



Aberdeen City

Strategic Assessment 2016



Community Planning
in Aberdeen

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INTRODUCTION

This Strategic Assessment has been produced on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen. With a continuum of fiscal austerity, coupled with a review and change at national and local level, it is hoped that this document will provide a robust evidence base on which to base the refreshed Single Outcome Agreement.

The Strategic Assessment looks at past and current trends across a wide range of community planning themes. It also considers emerging issues and areas of concern for Aberdeen City. The overall aim of the Strategic Assessment is to identify, assess and thereafter allow the Community Planning Partnership to undertake evidence-based prioritisation and planning for the forthcoming years.

In 2011, the Christie Commission outlined recommendations for the future delivery of public services in Scotland. The commission recognised that a significant proportion of public services spending could be saved if resources were shifted upstream. A shift to more preventative work could, and should, eradicate duplication and waste, reduce the demand placed on public services in the long term, and reduce inequalities.

The Commission also recommended that greater integration of public services is required. Partnership working is already well established in Aberdeen City through a number of thematic and multi-lateral groups, but more needs to be done to join up the working of the various groups.

Services must be designed with and for the people and communities that we serve. It makes sense to put services where they are needed most and where people have the most difficulty accessing those services.

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

In order to capture the wide range of information that falls within the remit of Community Planning Aberdeen, a decision was taken to broadly categorise information into the five National Objectives; Wealthier & Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer & Stronger, and Greener. During the data gathering process, inequalities emerged as a core theme throughout.

A data group, with representation from all partner agencies, was established and data sources identified. It was agreed that where possible, and to assist with locality planning, data would be gathered at an intermediate zone level. Where this was not possible, the lowest level of data was gathered, which was usually city-wide.

Each chapter of the Strategic Assessment gives an overview, looks at the current trends and scopes potential issues that are likely to have an impact on future service delivery.

Recommendations have not been included in the document, as it is the intent that Community Planning Partners will consider the evidence presented in the Strategic Assessment and thereafter action plans will be produced that will set out how the partnership will address identified priorities.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

On 16th March 2016, a development day was held at Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen, to which all Community Planning Partners and other stakeholders were invited.

The day was used to present findings from the Strategic Assessment and to identify priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen for the forthcoming years. The workshop was facilitated by colleagues from the Improvement Service.

The overall focus of the Community Planning Partnership must be to tackle inequalities and reduce poverty.

THANKS

Many thanks to all partners who supplied data and other information required in order to make this document as comprehensive and robust as possible.

Acknowledgements to all members of the Data Gathering Group for their data gathering, analysis, advice and feedback throughout this process.

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UNDERSTANDING ABERDEEN

Aberdeen City has undergone unprecedented changes over the past decade in demography, landscape and economy. These changes have presented challenges and opportunities for our communities and for the public services that operate within and deliver services to these communities.

Nicknamed 'The Granite City' Aberdeen found fame for its locally quarried granite stone, but latterly industry in the city has been dominated by the oil and gas sector. The rapid development in the city has resulted in considerable pressure on infrastructure in the city, and in some areas infrastructure has failed to keep pace.

Aberdeen International Airport is the gateway to Europe's energy capital, and is the world's busiest commercial heliport, predominantly servicing the North Sea oil and gas industry.

The City hosts Offshore Europe every two years, Europe's leading oil and gas exploration and production exhibition and conference. The next Offshore Europe event will be held from 5th to 8th September 2017. Despite the drop in oil prices and the downturn in the local economy, the 2015 event attracted the second largest number of attendees.

Energetica is a world class development corridor stretching for over 30 miles between Aberdeen and Peterhead. The development offers investment and growth opportunities to energy, engineering and technology organisations, and aims to make the North East of Scotland the location of choice for inward investment.

Aberdeen City is home to two Universities, The University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University and between them and North East Scotland College contribute hundreds of millions to the local economy each year and provide students and local communities with some of the best facilities in the UK.

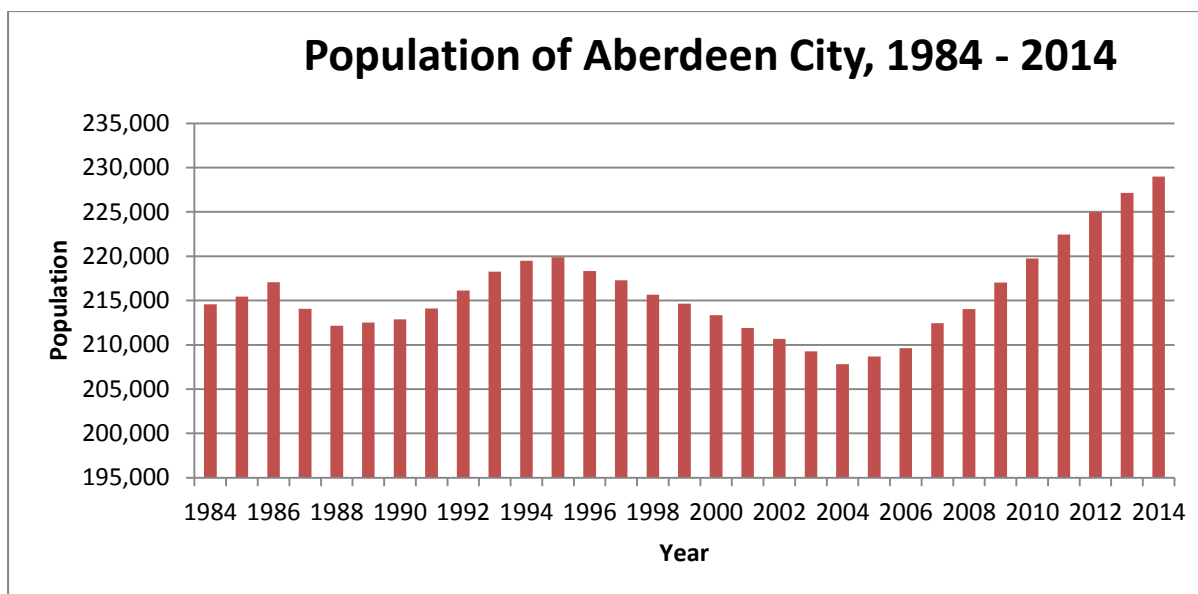
The 2014 Good Growth for Cities index, by PriceWaterhouseCooper, named Aberdeen as the best city in Scotland in which to live and work, and the second top city in the UK.

DEMOGRAPHY

Demographic changes include a population that is living longer, low birth rates, changing family structures and high levels of inward migration.

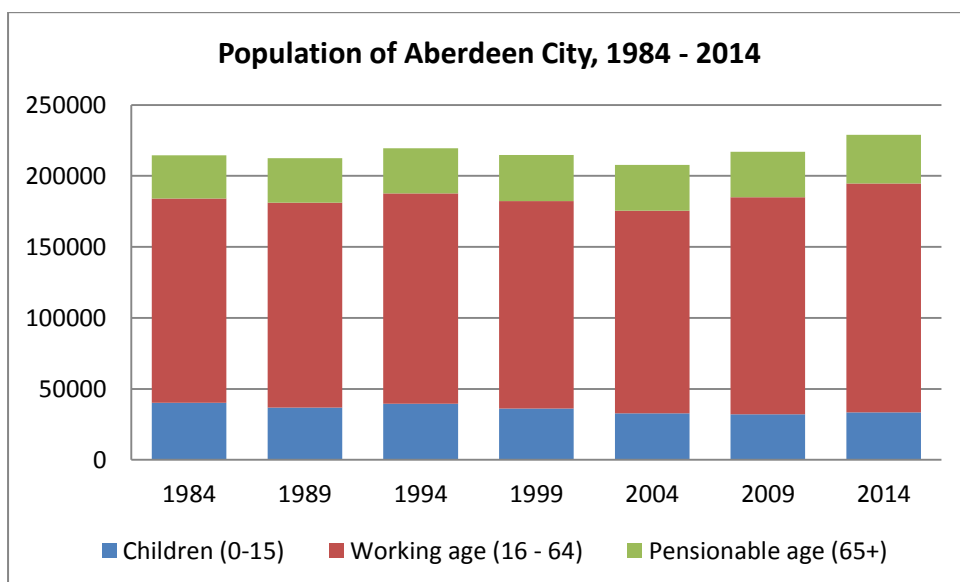
On the 30th June 2014, the estimated population of Aberdeen City was 228,990. This accounts for almost 4.3% of the total population of Scotland, and is the eighth highest population total in the country, out of the 32 Scottish Local Authorities.

Over the longer period, the population of the city has fluctuated, however for the past decade there has been a consistent annual increase, and the population of the city is now at its highest level.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-year population estimates: Scotland and its Council areas by single year of age and sex: 1984

As well as the increase in the population, there has been a shift in the make-up of the city's population. In 1984, 18.7% of the population of Aberdeen City was aged under 16; in 2014, that proportion has fallen to 14.7%. Conversely, the working age population of the city has grown during that time, and now makes up 70.4% of the city's total population – up from 67.1% in 1984.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-year population estimates: Scotland and its Council areas by single year of age and sex: 1984

Over the past five years, population growth has been greatest in Kingswells / Sheddocksley ward, followed by Airyhall / Broomhill / Garthdee and Tillydrone / Seaton / Old Aberdeen wards with population decline evident in Lower Deeside.

Population change has also been uneven at ward level over the past five years. For example, the over 65s population in Bridge of Don has risen by a quarter, yet the child and working age populations have reduced. It's a similar situation in Lower Deeside, yet in Hilton / Stockethill, the older population has declined while the number of children and those of working age has increased.

A relatively high proportion of Aberdeen's population is in their twenties and early thirties, and this clearly illustrates the attractiveness of the city to students and young professionals.

Age Group	Aberdeen		Scotland
	Population	% of Total	% of Total
0 – 4	12,359	5.40%	5.46%
5 – 15	21,207	9.26%	11.58%
16 – 19	10,348	4.52%	4.72%
20 – 24	23,640	10.32%	6.87%
25 – 29	23,434	10.23%	6.66%
30 – 34	19,545	8.54%	6.42%
35 – 39	15,012	6.56%	5.89%
40 - 44	14,410	6.29%	6.75%
45 – 49	14,784	6.46%	7.55%
50 – 54	14,862	6.49%	7.45%
55 - 59	13,562	5.92%	6.63%
60 – 64	11,566	5.05%	5.91%
65 – 74	18,100	7.90%	10.01%
75 - 84	11,645	5.09%	5.96%
85 +	4,516	1.97%	2.14%
Total	228,990	100%	100%

Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Estimates, 2014

Conversely, Aberdeen City has a lower proportion of school age children and people aged 45 and older. This is likely indicative of families moving out with the city boundaries to seek larger housing within family-friendly new housing estates.

Data relating to the LGBT community in Scotland is extremely limited; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender people are not easily identified in routinely available information, but government estimates put the number of LGBT people in Britain at about 6 – 7% of the total population. On that basis, it can be estimated that between 13,700 and 16,100 people in Aberdeen identify as LGBT, though perhaps not openly.

ETHNICITY

Aberdeen City has a very diverse population, and this is clearly evidenced in the results of the 2011 Census.

84% of Scotland's population, at that time, identified as 'White – Scottish'; in Aberdeen, only three quarters (7.3%) of the population identified similarly, while 8.1% of the city's population identified as either 'White – Polish' or 'White – Other' and a further 8.1% of the population of Aberdeen was from a non-white ethnic group.

The high proportion of people identifying as 'White – Polish' or 'White – Other' reflects the high number of A8 migrants that have been attracted to the city in recent years.

15.9% of Aberdeen's population were not born in the UK; across the country, only 7% of the population were born out with the UK.

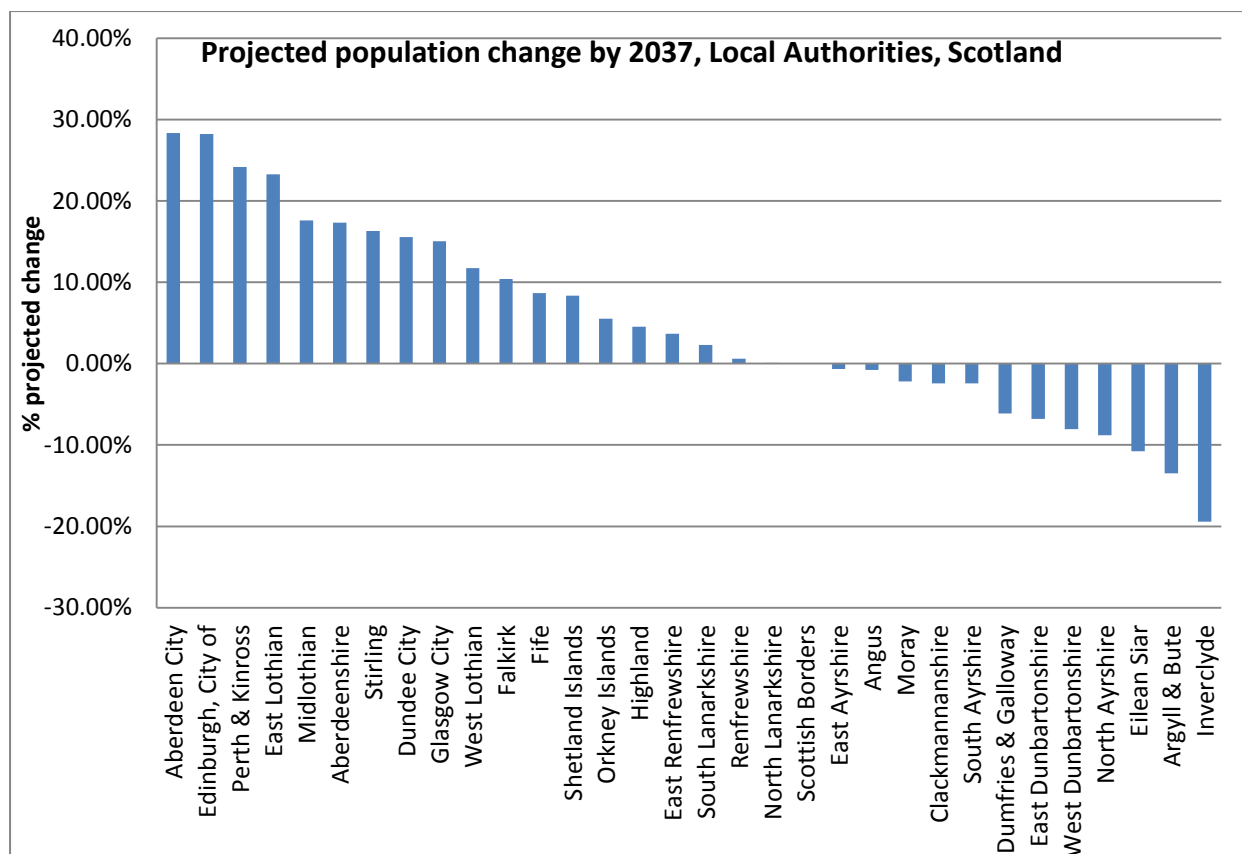
The census results highlight that Aberdeen attracts a high number of people from African countries, and Aberdeen has the largest Nigerian community in Scotland. One in three people from Nigeria that are living in Scotland reside in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen City proudly boasts a very diverse population. The multi-cultural population makes the city a very prosperous, cosmopolitan and attractive place to live, work and visit.

THE FUTURE POPULATION OF ABERDEEN

Every two years National Records of Scotland produce a set of council area population projections. The latest projections at this level are 2012-based and show that the population of Aberdeen City is projected to grow from 224,970 in 2012 to 288,788 in 2037 – an increase of 28%.

Aberdeen's population change is projected to be the largest of all Scottish local authorities, and is closely followed by Edinburgh City.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Projections, 2012-based

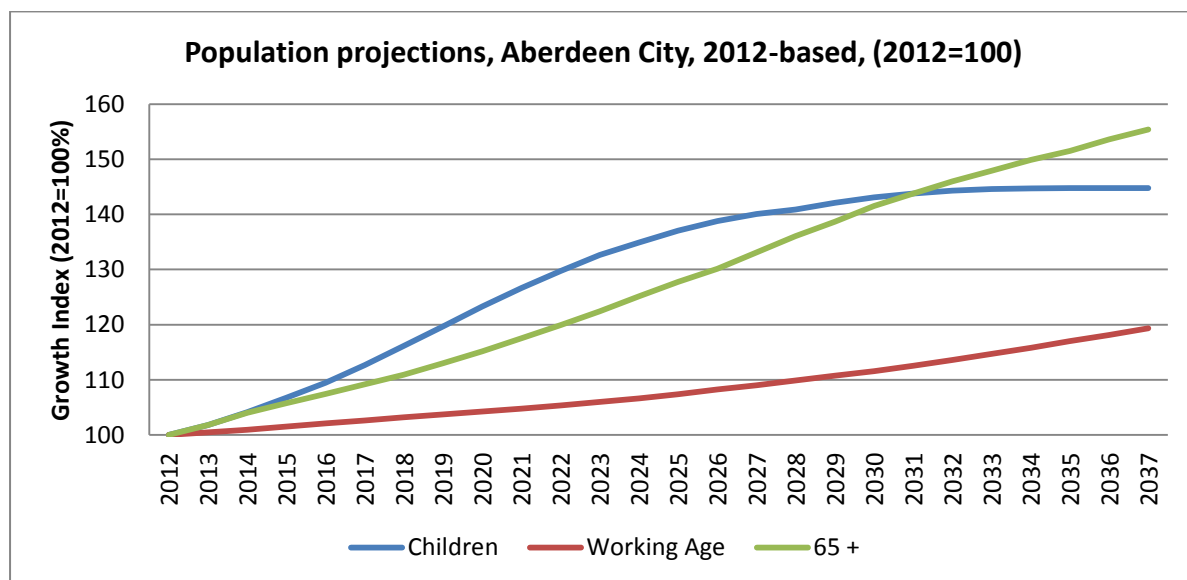
There is projected to be a significant rise in the older age groups, with the over 65s population increasing by almost 56%. Even more concerning is the projection that the over 75s population is projected to grow by around 70%.

It is widely acknowledged that older people are getting 'younger' –many live healthier for longer and improvements in healthcare mean that many will live independently for longer. Older people are assets and contribute significantly to society, but with a rising population of older people, it is almost inevitable that there will be considerable additional demand on high-cost services, such as health and social care. Not all older people need support from health and social care services, but as people age, they are more likely to have multiple and complex care needs.

In addition to the rising ageing population, it is projected that the child population is projected to increase by around 45%; this comes after a 30 year period where the child population has been in decline in the City. The anticipated increase in the child population is explored further in the Smarter section.

Age group	Aberdeen			Scotland
	2012	2037	% Change	% Change
0 – 4	12,189	14,666	20.32%	-0.89%
5 – 15	20,714	32,974	59.19%	8.55%
16 – 19	10,853	13,564	24.98%	-2.46%
20 – 24	24,028	21,930	-8.73%	-9.45%
25 – 34	39,887	42,376	6.24%	0.56%
35 – 44	29,372	38,834	32.21%	0.12%
45 – 54	29,786	44,168	48.28%	-8.04%
55 – 64	24,975	28,745	15.10%	-4.57%
65 – 74	17,152	24,204	41.11%	36.89%
75 +	16,014	27,327	70.64%	86.09%

Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Projections, 2012-based



Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Projections, 2012-based

It should be noted however that these projections (the principal projections) are based on historical trends and as such take into account periods of high inward migration to Aberdeen, and indeed Scotland, as well as other factors such as life expectancy and fertility. There are seven variant projections available (zero migration, low migration, high migration, low fertility and high fertility, and low and high life expectancy as well as the principal projection). Even if we look at the zero migration variant, there will be a relatively modest increase in the city's population in the short to medium term, although long terms the size of the population will remain fairly static.

HOUSEHOLDS

The number of households in Aberdeen has been rising steadily and the number has risen by around 7% over the past decade. The latest (2014) estimates show that there are 105,287 households within the City, and 113,508 dwellings.

The majority of dwellings in the city, similar to other Scottish cities, are flatted properties.

	Flats	Terraced	Semi-detached	Detached	Unknown
Aberdeen City	55%	18%	17%	11%	0%
Dundee City	52%	18%	19%	11%	0%
City of Edinburgh	68%	12%	10%	10%	0%
Glasgow City	73%	12%	11%	4%	0%
Scotland	38%	21%	20%	21%	1%

3.3% of dwellings in the city were, in 2014, classified as being vacant, slightly higher than the overall Scottish average of 2.9%. 1.1% of dwellings in Aberdeen were classed as being second homes, in line with the Scottish figure.

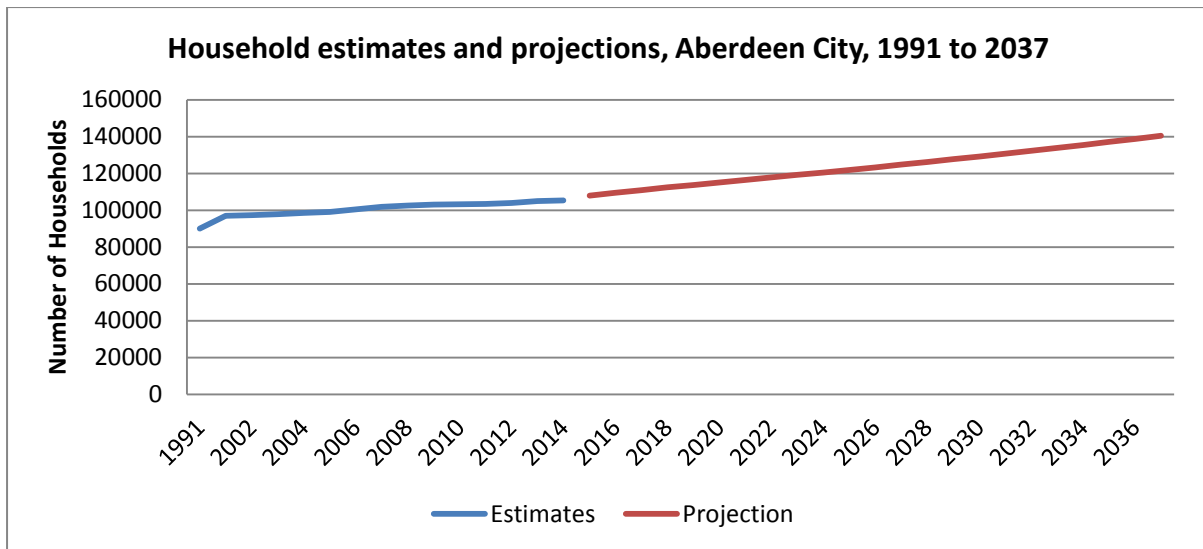
Source: National Records of Scotland, Household Estimates 2014

Almost 38% of dwellings in the city are eligible and claiming single adult discount for council tax, the lowest of the four major Scottish cities.

In Scotland, and in Aberdeen, single adult households account for almost a fifth the total households, although the largest household type in Aberdeen, according to the 2014 Scottish Household Survey, was small adult households.

HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS

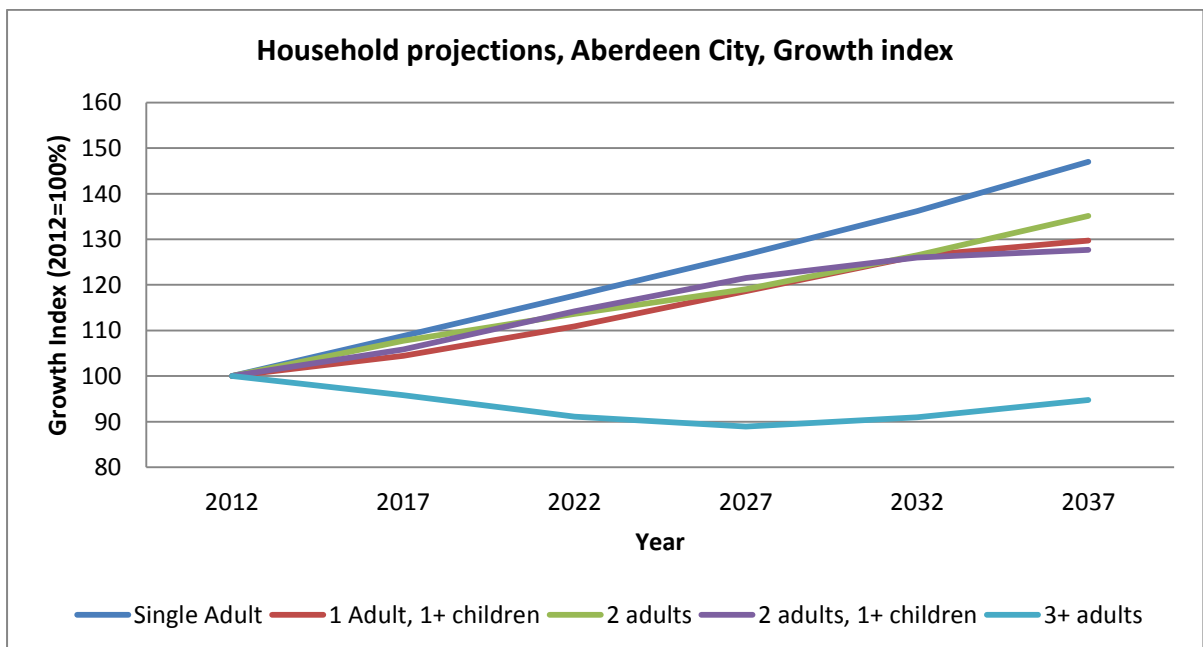
In addition to the population projections, National Records of Scotland also produce household projections bi-annually.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Household Estimates & Household Projections

Single adult households are the most common type of household in the city, and account for around 40% of total households. This compares to a 17% projected increase in Scotland as a whole over the same time period.

