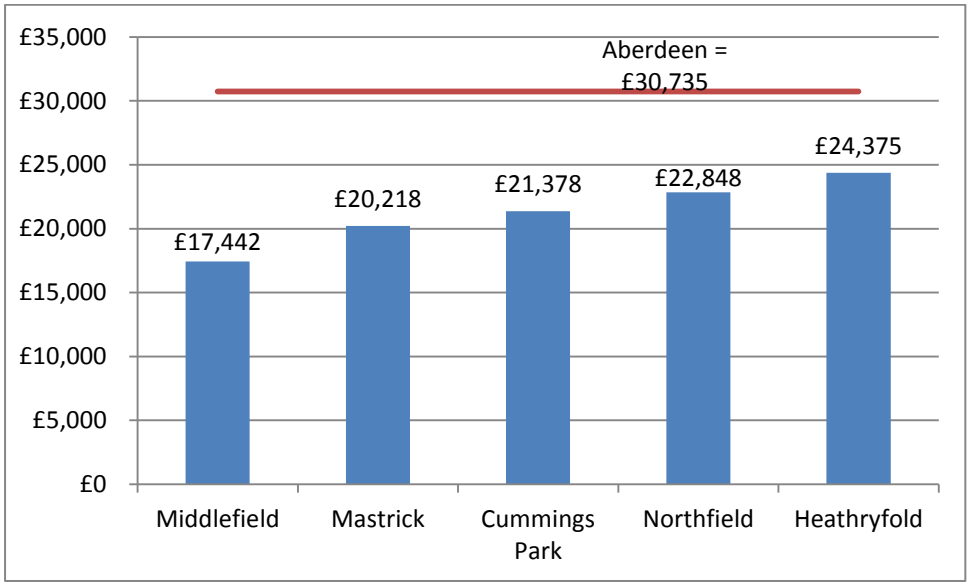
- £141 per week or £7,300 per year for a single adult;
- £243 per week for a couple with no children, equal to £12,700 per annum;
- £291 per week, or £15,200 per year for a lone parent with children aged between 5 and 14;
- £393 per week or £20,500 a year for a couple with children aged between 5 and 14.

## CHILD POVERTY

Child poverty is experienced by children who live in households that do not have enough money to provide the basic necessities. Children who live in poverty tend to have poorer life outcomes than their better off peers. They are more likely to experience poor educational attainment, suffer from poorer health both as a child and as an adult, are more likely to become a teenage parent and are more likely to live in poverty as an adult.

It is difficult to establish a robust estimate of the level of child poverty in any area, and it is even more difficult when it comes to smaller geographies. HMRC defined children living in poverty the proportion of children living in families either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60% of the median income. In 2016, the median household income in Aberdeen is £30,735.

Household incomes in the locality are, generally, significantly less than the city median, with residents in Middlefield having the lowest median income of all the city's neighbourhoods.




From the most recent data available, we know that child poverty is not spread evenly throughout the city, and though there are small pockets of child deprivation in all communities, there are some geographic areas that suffer from a larger proportion of child poverty.

In the locality, approximately a quarter of all children are living in poverty, but again, there are pockets within the area where child poverty is even more evident. In data zone S01000198, which sits at the eastern side of the Middlefield neighbourhood, more than 46% of children under the age of 16 as estimated to be living in poverty, while in data zones S01000142 (Mastrick); S01000189 – Cummings Park; S01000196 – Northfield; S01000206 – Heathryfold; and S01000209 – Middlefield, more than a third of children are living in poverty.

It must be noted however that this measure does not include children in low income households that do not claim child tax credits, working tax credit or other benefits, and so it is likely that this may be an under-representation.

Child Poverty Action Group also produce estimates on the proportion of children living in poverty, however this is only available at ward level. The latest estimate from CPAG is however more recent than the data from HMRC. In Northfield / Mastrick North ward, CPAG estimate that, after housing costs, almost 30% of children are living in poverty.

The Scottish Government published statistics on poverty and income inequality[ii] in 2014/15 in Scotland on 28th June 2016. At the current time, these statistics are only

available at a national level and show that relative poverty, for adults and children, increased in that year. It is likely that the local picture reflects this trend.

Living in a household with at least one adult in full-time employment greatly reduces the risk of a child living in poverty, but while employment is the best route out of poverty, that employment must be reasonably well paid and of sufficient hours. Two thirds of children living in poverty in Scotland live in a working household, and again, while not available at a very local level, it is assessed that the majority of children in Aberdeen who are living in poverty also live in a working household.

The whole locality is, generally, an area of low-cost housing that is particularly attractive to families with children. Households with children are more vulnerable to poverty, and in particular, the risk is greater for large families with 3 three or more children.

**Table 2: Households with Children, Locality 2, 2011**

| | No dependent children | One dependent child | Two dependent children | Three or more dependent children |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cummings Park** | 50.24% | 20.55% | 16.80% | 12.40% |
| **Heathryfold** | 55.85% | 24.95% | 14.97% | 4.22% |
| **Mastrick** | 57.96% | 21.80% | 15.43% | 4.81% |
| **Middlefield** | 39.58% | 29.84% | 20.35% | 10.23% |
| **Northfield** | 54.99% | 23.70% | 14.93% | 6.39% |
| **Locality 2** | 53.57% | 23.61% | 16.07% | 6.75% |
| **Aberdeen City** | 61.87% | 20.26% | 13.57% | 4.30% |
| **Scotland** | 58.93% | 20.35% | 15.33% | 5.39% |

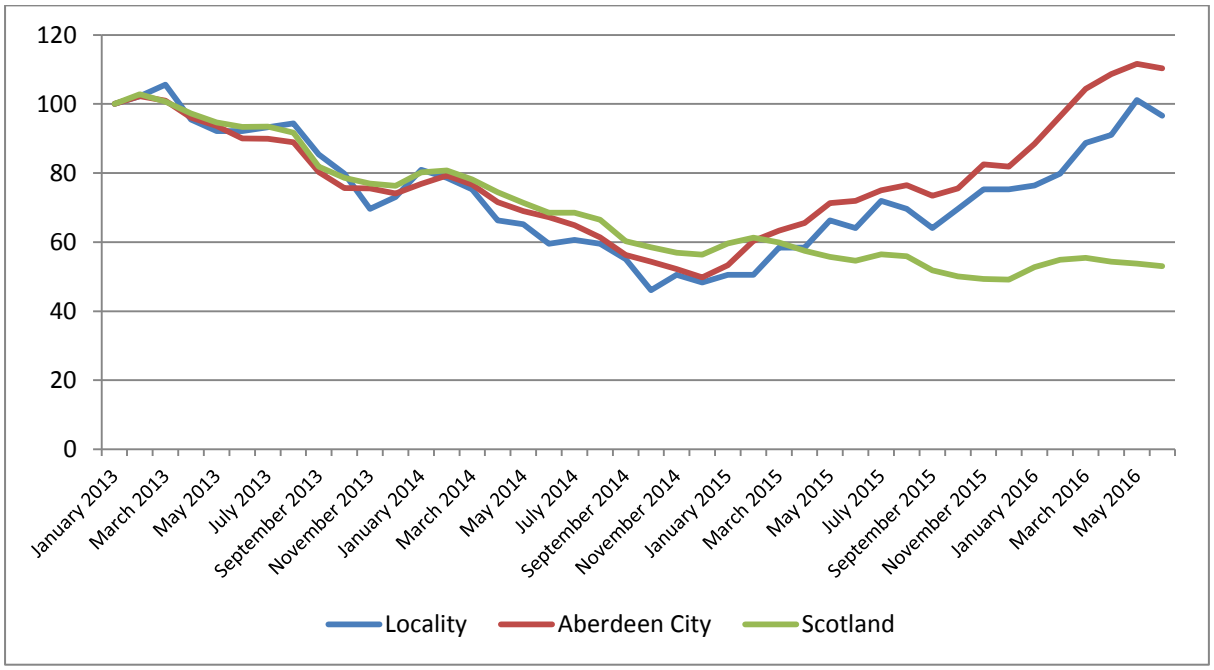
Families in Cummings Park and Heathryfold particularly have a higher propensity to be larger families with three or more dependent children. Larger families may find it more of a struggle to meet the cost of feeding and clothing children, and may be unable to afford the cost of school uniform and equipment. High childcare costs and a lack of affordable childcare are likely to impact on household income, and prevent many parents entering the workplace.

### ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Traditionally, Aberdeen has weathered the storm of economic recession well, and the city boasts of high employment levels overall. At the end of 2014/ early 2015, the number of out-of-work benefits claimants in Locality 2 was at its lowest.

Aberdeen City, and indeed the north east region of Scotland, is currently experiencing a period of economic difficulty. There is a continuing downward trend in out-of-work benefits claimants in Scotland, but the trend in Aberdeen City is the opposite, and has been rising since the beginning of 2015.

**Figure 2: Growth in number of people claiming out-of-work benefits, Jan 2013 - June 2016**




The increase in the number of out-of-work benefits claimants in largely related to the downturn in the local economy, linked to difficulties experienced in the oil and gas sector. Aberdeen's, and indeed Scotland's, economy has traditionally been heavily reliant on the oil and gas sector, and the global oil price slump, coupled with high production costs in the UK Continental Shelf have resulted in significant job losses in the City.

Although this is not a direct measure of levels of unemployment, it is assessed that it is the best and most timely indicator of the current employment situation within a small geography.

Rising worklessness may lead to an increase in child poverty across Aberdeen, and an increase in child poverty in Locality 2 will almost certainly be seen if the current economic conditions continue.

Around 7% of those claiming working-age benefits in both Aberdeen and Scotland are lone parents, but the proportion in Locality 2 is much higher; 10.6% of those claiming working-age benefits that live in the area are lone parents, but again, this is more concentrated in some neighbourhoods than in others. Middlefield, Heathryfold and Cummings Park all have a high proportion of lone parent households.

Single parent families are one of the demographic groups most vulnerable to poverty, and this may – at least partly – be a contributory factor in the high poverty levels within areas of Locality 2.

The main rates of working age benefits and tax credits will be frozen in cash terms for 4 years from April 2016. This is likely to have a negative impact on low-income families, and may push more individuals and families into poverty.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (the most recent one was produced in 2012) shows that, at that time, almost a fifth of the working-age population of Locality 2 were employment deprived. Some areas suffer from far higher levels of employment deprivation, with almost three in every ten working-age people in datazone S010000208 (Middlefield) deprived of employment.

Almost a fifth of people in the locality who are in employment are in the 'Human Health and social care activities', and a further 16% are employed in 'Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles'. These sectors, along with the hospitality sector, often offer lower paid employment opportunities.

Typically, people living in the locality are employed in unskilled or low-skilled occupations, such as machine operatives, sales and other elementary occupations; generally occupations which have limited scope for career progression. Although people in these roles do play a vital role in society, they can often suffer unduly low remuneration associated with such occupations.

Generally speaking, Aberdeen City is an educated place, with around a third of the resident population being educated to degree level or above, and only around a fifth of people having no formal qualifications. People in this locality however are far more likely to have no formal qualifications, with more than one in 3 having no qualifications and only 13% of adults having obtained a degree level qualification or above.

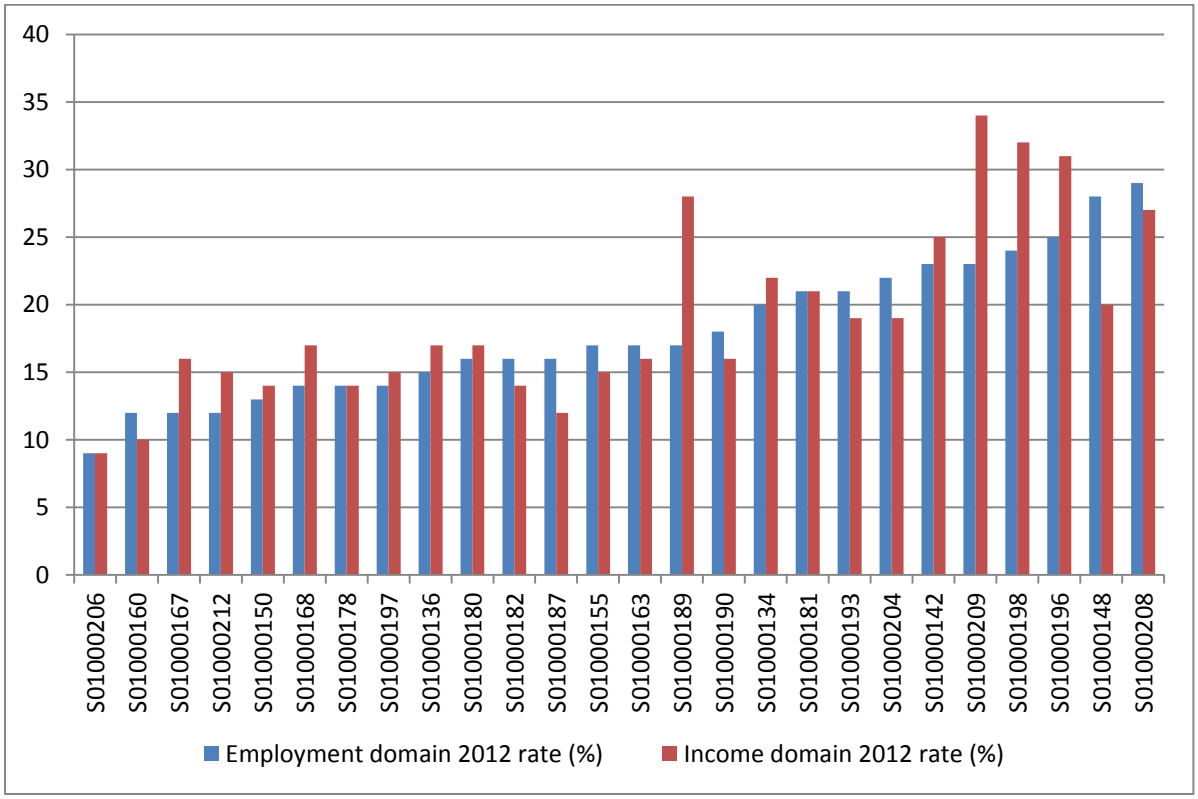
The factors above – such as the relatively young population base, the high proportion of single parent and/or large families, and the prevalance of low-skilled or unskilled, low paid employment - highlights the need for services to target support to help young people and single parents find work or enter, or re-enter, the employment market. There is a need to secure affordable, high-quality childcare, alongside a requirement to equip people with the skills and knowledge required to either enter the workplace or progress into better paid employment.

### INCOME

Aberdeen City has one of the most unequal pay structures in the UK. Generally, men's average earnings tend to be higher than those of women, and there is considerable variation between low and high income earners, which has been largely fuelled by the inflated pay rates paid in the oil and gas sector.

In Aberdeen, 9.01% of the total population are classed as 'income deprived'[iii], considerably lower than the Scottish rate (13.41%). Income deprivation is much more problematic in Locality 2, with around a quarter of the population being income deprived. Unsurprisingly, there is great variation within the locality in terms of income deprivation. For example in datazone S01000206 (Heathryfold), 9% of the population is income deprived, while in S01000209 (Middlefield), slightly more than a third of the population (34%) is income deprived.

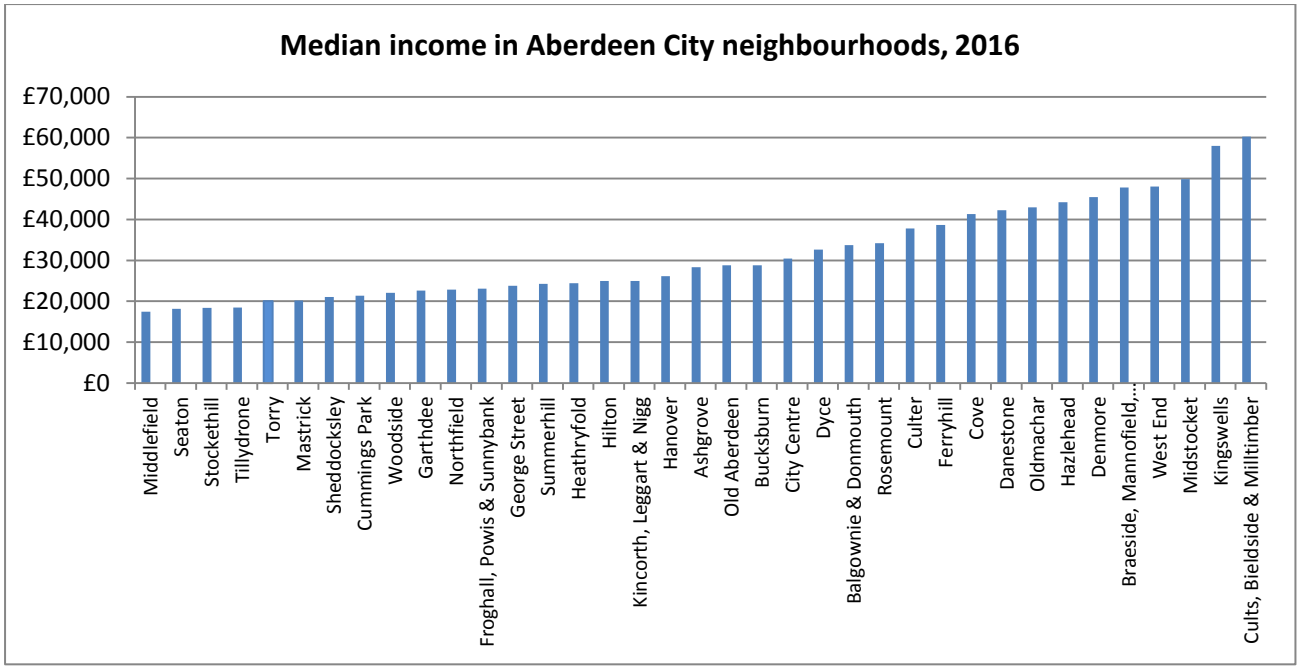
In most datazones, income deprivation and employment deprivation are closely matched; families experiencing employment deprivation are also likely to experience income deprivation.

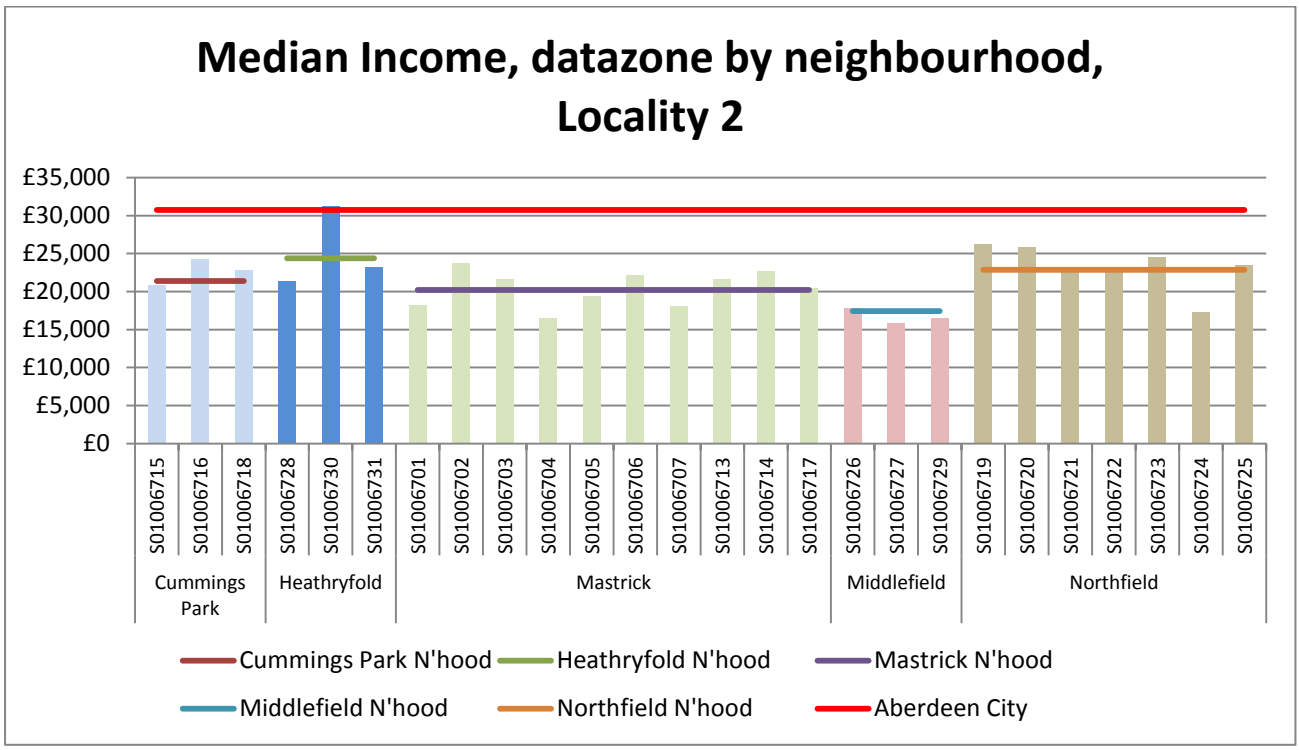



As is highlighted above however, there are some areas where income deprivation is considerably higher than employment deprivation levels. This may be indicative of people in datazones S01000189, S01000196, S01000198 and S01000209 being more likely to be employed in low-paid jobs.

CACI's Paycheck provides up-to-date information on household incomes at local authority level and by intermediate zone, datazone and other client defined areas.

Median household income in Aberdeen City in 2016 is £30,735, almost £4,000 more than the Scottish median household income. Income levels are not evenly distributed, and ranges from £17,442 in Middlefield to £60, 250 in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber.


Median income in Aberdeen City neighbourhoods, 2016
£70,000
£60,000
£50,000
£40,000
£30,000
£20,000
£10,000
£0
Middlefield
Seaton
Stockethill
Tillydrone
Torry
Mastrick
Sheddocksley
Cummings Park
Woodside
Garthdee
Northfield
Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank
George Street
Summerhill
Heathryfold
Hilton
Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg
Hanover
Ashgrove
Old Aberdeen
Bucksburn
City Centre
Dyce
Balgownie & Donmouth
Rosemount
Culter
Ferryhill
Cove
Danestone
Oldmachar
Hazlehead
Denmore
Braeside, Mannofield,...
West End
Midstocket
Kingswells
Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber


Median Income, datazone by neighbourhood, Locality 2
£35,000
£30,000
£25,000
£20,000
£15,000
£10,000
£5,000
£0
S01006715
S01006716
S01006718
S01006728
S01006730
S01006731
S01006701
S01006702
S01006703
S01006704
S01006705
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S01006725
Cummings Park
Heathryfold
Mastrick
Middlefield
Northfield
Cummings Park N'hood
Heathryfold N'hood
Mastrick N'hood
Middlefield N'hood
Northfield N'hood
Aberdeen City

# PEOPLE

The resident population of Aberdeen has altered considerably since the 1980's, and the same is true within Locality 2. While there has been a ten percent increase in the working-age (16 to 64 years age group), the number of both children and older people within the locality has reduced.

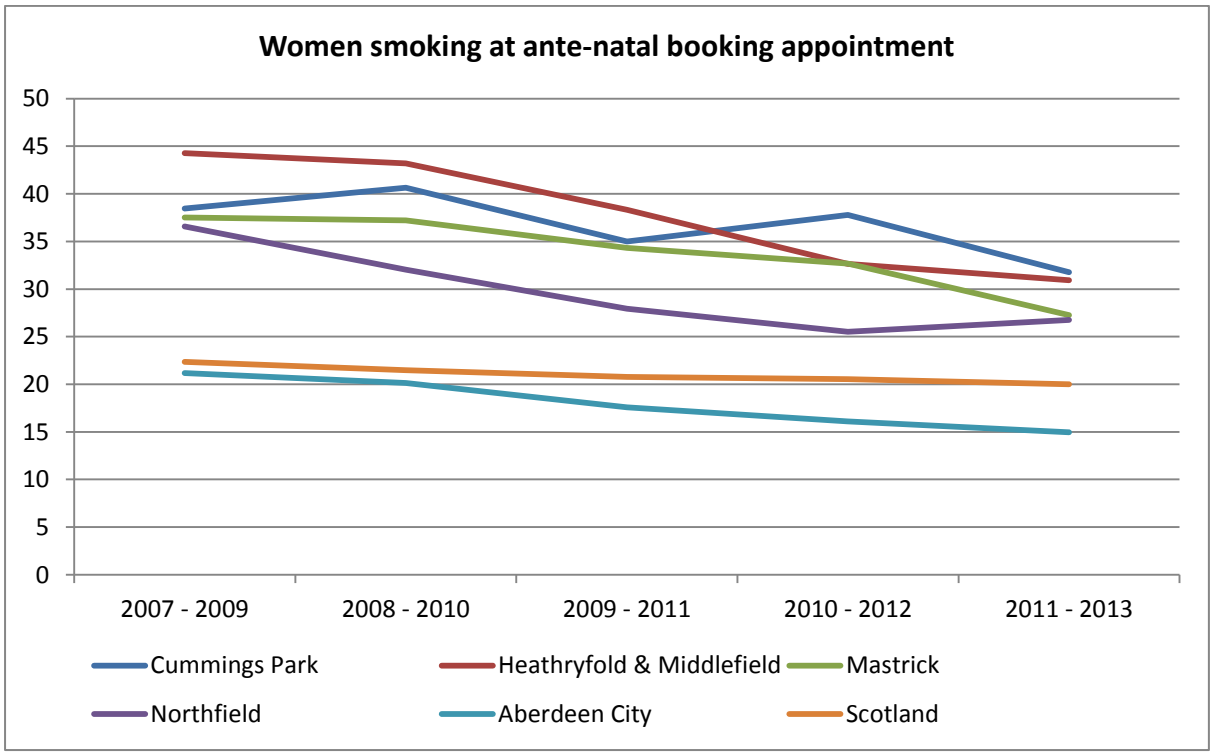
Locality 2 is a relatively large, primarily residential area that boasts a very varied and diverse resident popualtion. The neighbourhood is popular with European nationals who have been drawn to the city primarly as a result of economic success and buoyant labour market.

## EARLY YEARS & CHILDHOOD

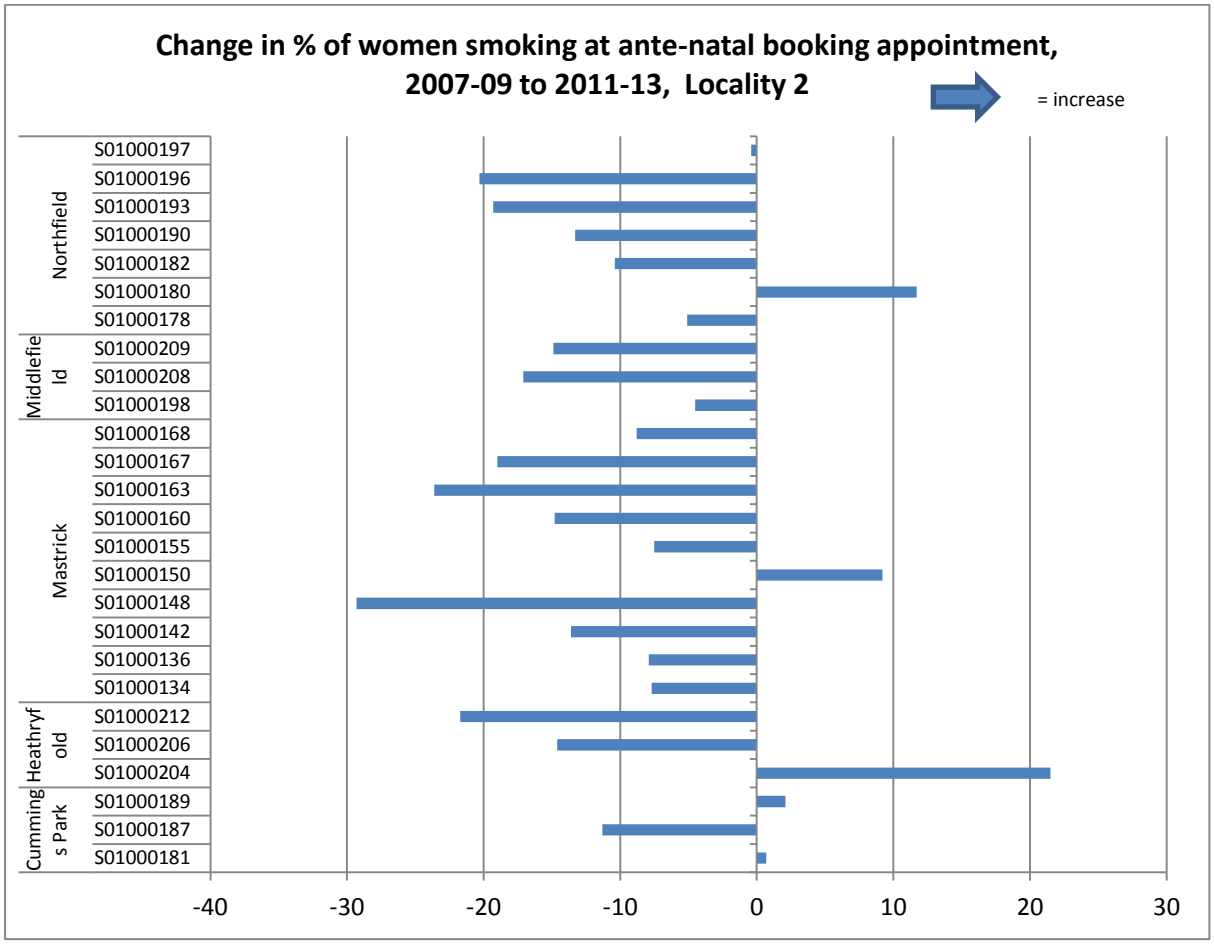
### ANTE-NATAL SMOKING

It is widely recognised that smoking during pregnancy is detrimental to the health of both mum and baby.

Over recent years, the percentage of women smoking at the time of their ante-natal booking appointment has decreased in Scotland and in the city, as indeed it has in the intermediate zones that broadly cover Locality 2.



While, overall, the picture is clearly encouraging, further analysis shows that there are smaller areas within locality 2 where the rate of women smoking at the time of the booking appointment has increased over the past five years.




Clearly, the increase in datazone S01000204 is the largest, by a considerable margin, but the increase in datazone S01000180 is also concerning.

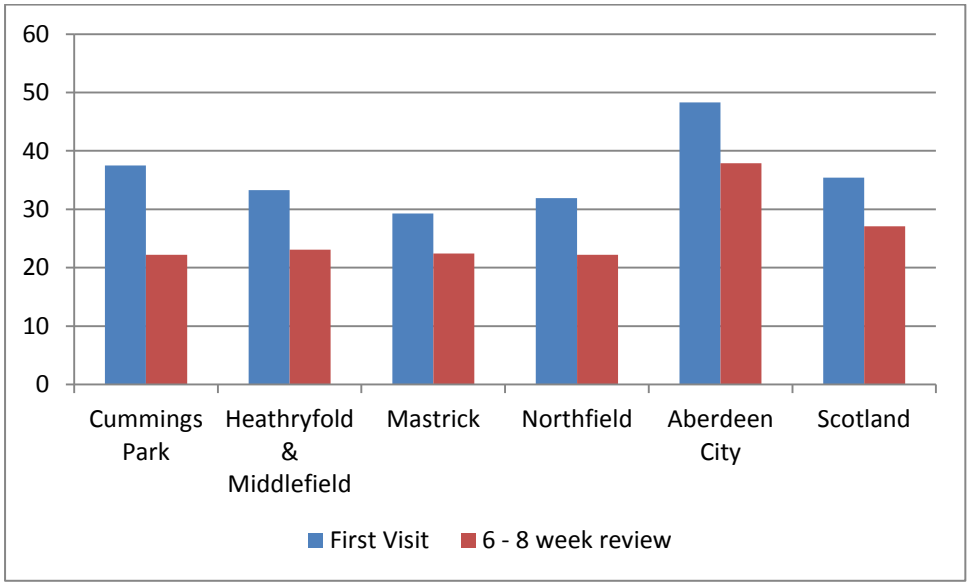
## BREASTFEEDING

Rates of exclusive breastfeeding at both the initial post-natal visit and the 6 – 8 week review in Aberdeen City are higher than national rates, but this is not consistent across the city.

In general, mothers living in more deprived areas of the city tend to show greater preference for bottled milk over breastfeeding. Yet, breastfeeding is one of the most effective means of reducing the health inequalities linked to poverty.

Analysis shows that breastfeeding, both at the time of the first visit and at the 6 – 8 week review point, is lower in Locality 2 than across the city. Breastfeeding rates in Locality 2 have consistently been lower than both the city-wide and nationwide rates, although there has been considerable improvement in the intermediate zones within the locality over recent years.