Lone adult households in Scotland are projected to increase by 35% by 2037, but in Aberdeen that projected increase is even higher – 47%.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Household Projections, 2012-based

It is projected that the number of households headed by someone aged 75 or older in Aberdeen will increase by 65% by 2037, and a 25% increase is projected in the number of households headed by someone aged 60 to 74.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

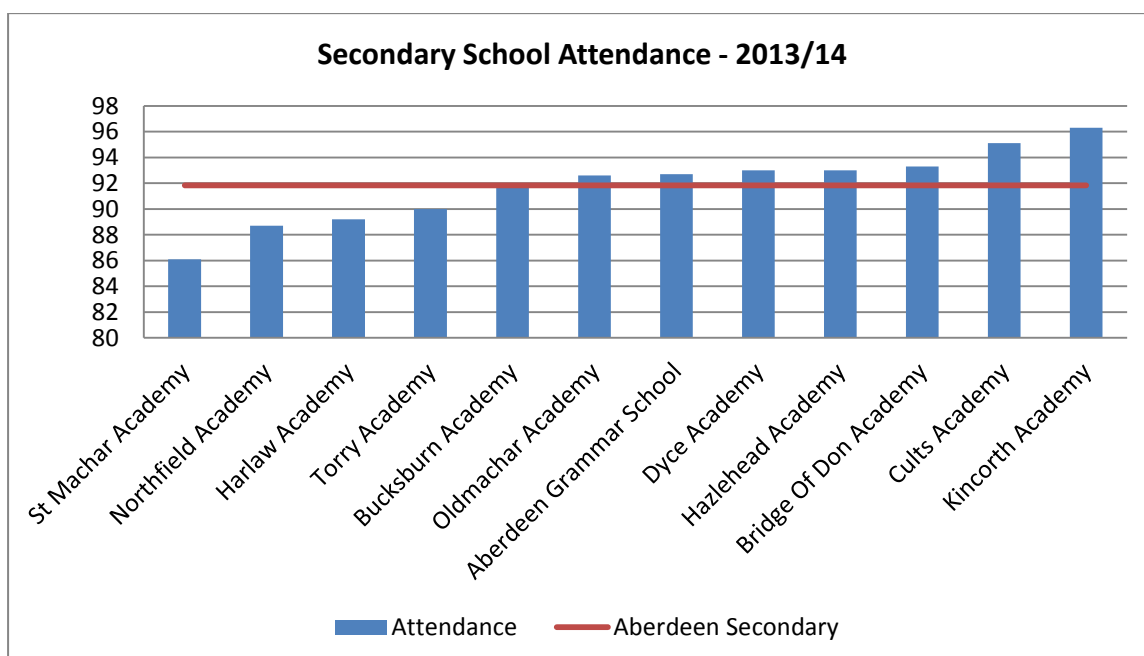
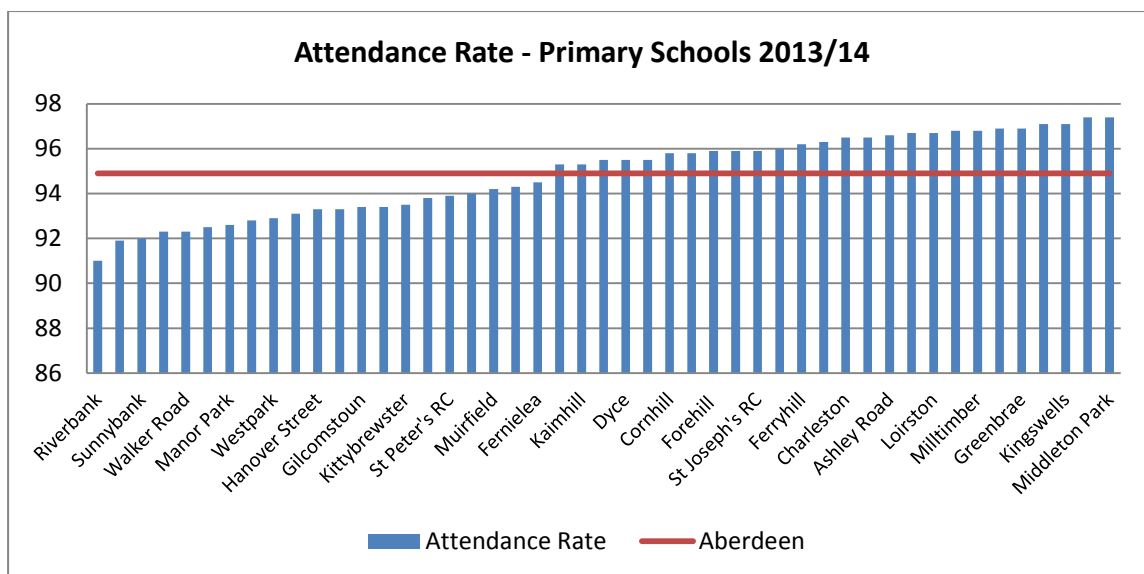
WEALTHIER & FAIRER

- In 2008, Aberdeen City and Shire provided around 13.5% of Scotland's' total Gross Value Added (GVA). By 2014, that had risen to almost 15%.
- Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire is the most economically productive region in the UK, outside Inner London.
- The price of crude oil has fallen significantly over the past 18 months or so. In June 2014, the crude oil price was \$115 a barrel, but this has now fallen to less than \$35 a barrel.
- Aberdeen City is heavily reliant on the oil and gas sector, and as such the oil slump has hit the city hard.
- The downturn in the oil and gas industry has a wider impact. Hotel occupancy and revenue has fallen since the start of the downturn, and passenger numbers at Aberdeen International Airport have also fallen in recent times.
- Aberdeen City has historically had one of the lowest unemployment rates in Scotland, but the number of out-of-work benefit claimants has risen sharply over recent months, and in November 2015 was 58% higher than in November 2014. It is concerning that the number of claimants in the City and Shire is rising, despite continuing to fall across other major cities in Scotland.
- The average annual gross wage in the city is around £5,700 more than the Scottish average (£33,408 in Aberdeen City, £27,710 in Scotland).
- Aberdeen City has one of the most unequal pay structures in the UK, fuelled predominantly by the oil and gas industry. The high wages paid in the industry have increased the divide between high and low earners.
- There is a significant gender pay imbalance in Aberdeen City, with male full-time workers earning, on average, around 18% more per hour than female full-time workers.
- There is a shortage of affordable housing in the City. House prices are high, and private rents in the City are the highest of all major Scottish cities. But there are signs that the property market is now feeling the effects of the economic downturn, with a drop in private rents and properties remaining on the market for longer.
- The lack of affordable housing makes the recruitment and retention of key workers, such as teachers, social workers, emergency services and health professionals, difficult.
- There has been significant investment in communications infrastructure over the years, but there are still areas of the city that struggle with coverage and slower speeds.
- Aberdeen City is still in a much better, and stronger, position than many other UK cities, but there is an increasing urgent need to diversify the local economy to increase resilience from oil price shocks.

- The success of the city has meant that infrastructure development has failed to keep pace, and this has resulted in a high cost of doing business in, and from the city. To ensure the city is well-placed to attract inward investment, it is critical that the infrastructure is in place to reduce these costs.

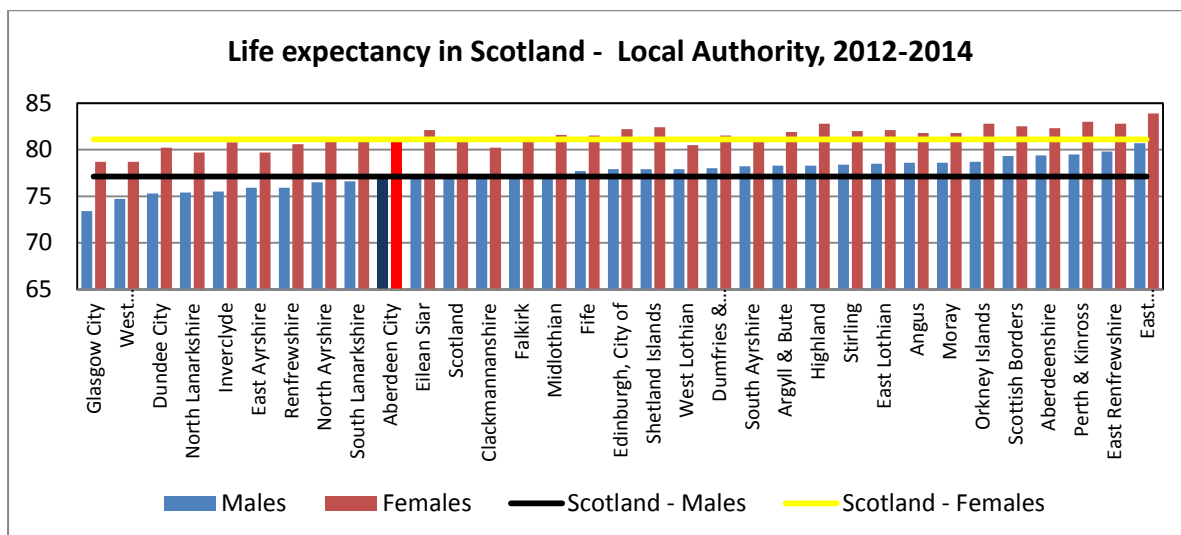
SMARTER

- Almost 1 in 5 children in the city live in poverty – that's over 6,000 children living in poverty after housing costs are taken into consideration. Child poverty is most concentrated in the George Street / Harbour area, where one in three children live in poverty (after housing costs).
- The largest number of children living in poverty reside in the Northfield / Mastrick North ward, followed by Tillydrone / Seaton / Old Aberdeen, then Torry / Ferryhill wards.
- There is a shortage of early learning and childcare places in the City. In 2014/15, almost a quarter of eligible ante pre-school and 10% of eligible pre-school children were not allocated a place.
- Children from more disadvantaged backgrounds start school further behind than their peers, and the gap widens throughout the primary school years.
- Children from less disadvantaged backgrounds generally do better at secondary school than their less well-off peers.
- There is a strong link between deprivation and educational attainment.
- The school roll is projected to grow considerably over the next 6 years – an increase of around 18% in the secondary school roll is projected. However, this forecast is based on historical trends, and given the current economic downturn in the region, the forecast may be revised.
- Young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to end up in a 'negative destination', though this trend is reducing.
- Children from low income families tend to leave school at an earlier age and with fewer qualifications. Adults with poor qualifications are less likely to be high income earners.
- Educational attainment is better among children that attend schools with lower levels of deprivation. Cults Academy, Oldmachar Academy and Aberdeen Grammar are the schools with the highest proportion of students achieving 5 or more awards at level 4. Northfield Academy, Torry Academy and St Machar Academy had the lowest proportion of students achieving that level.
- Attendance rates are lower at schools where there is a higher proportion of children from deprived areas.

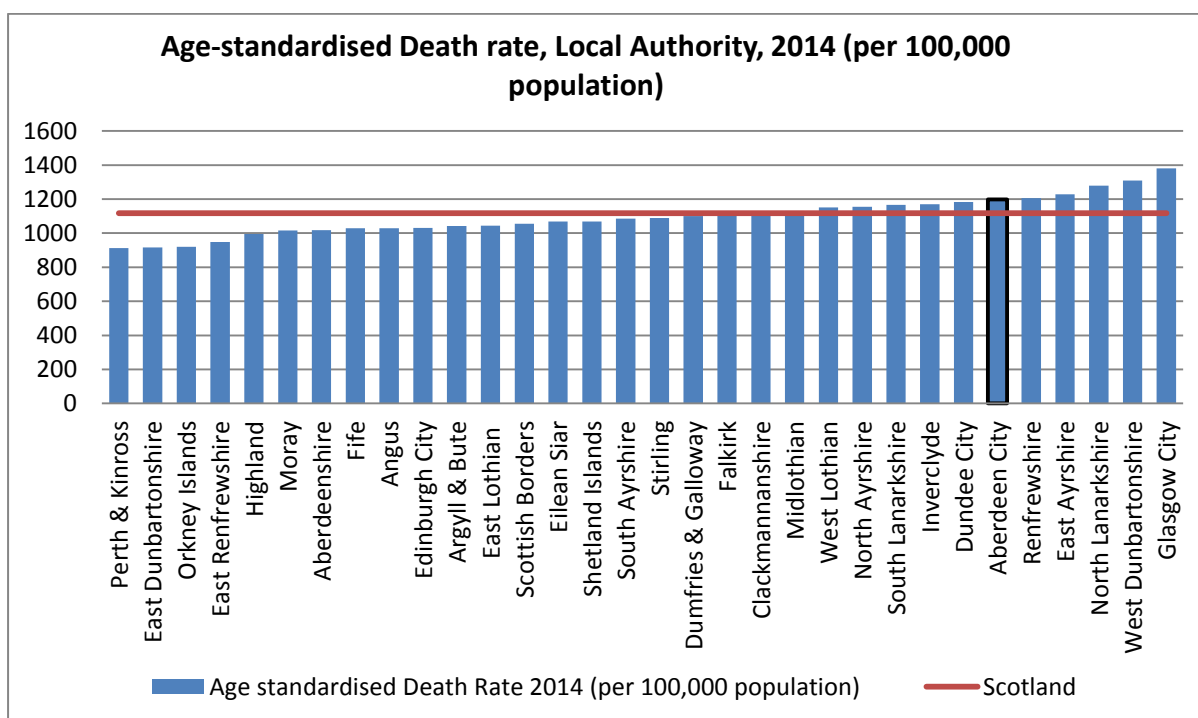


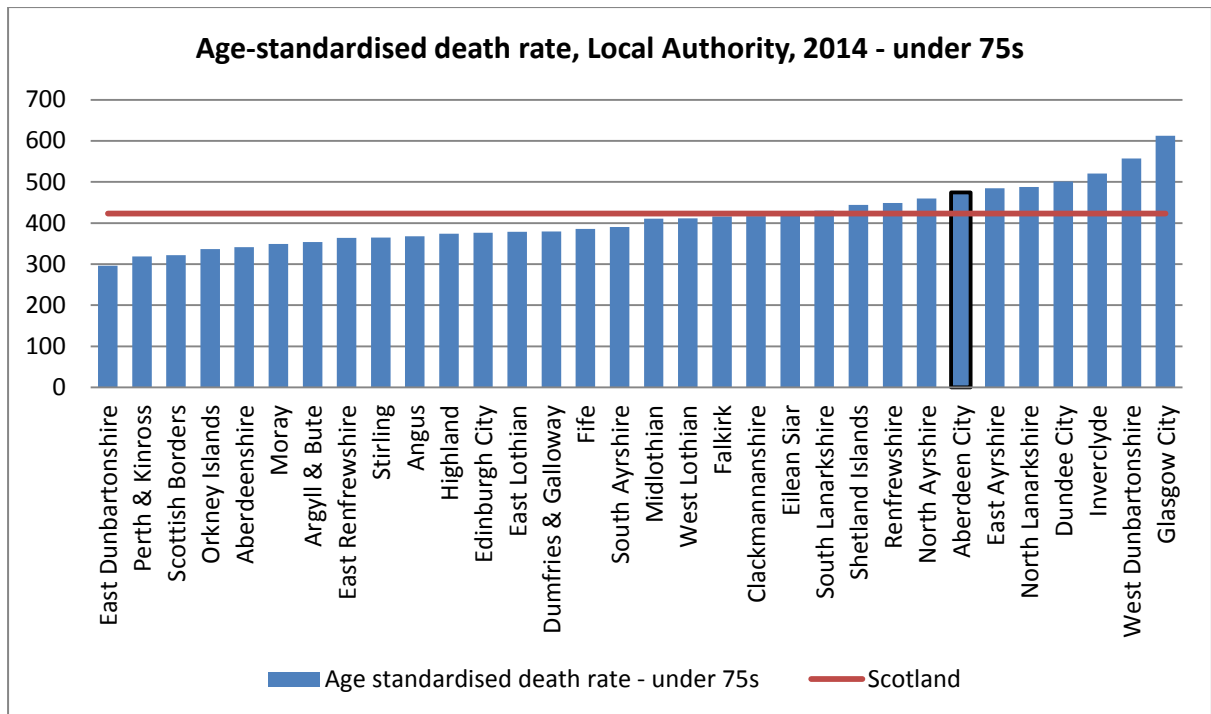
HEALTHIER

- Life expectancy in the city is broadly similar to the national picture, but there is significant variation across the city, with males in the Woodside area expected to live for 16.7 years less than those in the Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield North area.

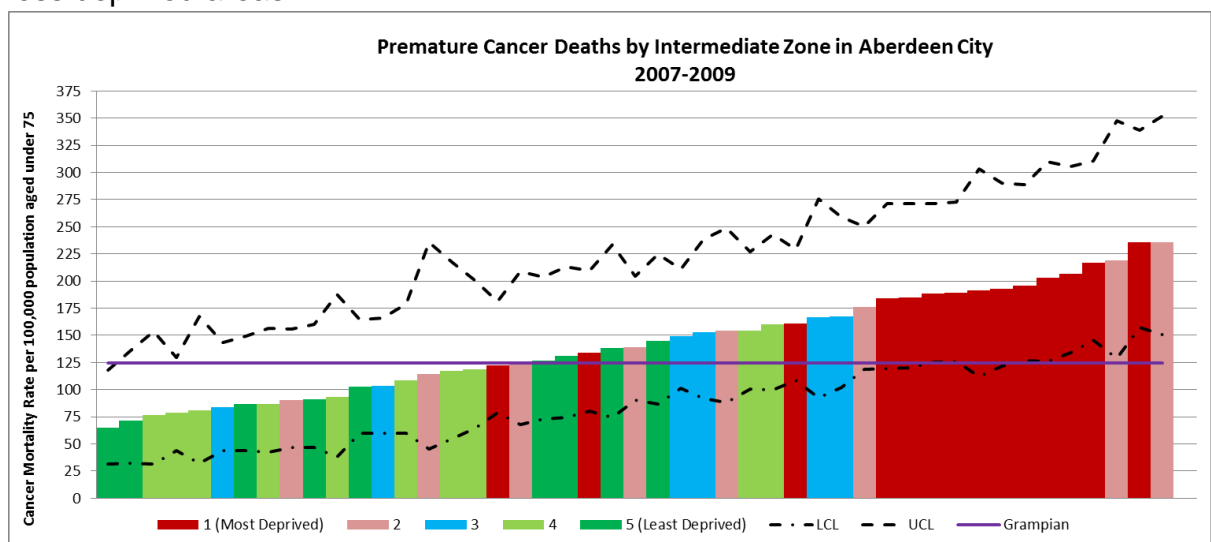


- The death rate (age standardised) for all ages in Aberdeen City is considerably higher than the national rate (Aberdeen City – 1197.2 deaths per 100,000 population; Scotland – 1117.0 deaths per 100,000 population). The premature death rate (under 75s) is also higher than the national average.



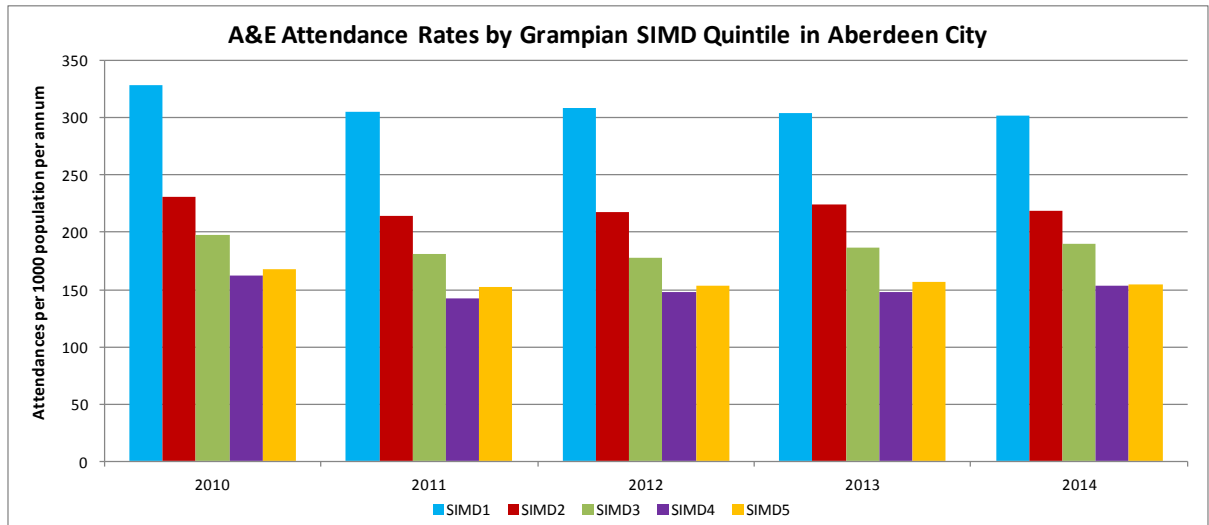


- Generally, people living in more deprived areas are more likely to suffer a premature death.
- There is a correlation between deprivation levels and the number of premature deaths from cancer. Those living in the most deprived areas of the City are three times as likely to die prematurely from cancer as people from less deprived areas.



- Three-quarters of Aberdeen's population report that they are in 'good' or 'very good' health, but there is a negative correlation with deprivation and with age. Those from more deprived backgrounds and older people are less likely to perceive that their general health is 'good' or 'very good'.

- Generally, people from more deprived areas of the City are more likely to attend Accident & Emergency.



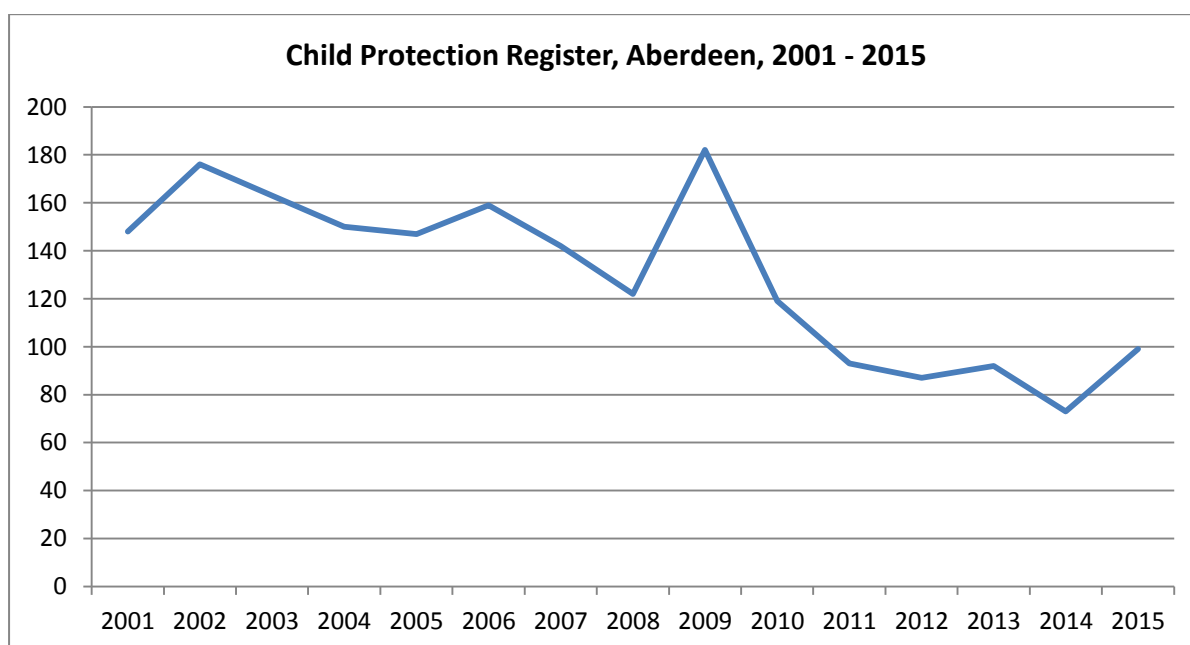
- The over-65s account for more than a third of emergency admissions to hospital in Aberdeen City. The more disadvantaged members of our community are the most likely to be admitted to hospital as an emergency, and are more likely to have repeat emergency admissions.
- The rate of stroke recorded in the City has increased over the past decade. Older people are more likely to suffer stroke, and stroke is the most common cause of severe disability. Survivors of stroke will often be left with complex and multiple care needs.
- There are an estimated 3,300 people living with dementia in Aberdeen City, though these are not all diagnosed cases.
- The population of the City is projected to change significantly over the next two decades, and the over-65 population is expected to increase by around 55%. Although not all older people are in need of care, it is likely that, if such projections are borne out, there will be an increased demand for health and social care.
- Almost 15% of the City's population are prescribed drugs for a mental health condition (anxiety, depression or psychosis) and this has been increasing over the past 5 years.
- In 2014, there were 35 probable suicides in the City. Men in their 40s and 50s are the most likely group to complete suicide, and the most common method used is hanging.
- The economic downturn, and the result job losses and instability, will likely have a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of those affected.
- Aberdeen City has a consistently higher rate of pregnancy terminations than the national rate, and has been one of the worst performing areas in Scotland over the past decade.
- There is also an association between deprivation levels and breastfeeding, with children born into the most deprived communities the least likely to

benefit from being breastfed. Women living in Northfield, Cummings Park, Torry and Mastrick are the least likely to breastfeed.