**Figure 3: Breastfeeding at first visit and 6-8 week review, Locality 2**

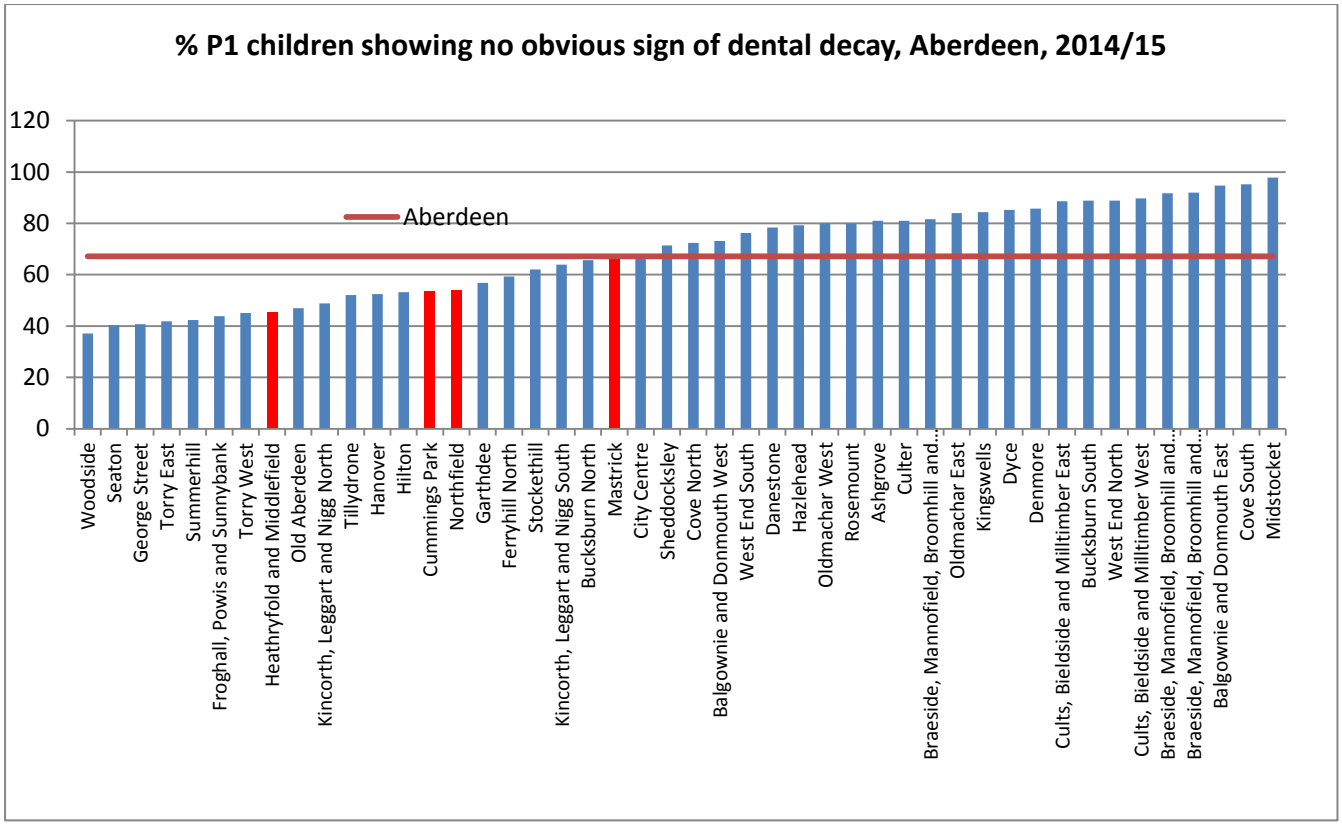



Across the City and indeed nationally, there is a tailing off of the proportion of babies that were exclusively breastfed at the time of the initial visit that are still exclusively breastfed at the time of the 6-8 week review. This reduction appears to be greater in the intermediate zones within Locality 2, and is most evident in Cummings Park. This may be indicative of a greater need for support for women within this area.

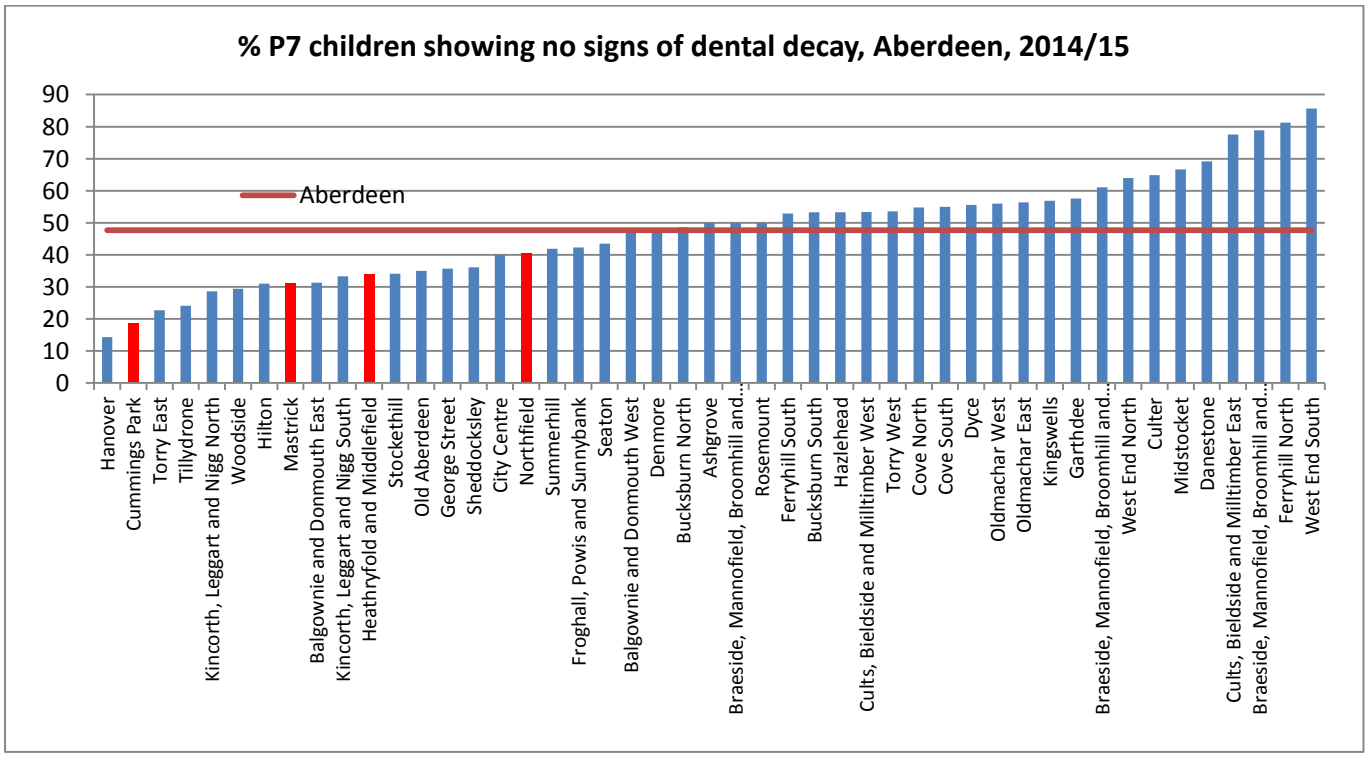
### CHILD DENTAL HEALTH

Similar to general health inequalities, there is a significant gap between those children with good and poor dental health.

Children in Locality 2 generally suffer from relatively poor dental health, and again this is more pronounced in some areas than in others. Only 45.2% of P1 children (in 2014/15) in Heathryfold and Middlefield showed no obvious signs of dental decay; in Aberdeen the proportion was 67.2%, while across Scotland its 69.5%. In other words, more than half of the child population in Heathryfold and Middlefield show signs of dental decay by the time they reach Primary one.




Dental health in children in the locality between Primary 1 and Primary 7 worsens during the primary school years, as can be expected and as it does in all areas, but the gap in good dental health between children from deprived areas and children from wealthier areas in Aberdeen widens.



## Early Learning and Childcare

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to offer 600 hours per year free provision of early learning and childcare to all 3 and 4 year olds, as well as eligible 2 year olds.

By 2020, that statutory duty will be expanded to provide 1,140 hours per annum to all 3 and 4 year olds, and eligible 2 year olds. By 2024, the entitlement will increase further to cover all children aged between 1 and 4.

Aberdeen City Council want to increase the flexibility around funded provision, and it is considering whether to move towards providing funded early learning and childcare 50 weeks of the year, rather than the term-time model currently adopted.

Although capital will be made available by the Scottish Government, this increased entitlement will clearly place considerable pressure on local authorities capital and revenue budgets.

Currently, there are around 440 part-time nursery places available in Locality 2, but population statistics show that, at the time of writing, there are more than 1,200 children aged between 1 and 5 in the catchment areas covered by the six Primary School in the locality (Bramble Brae, Heathryburn, Manor Park, Muirfield, Quarryhill and West Park). Therefore, not only will the requirement be to almost double the amount of hours available for 3 and 4 year olds, but there will be more than double the number of children to cater for in the long term.

Early learning and child care is an industry that already struggles with the recruitment and retention of workers in Aberdeen. It has historically been an occupation that is generally fairly low paid, despite formal qualifications being required. Such an increase in provision will inevitably require more staff.

As at 10th August 2016, five of the six nurseries attached to the primary schools and operated by the local authority have a small number of children on a waiting list for a nursery place, but there is some capacity at the current time at Manor Park. Overall however, it is evident that, in addition to staff, more physical space will be required.

## Education

Children living in Locality 2 are predominantly served by six primary schools; Bramble Brae, Heathryburn, Manor Park, Muirfield, Quarryhill and Westpark primary schools. Holy Family RC School is also termed as being within the Associated Schools Group, although it is physically located within the Summerhill neighbourhood. Most children who attend primary school in the locality will progress onto secondary education at Northfield Academy or St Machar Academy, while a smaller proportion may attend Hazlehead or Harlaw Academies.

Around a half of all children attending a primary school in the locality come from an area that is amongst the most 20% deprived communities in Scotland. This isnt

evenly spread however, with almost 9 out of every ten children attending Manor Park Primary School coming from an area of greatest deprivation, with 75% of the school roll at Bramble Brae come from an area of greatest deprivation.

It is widely recognised that in order to learn and succeed, children must be well nourished and cared for. Although merely living in a deprived community does not mean automatic entitlement to free school meals, it appears that there is an imbalance between those who may be entitled and those who are claiming the benefit. Again, this imbalance is more noticable at some schools than at others; at Manor Park Primary School, almost all children come from a deprived community, yet less than half are entitled and registered for free school meals.

**Table 3: Children entitled and registered for free school meals, Primary Schools**

| | % of school roll living in most deprived quintile (20%)[iv] | % of P4 – P7 pupils entitled and registered for free school meals[v] |
|---|---|---|
| Bramble Brae Primary School | 78.40% | 53.92% |
| Heathryburn Primary School | 31.90% | 34.48% |
| Manor Park Primary School | 89.80% | 41.48% |
| Muirfield Primary School | 48.40% | 21.26% |
| Quarryhill Primary School | 13.80% | 21.55% |
| Westpark Primary School | 23.10% | 26.67% |
| Aberdeen City Primary Schools | 20.4% | 12.27% |

**Table 4: Children entitled and registered for free school meals, Secondary Schools**

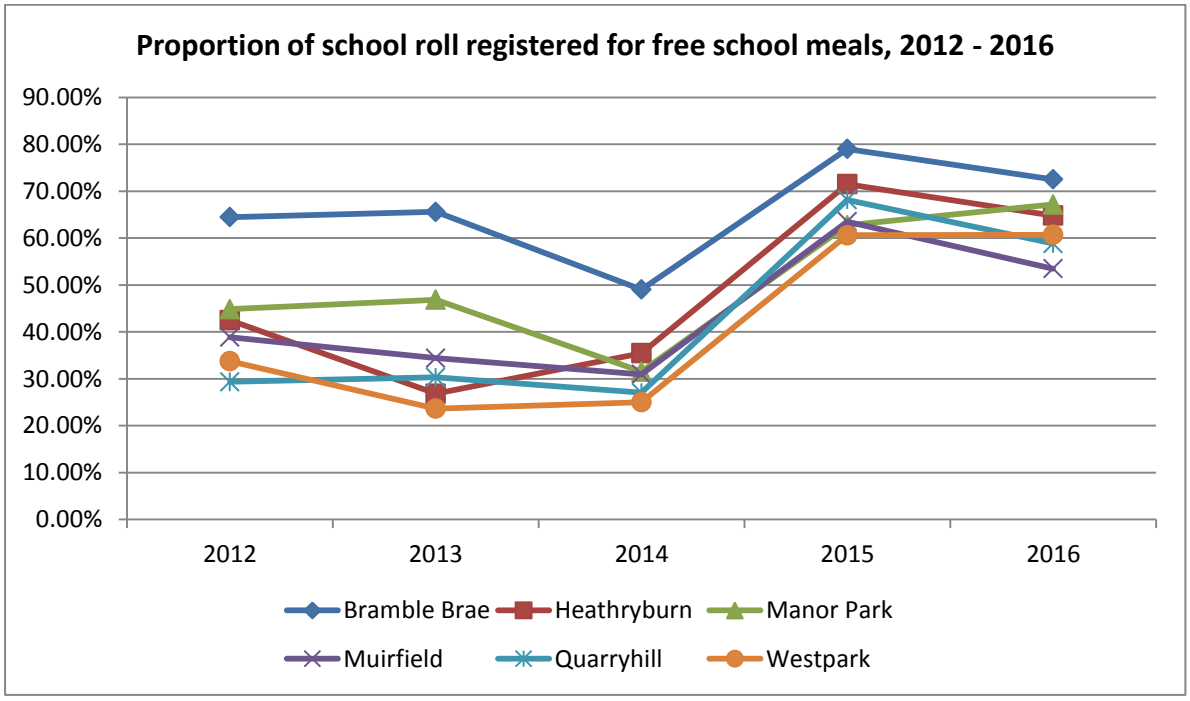
| | % of school roll living in most deprived quintile (20%)[vi] | % of school roll registered for free school meals[vii] |
|---|---|---|
| Northfield Academy | 41% | 31.5% |
| St Machar Academy | 46% | 22.6% |
| Aberdeen City Secondary Schools | 17% | 9.4% |

The reasons for the imbalance are unclear, but it is assessed that, particularly at secondary school stage, the fear of being stigmatised prevents some pupils from claiming this benefit. A lack of knowledge, awareness and how to claim the benefit may also be partially responsible.

For many children in Scotland, the provision of free school meals gives them the only cooked meal of the day, but during school holidays many parents may struggle to feed their children adequately. Some local authorities in Scotland are now running holidays clubs to ensure that children are adequate fed during the school holidays.

There are also some religious and community groups in Aberdeen that provide free, healthy cooked food for children who usually receive free school meals, and at the current time in Locality 2, meals are being provided twice a week in Manor Park. This is a pilot project at this stage.

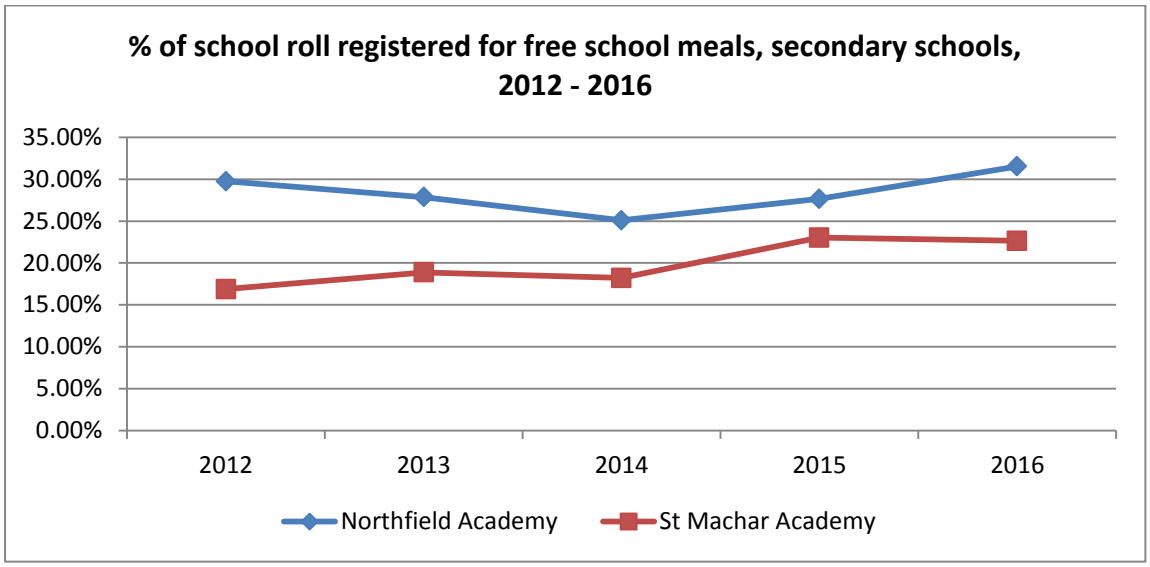
As highlighted above, it is difficult to measure child poverty accurately due to the time lag on available data. To gain a better understanding of the current picture and the impact of the current local economic situation, we can review the trend in the proportion of pupils registered for free school meals. (will need to note here that there are differences with above – this includes all school children, above looks only at P4-P7 in primary schools).




The proportion of children attending primary school in Locality 2 that are eligible and registered for free school meals has increased considerably between 2014 and 2015. Since it is known that there are high levels of deprivation in Locality 2, the increase should be viewed positively.

Aberdeen City Council are in the process of introducing the cashless catering system to all schools in the city, however at the current time, none of the primary schools in Locality 2 are operating this system. The cashless catering system aims to reduce the stigma attached to free school meal entitlement and also seeks to automatically validate entitlement using council tax benefit records. Automatic validation will not

impact on first time claimants however, it will only make the process simpler for both schools and parents who are already claiming the benefit.