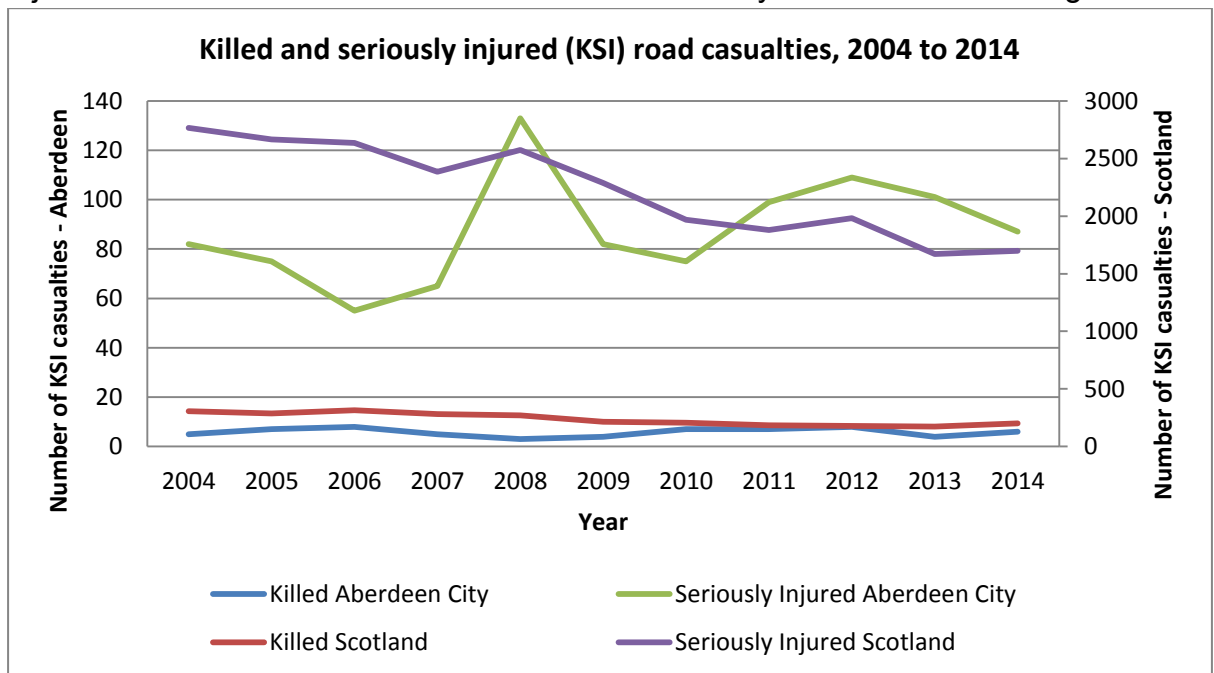
- There is an obesity crisis in the Grampian area, as indeed there is in Scotland. The best way to tackle obesity is by means of a healthy and varied diet, but it is a complex issue with a number of environmental 'food' factors influencing the food choices that people make.
- Physical activity can also help in the fight against obesity, but again those from more deprived areas are the least likely to achieve recommended activity levels.

SAFER & STRONGER

- The vast majority of Aberdeen's population say they live in a 'good' or 'very good' neighbourhood, and more than eight in ten feel 'very' or 'fairly' safe when out walking alone in their neighbourhood.
- Crime in Aberdeen has reduced significantly since 2005/06, and confidence in the police is high.
- As well as the wide range of health problems, excessive alcohol consumption impacts on a number of other societal issues. Being under the influence of alcohol can increase the likelihood of being a victim, or perpetrator, of crime; parental alcohol misuse is one of the most common reasons for a child being placed on the Child Protection Register; alcohol consumption is a common factor in a high proportion of domestic abuse incidents and is a common theme in house fires.
- Despite there being more than 10,000 incidents of antisocial behaviour reported in the city in 2014/15, antisocial behaviour was not identified as a particular concern for the city's residents.
- Domestic abuse continues to be an area of concern, both in the city and nationally. There were almost 3,100 such incidents recorded in the city in 2014/15. Based on a 2009 estimated cost per incident, the total cost of domestic abuse to Aberdeen's public purse in that year was therefore in excess of £78m.
- In almost a fifth of domestic abuse incidents reported, a child was present at the time of the incident though did not necessarily witness the incident.
- The number of children on the Child Protection Register in the city is falling over the longer term, although there was an increase in the most recent year. Most children on the register are of pre-school age.



- There is a link between deprivation and higher rates of accidental dwelling fires. The neighbourhoods at greatest risk for accidental dwelling fires are Torry, Seaton, Hanover, Tillydrone and George Street.
- Secondary fires are most common in Torry, Middlefield, Woodside and Northfield.
- While the target for road casualty reduction in relation to fatal and slight injury casualties is likely to be met, the number of casualties sustaining serious injuries as a result of a road traffic collision on the City's roads is concerning.



- Unfortunately, despite obvious pro-active enforcement work, drivers in Aberdeen City continue to flout road safety advice and laws, and continue to drive without proper restraint and / or while using a mobile phone.
- More than 62,000 people currently volunteer in Aberdeen City, worth an estimated £107m to the local economy. An older population will seek to benefit from the work of volunteers and will place increased demands on family and friends, but the potential pool of volunteers and informal carers is falling.
- Confidence among the City's residents in Aberdeen City Council is low, but there is a clear willingness and enthusiasm from individuals and communities to be involved in decision making. This presents an opportunity to engage more with local communities and gain support, as well as enabling communities to become more self-sufficient,

GREENER

- A low 'carbon' (greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions based) economy is critical to contributing to the City's efforts in tackling climate change and to achieving economic sustainability. Aberdeen City has made some progress in transitioning towards a low carbon economy. Reductions have been most evident in the domestic sector.
- Per capita GHG emissions are reducing across Aberdeen, as they are across the UK. This follows world leading Climate Change legislation, strong government policy, fiscal mechanisms (subsidies & penalties) and other support measures. However, with a growing population and increased development in Aberdeen, actual GHG emissions are on the increase.
- Work to improve energy efficiency in council housing has no doubt been a contributory factor to reducing per capita GHG emissions across the City.
- Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense - it is predicted that over the next century, Aberdeen will experience at least 20% increase in rainfall. As recent events have acutely demonstrated, the impacts can be devastating for individuals, communities and businesses alike.
- 80% of the flood risk in the North East of Scotland is in Aberdeen City. The impact of this on Aberdeen is estimated to cost the City £17m per annum.
- Public perception is generally quite encouraging with around half of the City's population recognising that climate change needs immediate attention. But around a fifth of people perceive that it's a problem of the future.
- The majority of people employed in Aberdeen City travel to work by car, and most journeys are for a short distance. This impacts negatively on the air quality of the city.
- Due to high levels of car ownership and usage, there is a high level of congestion in the city, with almost a fifth of car journeys delayed by congestion.
- Levels of cycling in Aberdeen are relatively low but are increasing, in line with a general cycling revival across the UK.
- Aberdeen has a Car Club with the largest and fastest growing fleet of electric vehicles.
- The timeliness and cost of public transport in the city is an issue, and dissuades more people from using buses as a mode of transport.
- Perceptions of cycling as a dangerous, high risk option in Aberdeen also dissuade more people from choosing this healthier option.
- There are areas of very poor air quality in the city, some of the worst in the UK, and these coincide with major transport corridors, such as Wellington Road and Anderson Drive. Poor air quality has been shown to be a major contributory factor in premature death across the UK.

- Investment in transport infrastructure and modal shift is critical to achieving a successful and sustainable economy and contributes to a more healthy population.
- 75% of Aberdeen City's residents live within a 5 minute walk of their nearest greenspace, and a further 15% live within a ten minute walk. People who live within walking distance of greenspace are more likely to make use of it. Perceptions of greenspace also impact on their use. Use of greenspace has significant implications for the physical and mental health of individuals and communities as well as the economic wellbeing of Cities.
- The high levels of urban development / sprawl in Aberdeen are having negative impacts on the quantity & quality of the City's greenspace resource & greenspace network. This in turn impacts on the overall size and integrity of city's habitat (including trees) & wildlife populations and on the function & integrity of the network for providing services to the City, such as flood and air quality management.
- Aberdeen's cleanliness score is falling, and the city has the lowest score of all major Scottish cities.
- In 2014/15, Aberdeen City Council spent £7,830 per 1,000 head of population on street cleaning. This is the second lowest of the 32 Scottish local authorities.

INEQUALITIES

Scotland is a relatively wealthy country, yet there are significant inequalities evident throughout Scottish society. At a local level, Aberdeen is often seen as a city of affluence, and while there are indeed pockets of affluence, the city is also home to some of the most deprived communities in Scotland.

Poverty is a cost that Scotland, and the UK, can ill afford. It is a debilitating force, which restricts the ability of individuals, families and communities to reach their full potential and inhibits people's access to opportunities which are readily available to others. Poverty can have a severe impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals.

Despite the UK recession and austerity measures, there has been some success in Scotland in reducing poverty levels. While relative povertyⁱ in Scotland, before housing costs, has decreased over recent years, when housing costs are taken into account poverty has not decreased to the same extent. This is of particular interest in Aberdeen City, where private rents have consistently been amongst the highest in the country. Despite increasing incomes, the cost of living has increased at a greater rate.

In 2013/14 in Scotland relative poverty (after housing costs) affected:

- 940,000 people – 18% of Scotland's population.
- 210,000 children – 22% of children in Scotland.
- 600,000 working age adults – 19% of the population of working age adults in Scotland.
- 120,000 pensioners – 12% of Scotland's pensioner populationⁱⁱ.

It is more difficult to obtain up-to-date information relating to poverty levels in the city, but we do know;

- In 2005-2008, 15% of the population of the City were in relative povertyⁱⁱⁱ.
- It is estimated that approximately 18% of children in the City are living in relative poverty.
- In some areas of the City, almost a third of children are living in poverty.
- Around 30% of people in Aberdeen City are 'fuel poor', while 8% are 'extremely fuel poor'. It should be noted that fuel poverty is a moving feast – it fluctuates depending on oil prices. As is highlighted in the 'Wealthier & Fairer' section, oil prices are currently very low, and therefore it is likely that fuel poverty will fall in the short to medium term.

But poverty is wider than income levels alone. Employment is often seen as a route out of poverty, yet half of all working age adults and 56% of children who were in relative poverty after housing costs live in a household where at least one person is in employment.

As is highlighted later in this paper, there is a very unequal pay structure in Aberdeen. While figures show that, generally, people in Aberdeen City enjoy high incomes, there are still those on low incomes. Low paid workers are at greater risk of poverty than those on higher rates of pay. The introduction of the National Living Wage should go some way to address the issue, but as a result of welfare reforms, and the way the tax and benefits interact with income, this will not be a single solution.

Unequal societies are bad for everyone. Inequality affects individuals, the economy, the environment and society. Inequality impacts on all aspects of life, such as life expectancy, mental illness, substance use, educational attainment, job prospects, the likelihood of ending up in prison – even on a persons' ability to access public services. In fact, almost all health and social problems are more likely to occur in a more unequal society.

In 2010, the Equality and Human Rights Commission published a report^{iv} which identified significant inequalities in Scotland:

- Poverty / low income
- Access to services
- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Discrimination, social exclusion and lack of participation
- Targeted violence and safety (physical security)

Throughout the Strategic Assessment process, the correlation between deprivation and poorer outcomes was evident in almost every area of analysis, from educational attainment, to quality of environment, to health outcomes, to the risk of becoming either a victim or perpetrator of crime became apparent.

These inequalities are often are a result of generational cycles which need to be broken. Although not always, inequality often gets transmitted from parents to their children; for example, children born into low income families are more likely to grow up to be low income adults.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is the Scottish Governments official tool for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation. There are seven domains of deprivation:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Income | • Employment |
| • Health | • Crime |
| • Housing | • Education, skills & training |
| • Access to services | |

These domains are weighted to reflect their relative importance (and robustness of the data) in measuring deprivation.

Almost 17,000 people in Aberdeen City (7.7% of the City's population) live within some of the most deprived communities in Scotland. 22 out of the 267 datazones in Aberdeen City are in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland, and three of those are within the 5% most deprived areas of the country.

Over two and a half thousand people in Aberdeen City live in an area that is amongst the 5% most deprived areas of Scotland.

In addition to the population identified as living within a recognised area of deprivation, there will be pockets of deprivation in other areas of the city. The SIMD is due to be refreshed and released in June 2016.

Although Aberdeen City has fared relatively well in terms of employment and income, it must be borne in mind that the recent, and very local, downturn is having an impact on the local economy, and there is the potential for an increase in the level of deprivation, though this will not be encapsulated in the updated SIMD.

Inequality is wider than just poverty and deprivation however.

In 1971, Julian Tudor Hart described the inverse care law. The law describes a perverse relationship between the need for health care and its utilisation; those least in need of healthcare are those most likely to use health services, and use health services more effectively. Inverse laws are wider than just the health care system and can be applied to range of public services. If we are to truly tackle inequality in Aberdeen, we must ensure that public services are delivered where, and to whom, they are most needed.

While there is still debate surrounding the level of funding given to local authorities over the coming years, budget cuts and spending constraints are inevitable. There needs to be careful planning to ensure that those most in need of public services are not disproportionately affected by the implications of the required measures.

WELFARE REFORM AND INEQUALITIES

Welfare Reform changes in the UK started in earnest in 2013. The impact of the reforms vary enormously, from place to place and person to person. Clearly, areas with high numbers of benefit claimants and low skilled low paid workers will feel the greatest impact. A report "The impact of Welfare Reform on Scotland"^v, estimated that, by 2014/15, Aberdeen City would have suffered a loss of £52 million - £330 per working age adult.

A number of research studies have been published which show how some groups of people are disproportionately affected by the welfare reforms^{vi}. Welfare reform

focuses mostly on working age benefits, and therefore it is those aged 16 to 64 affected.

Women are more dependent than men on welfare benefits^{vii}. Lone parents are also more likely to be female and of those that have caring responsibilities within the home, the majority are women. There is already significant gender inequalities evident within our society – Aberdeen City has a larger than average gender pay gap. These issues put women at greater risk of deeper and sustained poverty.

New rules require people claiming out-of-work benefits to undertake work related activity or risk sanctions. In Aberdeen City, funded childcare provision is already insufficient. Access to childcare has a profound impact on a women's ability to participate in the workforce.

Universal credit, which began its roll out in Aberdeen in November 2015, will be paid as one single household payment rather than different benefits being paid to different payees. This may mean a loss of independent income for some women, and may signal the start of a return to a 'male breadwinner' society. It also may result in forcing more women to stay in abusive relationships due to financial constraints.

In years gone by, the focus of successive governments has been to get people into work. The current focus however is on getting people into better paid employment, in an effort to tackle in-work poverty. Those most at risk of being in low paid employment are young people, lone parents, women, disabled people, those with low or no qualifications and some BME groups^{viii}. These groups are more likely to be employed in hospitality, retail, administrative or support roles or in jobs involving simple and routine tasks, such as on a production line – all occupations that are more likely to be low paid. But in order to allow people to move into better paid employment, there needs to be a demand from employers for higher skilled and better paid staff.

Although welfare reform focusses mostly on working age benefits, austerity measures are disproportionately affecting older people^{ix}. Although pensions are protected, state pension age is gradually increasing, and by October 2020, men and women will not be eligible for the state pension until they are 66.

Many older people suffer from chronic conditions that affect their activity and limit their ability to maintain living an independent life in their own homes. In a landscape of reduced service provision for older people, fewer people in need will be able to access publicly funded social care. Instead, there is greater focus on charities and other non-profit organisations delivering public services.

A report by The Centre for Welfare Reform, 'A Fair Society? – how the cuts target disabled people'^x highlights that disabled people are also 'targeted' by the spending cuts. The report states that disabled people make up 8% of the UK's population, yet bear 29% of all spending cuts, and will, on average, lose £4,410 per person – more

than 9 times more than most other people; those with severe disabilities will lose an average of £8,832 – 19 times more than most other people.

In January 2017, the formula that is used to calculate the daily living component of Personal Independent Payment (PIP) for disabled people. Disability charities claim that the cumulative effect of cuts to both benefits and social care is making it harder for some disabled people to live independently^{xi}.

Numerous research reports have highlighted that as a result of spending cuts and welfare reform, inequality will in fact widen.

EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS

The European Migrant Crisis began in 2015 as more than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe. Host nations are struggling to cope with the influx and a swift resolution is unlikely.

In 2015, there was over 32,000^{xii} first time asylum applications received by the Home Office. The majority of those applying for asylum in the UK come from countries beset by war, violence and / or repressive governments in the Middle East (Iran, Iraq and Syria) or Sub-saharan Africa (Eritrea, Nigeria etc). Most applications for asylum are received once a person has reached already the UK.

World events have an effect on the number of asylum seekers, and nationalities that are more likely to apply for asylum. For example, the civil war in Syria broke out in 2011 and since then the number of Syrian asylum seekers has risen five-fold. In 2015, there were four times more asylum applications from nationals of Eritrea than there was in 2011 amid concern over human rights.

In addition to those asylum seekers who apply once in the UK, resettlement schemes are offered, the most notable of which is the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme, which aims to resettle 20,000 Syrians in need of protection by 2020. In Autumn 2015, Aberdeen City agreed to accept 100 people as part of the Syrian VPR Scheme.

Refugees represent one of the most “at need” populations, and often have requirements very different from the general population. Violence, and sexual violence, is widely recognised as a weapon of war and women and girls are at greatest risk, but men and young boys can also be affected. Health outcomes – both physical and mental - among refugees are often poorer, and perhaps more complex, than for the general population. In addition, the deterioration of Syria’s education systems means that refugee children are also likely to have suffered substantial educational disruption and are at an educational disadvantage.

Syrian refugees, both adults and children alike, will likely need ongoing, intensive and targeted support to enable them to overcome language barriers, bridge gaps in their education and improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN

Throughout the course of this Strategic Assessment, a number of inequalities are highlighted, and often it is the same geographic areas that give cause for concern.

The Community Empowerment Act places a duty on Community Planning Partnerships to tackle inequalities, and in order to do so effectively, areas experiencing particular disadvantage need to be identified.

Community Planning Aberdeen has historically recognised 8 geographic areas as areas of particular concern. These areas are Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Seaton, Tillydrone, Torry and Woodside. These areas, as highlighted at various stages throughout the document, continue to be relevant as areas of prominence. In addition to the previously identified areas, the George Street / Harbour area features as an area that would be worthy of consideration for concerted partnership working. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2016 is due for publication in June 2016, and this may change indicate some movement in areas of multiple deprivation within Aberdeen City.

The following table highlights some of the issues highlighted in this document, where information is available at either datazone, intermediate zone, ward or neighbourhood level. In addition to the points highlighted here, there are a number of others areas that show a negative correlation between poorer outcomes and deprivation but these have not been included as data at small geographies is either not available or is not reliable.

Wealthier & Fairer	<p>High rate of Jobseekers allowance claimants in Torry, Tillydrone, George Street and City Centre.</p> <p>Number of Jobseekers Allowance claimants increasing considerably in Northfield, Tillydrone and Torry.</p> <p>High rate of child poverty in George Street /Harbour ward, followed by Tillydrone / Seaton / Old Aberdeen Ward.</p> <p>Large number of children living in poverty in Northfield / Mastrick North Ward.</p> <p>Fuel poverty most common in Woodside, Tillydrone, Seaton and Kittybrewster.</p>
Smarter	<p>Large proportion (60% or more) of pupils from most deprived areas (20% - SIMD quintile) at Bramble Brae, Kittybrewster, Manor Park, Riverbank, Seaton, Tullos and Walker Road Primary Schools.</p> <p>Conversely, low uptake of free school meals at Kittybrewster, Manor Park, Riverbank, Seaton, Tullos and Walker Road Primary Schools, suggesting an</p>

	<p>imbalance in those entitled to and those claiming free school meals.</p> <p>School attendance lowest at Sunnybank, Riverbank, Tullos, Walker Road, Kittybrewster and Manor Park Primary Schools.</p> <p>Secondary schools with the poorest attendance are Northfield Academy, St Machar Academy, Harlaw Academy and Torry Academy.</p> <p>Historically, educational attainment has been poorer among young people who attend Northfield, St Machar or Torry Academies.</p> <p>Young people who attend, or have attended, Northfield Academy, Torry Academy or St Machar Academy are more likely to end up in a negative destination than their peers.</p>
Healthier	<p>Lowest life expectancy in Woodside.</p> <p>Premature death (all-cause mortality 15 – 44 year olds) most common in Torry, Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton.</p> <p>Premature death from cancer most common in Hanover, Heathryfold & Middlefield, Ashgrove, and Mastrick.</p> <p>Alcohol related deaths most common in Torry, Hanover, George Street and Woodside.</p> <p>Alcohol related hospital admissions most common in Tillydrone, Woodside, Seaton, Torry, Heathryfold & Middlefield.</p> <p>Low breastfeeding rates in Torry, Cummings Park, Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Heathryfold and Middlefield</p> <p>High rates of teen pregnancy in Summerhill, Tillydrone, Torry and Heathryfold & Middlefield.</p> <p>Children from Cummings Park, Heathryfold & Middlefield, Mastrick, Torry and Northfield are most likely to be admitted to hospital as a result of an unintentional injury.</p>
Safer & Stronger	<p>Accidental dwelling fires most common in Torry, Torry, Seaton, Hanover, Tillydrone and George Street.</p> <p>Secondary fires most common in Torry, Middlefield, Woodside and Northfield Crime is, unsurprisingly, most common within the city centre area. Following that, Torry and Woodside both have relatively high</p>

	crime rates.
Greener	Market Street, Wellington Road and Union Street have all been named as among the worst streets in Scotland for air quality.

WEALTHIER & FAIRER

“Enabling businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth.” Scottish Government

OVERVIEW

Aberdeen is the best Scottish city to live in and is placed second only to Reading in the UK^{xiii}. The city does relatively well in terms of jobs, income and skills, however there is a price to pay in poorer health, poorer work – life balance and the unaffordability of housing.

After one of the longest and deepest recessions on record, the UK economy is currently in a sustained period of recovery. Economic growth was strong in 2014 and 2015. It is expected this will continue in a similar vein during 2016.

We have also seen a period of sustained recovery in Scotland over recent years. Scotland's onshore Gross Domestic Product was worth £134bn in 2013; add in the North Sea oil and gas production and that figure increases to £151bn^{xiv}.

Aberdeen came out of the recession relatively unscathed, but oil prices have fallen from around \$115 a barrel in June 2014, to under \$35 a barrel at the time of writing^{xv} and this has had a significant impact on the city. As well as falling oil prices, the North Sea oil and gas industry also has the challenge of higher costs and lower production associated with mature fields and this has led to companies pushing hard to reduce costs. Aberdeen has historically had one of the lowest rates of unemployment in the UK, but the effects of recent job losses are now taking their toll. Oil companies based in the city, such as Shell, BP, Chevron and Wood Group have all announced redundancies, mainly of onshore workers. Indirectly, other sectors have also felt the pinch. The hospitality sector has recently reported reduced occupancy rates and revenue^{xvi}, and links this, at least partially to the local economic downturn. Following a period of rapid growth in passenger numbers between 2004 and 2014^{xvii} - 41% increase in passenger numbers at Aberdeen compared to 14% increase across all UK airports - Aberdeen International Airport reported a year-on-year decrease in passenger numbers in 2015. Helicopter passenger numbers were down 13.1% in May 2015 compared to May 2014, and for fixed wing aircraft, passenger numbers were down 7.2% on the same month of 2014.

Indications are, while the property market in Aberdeen is still buoyant, there has been a slowdown^{xviii} particularly in relation to higher end sales. Rents in the city have fallen, although Aberdeen's rents still remain the highest of all Scotland's key cities.

The impact of the downturn is not limited to employment or industry – there is also the negative impact on the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the population. Evidence from previous economic downturns suggest there will be both short and long term health effects, such as more suicides and attempted suicides, a

rise in domestic violence and an increase in mental health problems such as depression^{xix, xx}.

However, despite the current situation, Aberdeen is still in a much better position than many other cities across the country.

ABERDEEN'S ECONOMY

Aberdeen's economy emerged from the post-2008 recession relatively unscathed. The strong presence of the oil and gas industry cushioned Aberdeen's economy and provided a degree of resilience. But the city was not, and is not, immune from national and global trends. The recent sharp fall in oil prices have hit the city hard, and the low oil prices are already taking a significant toll on the local economy.

Gross value added (GVA) is a measure of output available at a regional level. Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, with a gross value added of £37,460 per person is the most economically productive region in the whole of the UK, outside Inner London^{xxi}, and provides Scotland with 15% of its GVA. The North Sea oil and gas industry is the main driver of Aberdeen's economy. It must be noted that the GVA per head stated refers to 2014, before the impact of the recent downturn in the oil and gas sector has been felt.

Although North Sea oil and gas remains a key part of Scotland's economy, the impact of the recent downturn in the sector highlights the need for Aberdeen to be able to attract non-oil business.

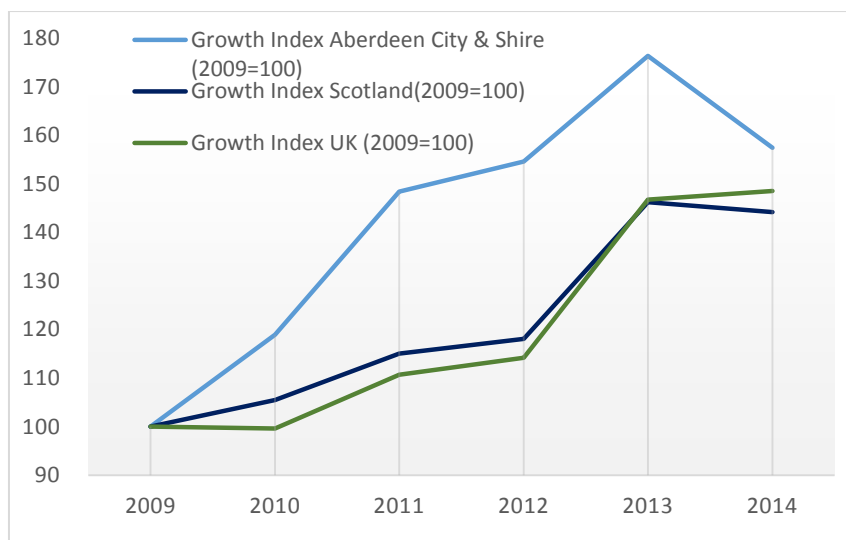
BUSINESS

The number of businesses in an area indicates the strength or weakness of the local economy. Between 2014 and 2015, the number of businesses^{xxii} in the city increased by almost 4% to 11,910. With the exception of a small reduction in the number of businesses in the city in 2010, there has been continued business growth in the city.

Similar to Scotland, and indeed the UK, the majority of businesses are micro -sized (0 to 9 employees), however 5% of businesses based in Aberdeen employ more than 50 people.

Aberdeen City had 67 new business registrations per 10,000 of the adult population in 2014^{xxiii}, far exceeding the Scotland-wide rate of 48 new business registrations per 10,000 people. While the rate in Scotland and the UK has remained static from 2013 to 2014, the rate of business births in Aberdeen fell from 74 business births per 10,000 population in 2013.

In 2014 there were over 1,300 business births in Aberdeen City, and while the rate of growth remains higher than the national rate, there has been a slowdown in the number of business births in the city and the North East region^{xxiv}.



Business births in Aberdeen have been increasing at a faster rate than in Scotland or the UK, reflecting the degree of resilience in Aberdeen's economy.

This chart clearly illustrates the recent slowdown in the rate of business births in the North East region.

Source: Office for National Statistics, Business Demography

Historically, the economic situation in Aberdeen City has been more stable than the rest of country and this continues to be the case at the current time. Nevertheless, the city is starting to feel the economic pinch.

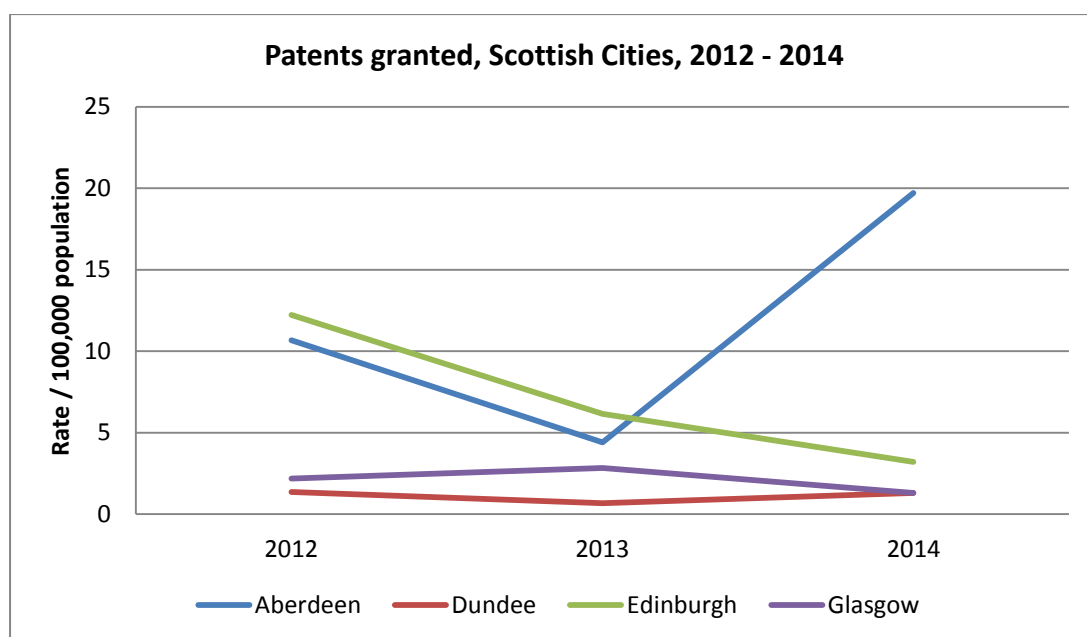
In addition to business births, business survival is an important measure. In Scotland, an average of 42.1% of businesses survive for 5 years. In Aberdeen, this rate was higher at 45.6.1% and the 5 year survival rate in the city is the highest of all major Scottish cities.

Businesses that have ceased to trade are referred to as 'business deaths'. In 2014, there were 875 business deaths, a very small reduction in the number of deaths from the previous year (885 business deaths in 2013). Business births are slowing at a faster pace than business deaths; this is therefore a measure that should be monitored as it is indicative of business activity in the city.

INNOVATION

Although an imperfect measure, patent data is widely used to measure innovation. While patents do not cover all forms of innovation – they exclude process innovations, trademarks and creative innovations - it does act as a good proxy. Figures obtained by the Centre for Cities has revealed that, in 2014, there was 45 patents granted to people living in Aberdeen, a rate of 19.7 for every 100,000 people.

This makes Aberdeen the most inventive city in Scotland and the second most inventive city in the UK, after Cambridge (101.9 patents per 100,000 people).



KEY SECTORS^{xxv}

Scotland's Economic Strategy^{xxvi} recognises the importance of key industries in the continued growth of the country. The Strategy has identified six sectors where Scotland has a distinct comparative advantage – Food and Drink (including fisheries and agriculture), Creative Industries (including digital), Sustainable Tourism, Energy (including renewables), Financial and Business Services, and Life Sciences.

The food and drink industry is a major contributor to Scotland's economy. Turnover in the food and drink growth sector in Scotland stood at £14.3 billion in 2013, up from £13.8 billion in 2012. Gross Value Added (GVA) in the sector rose from £4.7 billion in 2012 to £5.2 billion in 2013.

Employment throughout the city in the food and drink growth sector in 2014 stood at 1,400, an increase of 100 jobs since 2013.

There has been a rapid decline in the quantity and value of fish landings at Aberdeen Harbour over the past decade with the value of fish landed in the city dropping by more than 22% since 2010, with employment in the sector following suit^{xxvii}.

The Food and Drink sector remains strong in the North East of Scotland, accounting for around a fifth of Scotland's food and drink economic activity, but the sector does experience some difficulties. Transport costs and infrastructure, the cost of doing business and difficulties with the recruitment and retention of employees in a region with a historically tight labour market all present challenges for the years ahead^{xxviii}.

Predictably, the Energy (including Renewables) growth sector is the most prominent in Aberdeen, and the city provides almost half of all employment within the sector across Scotland. Since the 1970's, the North Sea Oil and Gas sector has supported thousands of jobs, both directly and indirectly, within the city and region as well as further afield.

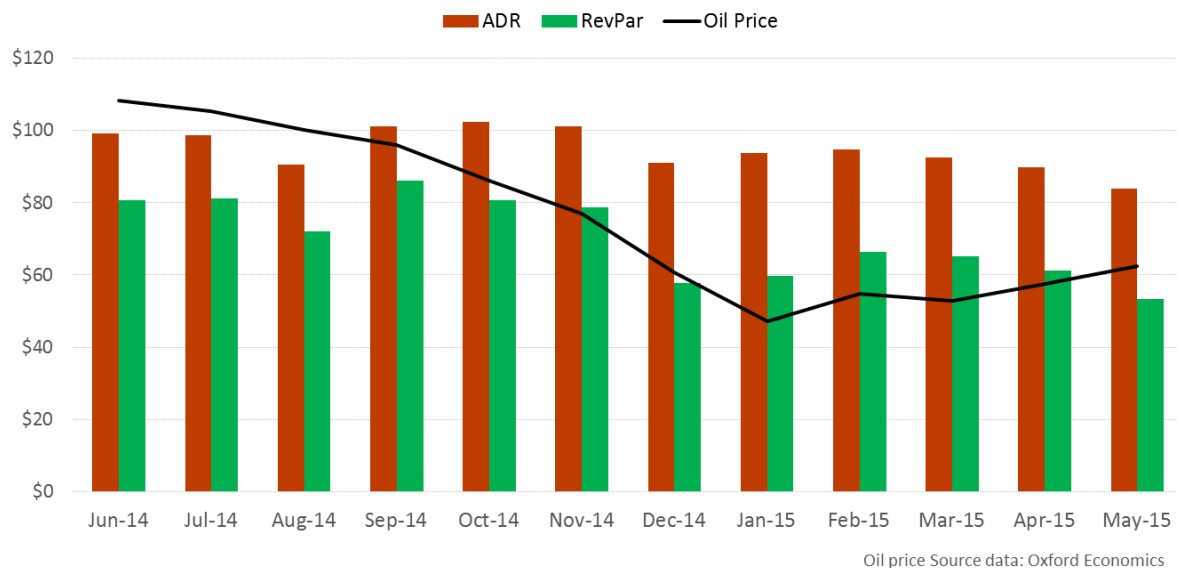
Employment in the sector in the city in 2014 stood at 33,200, an increase of 4,500 jobs from the preceding year. Employment in the Energy growth sector in the city accounts for over 17% of all employment in the city. It should be noted however that these statistics relate to 2014 and, given the current economic situation within the city, and the sector, it is likely that this will change when more up-to-date figures are released.

The Energy growth sector in the city and throughout Scotland is characterised by small enterprises, typically employing less than 50 people.

The financial and business services sector is also a major contributor to the city's economy, and in 2014, employed 19,300 people. The number of enterprises in this sector continues to grow in Aberdeen, with a 36% increase in the number of registered enterprises between 2010 and 2014.

Tourism is a key sector of Aberdeen's and the North East of Scotland's economy. In 2014, there was an estimated £400m of tourism expenditure in the region.

The oil and gas sector is a significant contributor to the visitor economy in Aberdeen, although the custom is predominantly a Monday to Thursday trade, leaving hotel availability for leisure visitors at weekends. Since the fall in oil prices, we have seen a fall in hotel occupancy and revenues available.



xxix

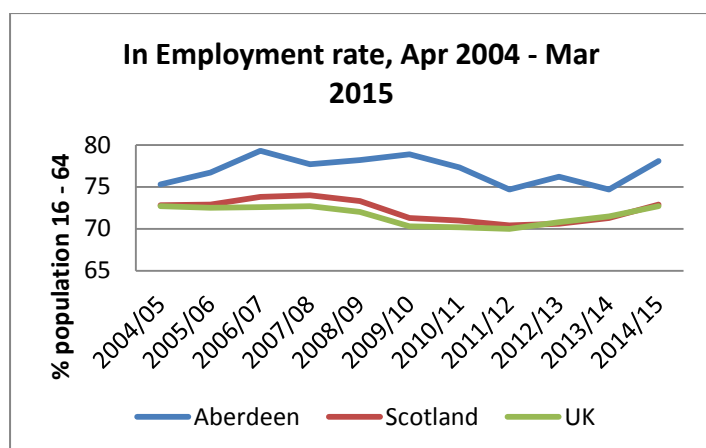
While the downturn will fuel a fall in hotel occupancy and revenue, these reductions may also be partially attributable to a move to a more digitised society, where people conduct meetings virtually.

As well as business tourism, there is a thriving leisure tourism industry in the city. In 2014, international visitor numbers to the UK were at an all-time high. Industry predictions were that visitors to Scotland will increase by 40% by 2017^{xxx}. In 2015, a number of projects were announced that will increase the availability of hotel accommodation in the City. The city is in a good place to capitalise on this projected increase in visitor numbers.

Technology development is of critical importance for Aberdeen, and indeed for the wider North-East region. Over 1,600 businesses are currently active in the Creative Industries (including digital) growth sector in Aberdeen City and Shire. This sector has been growing for some time, but again is characterised by small businesses employing less than 5 employees.

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT & UNDEREMPLOYMENT

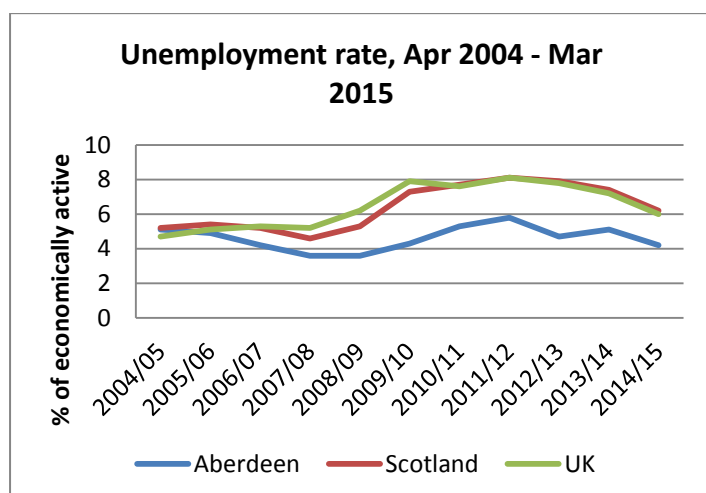
Again, the degree of resilience afforded Aberdeen City is evident in employment and unemployment statistics. The percentage of working age adults in employment in Aberdeen, although remaining slightly lower than pre-recession levels, is higher than the Scottish and UK rate.



The largest employing industries in Aberdeen City are Education, Health and Social Work; professional, scientific and technical activities; and mining and quarrying.

Source: Nomis

Correspondingly, the unemployment rate remains below the national rate, although the rate has generally followed the trends seen across the country over the past decade.



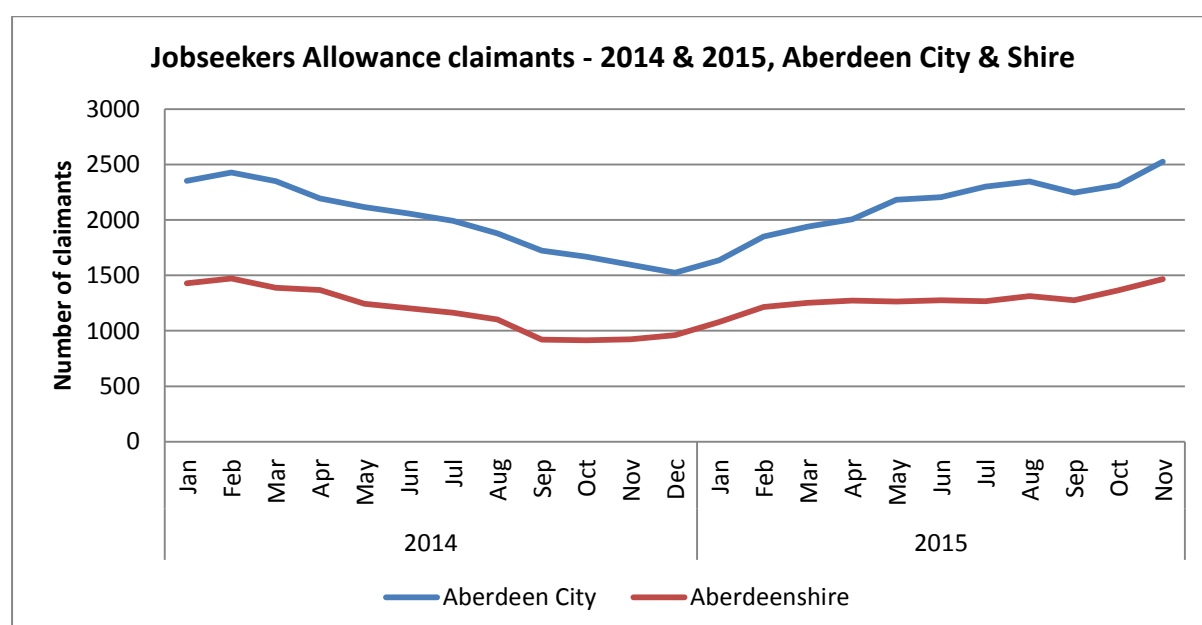
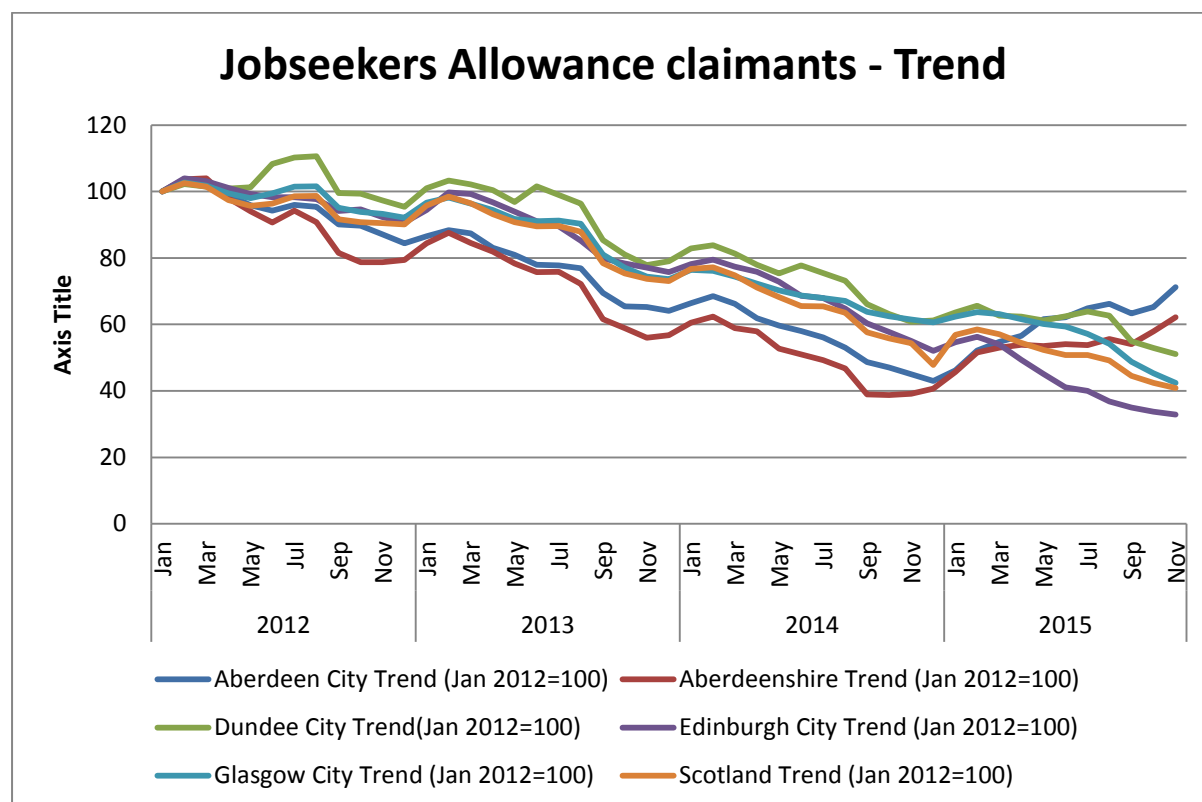
Unemployment in the City, Scotland and the UK, peaked in 2011/12, however since there the general trend has been downward, although there was a slight increase in unemployment in Aberdeen in 2013/14.

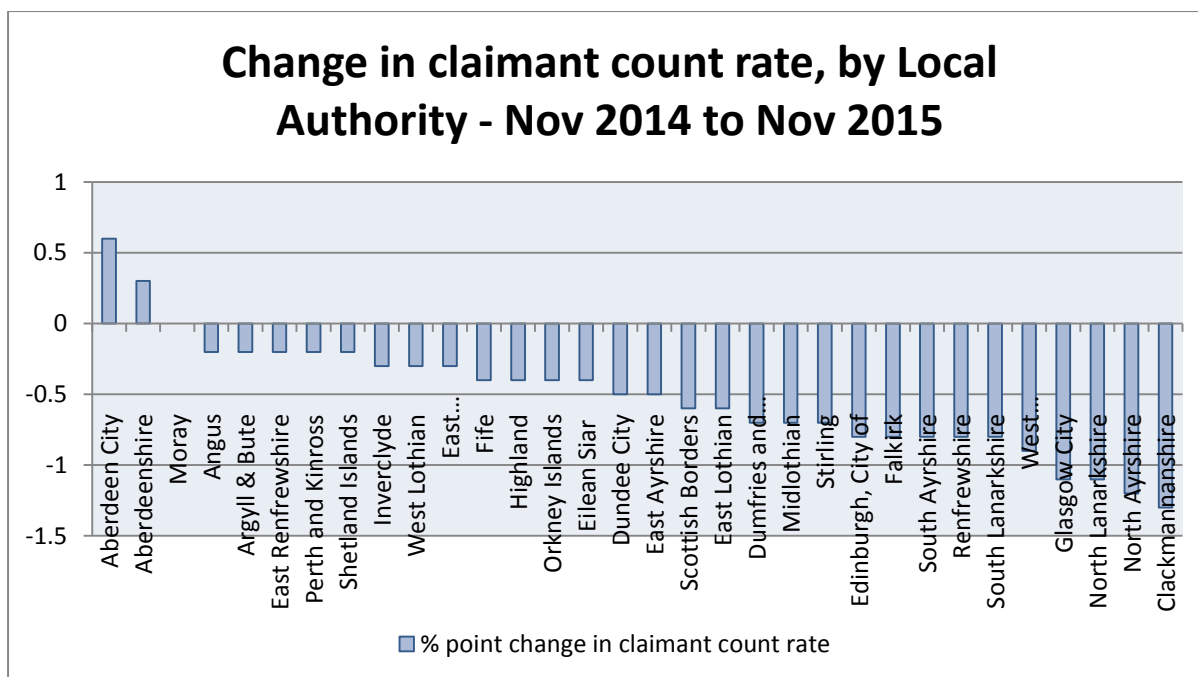
Source: Nomis

A report by financial consultants Ernst & Young, 'Fuelling the next generation'^{xxxi}, estimates that employment in the sector is set to fall by 35,000 by 2019 as exploration and production continues to decline. It does, however, predict that around 12,000 new staff will be needed for the decommissioning process.

The claimant count, although not a complete count of the unemployed population, does give an indication of the trend. The claimant count in Scotland and the UK is

continuing to decrease, however since the beginning of 2015 the claimant count in Aberdeen City has been increasing; in November 2015, the number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) Claimants in the city was more than 58% higher than in November 2014. It is a similar situation in Aberdeenshire and given that this is a very localised trend, it is likely that the increase is a consequence of difficulties faced by the oil and gas sector.





Source: Nomis, Claimant Count

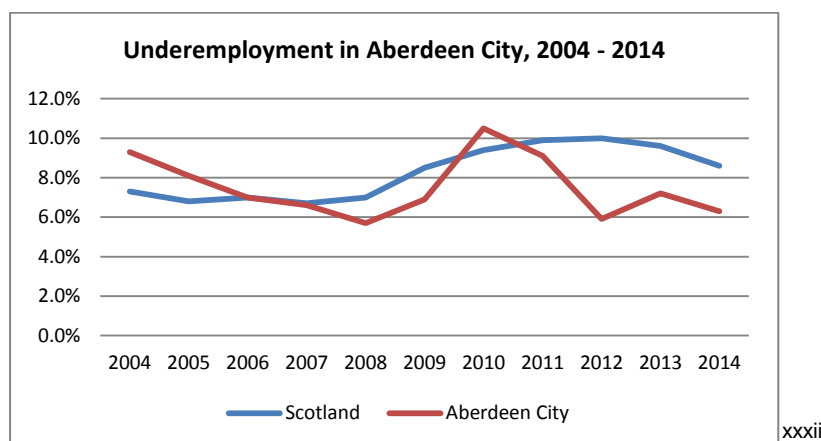
The spread of JSA claimants is not spread evenly across the city; combined, Tillydrone, City Centre and George Street – the three areas with the highest number of claimants – have almost 14 times the number of claimants than the three areas with the lowest claimant counts (Denmore, Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West, and West End North).