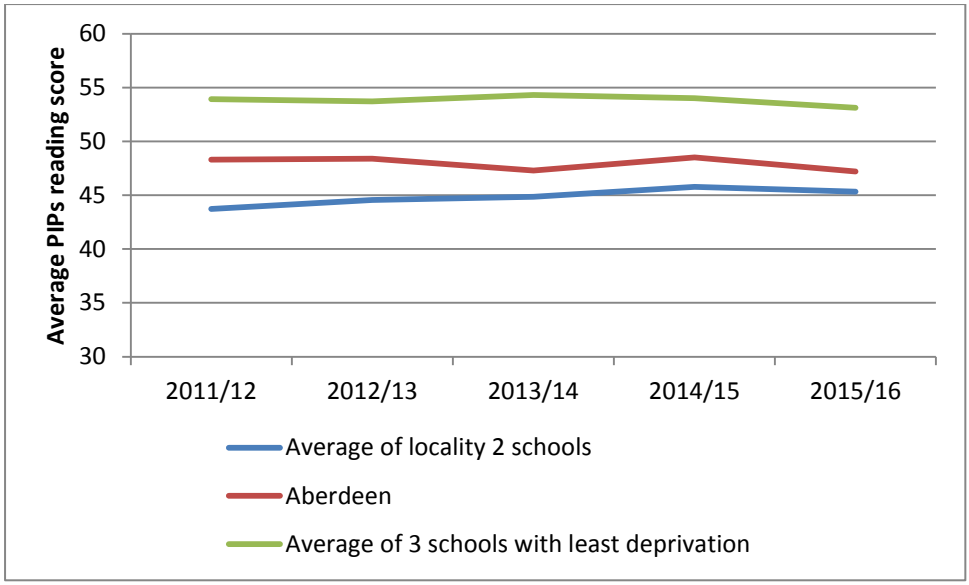


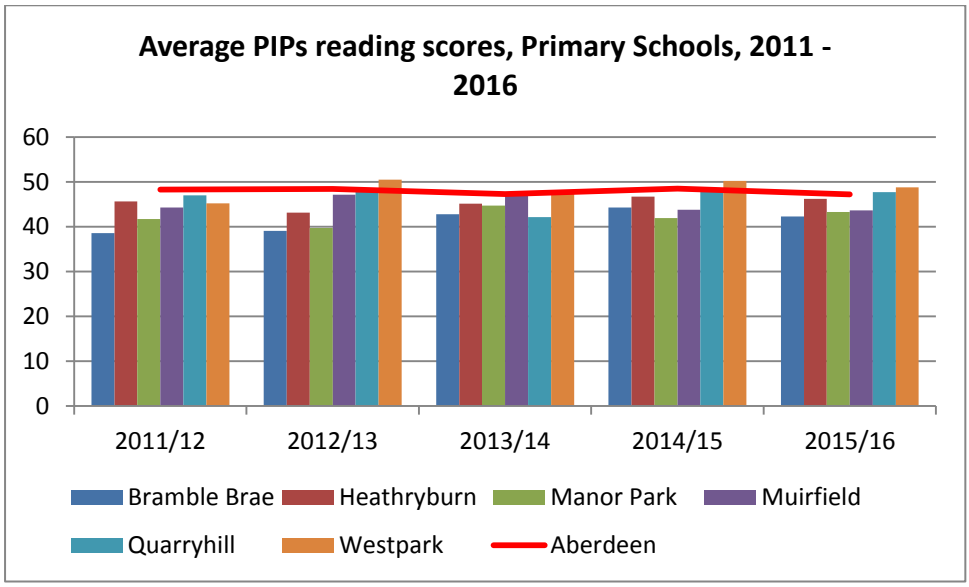

Uptake of free school meals at secondary schools is, in general, lower than in primary schools. Although over the past 5 years there has been considerable improvement in the proportion of pupils at secondary schools in the area that are registered for free school meals, the most recent data shows that little more than a quarter of secondary school pupils in Locality 2 are registered to receive the benefit. Given that over 40% of secondary school pupils attending either Northfield Academy or St Machar Academy live in an area of greatest deprivation, this is a relatively low proportion.

In order to increase the proportion of children that are entitled to free school meals to register and take the meals, it is assessed that there is also a need to make school meals more attractive to those who are not eligible.

There is an abundance of take-away food outlets, such as bakers, sandwich shops, chip shops, other well known fast-food takeaway outlets and even mobile takeaway outlets in close proximity to both Northfield and St Machar Academies. Being in close proximity to fast-food takeaways can be associated with high rates of obesity, and poor dental health.

It is widely recognised that children from more disadvantaged backgrounds tend to perform poorly at school in comparison to their more affluent peers, and this gap appears in early life. This gap is persistent and significant, and is evident in both literacy and numeracy skills by the time a child starts primary school.


Average PIPs reading score
60
55
50
45
40
35
30
2011/12
2012/13
2013/14
2014/15
2015/16
Average of locality 2 schools
Aberdeen
Average of 3 schools with least deprivation
viii


Average PIPs reading scores, Primary Schools, 2011 - 2016
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
2011/12
2012/13
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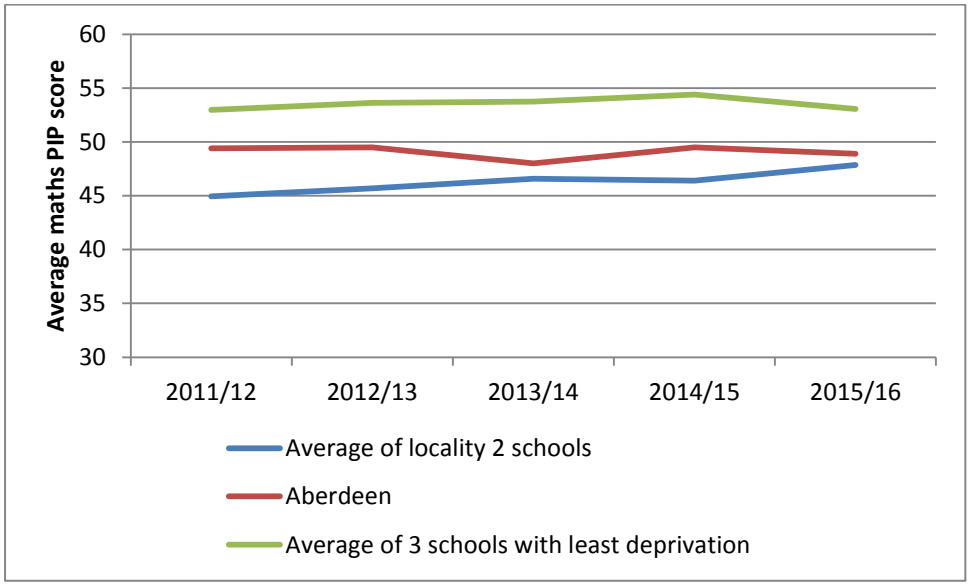
2014/15
2015/16
Bramble Brae
Heathryburn
Manor Park
Muirfield
Quarryhill
Westpark
Aberdeen


Average maths PIP score
60
55
50
45
40
35
30
2011/12
2012/13
2013/14
2014/15
2015/16
Average of locality 2 schools
Aberdeen
Average of 3 schools with least deprivation

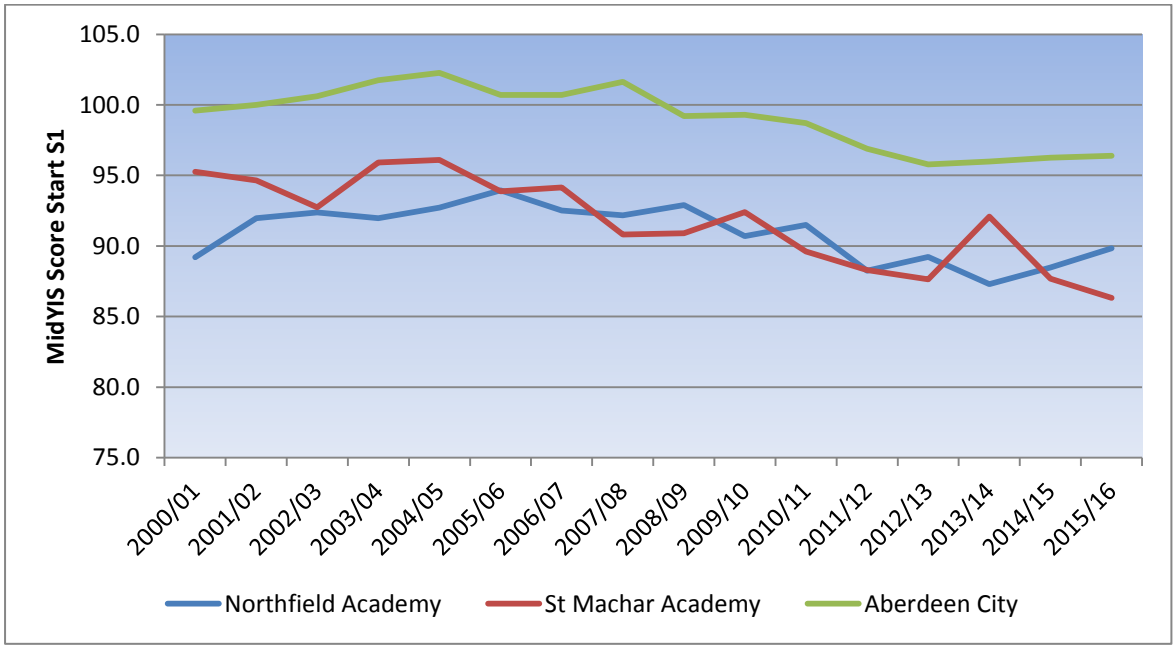
The charts above show that children in Locality 2 consistently start primary school at a disadvantage in terms of reading and mathematics ability compared to children from less disadvantaged backgrounds. The gap in ability, and poorer levels of ability, are most evident for children attending Bramble Brae or Manor Park Primary Schools.

The diverse nature of the population in Locality 2 may, at least partially, be a contributing factor to the lack of basic language, literacy and numeracy skills of primary school children at some schools in the area. Three-quarters of children attending Manor Park Primary school use English as a first language, lower than the city-wide average of 80%.

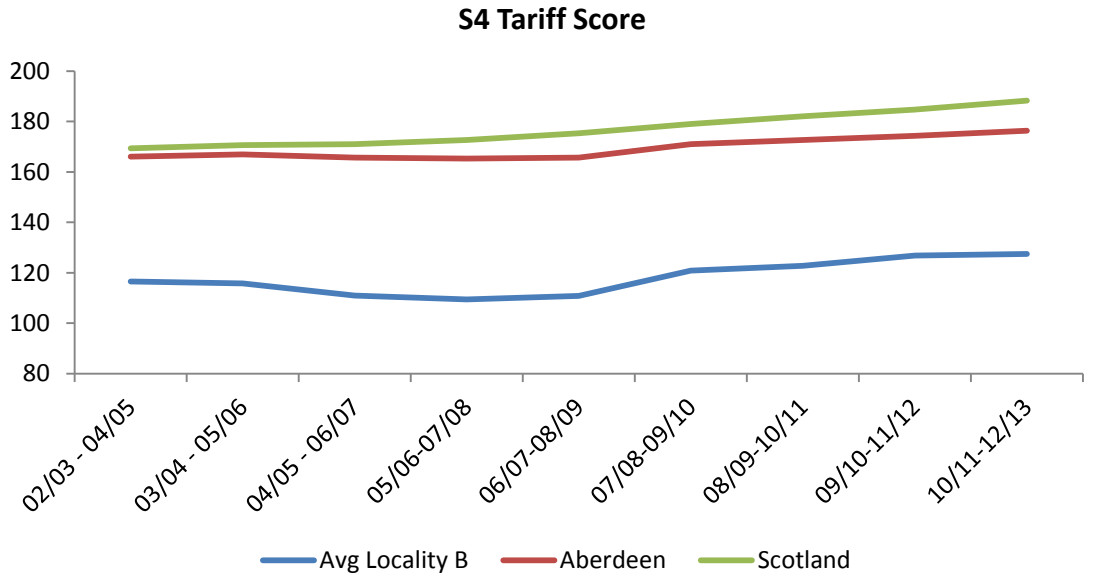
However the ethnic diversity of the population does not fully account for the poorer levels of academic ability. 90% of children attending Bramble Brae Primary School use English as a first language, yet the reading ability at the time the children start Primary 1 is the lowest of all primary schools in the locality.

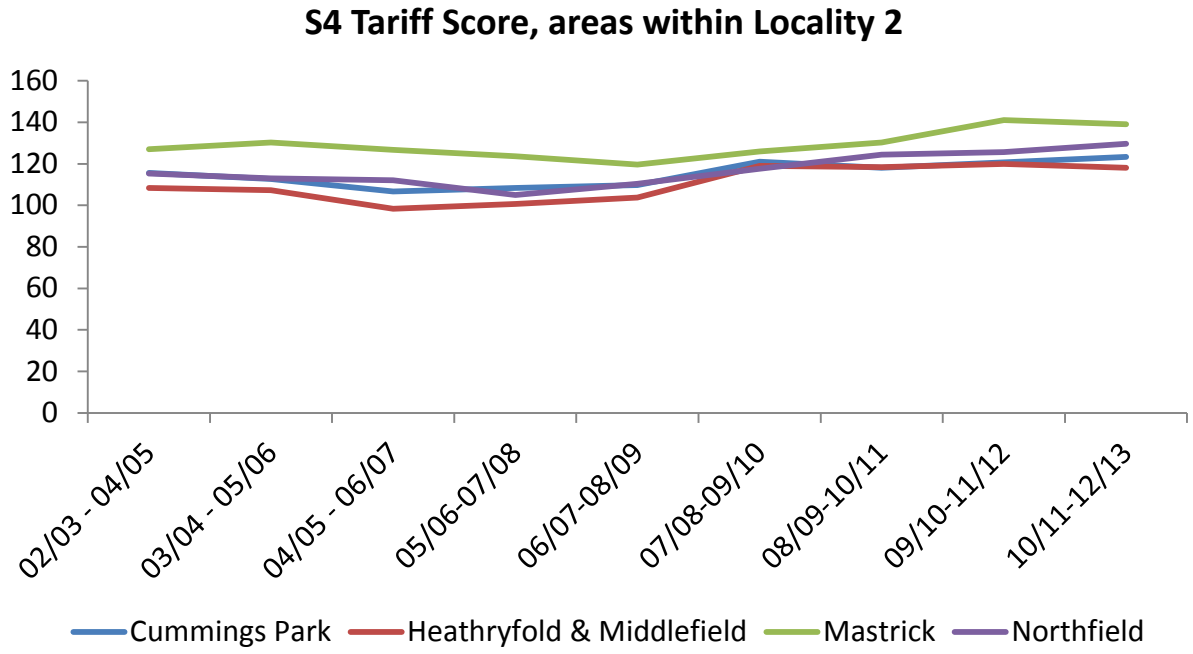
In recognition of persistent lower levels of attainment, Bramble Brae and Manor Park Primary Schools have been selected to receive funding from the Attainment Scotland Fund, a Scottish Government fund that aims to improve literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for primary school pupils.

The attainment gap continues, and indeed can widen, throughout the school years. Children starting secondary school at either of the two schools associated with the locality – Northfield Academy and St Machar Academy – generally perform less well, academically, than their peers across the city.