The majority of those claiming Jobseekers Allowance in Aberdeen have been claiming the benefit for a relatively short period of time – less than a fifth of those claiming the benefit have been claiming it for more than 6 months and long-term claimants are more likely to be aged 25 or older.

In addition to those claiming JSA, an element of those claiming Employment and Support Allowance have been assessed by the Department for Work and Pensions as being capable of work at some time in the future. These claimants are classed as being in the ‘work related activity group’. Although technically unemployed, these claimants are not counted in the figures above.

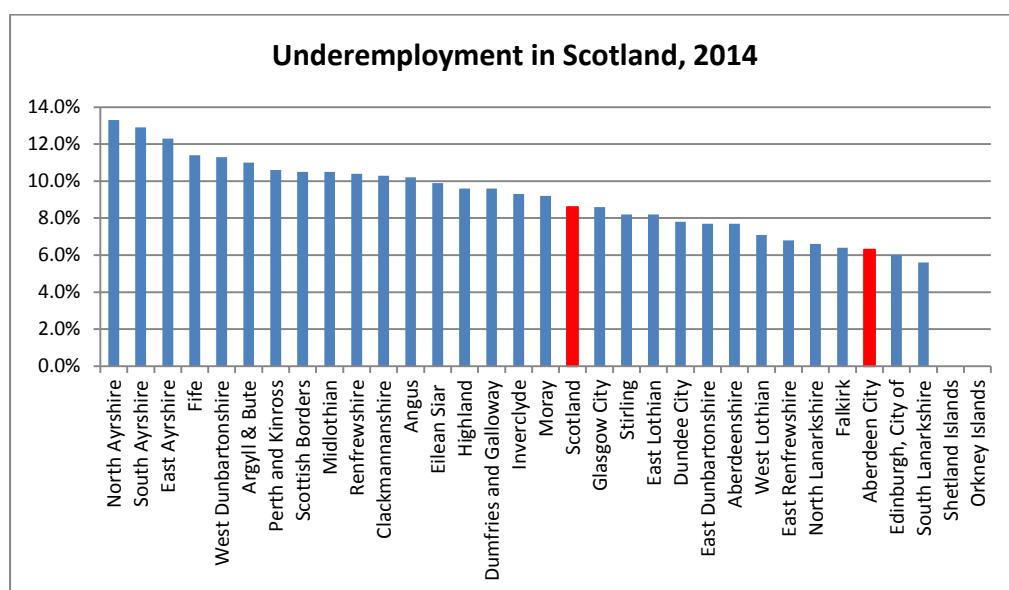
There are concerns that, although headline employment figures indicate that Aberdeen City is in a reasonable strong position, underemployment of workers may be, or may become, an issue. Underemployment is defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as “all those who worked or had a job during the reference week but were willing and able to work more adequately”. Underemployment relates not only to those who would like to, and are available to, work more hours but also to those whose skills are under-utilised, for example, a graduate in low-skilled employment.

Underemployment in Scotland increased in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, since the decline in output resulted in a reduction in the labour market. The recent trend is that underemployment is now declining as the demand for labour increases; however underemployment is still higher than pre-recession levels. Underemployment peaked in Aberdeen in 2010 and, with the exception of an increase in 2013, is now continuing a downward trend.



There are a diverse range of issues related to employment and underemployment, and the rate varies across the country. Scottish Borders have one of the highest employment rates, one of the lowest unemployment rates, but a higher than national average proportion of the working population that are underemployed. Conversely, in Dundee, employment rates are low, unemployment rates are high but underemployment is lower than the national average and in Fife unemployment and employment rates are slightly higher than Scotland, but underemployment is significantly above the Scottish proportion.

Aberdeen city reports relatively high levels of employment and one of the lowest levels of underemployment across the country.



Source: Local Area Labour Markets in Scotland, Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2014, www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market/Local-Authority-Tables

While many see that underemployment is better than unemployment, both should be seen in terms of lack of hours spent in work, and therefore result in lost opportunities for career development, reduced income and dependence on welfare benefits.

The nature and effects of underemployment for men and women are likely to vary considerably. Women are more likely than men to be underemployed and though there is little in the way of statistical evidence to back this up, it may be that rather than true underemployment this is because of family and other commitments placing constraints on hours worked. The cost of childcare may also be prohibitive to parents re-entering the workplace. It now costs approximately £6,000 to send a child under 2 to nursery part-time (25 hours) in the UK^{xxxiii}. There is also a question of early learning and childcare provision. Every child aged 3 to 5, as well as eligible two year olds, are now legally entitled to 600 hours of free childcare per year, however there is currently a shortfall in provision in Aberdeen, with approximately over 250 children ‘unplaced’ in 2014/15. Improving participation in the labour market is a key driver in obtaining sustainable economic growth. Making childcare more flexible, affordable and accessible would encourage more parents into the workplace for more hours.

The statistics above relate only to hours-based underemployment. Skills-related underemployment is more difficult to quantify as the Labour Force survey does not gather this data. Anecdotally it is acknowledged that there is a degree of inadequate utilisation of skills. This highlights the necessity to better match the skills of the workforce to the needs of business and employment opportunities and ensure that the workforce of tomorrow – the youth of today – have the education and skills required by future needs of the labour market.

In addition to those that are employed or unemployed, some people are classed as being economically inactive. There are many reasons why an individual may be, or may become, inactive. The main reason for economic inactivity in Scotland is ‘long-term sick’ (27.1%), followed by the student population (25.0%); in Aberdeen, studying is the most prevalent reason for economic inactivity (29.1%) followed by those classed as long-term sick (28.1%). The rate of those classed as being ‘long-term’ sick in the city increased considerably between 2013 and 2014 – up 5.4 pp from 22.7%^{xxxiv}.

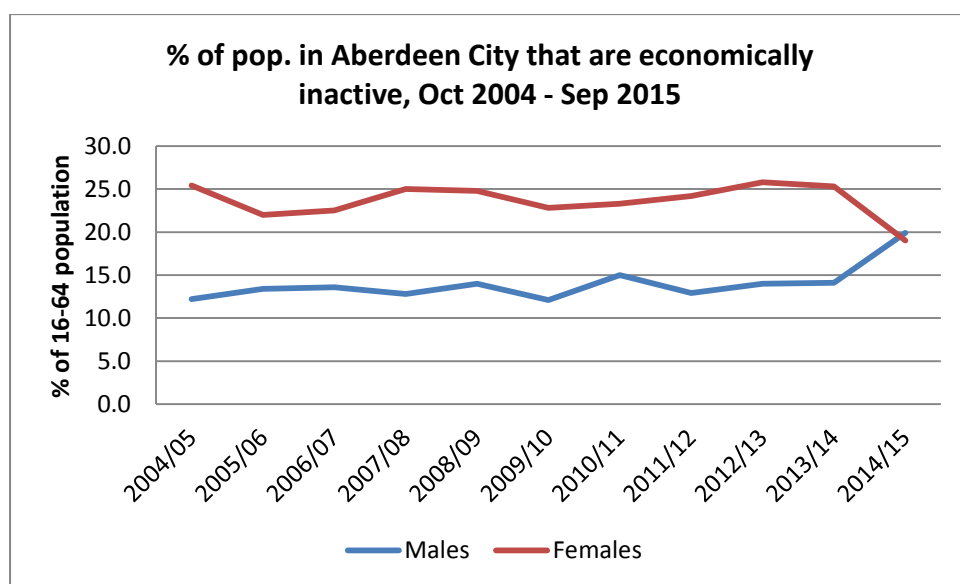
The labour market in Aberdeen was relatively unaffected by the 2008 recession, but the city is now experiencing a downturn at a time when the rest of the country is recovering, and the situation requires to be closely monitored.

ECONOMIC INACTIVITY^{xxxv}

Economically inactive people are those without a job who are not seeking work and / or are not available to start work in the next two weeks.

There are many reasons why a person might be inactive; they may be studying, looking after family, long-term sick or retired.

Economic inactivity among women in Aberdeen has fallen since 2004/05 (Oct 2004 – Sep 2015), and the most recent figures show that economic inactivity amongst females is currently at the lowest level recorded throughout the past decade. For males in the city, the opposite is true. Although the local trend mirrors the national trend, it is far more pronounced in Aberdeen than in Scotland.



There are some key differences between the local and national picture however when we look at reasons for economic inactivity. A third of economically inactive people in Aberdeen want a job; in Scotland, only 23% would like a job.

As indicated above, the most common reasons that people in Aberdeen, and in Scotland, are inactive is that they are studying, long-term sick or looking after the family / home but there is variation between the sexes. For men, the most common reason for economic inactivity is that they are studying, while women are more likely to be looking after family and / or the home.

EARNINGS & INCOME

Household earnings and income are important indicators to consider, particularly in the current economic climate.

People working within Aberdeen City enjoy higher rates of pay than the Scottish and UK population as a whole; weekly wages in the city in 2014 were 21.7% higher than the Scottish average^{xxxvi}.

Earnings in Aberdeen have increased at a greater rate than across the country, with annual earnings in 2014 30.5% higher than in 2005. Annual earnings have also risen in Scotland, though at a slower rate (26.9%), and by 18.8% in the UK.

In 2015, the median annual pay (gross) in Aberdeen City is £33,408, significantly higher than the Scottish (£27,710) and UK (£27,645) figures.

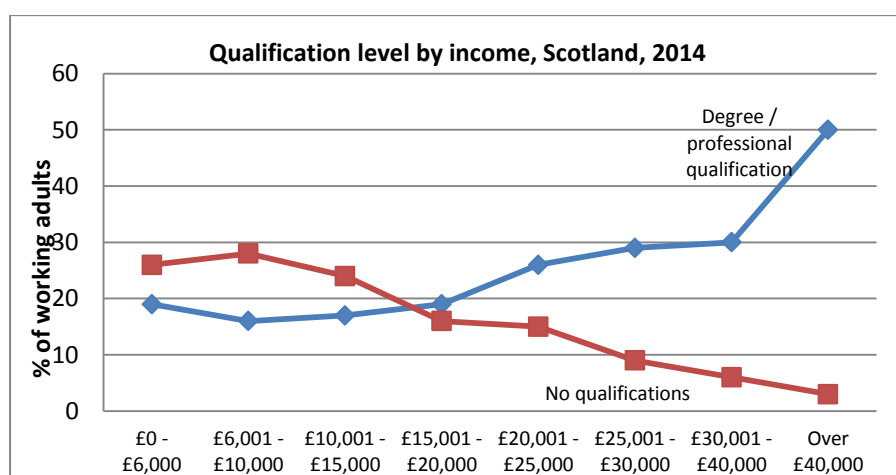
While high wages are obviously advantageous, it should be borne in mind that the city has a very unequal pay structure. During the past two years, the gap between the top 20% earners and bottom 20% earners in the city has widened, despite the gap closing slightly when we look at Scotland and the UK. Over the longer term, the trend in Scotland and the UK has remained relatively static; however there have been more obvious fluctuations evident in Aberdeen.

In addition to inequality between low and high earners, there is also a significant gender pay gap evident in Aberdeen. Aberdeen has one of the most unequal pay structures in the UK. The gap, based on median hourly earnings excluding overtime, for full-time employees in the city is 18.3% (9.6% in Scotland and 11.2% in UK)^{xxxvii}.

For those in part-time employment, females are the bigger earners – with the gap being far more pronounced in Aberdeen than across the country. Women are far more likely to work part-time than full time due to childcare and family commitments. Part-time work is often lower-skilled and pays less well per hour than full time work. Research has shown that while women may opt to reduce working hours to take care of children, they are not just sacrificing their current income but also their future potential income too^{xxxviii}.

The inequality of earnings in the city is primarily a result of premium rates paid by the oil and gas industry, where only a quarter of workers are female.

There are clear links between income and qualifications. Across Scotland, those earning higher incomes were much more likely to have a degree level qualification. Half of those earning in excess of £40,000 had a degree or professional qualification, while only 3% held no qualifications.



Source: Highest level of qualifications held by working adults by net annual household income, Scotland's People Annual Report, Results from 2014 Scottish Household Survey, Scottish Government

This is a cycle which is difficult to break. Children from low-income families are more likely to leave full-time education at an earlier stage and with fewer formal qualifications. Those with poor qualifications are less likely to be future high-income earners. The link between low-income households and poor attainment is explored further in the Smarter theme.

Aberdeen is now Scotland's richest city in terms of income per capita. Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that individuals have available for spending or saving after tax and national insurance contributions have been deducted. The average level of disposable income per head in the UK is £17,559. In Scotland, it's slightly lower at £17,039, but the rate of growth in household income has been higher in Scotland than in the UK and people in the City and Shire enjoy annual disposable income of £20,159 – more than £3,000 higher than the Scottish average and 35% more than Glasgow, which is the poorest city in Scotland. Again, this data – the latest available – refers to 2013, so does not yet take into account the impact of the oil price crash which has resulted in many job losses and pay cuts.

POVERTY & DEPRIVATION

The latest statistics, which refer to 2013/14, indicate that relative poverty, before and after housing costs, is dropping in Scotland. The analysis from the Scottish Government puts this down to a combination of increases in employment and the shift from part- to full-time positions. But, poverty after housing costs has not fallen to the same extent, due to changes in housing benefit and rising housing costs. This is particularly relevant in Aberdeen, where the cost of housing is amongst the highest in the country.

14% of Scotland's population, in 2013/14 lived in poverty (before housing costs). Take housing costs into account and that rises to 18%.

Despite the rate of both relative and absolute poverty falling in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13, poverty rates in Scotland, after housing costs, still remain higher than in 2011/12. Although the headline measure for poverty focusses on 'Before Housing Costs', it is 'After Housing Costs' that is the more relevant measure of poverty, particularly in an area where housing costs are at a premium.

Taking the recent local economic context into consideration, it is possible that poverty rates in Aberdeen may rise. But employment itself is not necessarily a route out of poverty; 50% of the working age adults who were in relative poverty after housing costs, and 56% of the children, lived in a household with at least one person in paid employment^{xxxix}. In-work poverty is a serious problem. The introduction of a

national living wage will clearly go some way to addressing the issue of in-work poverty; it will not resolve the issue by itself.

In-work poverty may not necessarily be as a result of low hourly pay, but instead may be attributable to the number of hours worked (see 'underemployment' above). While public services have gone some way to supporting 'family-friendly' working environments, there is more that can be done, both within the public sector and in encouraging the private sector to adopt more flexible working patterns.

As shown above, the gap between relative poverty before and after housing costs is wide, therefore housing affordability is an area that should be given particular attention.

Food poverty is on the rise in the UK and in Scotland. Figures released by the charity the Trussell Trust show that in 2014/15 It issued a three-day supply of emergency food on 117,689 occasions, an increase of 65% from the previous year. While some of that increase may be due to improved reporting and recording methods, as well as public awareness of foodbanks rising, there is no doubt that a significant number of people are still unable to afford to feed themselves.

Despite the relative wealth in the City, Aberdeen is no exception. Food Banks Partnership Aberdeen is an initiative involving 37 partner organisations, churches and Aberdeen City Council. The Partnership was established to co-ordinate efforts of a rising number of Food Banks within the City of Aberdeen. The Partnership aims to ensure that people using food banks are getting the wider support they require, such as employment, money and debt advice.

Although the Partnership does not include all food bank providers (Somebody Cares and Trussell Trust are not included in the Food Banks Partnership) data shows that food bank usage in Aberdeen is rising sharply^{xi}.

Benefit delays, low income and benefit changes are the primary reasons why people are being referred to food banks for emergency assistance.

INFRASTRUCTURE

HOUSING – AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, SUITABILITY AND QUALITY

Aberdeen is suffering from a major shortage of housing. With demand vastly outstripping supply, the city suffers from high house prices and rents, leaving many people with insufficient funds to meet other basic needs such as food and clothing. The lack of affordable housing hinders the recruitment and retention of the workforce. Particular media attention^{xli} has recently highlighted the difficulties experienced in relation to the recruitment of key workers in Aberdeen over recent months. Being unable to recruit and retain key workers limits the economic growth and development of an area. The difficulty in attracting talent and in retaining the skills base within the city has, in particular, had a considerable impact on the local

authority and NHS services based in the city, with high levels of vacancies in teaching, social work, and key medical and caring professions.

Housing shortages have significant social implications, such as impairment of quality of life, health outcomes and life chances for occupants.

Social housing in Aberdeen is scarce. At the end of August 2015, Aberdeen City Council had a total housing stock of 22,280 properties. Currently, there are almost 8,000 people on the waiting list for council housing – 400 of whom are homeless, and with an average of 1,500 – 1,600 properties re-let per year over recent years, it is clear that some people will never be allocated council housing unless their circumstances change significantly. Placement on the waiting list is dependent on an applicant's particular circumstances, hence their priority for housing. Even those on the 'Urgent Rehousing List' are waiting, on average, 10 months to be allocated accommodation^{xlii}.

High outgoings for housing costs are often associated with financial difficulties, and this is particularly pertinent in Aberdeen given the high cost of private rented housing and property ownership. The average house price in Aberdeen is around 30% more than the national average - £228,864 in Aberdeen compared to the Scottish average price of £173,830^{xliii}. As well as the high cost of property ownership, private sector rentals in the City are the most expensive in Scotland, with average rent in Aberdeen currently standing at £1,043, significantly above the national rent of £762^{xliv}, and around 16% of the total housing stock in Aberdeen is in the private rented sector^{xlv}. Since the second half of 2014, the average time taken to let a private rental property in the city has risen, with market experts linking this to the uncertainty within the oil and gas industry.

Delivering affordable housing is extremely challenging, and the Housing Needs and Demands Assessment 2011 identified a need for an additional 415 affordable housing units per annum for the next ten years.

Latest housing statistics show that between April 2014 and March 2015, 570 new homes were completed across the City, bringing the total number of new homes completed over the past five years to just fewer than 3,000 – three-quarters of which are private sector housing.

One in three households in Aberdeen is headed by a person over the age of 65. Population ageing is obviously a success story, but it is one that brings significant challenges. One of the challenges we face is providing sufficient housing of the right size and quality to meet need and demand from the growing and changing population. One person households are now the most common household type in Scotland – accounting for over a third of all households. In Aberdeen, it is even more significant, with 37.9% of all households being single person households.

Older people are more likely to either live alone, or in a household where all persons are aged 65 or older^{xlvi}. The most recent household projections, which are 2012 based, project that the number of households headed by someone aged 75 or older in Aberdeen will increase by 65% by 2037 and a 25% increase is projected in the number of households headed by someone aged 60 to 74.

The provision of suitable housing is one of the key challenges presented by an ageing population. Unsuitable housing impacts directly on health. Problems such as damp, mould and structural defects can all have a detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.

The vast majority of the pensioner population will continue to meet their needs in the general housing stock, however there will also be an increase in the number of vulnerable older people more likely to require support. The older generation are more likely to require smaller housing but there is a requirement for local authorities to ensure that there is adequate sheltered, very sheltered and amenity housing. It is also important to consider the locality of appropriate housing; the informal support network of older people is likely to be, in the main, in their local neighbourhood; to move vulnerable people may increase social isolation.

Older people are more likely than any other group to require adaptations to their homes in order to live independently. There is a commitment to providing care at home to those who need it but this is difficult to quantify as informal support given by family and friends overshadows formal support.

The under-occupation of houses in the city is likely to increase as people occupy houses larger than their requirements. Longer life expectancies coupled with a relatively static housing stock will lead to fewer housing vacancies.

Providing appropriate housing of suitable quality and standard offers the potential to reduce costs to health and social care and allow older people to remain independent

In April 2014, the Housing Access service was launched, which comprises housing advice, prevention, and statutory homeless assessment and allocation functions. Any person/s now wishing to apply for housing in Aberdeen City must first undergo a housing options assessment that is designed to help customers explore and understand the full range of options available to them. In 2014/15, the number of homelessness applications increased by 14% compared to the previous year. The majority of homelessness applications are from single people. The continued lack of affordable housing options in the city means it is unlikely that the number of homeless applications will reduce drastically and changes to housing benefit may result in a further increase in the number of applications.

TRANSPORT

As well as the additional strain placed on housing within the city, the rapid economic growth has placed significant pressure on transport infrastructure.

An effective and efficient transport network is a key element for economic development. The availability of adequate and suitable internal and external transport links is a crucial factor in Aberdeen's continuing success.

The future economic development of the city depends on continued investment in infrastructure, including transport. While some progress has been made, better road, rail, sea and air transport links are critical to improve accessibility and reduce the cost of doing business in the city, which in turn will attract inward investment and lead to job creation.

A transport network that provides accessible and affordable transport is also key to tackling social isolation for everyone, but with a particular focus on older people.

Transport, in 2014, was the highest household expenditure for UK households with an average spend of £74.80 per week – around 14% of household spending^{xlvii}. People on low incomes are less likely to own or use a car and are therefore reliant on public transport.

The cost of public transport in Aberdeen City is among the highest in the country^{xlviii}. 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.

Transport alone cannot solve social exclusion, but it can help in getting people to the education, jobs and activities that can improve their long-term outcomes^{xlix}.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

“Communications services are critical to the UK's economic success and social cohesion. They are used by the average UK adult for over half of their waking hours.” *Ofcom*

Telecommunications networks are vital to the local and national economies. Internet and broadband is increasingly viewed as a tool imperative to businesses and individuals alike. The coverage, capacity and reliability of the digital infrastructure over which these services are provided are critical to both consumers and businesses. Robust digital infrastructure is of fundamental importance to continued economic growth locally, nationally and internationally.

Superfast broadband, or the lack of, can have a huge impact on businesses. The provision of ultrafast broadband will help accelerate economic growth, create

employment, support the delivery of education services and enable more cost effective delivery of public services including self-directed care, council housing repairs and benefits claims.

In December 2015, Ofcom published the report Connected Nations 2015 (previously known as the Infrastructure Report), which showed that, at that time, 93% of premises in Aberdeen City had next generation internet coverage, and 83% had access to superfast broadband¹.

Although coverage is spreading, the city still suffers from relatively slow download speeds.

City	Average Download Speed (Mbit/s)
Aberdeen	19.5
Dundee	43.3
Edinburgh	39.6
Glasgow	28.5

Infrastructure is only one facet however; there are still many reasons why people in Aberdeen, Scotland and globally aren't logging on. Often cost and capability are barriers to people accessing the internet. As we move to a more digitised society, and one in which public services are commonly accessed and delivered over the internet, there is the risk that those not engaged with the internet will suffer.

Furthermore, those that do not access or make use of the internet are often those that could benefit most; for example, older people and those in low income groups. Use of the internet continues to increase, however there are still financial, knowledge and health barriers that prevent some people from using the internet. In moving to a more digitised society, we, as public services, need to ensure that we are not increasing social exclusion / isolation of people with diverse needs.

The way we access the internet is changing and the reasons that people use the internet are also broadening. More people in Scotland now access the internet by Smartphone, and more individuals now use the internet not just to do business, but also to improve fitness, enhance learning and have face-to-face conversations with friends and family spread around the globe. Rather than using browsers, people are now using apps. There is therefore a need to improve not only fixed broadband coverage, but also mobile broadband coverage.

FUTURE ISSUES

One of the most significant challenges facing Community Planning partners in Aberdeen, and Scotland, will be the need to exercise financial constraint due to reductions in public sector budgets. These cuts come at a time when demand for public services is increasing. Maintaining high levels of services, with reduced resources, will remain a challenge for all public sector bodies for the foreseeable future. The need to focus on prevention and early intervention is paramount.

In the spending review, announced on 25th November 2015, the UK government announced that, as a result of much controversy regarding the planned overhaul of tax credits, the two child limit on tax credit claims will be retained and the family element for new claimants will be scrapped. In addition, housing benefit and pension credit payments will be stopped for people leaving the country for more than one month. Although these changes will have less media impact than the proposed changes to tax credits, it may cause difficulties for many families.

Another challenge for the partnership is to alleviate the effects of poverty and inequality in the context of welfare reform. Although the Chancellor did scrap some of the most hard-hitting reforms in the spending review, measures could still have an adverse effect on Aberdeen's most vulnerable families.

The impact of the recent economic downturn is now being felt in the city, with increasing unemployment and reduced employment opportunities.

While consumers are reaping the benefits of low oil prices, the continued low price presents a significant risk to the local and national economy. The lifting of sanctions on Iran in January 2016 threatens to lower the price even further. The declining fortunes are already taking their toll on the local economy and the continued low price puts further jobs at risk and presents a serious threat to Scotland's economic wellbeing.

A number of projects are ongoing in the North East of Scotland which will have impact positively on economic growth in the region. In a recent study by Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, the projects identified as having the biggest positive impact on the region's economy are the redevelopment of Aberdeen International Airport, the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and the roll-out of faster broadband.

Despite the overall downturn in the UK economy, there are some snippets of good news. In August 2015, the development a large new field in the UK North Sea was approved by the UK Oil & Gas Authority. Gas is expected to start flowing from the development in 2019 and continue for 13 years, with peak production reaching 60,000 – 90,000 barrels per day. This development is expected to support more than 6,000 jobs and create more than 400 direct jobs.

There is a significant shift in the demography of the city projected over the next two decades. With an ageing population, there will inevitably be increased demand placed on public services, in particular health and social care services.

The Scottish Parliament election is to be held on Thursday 5th May 2016. Opinion polls suggest that the Scottish National Party will retain its majority. The current Scottish Government has made free childcare a central part of its campaign and has an ambitious plan to double free early learning and childcare provision to enable parents to re-enter the workplace. Rising childcare costs and lack of availability are barriers to working parents, but with wide gaps in provision already evident, such a commitment will require significant investment, including capital investment.

As of April 2016, the National Living Wage must be paid to employees aged 25 or older. This means that all employees aged 25 or older will be entitled to at least £7.20 per hour. The introduction of a national living wage may mean that employers are looking to increase the productivity of their workforce, therefore there may be consequent job losses. It could also mean that employers seek to reduce costs by employing those not entitled to the national living wage, such as younger or self-employed workers. On the other hand, it is likely that by earning more, people will spend more, and therefore this could result in job creation. Regardless of either of these outcomes, many people employed in the public and voluntary sectors are often on low incomes, so in an area where there will be increased demand on services, costs are likely to spiral significantly.

According to a map produced by the Living Wage Foundation, there are 22 businesses within, or close to the city boundaries, that are already paying the living wage. Introduction of a national living wage will help with narrowing the pay gap, however a study carried out by the Resolution Foundation estimates that only around 16% of employees working in Aberdeen will benefit from the introduction of a legal minimum hourly pay.

The National Living Wage is a statutory obligation which employers must pay or face legal challenge. But, campaigners argue, it is not a true living wage. The 'Living Wage' as set by the Living Wage Foundation, is calculated every November and is based on what is needed to achieve a low cost, but acceptable standard of living. The 'living wage' is currently £8.25^{li}, and therefore there are calls for the National Living Wage to be increased.

While the vast majority of public sector workers in Scotland already earn the living wage, there has been much debate as to the extent to which private and third sector organisations delivering public sector contracts can be required, or encouraged, to pay the living wage.

The UK Government has agreed City Deals with a number of major city regions outside London. A City Deal allows local areas to unlock financial support and powers from national government, giving local bodies' greater control over spending

and decision-making. Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils have been working alongside the private sector on proposals which could bring considerable investment to the North East of Scotland, based on the needs of the area. The oil and gas industry, as noted above, has allowed the North East to prosper the City Region Deal will allow us to build upon the existing strengths but also to diversify the local economy.

The Aberdeen City Region Deal proposals focus on two pillars – Infrastructure and an Economic Strategy that covers internationalisation, innovation and skills.

CHALLENGES

- Aberdeen's booming economy in recent years has placed the city's infrastructure under significant pressure and that infrastructure is now struggling to keep pace. This has increased the cost and ease of doing business in the city. Significant investment is required to improve infrastructure to ensure that the city remains an attractive and competitive place to do business.
- Welfare Reform is designed to encourage people back into the workplace, however Aberdeen's economy is currently going through a downturn and this is reducing the number of employment opportunities.
- Ensuring enough work placements are available for university and college students in the City, to enable them to acquire skills and experience needed to enter the workplace.
- Address skills shortages, particularly in the education, care and health sectors.
- In times of financial constraint, public services will have to do more with fewer resources.
- The population of Aberdeen is projected to increase by 28% by 2037. A rising population will place increased demand on infrastructure that is already struggling. It will also mean an increase in the size of the labour force.
- The low price of oil makes it a more attractive electricity source for power stations and may hinder the growth of the green energy sector.

OPPORTUNITIES

- To tackle inequalities in Aberdeen by reducing the income gap.
- To increase awareness and act to negate the detrimental impact on health and wellbeing as a result of the economic downturn.
- Ensure that Aberdeen is well placed to take advantage of the growth sectors, such as renewable energy and the low carbon economy.
- To diversify from typical oil and gas exploration and production and to become a world leader in smart, sustainable energy and decommissioning.
- Support inclusion and sustainability in those communities most in need.

- Public sector reform – this is both a challenge and an opportunity – get it right, and we can deliver services more effectively, at lower cost and with less carbon emissions.
- An opportunity to capitalise on the knowledge and expertise of the ageing population.
- Aberdeen City Region Deal will bring significant capital investment to the North East of Scotland.
- There is an opportunity to work with communications providers to target areas of low internet usage, and to work within communities to enhance digital literacies and therefore help people access services and further opportunities.

SMARTER

“A smarter Scotland will help drive wealth creation and equity by putting opportunities to succeed within everyone’s reach and making full use of people skills. Investing in and applying learning will help to generate the attitudes, ideas and technologies which protect and improve health, wellbeing and the environment. A smarter Scotland will also underpin greater social and economic cohesion, by ensuring that education plays a key role in building stronger and more resilient families and communities.” Scottish Government

OVERVIEW

Our aspiration is for Aberdeen to be an ambitious, achieving, smarter city. We want to be a city where individuals are empowered, and have the capabilities to fulfil their potential, contributing to the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of our communities.

There have been significant improvements in the attainment, skills and positive destinations of Aberdeen’s youngsters over recent years. The pass rate for Aberdeen City’s students for National 4 was almost 5% higher than the national pass rate. Nevertheless, there is still work to do to ensure that we give all children and young people in Aberdeen City the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Academic attainment is only one measure of success and it is recognised that an academic route is not appropriate, nor attractive, to all. Equal emphasis must be placed on ensuring our young people are in the best place to progress in life generally and the focus must therefore extend to ‘softer’ skills such as confidence, communication and aspirations.

Education and Children’s Services provide education to around 20,000 pupils in 47 primary schools, 12 secondary schools and 4 schools for children with additional support needs. All primary and secondary schools provide interventions for children and young people with additional support needs.

Poorer attainment historically will mean that there is a proportion of Aberdeen’s adult population who have a lower skills base and may therefore have more limited employment outcomes. Additionally, parents/carers are the main educators of children. Parental involvement in the early years has a strong influence on cognitive development and children with parents or carers who have lower education attainment are at a disadvantage before they even reach school.

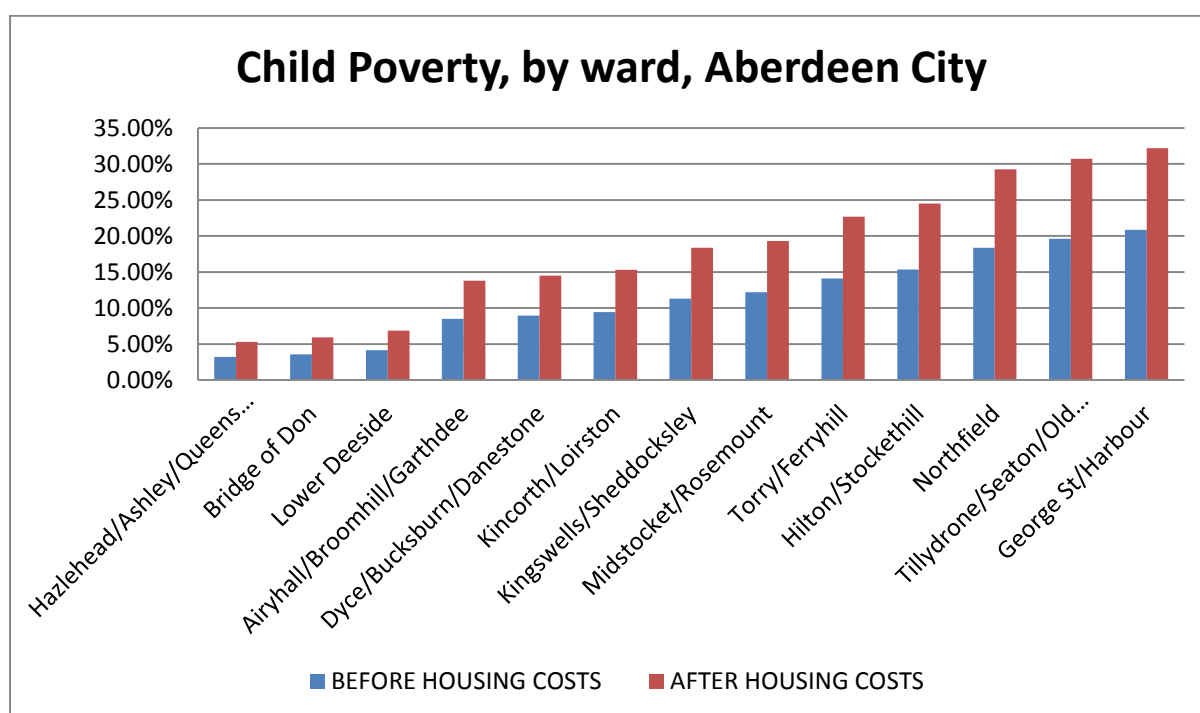
While levels of deprivation have a large influence on attainment, the attainment gap cannot be wholly attributed to deprivation levels.

EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE

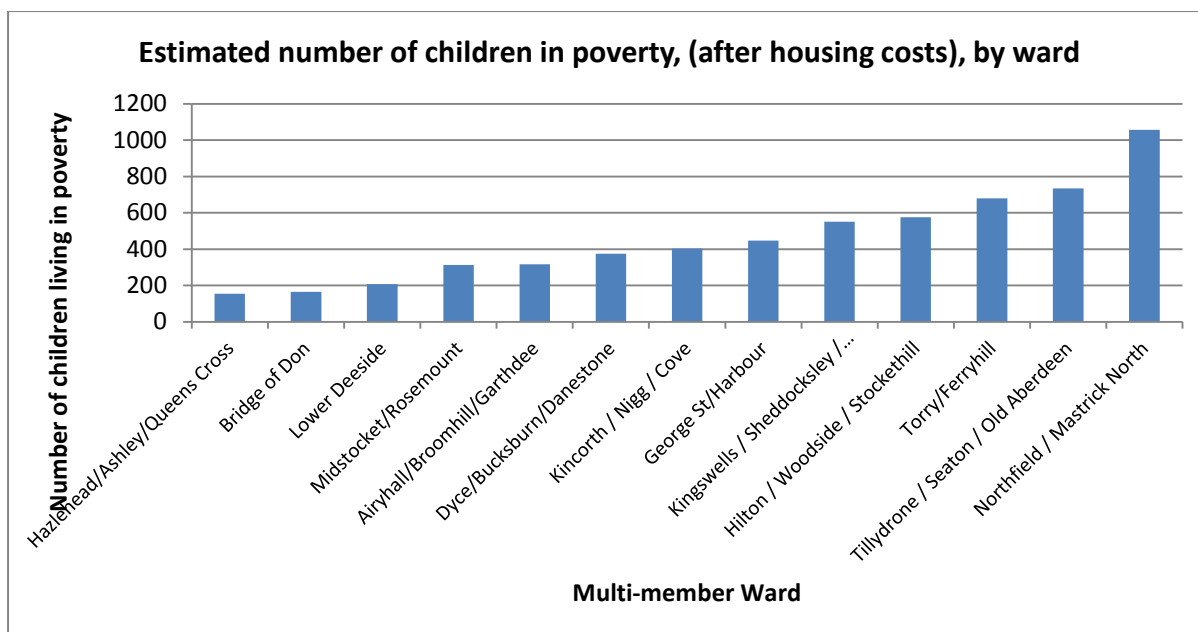
The first five years of a child's life are of crucial importance. Early childhood is the foundation that shapes an individual's future path. It is widely recognised that the early years are the most formative years in ensuring that our children are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Early years' development cannot be considered without looking at the impact of child poverty. Although not every child who grows up in a low-income household will have poor life outcomes, children from low income families do less well than their peers in a number of dimensions. Poverty has a detrimental impact on physical and mental health, as well as on educational and social development.

In one of the wealthiest nations in the developed world, 14%^{lii} of children in Scotland – some 140,000 – are living in relative poverty^{liii} before housing costs are taken into account; add housing costs into the equation and that figure rises to 22%, or 210,000 children. More locally, poverty continues to compromise the life chances of children in Aberdeen. Figures from Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland^{liv} highlight that almost one in five (18%) of the city's children live in poverty (after housing costs). The distribution of child poverty varies dramatically across the city; in the George Street / Harbour ward, almost one in three children are living in poverty, while in the Tillydrone / Seaton / Old Aberdeen and Northfield wards, around 30% of the resident child population are living in poverty, compared to less than 6% in other parts of the city.



Source: Child Poverty Action Group



Many view paid employment as a route out of poverty, but, while employment is the most important factor, it is not a guaranteed route out of employment. Indeed, only 7.6%^{iv} of children in Aberdeen live in a workless household – significantly less than the Scottish average (13.8%), but as the figures above show, a greater proportion are living in poverty, indicating significant levels of ‘in-work poverty’ in the city.

Children living in poverty are at a disadvantage educationally. Parents may struggle to afford learning materials, pay for school trips and buy school uniforms.

Children learn quicker during their early years than at any other time in their life, but in order to learn, children must be nurtured, receive care, love and affection, be mentally stimulated, be nourished and have good health care.

Since April 2002, Local Authorities in Scotland have had a duty to secure a funded part-time early learning and childcare place for all children in the school term following their third birthday until they start primary school. From August 2014, all three and four year old children in Scotland are now eligible to receive 600 hours of funded early learning and childcare every year – around 16 hours a week during term time. In Aberdeen City, this is provided in nursery classes in local authority primary schools as well as in partnership with the private, independent and voluntary sectors.

Pre-school education in Aberdeen is provided in 46 nursery classes based in local authority primary schools, and Aberdeen City Council works in partnership with 40 registered pre-school education centres for the provision of funded pre-school education. In addition, there is pre-school provision for children with additional support needs at Aberdeen School for the Deaf and in three linked developmental nurseries in Kaimhill, Ashgrove and Seaton.

In 2014/15, 76.3% of eligible ante pre-school and 90.7% of pre-school children were allocated a nursery place. For both groups of children, this is the lowest proportion over the past 5 years.

Aberdeen City Council has increased investment in early learning and childcare over recent years. In 2010/11, the local authority spent £2,058.15 per pre-school registration. In 2014/15, that had increased to £3,884.67 – an increase of almost 89%. The three other major cities in Scotland (Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow) have all reduced spending per pre-school registration over this time period^{lvi}.

In order to support parents or carers to work or study, and into sustainable employment, the current Scottish Government's 2016 manifesto sets out an ambitious plan to increase early learning and childcare even further, from around 16 hours a week to around 30 hours a week, or 1140 hours per year, by 2020.

The current model of provision is that the local authority delivers ELC offers five mornings or five afternoons term time only – the flexible offer is delivered through private and independent sector partners. In order to address the proposed expansion Aberdeen City Council is working with the Childcare Alliance / Children in Scotland to review current provision and to realign its services to meet parental demands. Funded provision needs to be flexible enough to better suit parental working patterns.

Significant challenges as a result of the programme for government, Aberdeen City Council will have to double its provision. Key challenges will be accommodation (getting the space), and the workforce – recruiting and retaining the workforce, as well as possible funding implications. The government are not in a position to advise local authorities of the resources available to deliver the expansion programme / ambition.

Good quality early years education has a lasting positive impact on children's attainment and behaviour. Poor quality early learning and childcare limits the scope for children to enter school 'ready' to learn and maximise their potential.

Sufficient affordable, flexible and good quality childcare provision enables parents to work. As well as public sector or private nurseries that are working in partnership with the local authority, childcare is also available in the private sector. Paying for childcare can be costly - the average costs for a part-time nursery place (25 hours) in Scotland for a child under 2 is £110 per week, and for a child over two it's just under £100 per week, and so many families rely on grandparents and other family members to provide informal childcare.

Despite there being a number of day nurseries in Aberdeen, and a concentration of those in the centre of the City, demand for places is still high, and in October 2014, 570 children were on the waiting list.

Private childcare provision – including nurseries and childminders – is more concentrated in most affluent areas, with little private provision in the more disadvantaged areas of the city.

Parents / carers not eligible for funded childcare can still receive discounts on childcare costs through employer-supported vouchers.

The Tax-Free Childcare scheme allows some working parents to claim up to £2,000 per child towards the cost of childcare per year. This scheme was to be launched in Autumn 2015, but following a legal challenge, this has now been postponed to 2017. This means that from 2017, although no new entrants will be able to join the childcare vouchers scheme, employers can continue to run the scheme for existing members.

The new scheme will be open to single parents and couples who work eight or more hours a week who pay for registered childcare for a child, or children, under the age of 12 (17 if the child is disabled) and not claiming tax credits or universal credit.

EDUCATION

Education and Children's Services in Aberdeen City provide education to around 20,000 pupils in 47 primary schools, 12 secondary schools and 4 schools for pupils with additional support needs.

Curriculum for Excellence was first introduced in 2010/11 and aims to ensure that every learner develops knowledge, skills and attributes to fulfil their potential. The Curriculum for Excellence is for all children and young people in all educational settings.

PRIMARY YEARS

The early level of the Curriculum for Excellence focuses on the needs of children aged 3 to the end of Primary 1.

There is enormous variation in the capabilities of children by the time they start school. It is widely acknowledged that children from poorer backgrounds tend to do less well in school, but it is perhaps not so well known that children from poorer backgrounds also tend to start school further behind than their peers. Educational deficits emerge early in childhood, are evident even before school and widen throughout the primary school years. Schools in Aberdeen cater for children from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds – those from wealthy backgrounds through to those from very poor backgrounds.

In Aberdeen, the Performance Indicators for Primary Schools (PIPS) On-entry Baseline Assessment (BLA) method is used to assess children when they first enter Primary 1 and again at the end of their first year of compulsory education. Analysis

shows that, of children who started primary school in Aberdeen in 2014/15, PIPS scores were lower in schools with a high proportion of children living in the more deprived areas. In reading, pupils starting Milltimber, Scotstown and Cults Primary Schools scored the highest; the school census for these schools shows very small percentage of pupils are from more deprived communities. Conversely, the primary schools scoring the lowest for reading skills were Walker Road, Seaton, Tullos and Manor Park Primary Schools – schools where more than 60% of the pupil population that live in the 20% most deprived areas^{lvii}. Parenting styles and home learning environments are two factors that may explain the gap in school-readiness, but it should also be noted that Walker Road, Seaton, Tullos and Manor Park Primary schools have higher proportions of Eastern European children and this may also be a contributory factor. These findings have been fairly consistent over the past five years. Good literacy and numeracy skills are imperative to overcoming inequality and social exclusion. Unfortunately inequalities in early life can have a ripple effect; children who start school with weak literacy and numeracy skills are more likely to leave secondary school earlier and with poorer academic achievement.

Investing in child literacy is an investment for the future, but in order to enhance child literacy we must aim to increase adult literacy. Poor literacy among parents/carers is likely to impact negatively on a young person's attitude to reading, and indeed wider learning and educational attainment is strongly influenced by this attitude. If parents don't have an adequate standard of literacy, they lack the capability to support learning; poor educational outcomes then become a generational issue.

The difference in Literacy and Numeracy skills is more widespread than just in Aberdeen City. The Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy is a national annual sample based survey, which monitors performance in literacy and numeracy in alternate years and over time, at P4, P7 and S2. Results from the 2014 literacy survey show that, across the country, children from areas of least deprivation are more likely to perform very well at reading at Primary 4 than children from areas of greatest deprivation (49% compared to 34%), and the gap widens throughout the years; 67% of children in the least deprived category were performing very well at Primary 7 level, compared to 43% in the most deprived category and, at S2, it was 53% for the least deprived category and 29% for the most deprived category^{lviii}.

Tackling inequality is at the heart of the Scottish Government's agenda in order that every child can succeed in school and gain skills for life. The Scottish Attainment Challenge aims to raise the attainment of children and young people living in deprived communities and therefore close the gap in attainment.

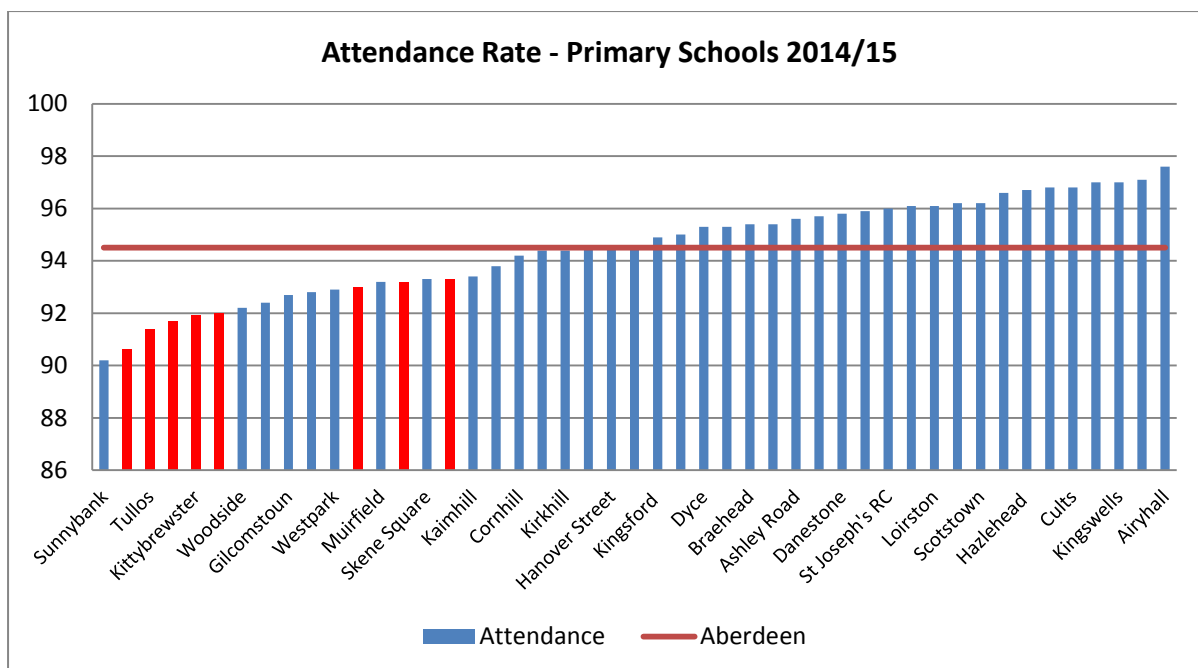
Good nutrition and nourishment is important for learning. Learning suffers when children are going hungry. Recognising that children are often turning up to school hungry, Aberdeen City Council runs breakfast clubs at selected schools situated in areas with high levels of deprivation.

In an effort to tackle inequalities and ensure that Scotland's children get the best start in life, the Scottish Government extended free school meals to all Primary 1 to three children in local authority schools across Scotland from January 2015. Locally however, there appears to be an imbalance between children in primary's 4 to 7 who are, or may be, entitled to free school meals and those who are actually claiming it. Tullos, Manor Park, and Riverbank Primary Schools all have more than four-fifths of the pupil population living in the 20% most deprived areas, yet uptake of free school meals is relatively low in comparison (35.6%, 35.0%, and 16.9% respectively). While entitlement is not based on home areas of deprivation, such areas are indicative of low income families and hence entitlement could reasonably be expected to be higher.

In addition to free school meals, a clothing grant is available for eligible parents in order to clothe their child adequately for school. The clothing grant, as set by Aberdeen City Council is currently £55 for primary school pupils and £60 for secondary school pupils, despite a working group set up in 2009 that recommended a minimum of £70 be paid. In 2014/15, 1,358 clothing grants were allocated to primary school pupils in Aberdeen, at a total cost of £74,690. For secondary school pupils, the total cost was £47,880 in the same year. There has been a considerable drop in the number of clothing grants allocated over recent years; 639 less primary school pupils and 741 less secondary school pupils received the grant in 2014/15 than in 2010/11. Given that unemployment has been increasing in the city during 2015, we may see an increase in applications for school clothing allowance.

Aberdeen City Council invests heavily in educating children. In 2014/2015, Aberdeen City Council spent, on average, almost £5,300 educating each primary school pupil – this was 13% higher than the Scottish average, the highest figure per pupil in any of the major Scottish Cities, and around 27% higher than the City of Edinburgh. The total cost, therefore, of schooling for each primary school pupil in that year was almost £68.5m – (12,976 pupils at £5,278.67 each). The most recent school roll forecast indicates that by 2022 the number of primary school pupils will increase by around 28%; using the most recent cost per pupil, an additional £19.5m will be required^{lix}.

The attendance rate for primary school pupils at Aberdeen primary schools was 94.5% in the 2014/15 academic year. Attendance varied across the primary schools within the city. The attendance rate for Airyhall Primary School was 97.6%, but at the other end of the scale attendance at Sunnybank Primary School was 90.2%. In general, attendance was poorer at schools with higher levels of deprivation. While there is clearly a link between levels of deprivation and poor school attendance, deprivation is not the sole cause of poor attendance.