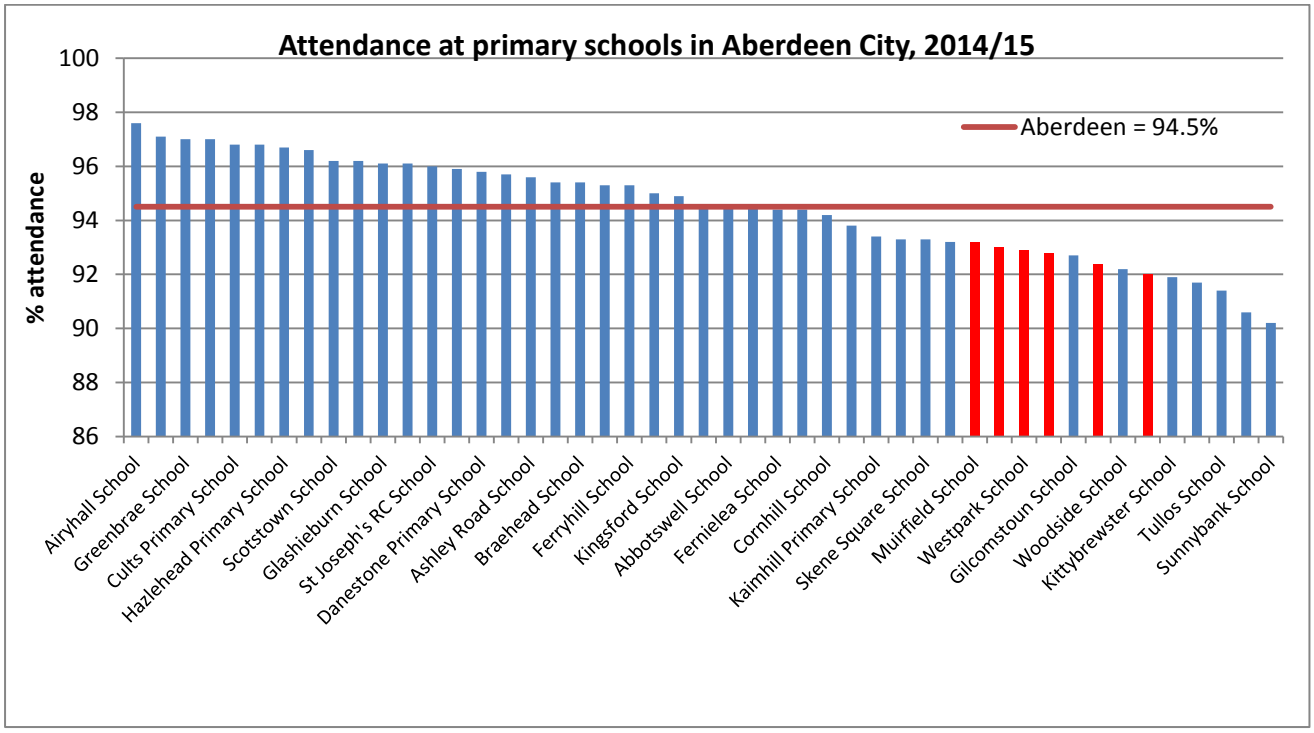


Until fairly recently, the Scottish Government recorded the tariff score of S4 pupils from across the country. In recent years however, the national qualifications framework has changed and this is no longer a meaningful measure, although it is the only data available at this time. The Community Planning Outcomes Profile (CPOP), developed by the Improvement Service, tracks this data over a period of time. The CPOP shows that, in relation to the S4 tariff score, all four areas of the locality have improved over the years, although they remain considerably lower than the city-wide average.

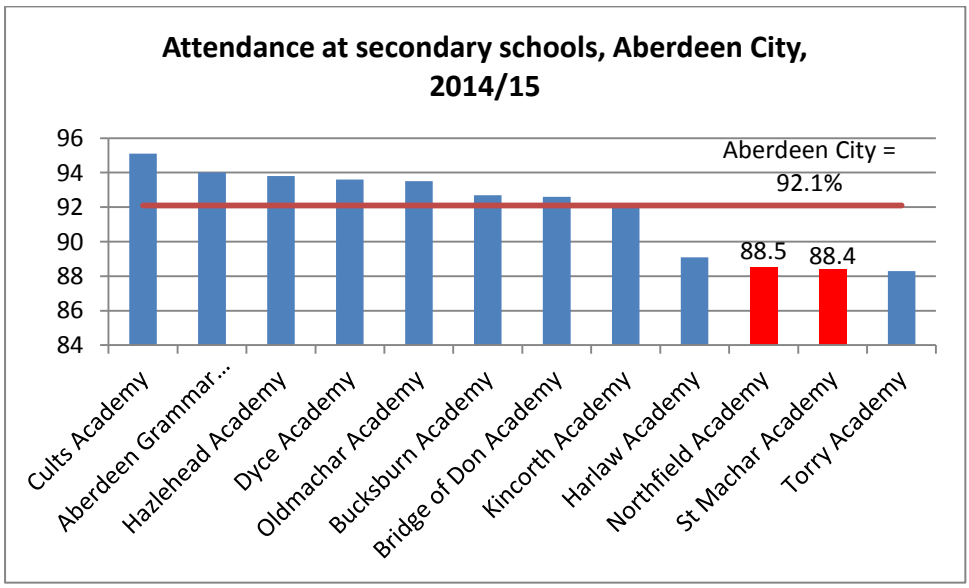


There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. All primary schools in the locality have a lower than average attendance rate.




Both Northfield Academy and St Machar Academy also have high rates of absence. At both schools, the high rate of absence is predominantly as a result of sickness absence. Further analysis would be required to establish if indeed there is a higher level of sickness, or if parents / carers are more likely to authorise absence as a result of a minor illness that, ordinarily, would not require absence from school.

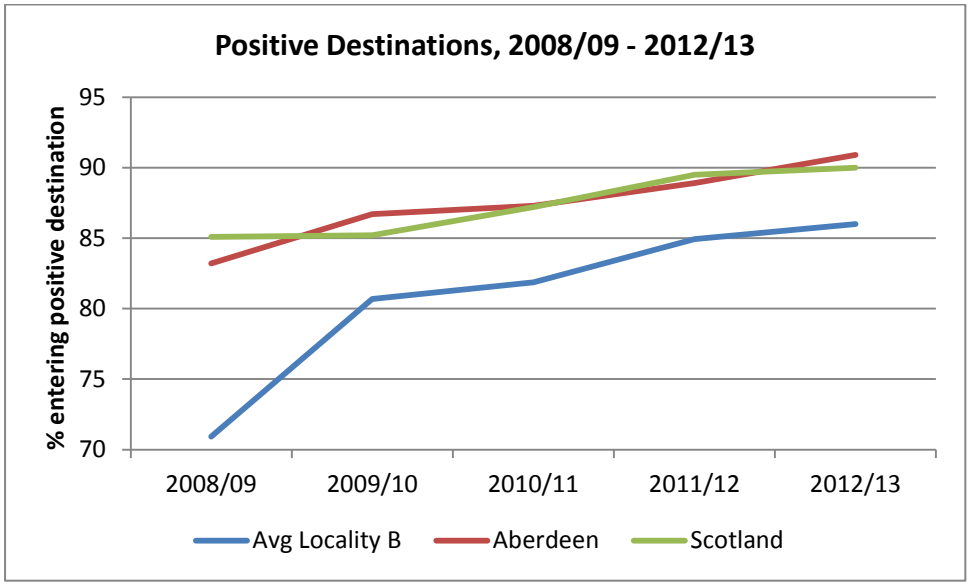


Poor attendance at school is linked to poorer academic attainment and limited future career prospects. Poor attendance can also lead to isolation from peers, and the poor attendance of some may impact on the attainment of regular attenders given that truants are more likely to be disruptive when they do attend school and demand more of teachers' attendance.

### POSITIVE DESTINATIONS

Lower educational attainment from an early age generally leads to fewer qualifications, leaving school earlier, and limited employment and career prospects.

Generally speaking, school leavers in Locality 2 are less likely than others across the city to enter a positive destination (employment, education or training) but, again, considerable improvement has been made over recent years.




Most young people that live in Locality 2 attend Northfield Academy, with a smaller proportion attending St Machar Academy. Although not directly comparable, more timely data from Skills Development Scotland shows that young people who attend either of these schools are less likely than their city-wide peers to enter a positive destination, and have a greater likelihood of being unemployed after leaving school.

Only three-quarters of young people that left Northfield Academy in the 2014/15 academic year entered a positive destination (Education, Training or Employment), while across the city 90% of school leavers did so. For those who attended St Machar Academy, 82.6% of school leavers entered a positive destination.

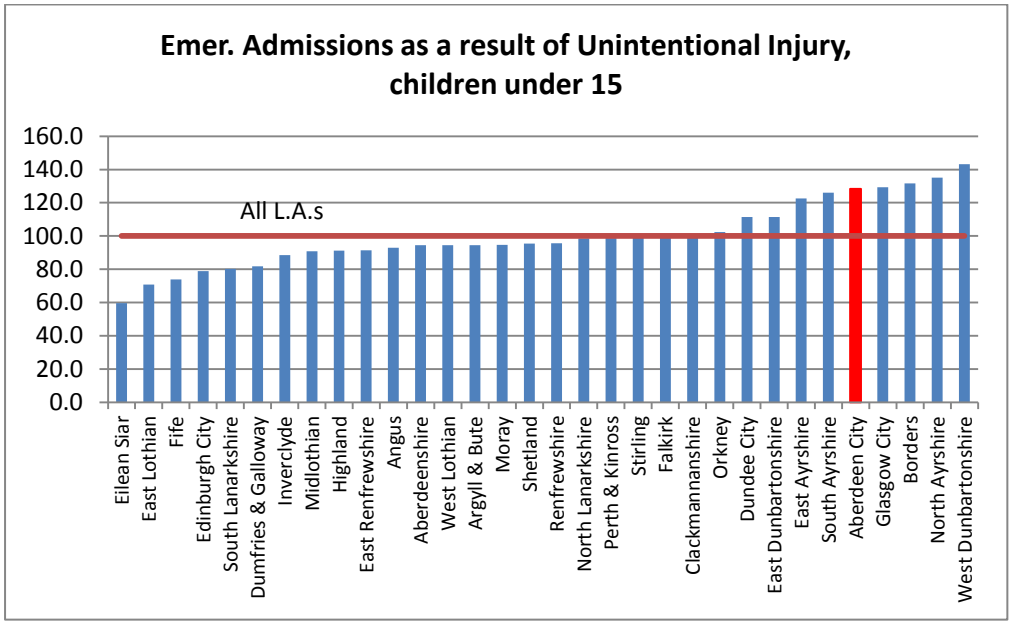
Even for those that do enter a positive destination, there are marked difference between the path chosen or available to them. For St Machar Academy school leavers, most go on to enter further education (College education), with only 13% entering Higher education (typically, university). This is in contrast to the city-wide

picture, where a larger proportion of young people enter higher education (38.1%) but for those leaving Northfield Academy, employment is a more likely path.

Both Northfield Academy and St Machar Academy are amongst ten target schools in the North of Scotland that benefits from being part of ASPIRENorth – a national Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP) which aims to increase progression to higher educaiton in both colleges and universities from schools which have historically had low levels of progression.

### Unintentional Injury in Children

Aberdeen City has one of the highest rates of children being hospitalised in an emergency as a result of unintentional injury in the country, and this has been the case over recent years.




Emergency hospital admissions due to an unintentional injury are most common among the under 5s, and for all children under 15, a fall is the most common cause of the injury.

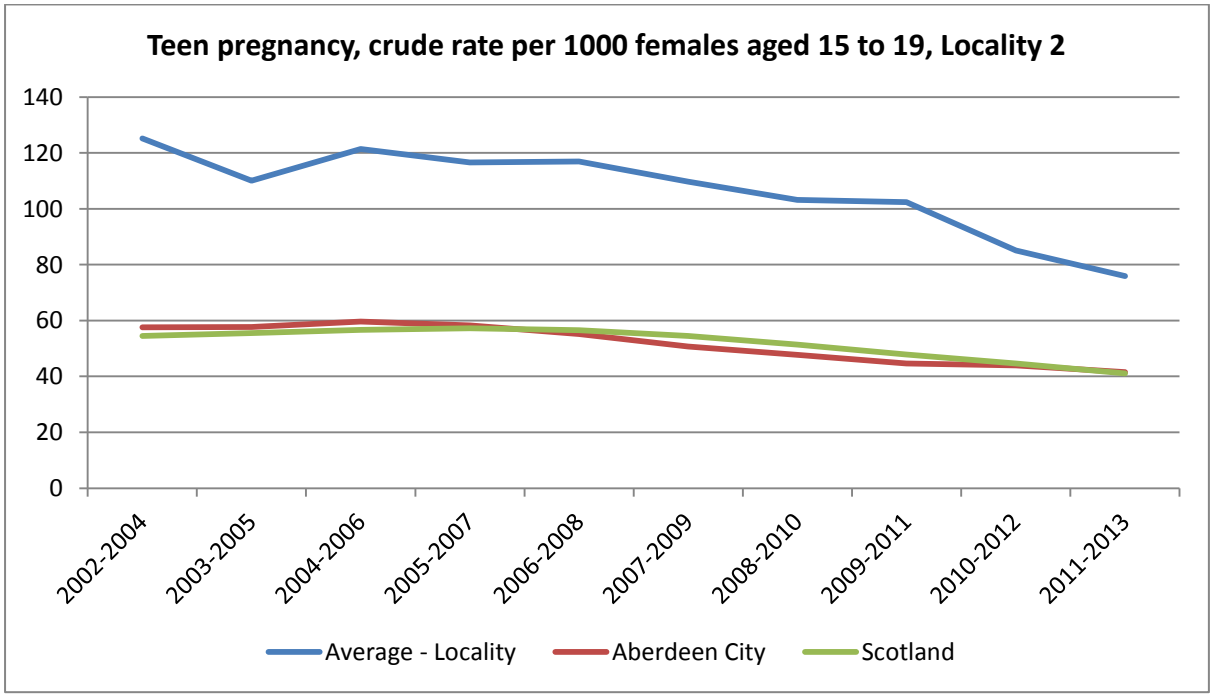
Data provided for the city-wide Strategic Assessment indicates that unintentional injury in children is associated with deprivation. This data is only provided at intermediate zone level, and so is not an exact match with the locality area, however it does show that all four intermediate zones within the locality – Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield, Mastrick and Northfield – are all 'high risk' areas.

Unfortunately, ISD Scotland no longer publish details of where injuries were sustained. Robust data of this nature could be used to further analyse any potential issues – for example,a higher rate of injuries sustained within the home for example may suggest some home safety initiatives would be beneficial – however it was

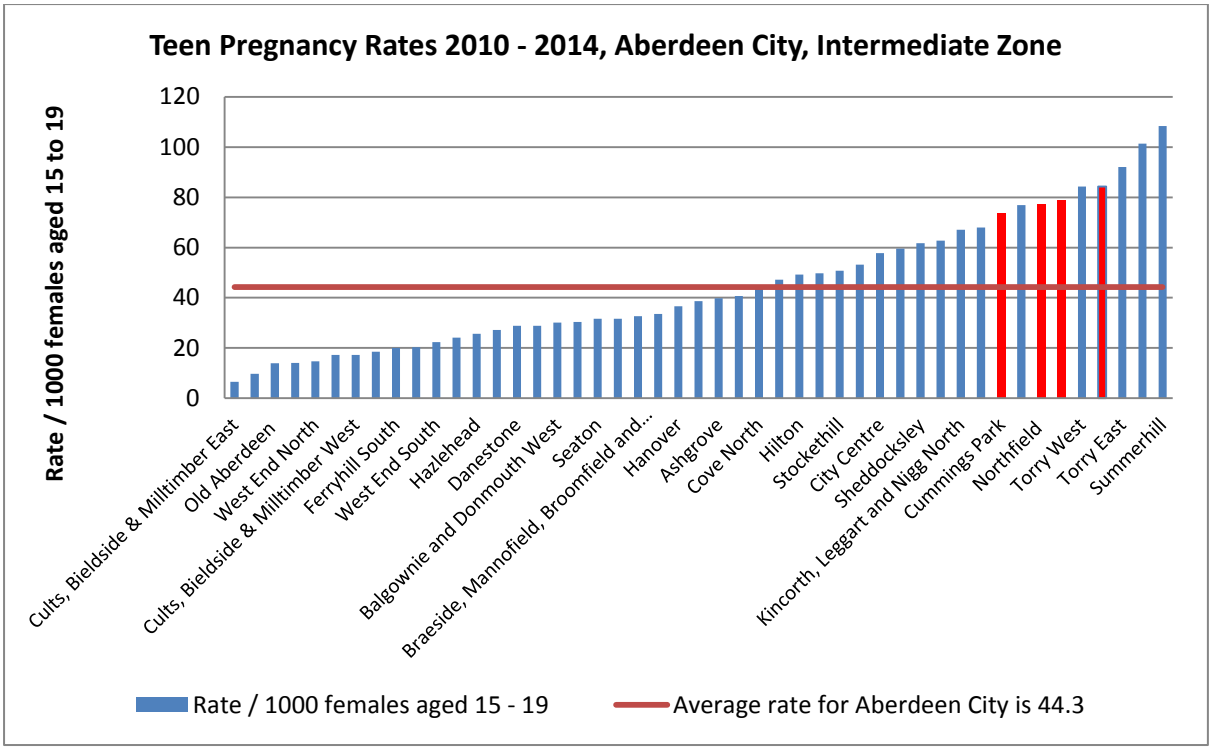
asssesssed that this measure was too subjective and contained a considerable volume of incorrect or inaccurate data.

### Teenage Pregnancy

The trend in teenage pregnancy in Aberdeen, and indeed in Scotland, is reducing, and rates of teenage pregnancy in the city have almost halved over the past decade. The fall in the rate of teen pregnancy within locality 2 has exceeded, by a considerable margin, the national trend. Notwithstanding that, there are still significant ineuqlaitities between neighbourhoods, and the average rate of the four intermediate zones within Locality 2 are considerably higher than both the city rate and the national rate[ix].




Children born to teenage mothers are less likely to reach their full potential. As well as being less likely to do well at school and suffereing poorer health and developmental outcomes, daughters of teenage mothers are more likely to become teenage mothers themselves, therefore continuing the cycle. Reducing teenage pregnancy is therefore central to tackling poverty and social exclusion.




Teenage girls living in Locality 2 are between 11 and 13 times more likely than their peers in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber East to experience a teenage pregnancy.

ADULT LIFE

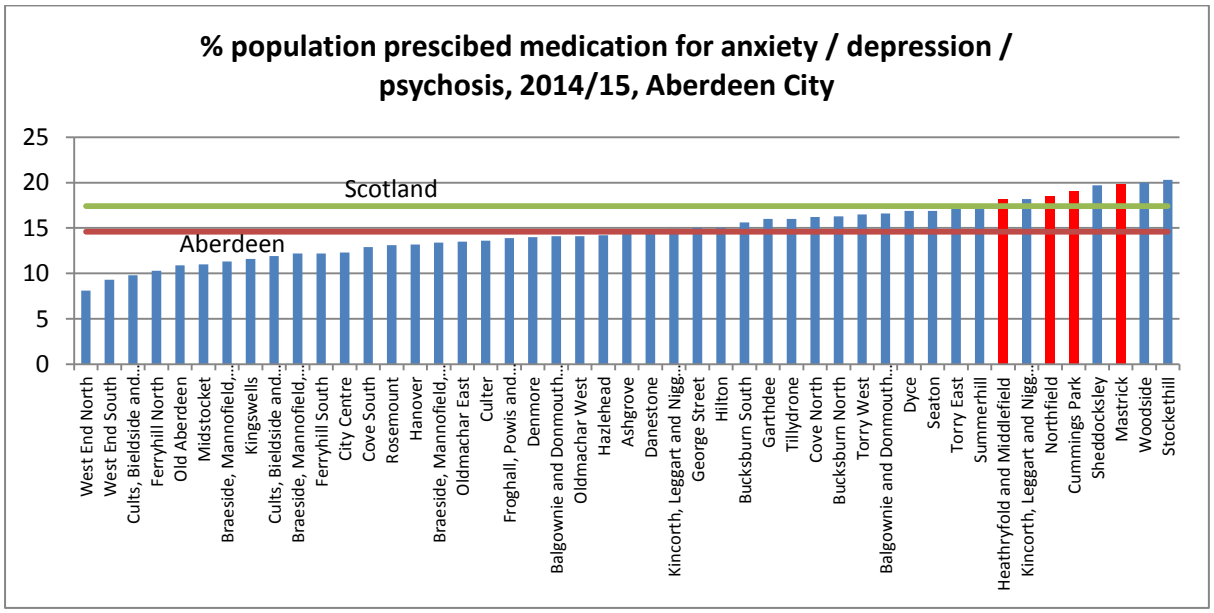
Generally speaking, working-age adults in Aberdeen are educated to a higher level than in many other council areas in Scotland, with 31.8% of working age adults education to degree level in Aberdeen, the fourth highest rate of all 32 Scottish local authorities (after City of Edinburgh, East Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire)[x].

There is a large contrast in the qualifications gained by working age adults across the City. At the time of the 2011 Census, one in five adults in Aberdeen had no qualifications, compared to a quarter of adults in Scotland. The level of skills amongst the working age population of Locality 2 is generally low with over a third of adults having no qualifications. In some areas within the locality, the proportion of adults with no formal qualifications is much higher. In datazones S01000155 and S01000168, which are both in Mastrick neighbourhood, almost four in every ten adults had no formal qualifications.

As described previously, Aberdeens economy is under considerable pressure, predominantly as a result of a historical over-reliance on the oil and gas sector. As unemployment rises, it is crucial that people are equipped with the skills that will allow them to either enter, or re-enter the workforce, and this will require a considerable improvement in the skills of the areas general population. In addition, it is imperative that people have the opportunity to improve their skills and further their knowledge to enable them to progress up the career ladder, if desired.

## HEALTH

Generally speaking, statistics and trends appear to indicate that the mental health of Scotland's population is deteriorating, however the increasing proportion of the population that are prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis could equally be a sign of earlier diagnosis and a greater willingness of people to accept help.




Although not all people living in an area with poor outcomes will experience mental ill-health, higher rates of poorer mental health are more prevalent in areas of disadvantage. As shown in the chart above, all four areas of Locality 2 show a larger proportion of the resident population that are prescribed medication for mental ill-health.

It is widely recognised that an accurate assessment of mental ill-health is difficult, due to the very nature of the problem. The higher rates in areas of greater deprivation may reflect true poorer mental health, however it may also be indicative of a degree of under-reporting in more affluent areas.

Poverty, poor education, unemployment and low income are all risk factors for poor mental health, and therefore it is assessed that the mental health of Aberdeen's population in general, and in particular in the more disadvantaged communities, will suffer as a result of the local economic downturn.

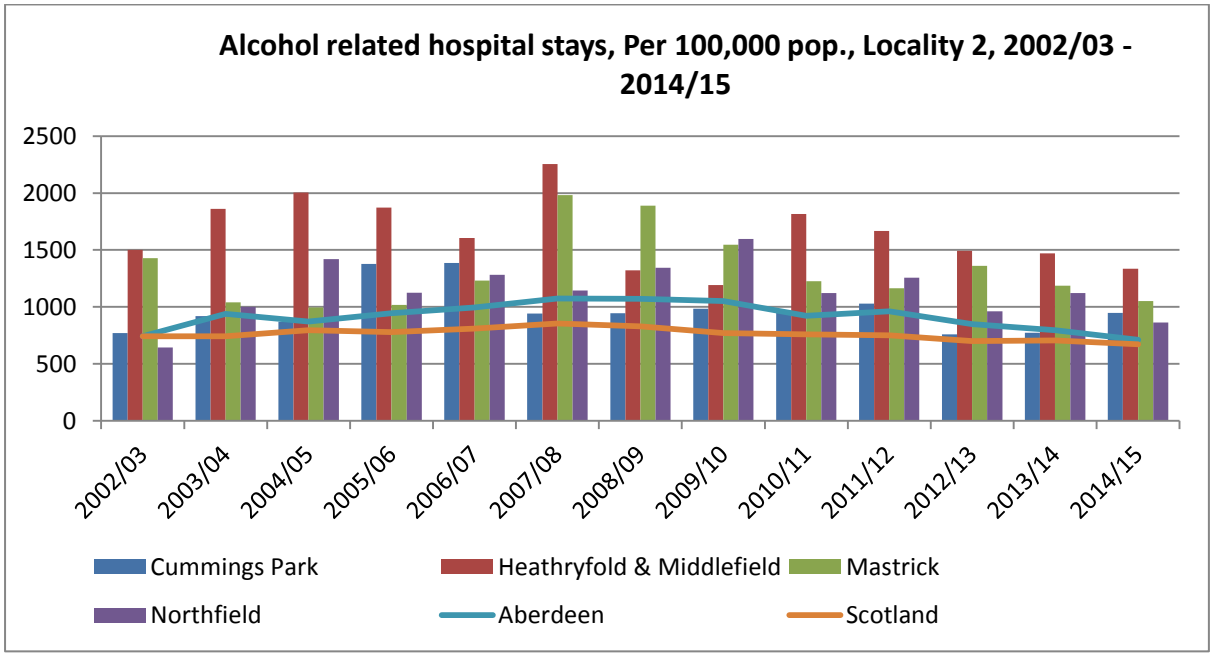
## LIFESTYLE BEHAVIOURS

Poor lifestyle behaviours are widely known to negatively affect the health of the population. Over recent decades, significant improvements have been made in changing, and reducing behaviours such as smoking, excessive alcohol use and drug misuse, improving peoples diet and increasing peoples level of physical activity. But improvements have largely been seen mainly among those in higher socio-

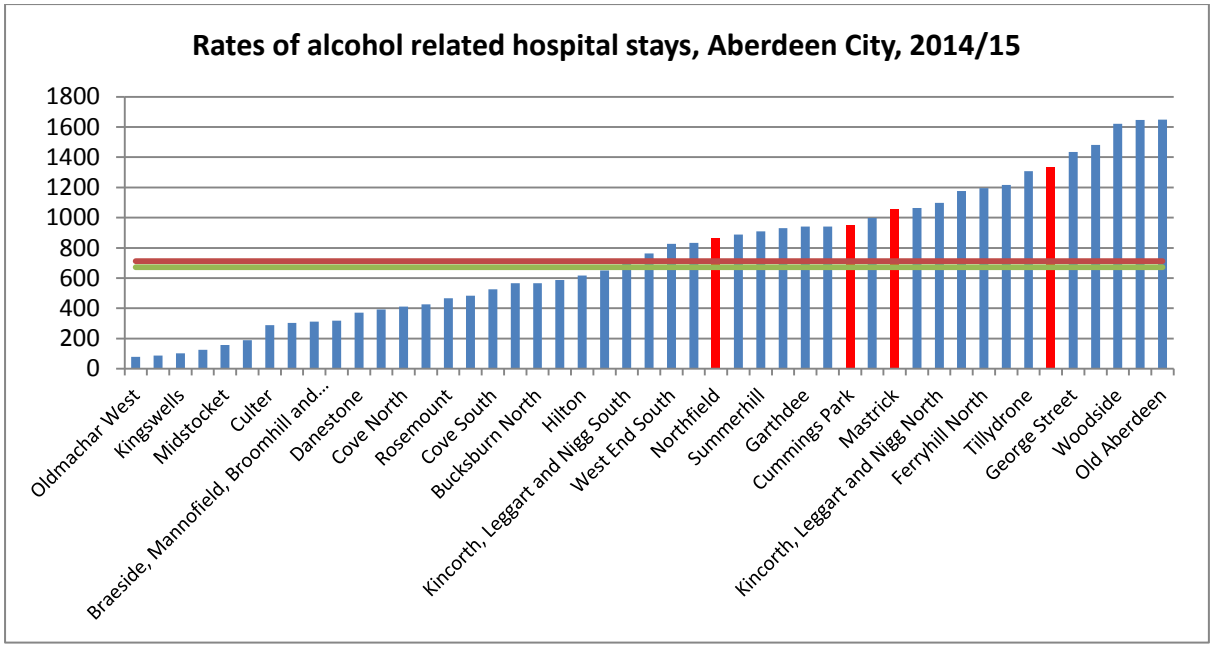
economic groups, with those in lower socio-economic groups still at much higher risk of partaking in poor lifestyle behaviours. This leads to widening health inequalities.

Alcohol misuse is one of the biggest risks to Scotland's health. Not only does alcohol misuse have a detrimental impact on our heatlh, the consequences of alcohol misuse are far-reaching ranging from severe impacts such as alcohol-related road traffic accidents to more 'hidden' impacts such as domestic violence.

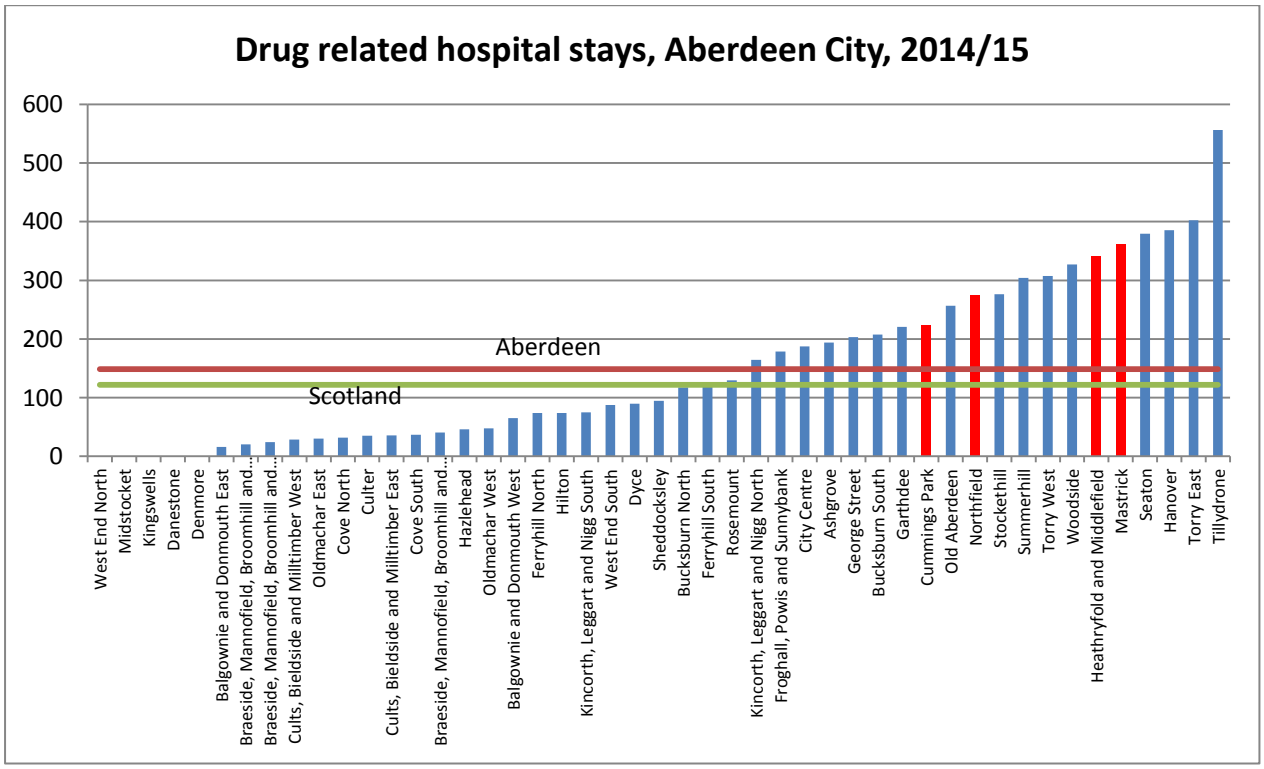
There has been someimprovement in the rate of alcohol related hospital stays in Locality 2, but there is still cause for concern, with all intermediate zones within the locality recording a higher rate of alcohol related hospital stays even in the most recent years.




Clearly, the area of greatest concern, fairly consistently, is Heathryfold and Middlefield.




Similar to the correlation between deprivation and excessive alcohol consumption, hospital stays as a result of a drugs related illness or injury are higher in areas with greater levels of deprivation.

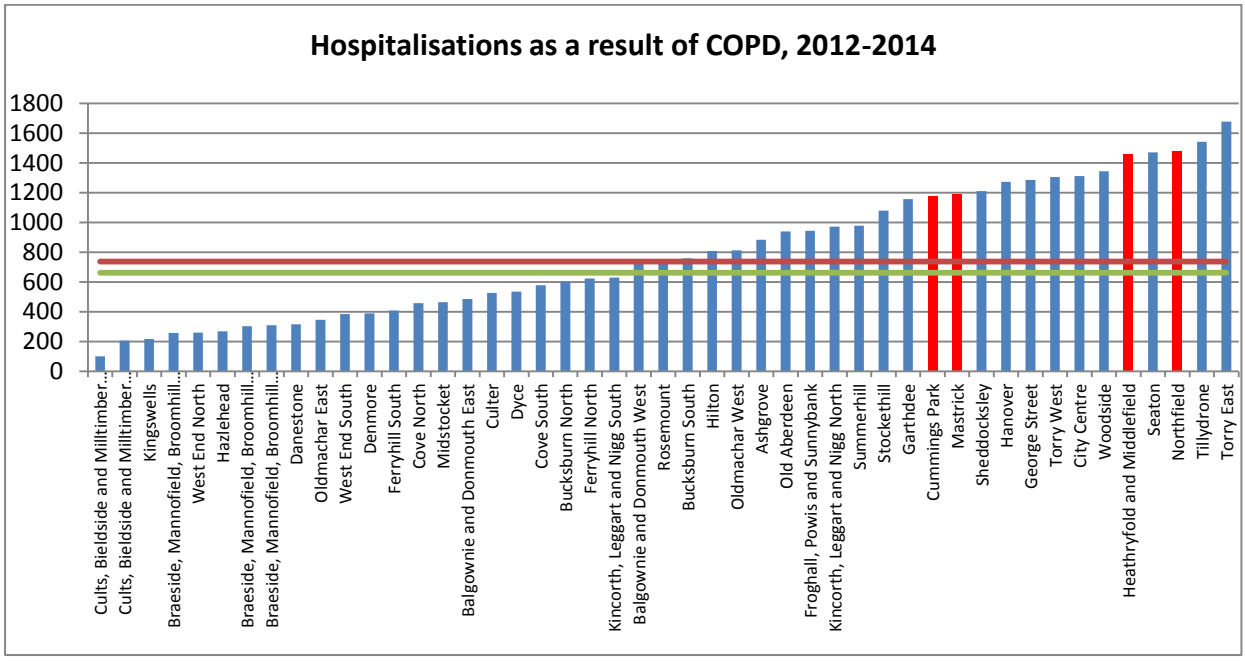



Drug misuse is an issue which concerns the community, and during recent engagement with members of the community, it was highlighted that people think more action is needed, both to target the drug misuse but also to deal with the effects of such antisocial behaviour, such as people feeling intimidated by drug misusers and discarded drugs paraphernalia.

According to the most recent data available, smoking is more prevalent in Aberdeen than it is in Scotland – 24% of the population of the city smoke, compared to 20% nationally.