Source: Primary School Profiles, Aberdeen City Council

Note: Schools highlighted in red have more than half of the student population living in the most deprived quintile

SECONDARY YEARS

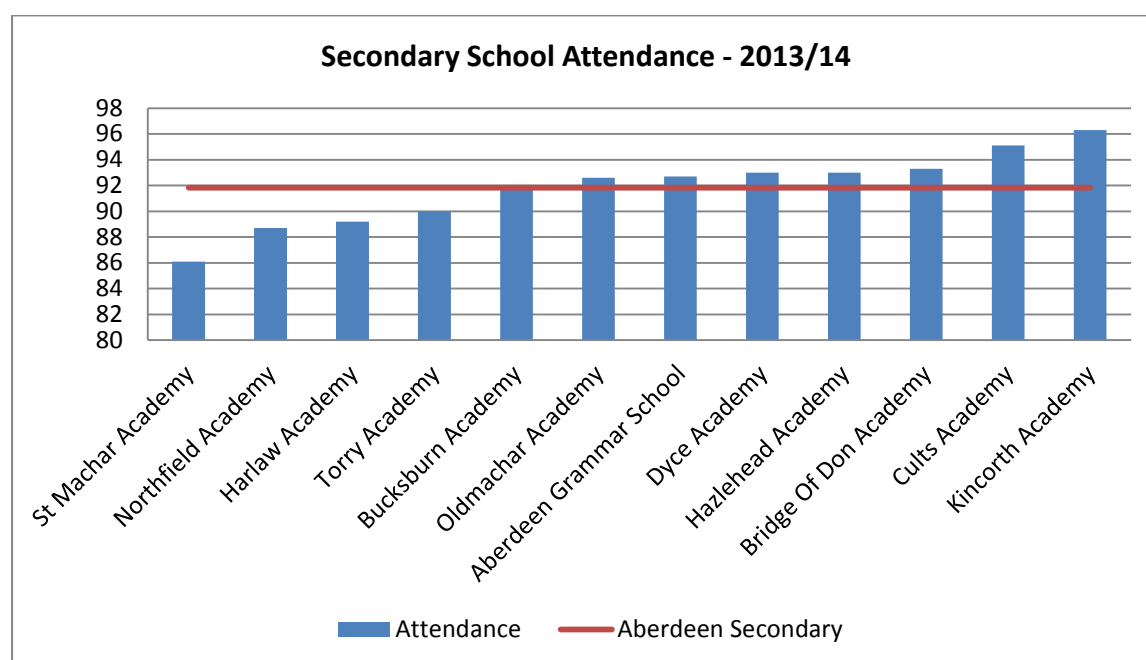
The Curriculum for Excellence comprises a broad general education up to the end of S3, followed by a senior phase of learning from S4 to S6.

There is a link, generally, between educational attainment and deprivation. Generally, young people with higher levels of attainment have higher employment rates.

Educational attainment in the city has improved considerably over recent years and unsurprisingly, attainment is generally higher at schools that have a lower proportion of the pupil population that come from the most deprived communities. Cults Academy, Oldmachar Academy and Aberdeen Grammar are the schools with the highest proportions of young people achieving 5 or more awards at level 4 or better by the end of S4; each of these schools have less than 7% of the student population coming from the most deprived communities. Conversely, Northfield Academy, St Machar Academy and Torry Academy report the lowest proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more awards at level 4 or better by end of S4; each of these schools have more than 40% of the student population that come from the most deprived communities.

Generally, attendance rate is also lower in secondary schools that have a sizeable proportion of pupils from deprived areas. This no doubt impacts on pupil attainment at these schools, but cannot be attributed as a sole causal factor. Torry Academy

has the largest proportion of pupils from the most deprived (20%) areas of Aberdeen, followed by St Machar Academy and Northfield Academy.



Source: Secondary School Profiles, Aberdeen City Council

The secondary school population is forecast to grow considerably by 2022. Current indications are a rise of 18% in secondary school rolls. Again, Aberdeen City Council is one of the higher spenders in relation to secondary education – the local authority invests £7,401 per year per secondary school pupil in Aberdeen, 12% more than the Scottish average (£6,593). In 2014, the secondary school role was 8,756 pupils; at a cost of £7,401 the total spend therefore in the most recent year was £64.8m. If the school roll does rise as per forecast, based on the current spend per pupil, it is projected that this annual spend will rise to almost £76.8m.

The understanding of English language in schools no doubt has an impact on attainment levels. Torry Academy and St Machar Academy in particular have a high proportion of the pupil population for whom English is an additional language.

Learning is key to unlocking economic success and enhanced wellbeing. As highlighted in the Wealthier & Fairer section, those with higher educational attainment are more likely to be successful in the workplace.

It must be borne in mind that not every child and young person is academic and the Curriculum for Excellence seeks to support the personal, vocational and social development of Scotland's children and young people.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Children may be 'looked after' by local authorities either at home or away from home. They may become looked after for a number of reasons, such as neglect, abuse, complex care needs, or as a result of becoming embroiled in the youth justice system. Parental substance misuse could also be a reason that a child becomes looked after.

Looked after children tend to have lower levels of educational attainment than non-looked after children. While this may be linked to a relatively high prevalence of special educational needs and / or poor emotional or behaviour health, looked after children also tend to leave school at a younger age.

As well as, and perhaps because of, children who are looked after by local authorities are less likely to go on to positive destinations after school than the general young population.

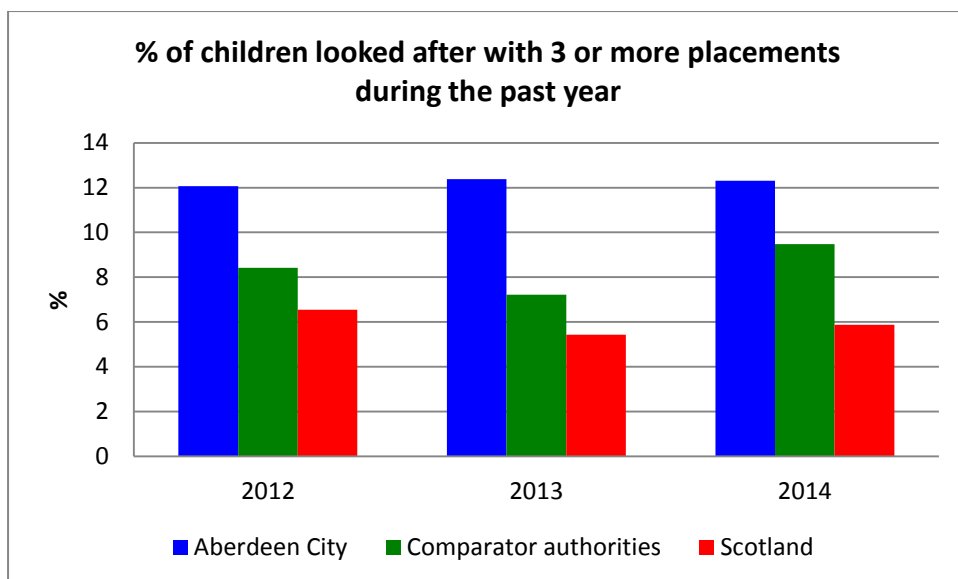
On 31st July 2014, there were 15,580 children looked after by local authorities in Scotland, and 577 looked after children in Aberdeen City. The rate of children looked after in Aberdeen City (15.4), per 1,000 of the 0 – 18 years population, is similar to the national rate (15.0).

The majority of looked after children in Aberdeen City are boys, and around a quarter of the city's looked after children are aged 5 or younger.

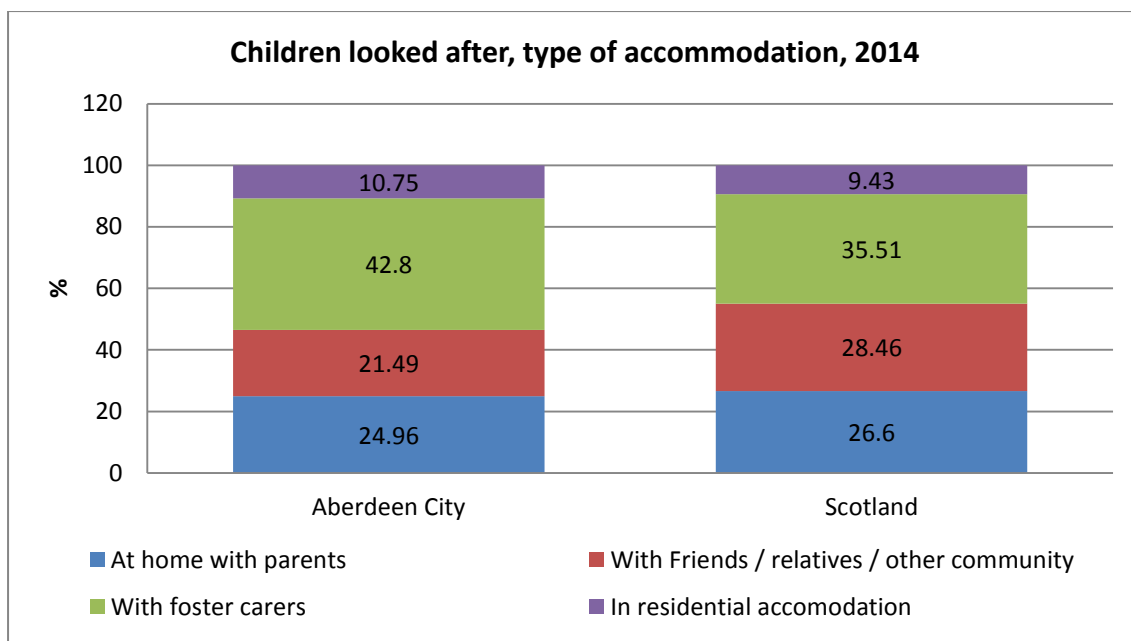
Despite the number of children looked after in the city falling, the number of children placed in residential care has risen, albeit numbers are relatively small.

In Scotland, almost all school leavers leave school with at least one qualification at level 4 or better, but for looked after school leavers that drops to less than three-quarters^{ix}, and that difference becomes more pronounced with higher level qualifications.

Research has clearly evidenced that the more placement moves a looked after child experiences, the poorer their outcomes generally are. It is therefore the aim of Aberdeen City Council to support more children to remain within their own home and, where this has not been possible, to minimise the number of care placements that our looked after children have. In 2014/15, 34 children in the city experienced three or more placements within the past year.



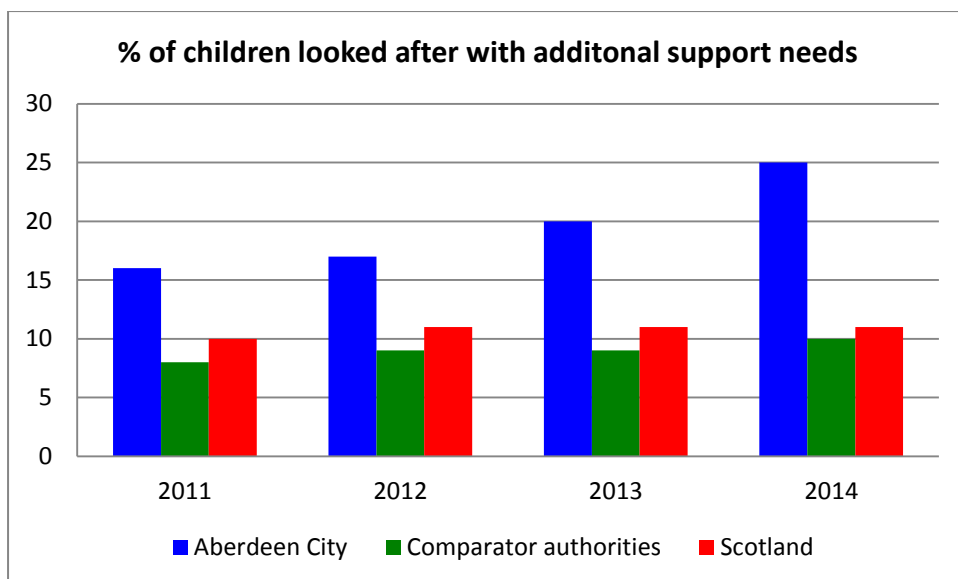
Despite the aim of Aberdeen City Council being to enable more children to remain within their own home, in 2013/14, only a quarter of looked after children remained at home, slightly lower than the national proportion (27%). This is a shift from 2010/11, when just under a third of looked after children remained within their own home^{lxi}.



Across Scotland, 28% of looked after children were living with a friend or relative or in another community setting. In Aberdeen City, the proportion of looked after children living in these circumstances was significantly lower, at 21%.

There is a challenge, both locally and nationally, of having a sufficient supply of carers to enable looked after children to be placed in a placement best suited to their needs. Carers that are able to care for larger sibling groups are even more scarce. The proportion of Aberdeen City's looked after children that have been placed with foster carers has risen consistently over the past four years, with 40 more children placed with foster carers in 2013/14 than in 2010/11.

There is a long-term rising trend in the proportion of children looked after in Aberdeen City with additional support needs. In 2014, a quarter of children looked after had additional support needs, compared to 16% in 2011, and this is far more pronounced in Aberdeen than in comparator authorities or across the country.



SCHOOL STAFF

Headlines about the recruitment and retention of teaching staff in the North East of Scotland have been dramatic in recent months. As indicated in the Wealthier & Fairer section, the high cost of living in Aberdeen is having a detrimental impact on the recruitment and retention of key workers, including teachers.

In 2015, there were 802 teachers employed in publicly funded primary schools in Aberdeen City, and 735 employed in publicly funded secondary schools. A further 67 teachers are employed in publicly funded special schools in the city. The vast majority of teaching staff in the city are females.

In Scotland, there is a rapidly growing population of young teachers, but equally there is a peak cohort of teachers approaching the traditional 'retirement age'. The default retirement age has been phased out, and this means that most people can now work for as long as they want to and therefore there may not be an exodus of older, more experienced teachers leaving the profession. The local picture mirrors this national trend.

The issues involved in workforce planning and teacher recruitment are complex. Indications are that the school roll will increase significantly by 2022. It is therefore clear that recruitment of teachers will have to continue at a substantial rate to maintain the pupil / teacher ratio and address shortages.

SCHOOL ESTATES

In Scotland, the provision and delivery of education at a local level is the statutory responsibility of local authorities.

A number of schools within the city are already operating at, or near, capacity and it is projected that by 2022, more than half of the city's primary schools and almost half of the secondary schools in the city will be operating at 'over capacity' at some point.

Perhaps more relevant than the number of schools that are oversubscribed, is the level by which they are oversubscribed.

There are some localised 'hotspots' of growth, and increases in school subscription are not consistent across the school estate. For example, based on current forecasts, by 2022, the following schools will be operating at or over capacity:

Primary School	Operating capacity 2022	Secondary School	Operating capacity 2022
Airyhall	169%	Bucksburn Academy	121%
Brimmond	160%	Cults Academy	110%
Charleston	184%	Harlaw Academy	134%
Cults	157%	Hazlehead Academy	107%
Fernielea	121%	St Machar Academy	101%
Gilcomstoun	109%		
Greenbrae	146%		
Hanover Street	121%		
Hazlehead	112%		
Heathryburn	105%		
Kaimhill	128%		
Kingswells	100%		
Manor Park	115%		
Middleton Park	249%		
Milltimber	114%		
Riverbank	152%		
Seaton	126%		
Skene Square	132%		
Stoneywood	173%		
St Peter's RC	158%		
Sunnybank	107%		
Woodside	116%		

These projections are based on historical trends and incorporate any available data regarding planned housing developments. Factors such as how quickly developments will be filled and how many families with school age children move into a development cannot be predicted with certainty and therefore the forecasts can only be based on a best estimate.

There is also a need to ensure the development of any significant new assets, i.e. schools, are delivered on a whole life cost basis to address the decreasing public sector budget and City's need to reduce emissions.

ASPIRATIONS

In 2015/16, Aberdeen City Council carried out an aspirations survey amongst young people that were intending to leave school. Eleven out of the 12 secondary schools in the city took part, with over 2,000 respondents.

The majority of respondents recognised the importance of education on future career prospects, and almost 74% said that it was either 'fairly' or 'very' important to their parent(s)/guardian(s) that they went onto further or higher education after school and likewise, almost three-quarters of pupils aspire to get either a college certificate or diploma or a university degree.

However, when asked if they have the ability to do well in university, there was a stark difference; 31.9% of respondents from deprived backgrounds said they were unsure, compared to only 14.6% of respondents from more affluent backgrounds. This indicates that in some cases, although the aspiration and want to succeed are there, some pupils are unsure of their academic ability.

FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Aberdeen City, and the wider North East region, has a strong reputation for learning, research and innovation.

North East Scotland College and the two universities based in the city offer a diverse range of vocational and academic courses. In addition, they are known for their world-leading research in a number of areas.

In all establishments, there are gender imbalances in some course subjects despite continued efforts to tackle such issues. For example, females make up the majority of students for certain health and social care subjects – such as nursing and midwifery, and teaching – while courses in subjects such as Digital Media, Computing and Engineering are more attractive to males. Such gender imbalances have a significant effect on subsequent career options, and therefore the Scottish Funding Council is aiming to tackle the dramatic gender imbalance in learning, and aims to have a gender action plan published by summer 2016.

The Scottish Funding Council also requires Further and Higher Education establishments to work with disabled young people, care leavers and minority ethnic groups in an effort to widen access to learning.

There is some evidence to suggest that there has been a reduction in the number of placements offered by businesses to students as a result of the economic downturn. Work placements are an important tool in ensuring that students are ready to enter the workplace and make a contribution to a successful local economy.

SKILLS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

In 2012, the Scottish Government pledged to offer a place in learning to every 16 – 19 year old that is not in education, employment or training. This pledge aims to ensure that all young people are supported in their path to sustainable employment.

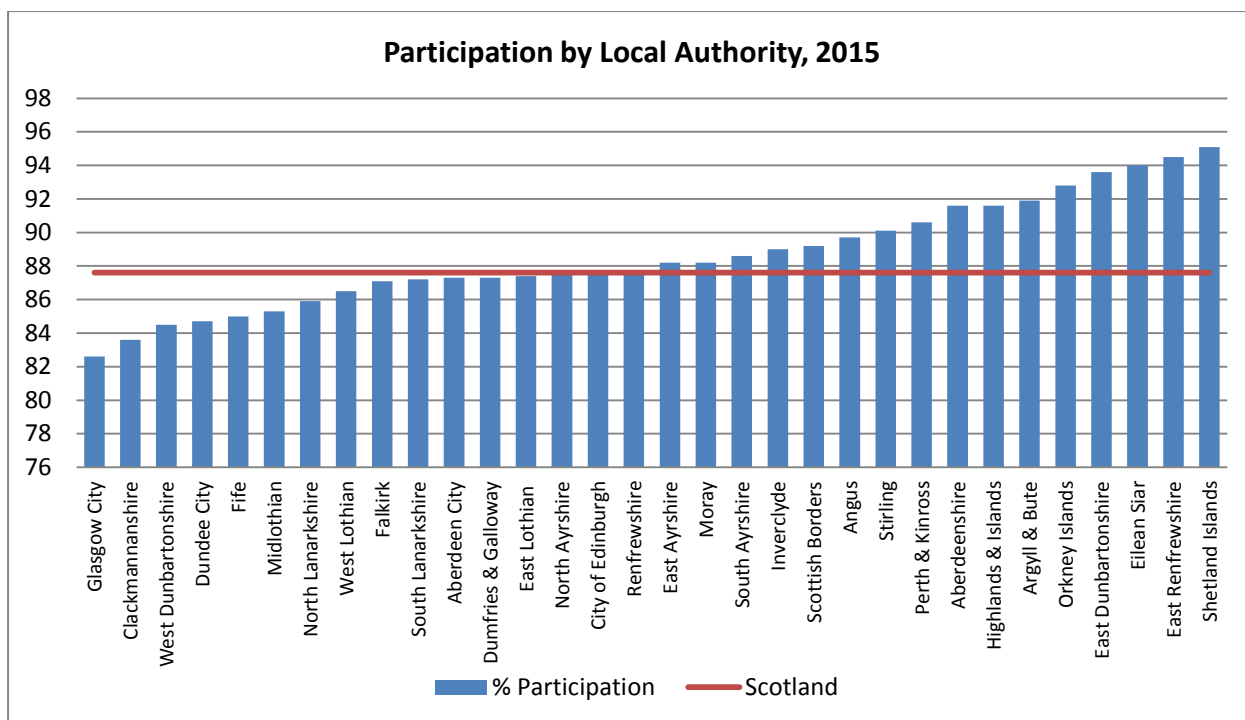
Historically, policy has been based on the School Leaver Destination Report (SLDR). However this focuses only on the activities of school leavers from publically funded secondary schools six months after they leave school, with a further update taken a year after leaving school. The new 'participation measure' reports on the activity of the wider 16 – 19 year old cohort and will give a more holistic and comprehensive assessment. Caution should be taken when using the Participation Measure, as they are currently classed as "Experimental Statistics: data being developed", hence the SLDR remains the official measure for the time being.

Every young person in Scotland is entitled to support in moving into a positive and sustained destination, such as education, employment or training. In 2014/15, 90% of school leavers in Aberdeen City entered a 'positive destination'^{lxii}. While this is almost three percentage points lower than the Scottish proportion of school leavers that entered positive destinations, it is an improvement from 2010/11, when 85.6% of school leavers in the city entered a positive destination.

Most school leavers, of both sexes, in Aberdeen City go on to enter higher education. For females, the second most common leaver destination is further education but, males historically have been more likely to enter employment rather than further education.

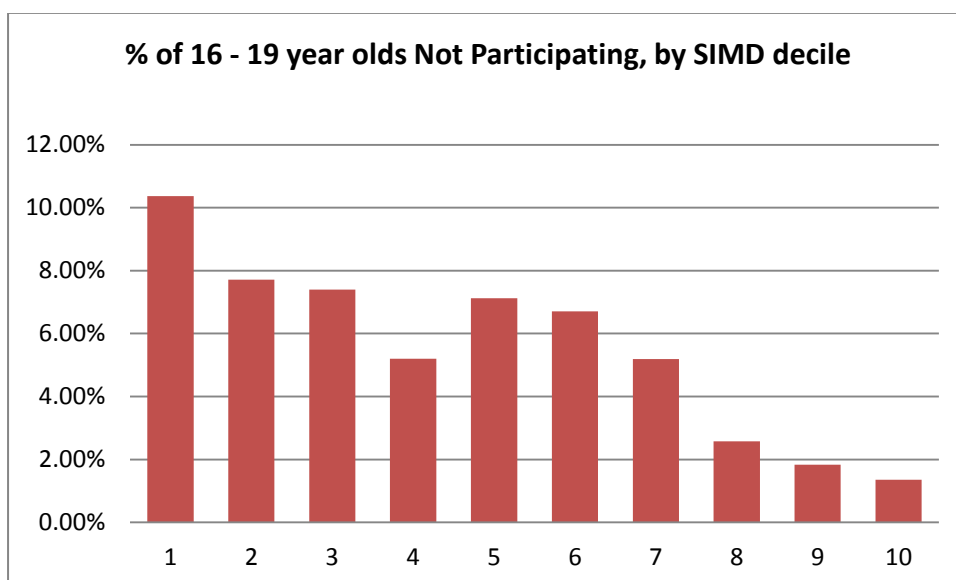
By considering the participation measure statistics, which include all young adults and not just school leavers (who only account for a quarter of the 16 to 19 population), across Scotland the vast majority of 16 – 19 year olds are in education, employment or training, with only 6.5% 'Not Participating' and 5.9% with an unconfirmed Status. Of the 87.6% that are participating, more than three-quarters were in Education – either as a school pupil or in higher or further education.

The proportion of those participating in Aberdeen City, is broadly in line with the national picture (87.3% of the cohort in Aberdeen City are participating), with 5.0% not participating. Aberdeen City has a higher proportion with an unconfirmed status, however it is suspected that this is due to difficulties tracing those in employment and therefore there is some of this proportion that are most likely to be in employment.