National research has shown that there is a strong correlation between smoking prevalence and deprivation. Although data is not available at a local level, it is probable that the situation in Aberdeen follows this trend, and therefore Locality 2 would be an area that would be expected to have higher prevalence rates.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is the name for a collection of lung diseases, which have occurred as a result of long-term damage to the lungs, usually because of smoking. Although not directly a measure of smoking levels within lower level geography, the rate of hospitalisations as a result of COPD is a good indicator of how lifestyle behaviours are affecting a populations health. As the chart below shows, all four intermediate zones within Locality 2 have considerably higher rates of COPD hospitalisations.

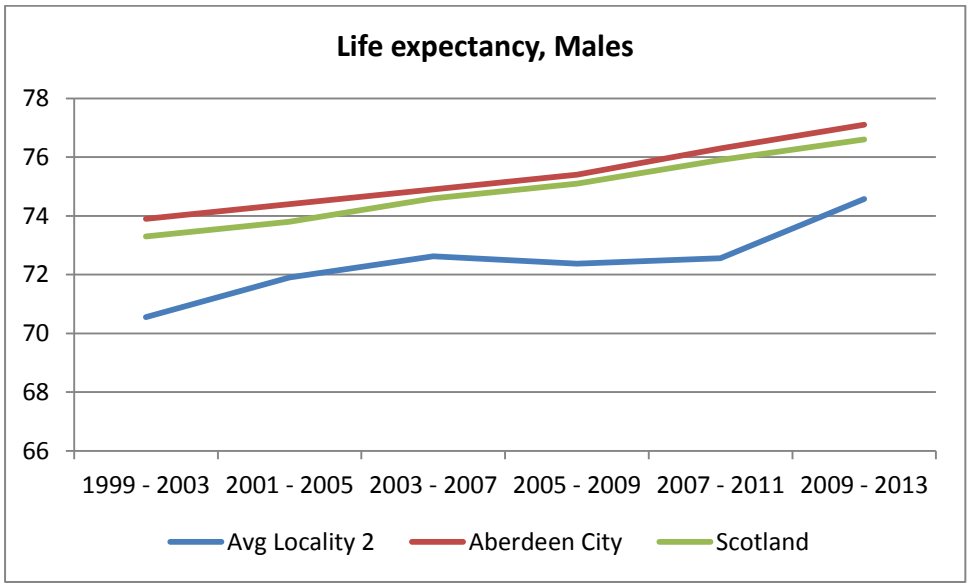


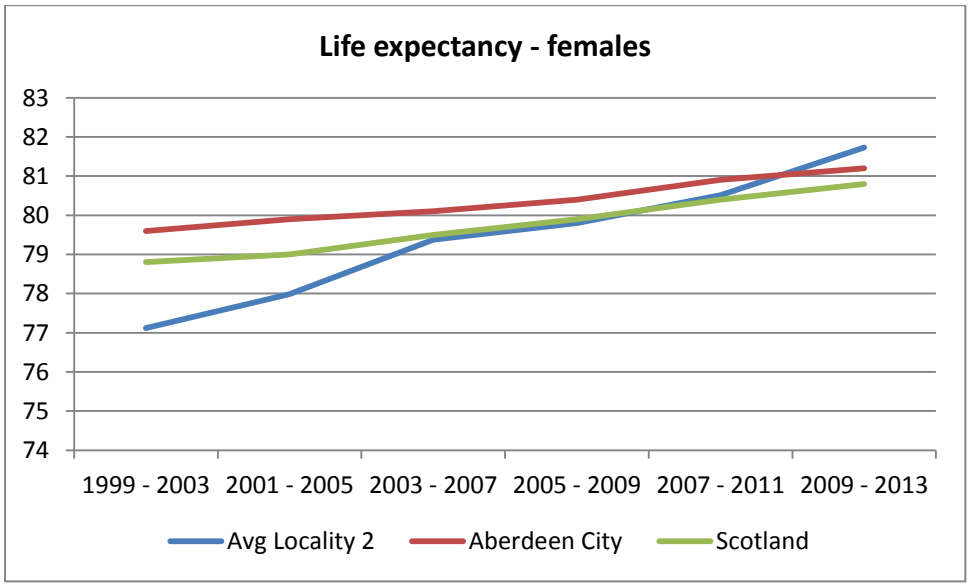

To reduce health inequalities, it is therefore imperative that public services, focus attention on those at greater risk to reduce their unhealthy behaviours. This will improve the health of the overall population. Poor lifestyle behaviours are widely recognised as heightening a persons risk of dying young, and this is further highlighted when looking at life expectancies of our neighbourhoods.

Advances and healthcare, and improvements in lifestyles have means that people in Locality, as indeed in Aberdeen and across the country, are living longer than ever before. Although life expectancy in every area within the locality has increased,

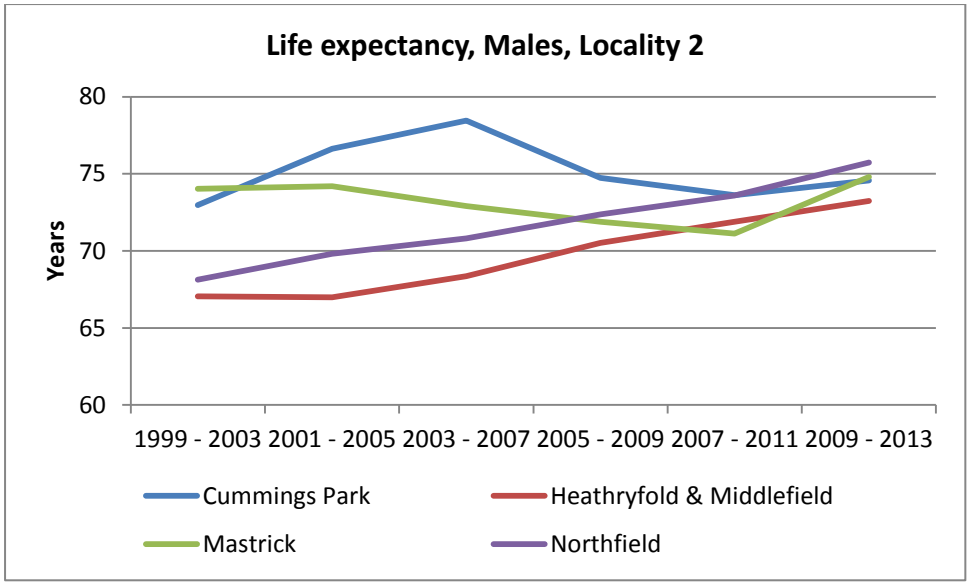
there are still significant inequalities evident, both within the area, and in comparison to both Scotland and Aberdeen City.

Females in the locality, generally, have a life expectancy similar to that of the city average, and when taken as a whole, females in the locality can be expected to live slightly longer than the Scottish average. Males living in the locality are, on average, expected to live for around 2 and a half years less than the city average life expectancy.

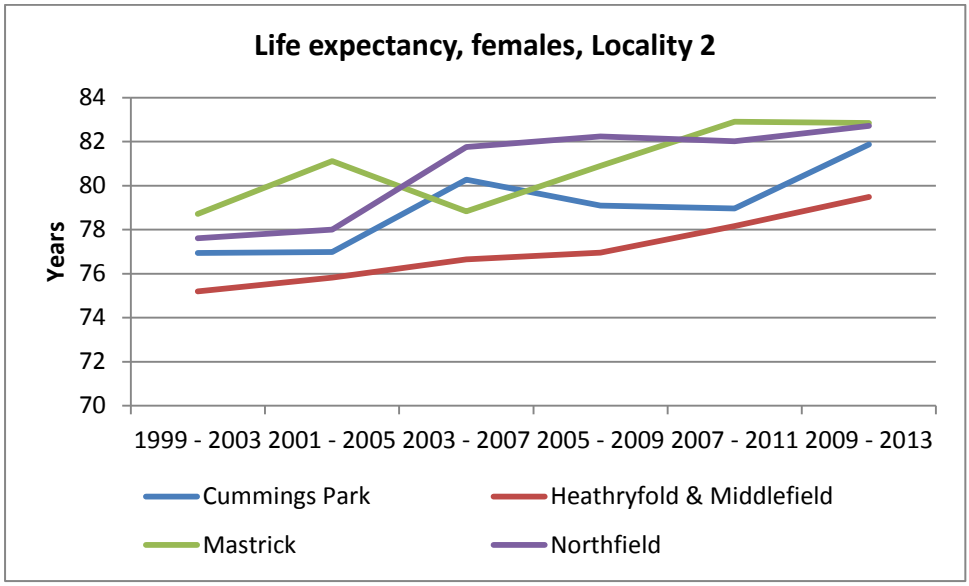



For males living in Cummings Park and Mastrick, although there has been some improvement in life expectancy over the past 15 years, the rate of improvement has been relatively slow, while for those in Heathryfold and Middlefield and Northfield, the improvement has been sharper.




For women, all four areas improved at a relatively similar rate, exceeding the rate of improvement in the City and the country.




LATER LIFE

Almost 14%[xi] of the population of Locality 2 is aged 65 or older, a slightly smaller proportion than Aberdeen City, where 15% of the population are in this age group. Again, the older population is not evenly spread across the locality, and 17% of the population of Mastrick is aged over 65.

As highlighted above, the population of Aberdeen is growing and ageing, and in the Northfield ward, it is projected that the over-65s age group will increase by around 44% by 2026, and by 82% by 2037.

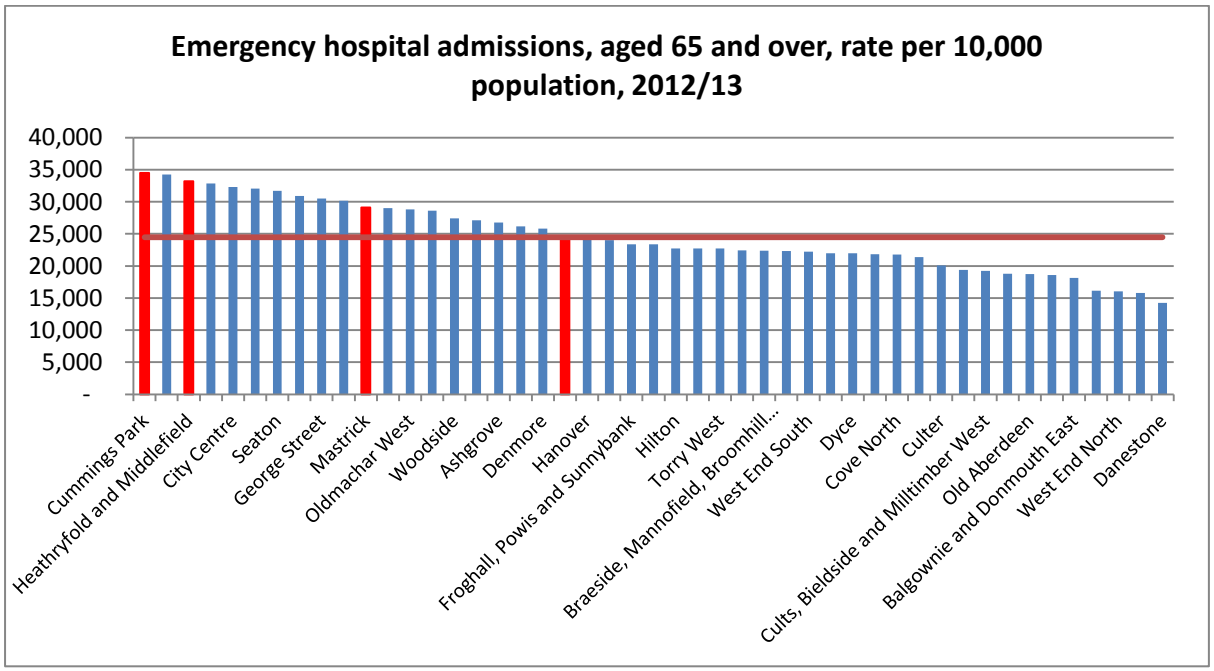
Although it is likely that population projections will be revised downwards in the coming years, a considerable increase in the older population in the locality is nevertheless anticipated.

A more mature population clearly brings with it increase knowledge and skills but an older population also presents many challenges. Older people are more likely to suffer increased frailty and are at greater risk of having multiple and complex care needs. As well as placing additional pressures on health and social care services, there may be greater demand for minor property adaptations to allow people to live independently in their own homes for longer.

### Emergency Hospital Admissions

Emergency hospital admissions place significant pressure on NHS resources, and in Aberdeen City, between 37- and 39% of emergency admissions to hospital are for patients aged 65 or older, and older people are more likely than any other age group to be hospitalised as an emergency multiple times.

Three of the four intermediate zones within Locality 2 – Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield, and Mastrick – all have higher rates of emergency hospital admission that the rate for Aberdeen City, and the rate in Cummings Park is the highest of all 47 intermediate zones within the local authority area, and there has been very little improvement over the years in comparison to other similar areas in Scotland. (It is worth bearing in mind however that this relates to the intermediate zone, which contains 5 datazones, the worst performing two of which are not within the Cummings Park neighbourhood boundary)




Greater detail is available at datazone level from the Community Planning Outcomes Profile, and of the 26 datazones contained within Locality 2, S01000150 (Mastrick),

S01000198 and S01000208 (both in Middlefield neighbourhood) all have rates more than double the city-wide rate.

The rate of emergency admissions to hospital is strongly related to patient age and deprivation. Older people living in datazone S01000150 are almost 23 times more likely than a person in datazone S01000253 (which is a datazone located in Oldmachar) to be admitted to hospital in an emergency.

Unfortunately, older people are statistically at greater risk of accidents in and around the home. Many accidents which older people suffer are attributable, either wholly or partly, to increasing frailty and failing health. Most accidents in older people are falls.

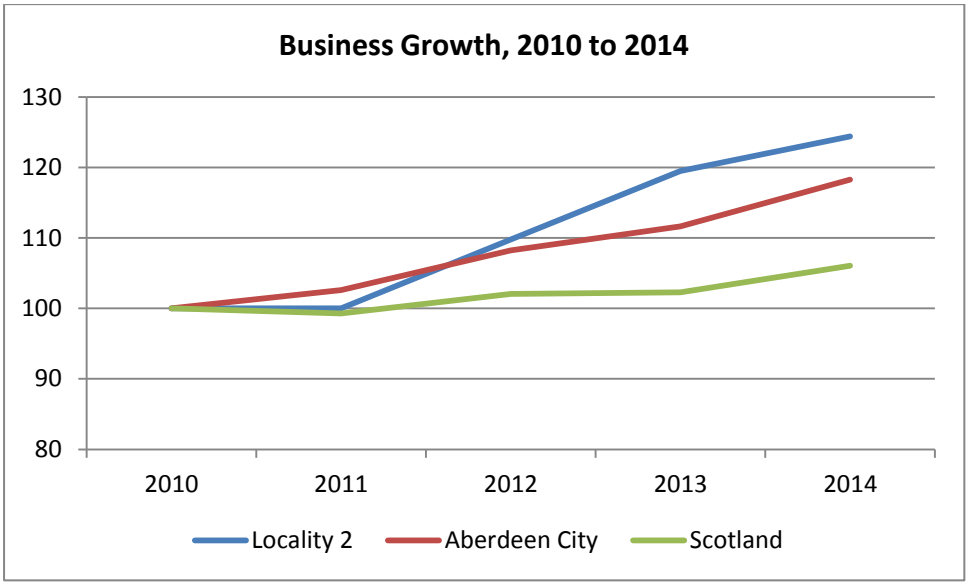
# PLACE

## BUSINESS

Locality 2 is home to two industrial estates, Northfield and Mastrick. These industrial estates house a variety of businesses, ranging from motor factors to electrical contractions, office suppiers and third sector organisations.

In Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Middlefield neighbourhoods, there is very little in the way of employment opportunities. For example, in Middlefield, aside from Manor Park Primary School, the largest employer is Middlefield Community Project.

The latest count of businesses in the area indicates that the numbers continue to rise, and around 40- to 45% of all business in Locality 2 are either in the 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities' or 'Wholesale, Retail and Repairs' industry.




It must be noted however that these statistics relate to the period preceding the downturn in the local economy, and a slowdown in growth rates is certainly expected as more recent statistics become available.

There are some large scale developments planned for the area that are likely to impact on the local economy to some degree.

Work is ongoing to build a new community hub in the Middlefield area of Aberdeen. The new hub will provide purpose-built accomodation for community groups and charities, and the hub will be a central point where people can access a variety of services, healthcare and advice.

A major road infrastructure project is underway in the area. The Haudagain roundabout is a major road junction and is currently operating significantly over-

capacity. The aim of the Haudagain Improvement project is to reduce congestion, and therefore reduce and improve journey times. The project will mean the demolition of some residential properties, and Aberdeen City Council are currently working to relocate those directly affected.

Locality 2 is a thriving, largely residential area, that has a variety of retail and food outlets, licensed premises, financial facilities and convenience stores. In fairly close proximity, there are two Tesco Supermarkets (Rousay Drive and Laurel Drive, Bridge of Don), Asda in Dyce, a Spar supermarket in Byron Square, Lidls in Mastrick and Morrisons in King Street. Most people travel outside of the locality area to do their main grocery shopping.

Derelict retail and commercial premises in Logie Place in Middlefield has been a long-standing issue. Poorly maintained property can, and does, act as an attractor for antisocial behaviour and criminality, and Logie Place has in the past been an area popular for large groups of youths to congregate. Anecdotally, it has also been identified that this is a popular hang-out for drug users, and the area is, on occasion, littered with discarded drugs paraphernalia.

In the 2015 consultation and engagement exercise with residents in Middlefield, it was identified that there is a need fo rmore shops in the area, and that community facilities and activities for the community require improvement.

### HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLDS

Housing is far more than bricks and mortar. Housing that is adequate is important for good health and wellbeing. Poor quality housing can lead to increased health risks and can exacerbate many existing health conditions.

Locality 2 is a large residential area that is popular with young families. Terraced properties or semi-detached dwellings are most prominent in all neighbourhoods, with the exception of Middlefield, which is dominated by flatted properties.

Over 40% of housing in Locality 2 is rented accommodation, with the most common landlord being the local authority. In particular, three-quarters of households in Middlefield neighbourhood are rented from the local authority, while in Cummings Park almost half of all households are owned by Aberdeen City Council.

Most housing in the area is, generally, low cost housing, and, in general and similar to the city as a whole, property is in high demand with very few vacant properties. This however hasn't always been the case, and some parts of the locality have historically been blighted by high rates of void properties.

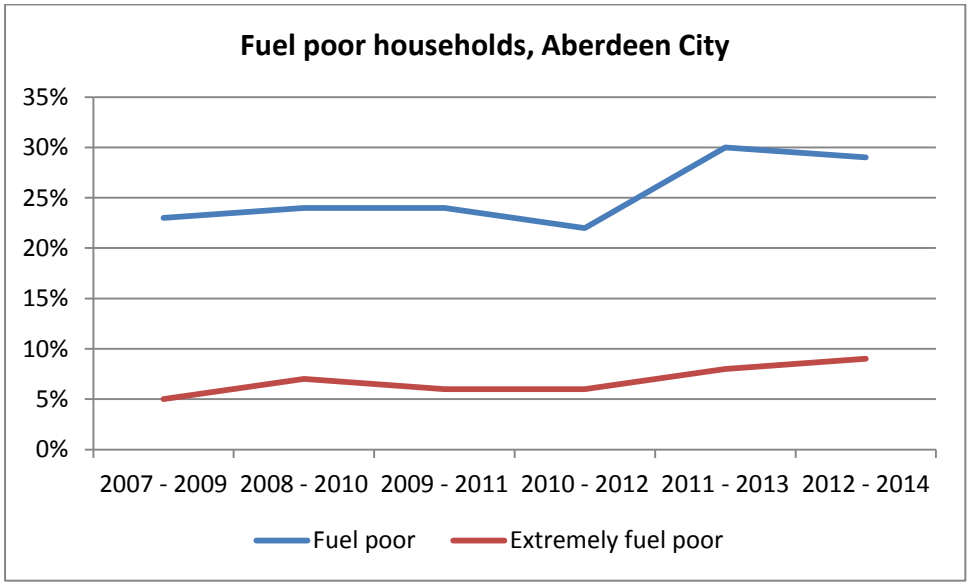
There has been a general feeling in the area that the neighbourhoods within the locality have been used as a "dumping ground" for "problem tenants", although this feeling is rather widespread across most of the traditional 'regeneration areas'. There is a feeling that continuing to place tenants who cause antisocial behaviour

and disorder enhances the negative perception of the locality and exacerbate problems that are already there.

### Fuel poverty

Households are considered to be fuel poor if they would have to spend more than 10% of their household income on domestic fuels, or extremely fuel poor if domestic fuels account for more than 20% of their household income.

In 2012 – 2014 29% of households in Aberdeen City were fuel poor, including 9% of households that were living in extreme fuel poverty.




Clearly, the trend is upwards in the city in relation to fuel poverty, and it is likely that this trend is reflected in Locality 2.

Data available relating to 2010 – 2012 indicates that, at that time, between 20- and 30% of households in Cummings Park, Mastrick and Heathryfold and Middlefield were living in fuel poverty, while fuel poverty was less of an issue in the Northfield neighbourhood.

As a result of the current pressures on the jobs market in Aberdeen however, it is possible that fuel poverty in the city will rise as incomes reduce, however the lower oil price may help to counteract any such increase.

### Community Safety

Crime and antisocial behavious has a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of the local residents, and can make people feel unsafe in their home and in their neighbourhood.

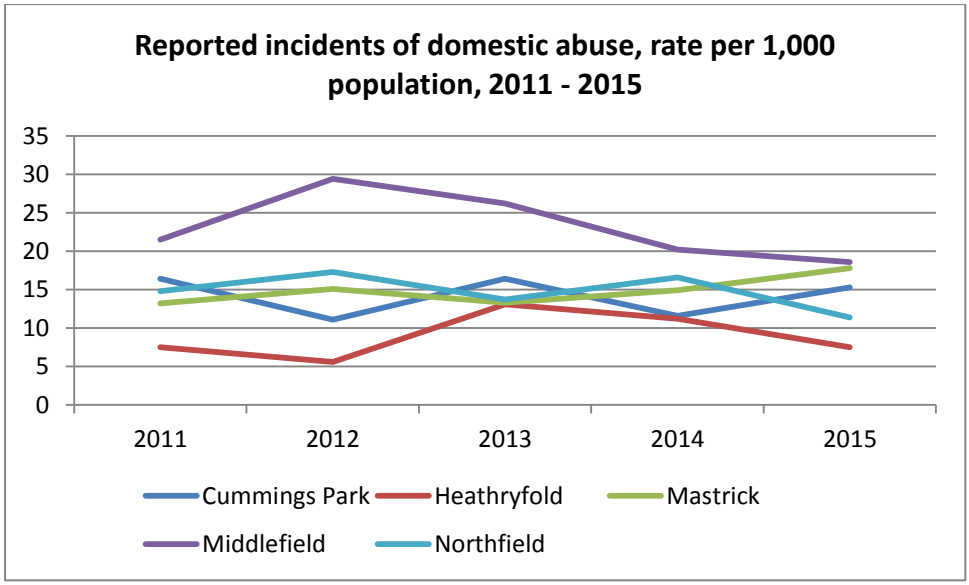
The neighbourhoods within locality 2 have historically had relatively minor issues with typically low-level crime and antisocial behaviour.  Analysis has revealed that

some of these are perceived acts of antisocial behavious, such as some alleged youth annoyance issues, rather than actual acts of disorder.

One issue that is repeatedly highlighted, both in terms of complaints to police, analysis of social media and from public consultation exercises, is the issue of motorcycle annoyance in the area. Typically, this is a seasonal issue that tends to be more prevalent in the late afternoon / early evenings of the Spring and Summer months.

There is a requirement to increase peoples confidence and feeling of safety in the area.

In most neighbourhoods in locality 2, the rate of domestic abuse incidents has reduced, but in Mastrick there has been an increase over the past five years. It is very difficult to ascertain accurate statistics on the level of domestic abuse, given the very wide and often hidden nature of such unacceptable behaviour. While any increase may indeed by a true increase, it is also possible that as a result of increased confidence in public service and high profile campaigns, people are more inclined to report being the victim of domestic abuse.




It is known, from worldwide, national and local research, that there is a strong association between the excessive consumption of alcohol and domestic abuse. Much academic research has pointed to economic difficulties resulting in an increase in domestic violence, and this should certainly be monitored.

### WASTE & RECYCLING

Significant funding of £48,184.63 has been obtained from Zero Waste Scotland over the last couple of years for a project called TIF (Tenement Infrastructure Fund). The project focuses on improving access for the residents in tenements to communal recycling and food waste facilities consequently helping to improve recycling rates

and cleanliness of the Mastrick neighbourhood. The funding paid for the stanchions and associated road works with the Housing department kindly providing £32,740 to pay for the new communal bins. We selected 4 priority streets from resident's wishes, feedback from crews and waste officers surveying the whole area of Mastrick.

In addition to new communal mixed recycling and food waste containers being installed, the individual 240l black bins were removed from tenement blocks and in their place; 1280l communal waste bins were provided. The recycling rate is particularly low at 10% in Mastrick and through providing improved infrastructure for recycling facilities, this will increase access to recycling ensuring residents can recycle more materials.

This project was in response to calls from householders to change the service to enable them to recycle more, to prevent waste bins from overflowing and keep streets clear of litter. The new bins are being well-used with minimal levels of contamination. There is still some fly-tipping in the area, but generally much tidier and cleaner plus there has been good feedback from residents about the changes to the service.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to get recycling rates for other areas of the city. For the purposes of the TIF campaign, a bin lorry was specifically tasked to the Mastrick area to ascertain demand, but the other areas of the locality are part of larger routes across the city and therefore recycling statistics cannot be disaggregated. However, it is reasonable to assume that the other neighbourhoods would, most likely, perform just as poorly in terms of recycling rates as Mastrick.

### TRANSPORT

Around a fifth of residents in Locality 2 travel to their place or work or study by means of public transport (bus, taxi etc), 5 percentage points more than in Aberdeen, where 15% of the population use public transport to attend their place of work or study.

In Aberdeen, more than 27% of people travel to their place of work or study by either foot or by bicycle, but in locality 2, the proportion is considerably less, with only around 21% of residents using such means.

Most people who live in the locality work or study within 5km of their home address. Making active travel choices, such as walking or cycling, can be an effective way to fit activity into daily life, and therefore more people in the locality should be encouraged to commute actively.

Locality 2 is serviced by a number of public bus routes, and there are regular services into the city centre. The duration of the journey depends on the time of travel, but generally, residents can be in the city centre within around 20 to 35

minutes. There is also regular transport from the locality to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

In addition to the availability, accessibility and frequency of public transport, the cost of bus travel in the city is often raised as being prohibitive and may add to social exclusion. A one way ticket between Northfield and the City Centre costs around £2.25, while to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary the cost is around £1.75 one way. Although this may not seem a lot, for the low income families within the area, this cost may significantly limit the opportunities available.

A reliable, accessible and affordable public transport network promotes social inclusion by connecting people to jobs, cultural and leisure activities, education and healthcare. Expensive public transport can, and does, restrict the opportunities available to individuals, and makes public services more inaccessible to those who need them most.

Almost four in every ten households in the locality do not have access to a private car or van, and therefore there is a need to ensure that the local public transport network is accessible to all to ensure equality of opportunity.

Co-wheels Car Club is a Social Enterprise, which works to provide accessible and affordable car use for communities in the UK. The Co-wheel Car Club was launched in Aberdeen City in April 2012, and the number of cars and locations in the city continues to grow. In the future, it is planned that a Co-wheels point will be sited at the Henry Rae Community Centre in Manor Avenue.

### Natural Environment

Good quality, accessible open spaces provide opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy their environment. Well designed and well managed areas can be used for play, recreation, to enhance community cohesion and can help ensure that local areas are viewed in a positive way.

The amount of green infrastructure, green space and / or open space is plentiful in the Locality, but poorly maintained areas discourage people from using such spaces. There are large areas of open space, and many households benefit from relatively large garden areas. While this provides many opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors, poorly maintained gardens can have a negative impact on the area.

Most people visit green space that is within close proximity to their home, and having green space that is within a 5-10 minute walk from home increases the possiblity that people, including children and older people, will use it.

During the ‘Shaping Middlefield’ event – a £36 million regeneration project that devolved decision-making to the local community and residents – the poor cleanliness of the streets and open areas was raised repeatedly, with most

complaints in this araea concerning littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling being issues that blight the area.

Local residents can be encouraged to play an active roll in maintaining their local open spaces, and early engagement means that any activity in the area is tailored to local needs and that residents have a sense of ownership.

An area of ground at Manor Park has been identified for regeneration into a 'pocket park'. A 'pocket park' is a small area of inviting space where people can enjoy nature. Pupils from Manor Park Primary School have helped create a 'bug hotel' which will encourage local wildlife and can be used by children and adults alike to learn about wildlife. Bug, or insect, hotels provide shelter and helps to create the right habitat that can help increase the number of beneficial insects in our environment.

FLOODING

"The impacts of flooding experienced by individuals, communities and businesses can be devastating and long lasting."[xii] The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan is led by Aberdeenshire Council on behalf of a partnership comprising three local authorities: Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council and The Moray Council together with SEPA and other Responsible Authorities. In the North East, there are 23 areas that have been designated as Potentially Vulnerable Areas (areas that are potentially vulnerable to flood risk), and three of these areas are either wholly or predominantly within the City Council's boundaries.

The average annual cost of flood damages, largely caused by river flooding, in the North East of Scotland is around £29 million, and Aberdeen City is one area in the district that is particularly susceptible to flooding. Estimated annual average flood damages in the City are £15 million, with around 11,000 properties (residential and non-residential) in the City at risk of flooding.

PVA 06/15, Aberdeen City – Bridge of Don[xiii], covers the northern areas of the city, and includes four of the five neighbourhoods within Locality 2; Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield and Middlefield. It is estimated that, within Potentially Vulnerable Area 06/15, 2,200 residential properties and 470 non-residential properties are at risk of flooding, with average annual damages of £4.5 million, mainly as a result of river flooding.

The four neighbourhoods that are included in the PVA are largely residential areas; however there are a considerable number of non-residential properties, community facilities and utilities assets that are also at risk of flooding. A number of schools, healthcare facilities and emergency services sites are at risk, and transport links could potentially be significantly affected.

Everyone is responsible for protecting themselves and their property from flooding, and occupiers can take simple steps to reduce damage and disruption. Aberdeen

City Council can, in some circumstances, provide grants towards the fitting of flood guards on properties.

It is the responsibility of householders and business owners to ensure that they are adequately insured against flooding.

Responding to incidents of flooding is the responsibility of many organisations, including the local authority, emergency services and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). The Scottish Flood Forum is working with the Scottish Government and the National Centre for Resilience to develop a flooding resilience framework toolkit, which will support local authority staff and others to engage with communities before, during and after a flood event.

### Community Engagement, Participation and Perceptions

Over the years, Community Planning Aberdeen have engaged with the community in an effort to identify issues affecting the local community and measure community capacity in order to improve outcomes for the local community.

There is a very strong sense of community spirit amongst residents in the locality, with people citing the friendliness of neighbours and the sense of belonging as major attractions to the area. The locality however still suffers from negative perceptions from further afield and more needs to be done to positively promote the area and dispel any negativity.

Many young people feel that, due to the poor performance of both academies associated with the area, the negative perceptions of the area impacts on their ability to do well.

Analysis of the many public engagement events that have been held in the locality over the years implies that the local community do not have much faith or trust in public services, particularly the local authority, and the general perception is that people in the locality receive lower standards of service than residents in other parts of the city.

## THE FUTURE

Public services in Scotland are facing significant budgetary challenges over coming years, and this, combined with legaslative requirements, means that there needs to be greater focus on preventative service delivery rather than continuing to intervene in a crisis situation. It is imperative therefore that partners work together to tackle issues and to improve outcomes for those in our poorest communities.

On the 23rd June 2016, people in the U.K. voted to leave the European Union. At the time of writing it is still unclear as to how or when this will progress. The long term economic impact of exiting the EU on the UK is unclear, but there has been some volatility in the short-term, primarily due to uncertainty.

Economists predict that the impact of 'Brexit' on the Scottish economy will be significant, due to the importance of the EU for Scottish exports and EU assistance programmes.

There has also been much talk in recent weeks of a second referendum on Scottish independence. The political landscape for all remains unclear.

Aberdeen is home to a very diverse population, and the city has been a destination of choice for a sizeable proportion of EU migrants over the past decade. While the government have sought to reassure EU citizens that there is no immediate need to leave the UK, their future remains uncertain. As highlighted above, locality 2 is a very diverse community, and has been shaped in recent years by the arrival of EU citizens to the area, so there may be a heightened sense of uncertainty and unrest in the community.

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[i] Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland: 2014/15
[ii] http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/06/3468/downloads
[iii] The number of adults and their dependants in receipt of Income Support, ESA, JSA, Pension Credits and Child and Working Tax Credit. SIMD 2012, http://simd.scotland.gov.uk/publication-2012/download-simd-2012-data/
[iv] Pupil Census 2015
[v] As at February 2016
[vi] Pupil Census 2015
[vii] As at February 2016
[viii] Milltimber, Cults and Culter Primary Schools
[ix] Data is either incomplete or suppressed for Cummings Park intermediate zone as rate not given for each year
[x] www.statistics.gov.scot, Qualifications of working age adults

[xi] N=1,244
[xii] http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17174/north-east-local-flood-risk-management-plan-2016-2022-web-version.pdf
[xiii] http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/pdf/lpd/LPD_06_Full.pdf