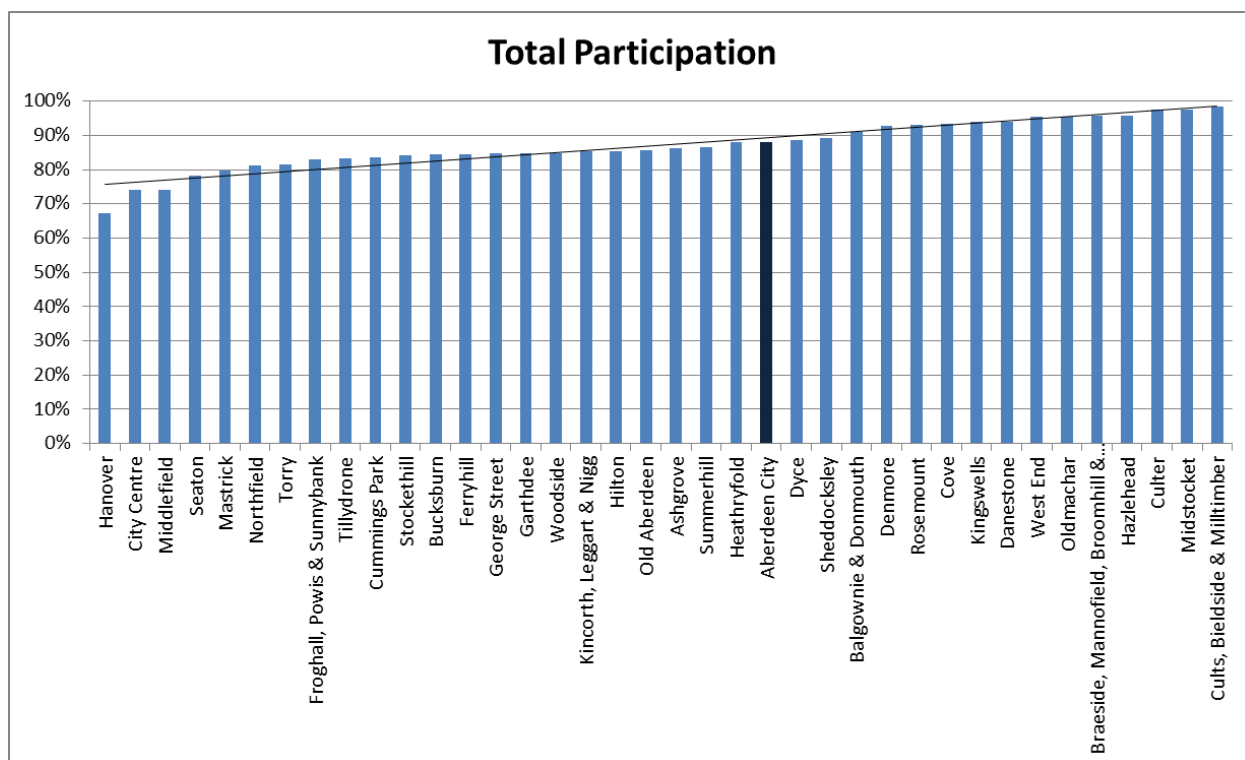


Analysis carried out by Skills Development Scotland indicates that, nationally, those from more disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to be in education, employment or training^{lxiii}.

Further analysis shows that, both locally and nationally, young people from more disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to be in education, employment or training.



The neighbourhoods with the lowest proportion of 16 to 19 year olds participating are Hanover, City Centre and Middlefield.



Young people who are not participating are most likely to have been educated at Torry Academy, Northfield Academy or St Machar Academy.

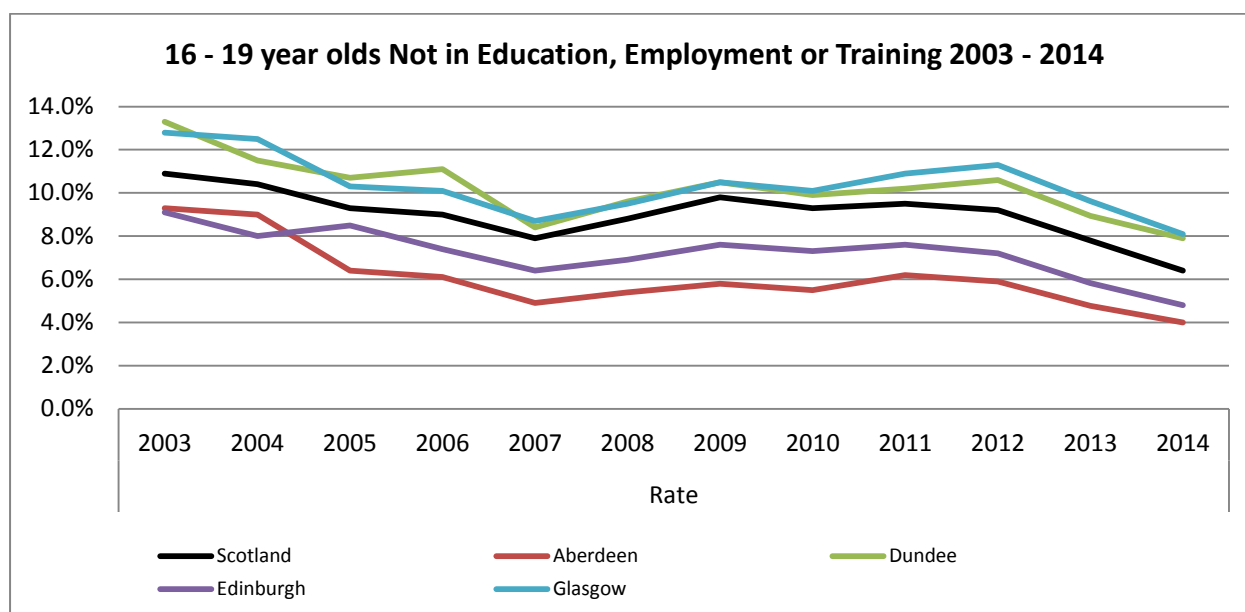
The number of young people participating in education in Aberdeen is significantly lower than the national proportion – 67.1% of the national cohort were participating in education, but in Aberdeen this figure was only 61.9%. Aberdeen had the lowest proportion of the cohort participating in education of all the major Scottish Cities (67.0% in Edinburgh City, 65.0% in Dundee City, 62.5% in Glasgow City). Conversely, the proportion of the city's cohort that were in employment (23.4%) was significantly higher than the national proportion (18.1%) and was joint fourth highest proportion across all 32 local authorities.

OTHER DESTINATIONS

More than 60% of school leavers in Aberdeen do not go to University. This is fairly consistent with national trends^{lxiv}, and does not automatically mean that a person has entered a negative destination. Not all children and young people are academically suited, and will still make an extremely valuable contribution to society. The purpose of school is more than just academic achievement, and we need to recognise children and young people's worth in other areas.

There has been a considerable improvement in the proportion of school leavers entering a positive destination over the past decade, both at a city level and nationally. The rate of young people not in education, employment or training has fallen considerably in Aberdeen since 2003, although there was a general increase between 2008 and 2011 which coincided with the period of economic recession.

Since 2012 the downward trend has continued. This has been the general trend across Scotland and all major Scottish Cities, however the rate decrease in Aberdeen has outperformed the other major Scottish cities.



It must however be borne in mind that while the rest of the country was going through a recession, Aberdeen escaped the worst of it. The high levels of youths in employment may now change given the downturn in the oil industry

Modern apprenticeships help get young people into work, and therefore support economic growth. The Modern Apprenticeship programme gives young people the opportunity to gain industry-recognised qualifications at the same time as earning a wage. In 2014/15, there were 920 Modern Apprenticeship starts in Aberdeen City – 3.6% of the national starts (25,247). Just over three-quarters of the MA starts were aged 16 to 24, with the remaining proportion being 25 or older.

ADULT LEARNING

It is crucial that we try to break the generational cycle of poor literacy and numeracy; not only to improve outcomes for adults with low educational attainment but also because the role that parents and carers play in children's learning cannot be overstated. From the day a child is born, parents and carers are the biggest influencing factor in their life and parental involvement in children's learning is key to achieving their full potential.

Poor levels of adult literacies also have a significant effect on the health and wellbeing of individuals and families. Low literacies can, and do, adversely affect people's health and wellbeing. While the pecuniary cost of poor adult literacy cannot be estimated with great accuracy, it is clear that raising literacy and numeracy levels will help make Scotland a stronger and wealthier country.

It is likely that a person's social background has an influence on their literacy and numeracy performance, and the low level of literacy and numeracy among some adults needs to be tackled in order to break the cycle of either unemployment or low skilled jobs; the low skills level of some adults inevitably impacts on the success of the local and national economy.

As well as enabling our people to become effective contributors to the local economy, adults need to be able to understand even the most simple daily instructions, such as medical prescriptions and advice, and to access public services.

In the session August 2014 – July 2015, Community Learning and Development delivered learning sessions to over a thousand adults. In addition, the Community Learning Healthy Minds team work with people with mental illnesses to improve mental health and wellbeing with an aim of ensuring that these vulnerable individuals are fully integrated into their communities.

The ability to speak, read and write the English language is important for participation in society. Without adequate skills, people cannot fully participate in society, and cannot achieve their full potential. During 2014/15, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses to almost 300 people in the City.

131 people have also attended adult literacy activities during 2014/15.

DIGITAL SKILLS

With all of the current Welfare Reforms there has been an emphasis on 'Digital by Default' i.e. more and more government services are moving to the online environment as their primary access point.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that 17% of households in the UK were without internet access in 2013; further to this 19% of UK adults are currently below the digital skills threshold in the UK^{lxv}.

Welfare Reform has played a part in the increase in PC usage. Research collated between November 2013 and January 2014 suggests that job seeking related enquiries are increasing, particularly in libraries serving regeneration areas.

But for the population to be competitive, and to allow for fair and equal access to public services, there is a requirement to equip people with the necessary skills required in order that we don't further marginalise those most in need of public services.

The trend for people undertaking digital literacy activities provided by Community Learning and Development has been increasing over the past 4 years – in 2011/12, 97 people accessed such courses, by 2014/15 this had increased to 174 individuals.

It is anticipated that this demand will continue, as more public services are delivered online.

FUTURE ISSUES

The current government have committed to doubling early learning and childcare to 1140 hours by 2020. Population projections show that the pre-school age population is expected to grow considerably over the next two decades. With these factors combined, there will be considerable additional pressure placed on early learning and childcare provision within the city.

It is not only ELC provision that will feel the effects of the projected population growth. As highlighted above, a number of schools in the city are already operating at, or even over, capacity and with an increase in the school age population anticipated, there will be increased demand placed on the education system. While these forecasts are based upon historical trends and as such are likely to be revised as a result of the current economic downturn, Aberdeen City Council is working to address these issues; plans are afoot for the provision of a number of new schools over the next decade or so, and there will be some rezoning of existing schools to account for the projected increase. The council also carries out regular monitoring of all schools and reviews their capacity to account for any short term fluctuation in numbers.

There is likely to be a need to recruit larger numbers of teaching staff, but the recruitment and retention of teaching staff is already a challenge across the North East of Scotland.

On 23rd March 2015, the Education Scotland Bill (2015) was introduced to the Scottish Parliament. The bill aims to improve attainment and address the issue of lower attainment and socio-economic disadvantage. One of the main objectives of the bill is to reduce the attainment gap, which is key to ensuring that we live in a wealthier and fairer society.

The bill also contains a section about a young person's rights under the Additional Support for Learning Act. As it currently stands, parents, carers and young people aged 16 to 18 and still in school have certain rights, but the bill proposes to extend these rights to children aged 12 and over.

All children and young people, including refugee children, are entitled access to nursery and school education in Scotland. In 2015, Scotland agreed to accept 1,000 refugees from war-torn Syria. In September 2015, Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership announced that the city will be in a position to accept around 100 refugees. Since then, preparatory work has been ongoing to ensure that the complex package of support based around housing, education, healthcare and benefits required by the displaced community is in place.

At the time of writing, Aberdeen City has yet to welcome its first settlement of refugees, and it is anticipated that this will happen around in early spring 2016. Although the demographic profile of those coming to the City is not yet known, it is anticipated that there will be some pre-school and / or school age children among them. This may present some challenges for the education system; after all, a good quality education gives people a taste of a normal life, and puts people in a place to make the most of social and economic opportunities.

In a context of unprecedented growth in demand for public services amid severe financial constraints, we are striving to deliver public services more efficiently and more effectively. Digital technology allows public services to do that. But in doing so, we have to ensure that we are not restricting access to public services, particularly for those who need them most. It is incumbent upon public services to ensure that customers have the capability and capacity to access services digitally. Not only is there a requirement to ensure that technology is fit for purpose, there is a need to ensure that people have the skills to access opportunities and services.

CHALLENGES

- The main challenge for our education system is to tackle achievement gaps, not only those gaps evident between socio-economic status, but also taking the diversity of the city into account. Aberdeen City has a sizeable minority ethnic community, some of whom may not speak, read or write English competently.
- Poor attendance at some schools in the City is likely to contribute to lower attainment and will exacerbate inequality among children and young people.
- The current economic downturn in the city, particularly in relation to the oil and gas industry, is resulting in changing employment opportunities. Education providers need to ensure that they are delivering the right skills to give people the opportunity to succeed.
- Increasing attainment and opportunity for Looked After Children, and reducing the outcomes gap between looked after children and the general population.
- Increasing the data around the attainment and outcomes of Looked After Children and those with Additional Support Needs.
- Recruiting the required teaching workforce. The North East region already struggles to recruit key workers such as teachers and social workers and with an increased demand due to projected population growth this will continue to be a significant challenge.
- The competing financial demands on early learning and childcare provision.
- Ensuring that people have the knowledge, skills and equipment required to access public services and employment opportunities online.
- Ensuring integration of refugee children in schools.
- Ensuring a sufficient supply of carers to enable looked after children to be best placed according to their needs.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Integration of those displaced by war into Aberdeen.
- There is an opportunity to diversify the workforce from the traditional oil and gas business and become a leader in the decommissioning process.

DATA GAPS IDENTIFIED

- Teacher census
- Data around adult literacy at local level is weak

HEALTHIER

“Helping people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to healthcare.”

“Reducing inequalities in health is critical to achieving the Scottish Government’s aim of making Scotland a better, healthier place for everyone.”

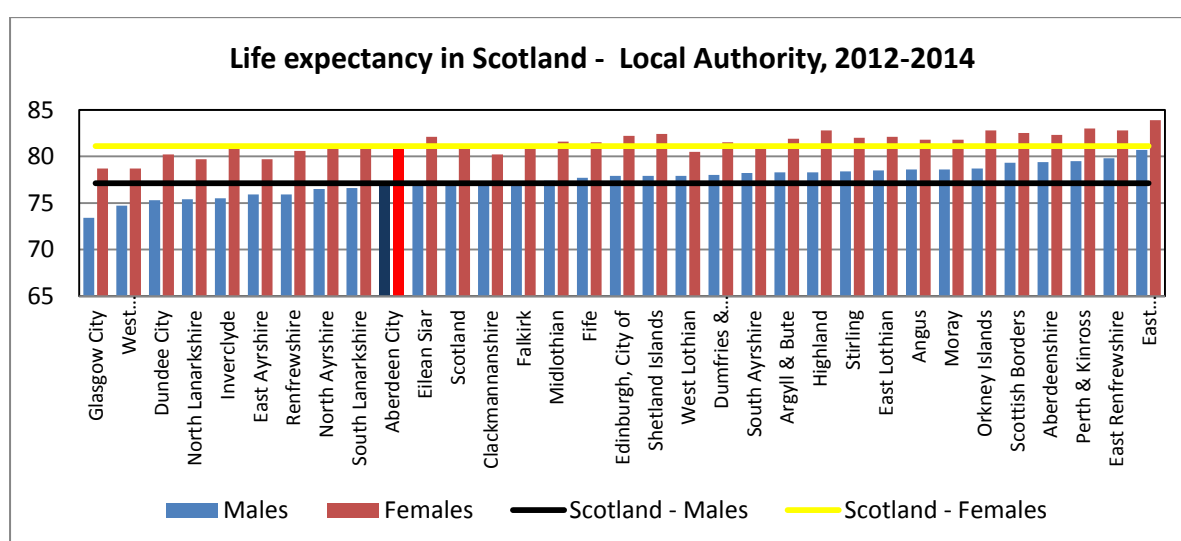
“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” World Health Organisation Constitution

LIVE LONGER

Generally, the health of Scotland is improving and as such the Scottish population is living longer now than ever before. Economic development, advances in healthcare and improved lifestyles have all contributed to a consistent increase in life expectancy at birth.

However, although life expectancy an, arguably more importantly, healthy life expectancy is increasing, Scotland still lags behind many other EU countries; Scottish males and females have the lowest life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom. Despite the continued improvement in Scottish life expectancy, the gap between Scottish and English life expectancy has widened since the 1980s.

Life expectancy in Scotland is currently 77.1 years for males and 81.1 years for females. There is considerable variation across the local authority areas; males in East Dunbartonshire have a life expectancy 7.3 years longer than those in Glasgow City, while for females the difference is 5.2 years. For the residents of Aberdeen City, at birth, males can expect to live for 76.8 years while females have a life expectancy of 81.1 years^{lxvi}.



Although life expectancy has increased for both sexes, the rate of increase has been sharper for males than for females, which has narrowed the gender gap.

In the last decade, life expectancy for males in Scotland increased by 4.6% from 73.8 years in 2002-2004 to 77.1 years in 2012-2014; in Aberdeen, the increase over the same period has been 3.2% from 74.4 years in 2002-2004 to 76.8 years in 2012-2014. For females, the increase in Scotland was 2.7% from 79.0 years in 2002-2004 to 81.1 years in 2014; female residents of Aberdeen City born between 2012-2014 can expect to live 81.1 years, an increase of 1.5% over the past decade (79.9 years in 2002-2004).

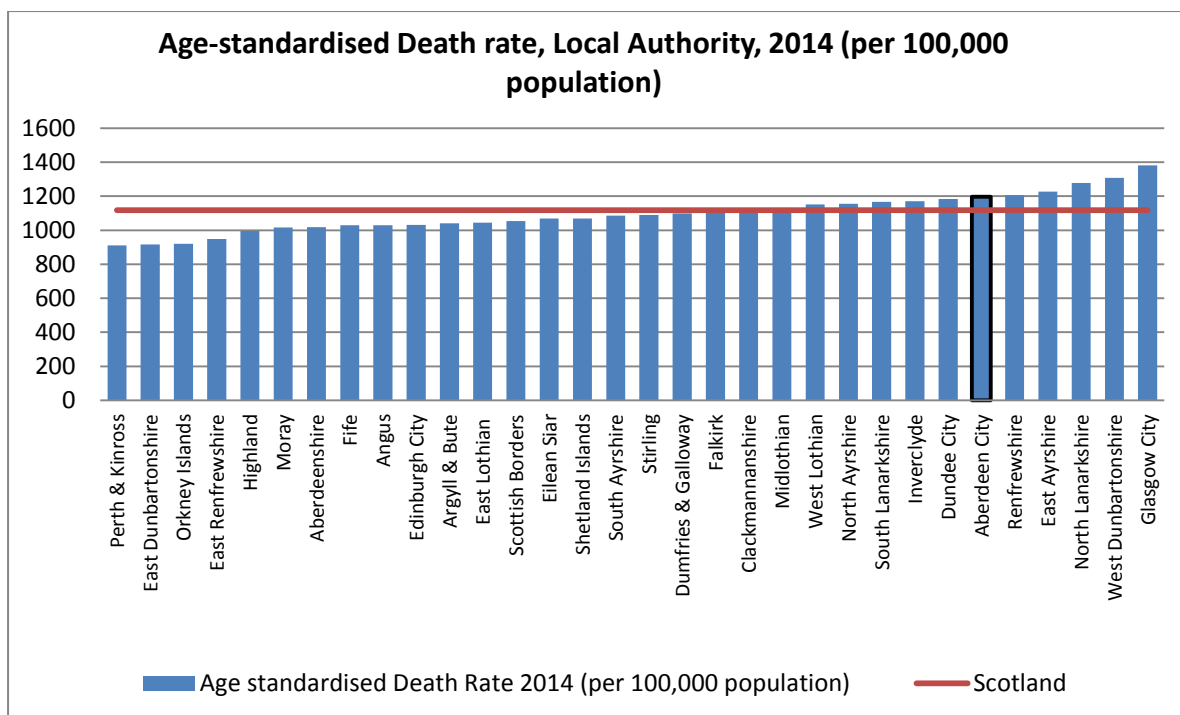
Although life expectancy has increased across the city, the rate of increase varies significantly when looking at smaller geographies^{lxvii}. A decade ago (1999-2003) life expectancy for males in Aberdeen City ranged from 65.7 years in Woodside to 80.9 years in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield North – a difference of 15.2 years. The most up-to-date statistics available (2009-2013) indicate that the gap in life expectancy for males has widened between those from more deprived areas and those from less deprived areas; the difference across the City is now 16.7 years – from 68.2 years in Woodside to 84.9 years in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield North.

Although the gap in male life expectancy has widened over the past decade, for females the opposite is true, and the gap has narrowed considerably. In 1999-2003, the gap in female life expectancy was 20.6 years – a female born at that time in the George Street area was expected to live for 71.2 years, while females from Cove South were expected to live for 91.8 years. The most recent data shows that the gap in female life expectancy across the city has reduced to 12.1 years, ranging from 74.9 years in Woodside to 87.0 years in Balgownie and Donmouth East.

The gender gap in life expectancy is most evident in the City Centre (9.8 years), Hanover (8.8 years) and Mastrick (8.1 years). It is least evident in the West End North, Balgownie and Donmouth West and Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield East areas. In general, life expectancy is greater in the city's more affluent areas.

Compared to the other Scottish Local Authority areas, Aberdeen City is a relatively poor performer in relation to death rates, with the City's rate population currently being 1,197.2 deaths per 100,000 population; the Scottish average is 1117.0 deaths per 100,000 population^{lxviii}.

As the chart below shows, there is considerable variation in death rates across Scotland, ranging from 911.4 deaths per 100,000 population in Perth and Kinross to 1380.8 deaths per 100,000 population in the City of Glasgow. The death rate in Aberdeen City is the sixth highest out of 32 Scottish Local Authorities.



Source: National Records of Scotland

The most common cause of death in Aberdeen City is circulatory disease, followed by cancer. The death rate for all ages has remained relatively stable in Aberdeen City over recent years, however as the local and national population ages, the rate is likely to increase.

Aberdeen City Council is responsible for 17 cemeteries in the city. Over the past three years (01/04/2012 to 31/03/2015) there were over 950 burials and a further 1,300 burials of cremated remains within cemeteries in Aberdeen City.

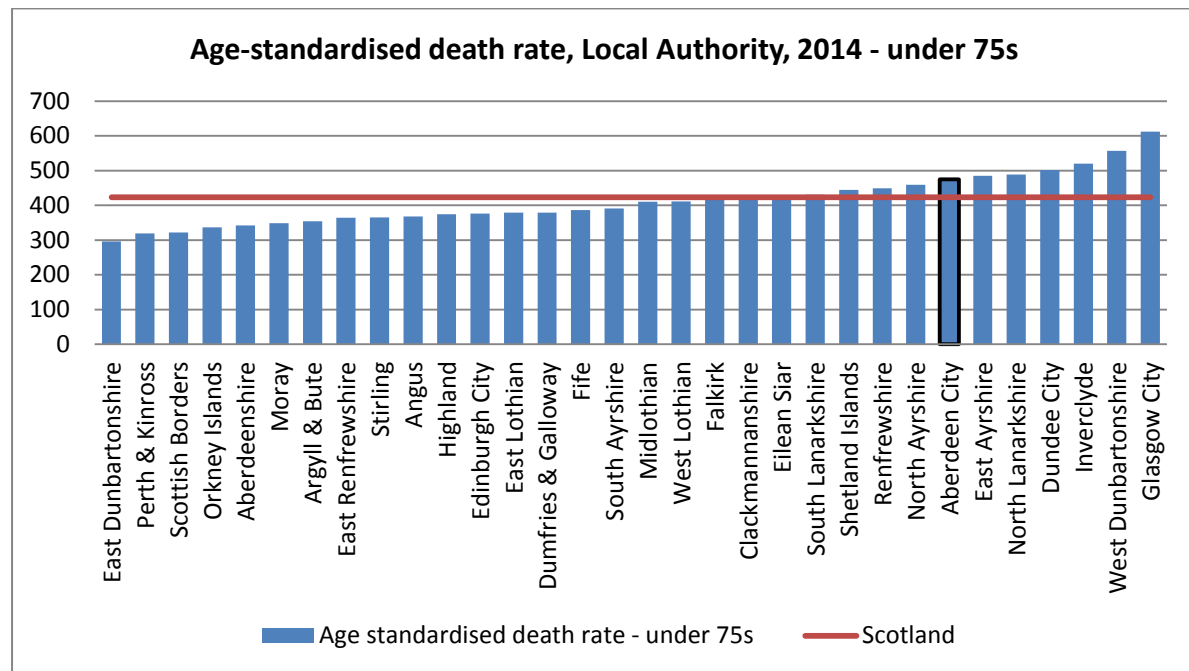
It is anticipated that there is sufficient capacity in existing cemeteries due to expansion at Dyce and Newhills Cemeteries. In addition, there is the potential for large scale expansion at Hazlehead Cemetery should this be required.

There is a growing body of evidence that calls for greener burial methods. Green burial has become one of the fastest-growing sectors in the environmental movement. Benefits are lower maintenance costs, reduction of carbon emissions and sound ecological land management. There are only two sites in Scotland that are affiliated to the Association of Natural Burial Grounds (ANBG), the nearest to Aberdeen being in Turriff, Aberdeenshire. In addition to those that are members of the ANBG, there are another 17 sites in Scotland that are not covered by the ANBG Code of Conduct; again, although none are within the city boundaries, there is a natural burial site in Alford, Aberdeenshire^{lxix}.

Despite falling death rates overall, Scotland still has one of the highest rates of mortality in Western Europe, and the highest premature death rate of all UK

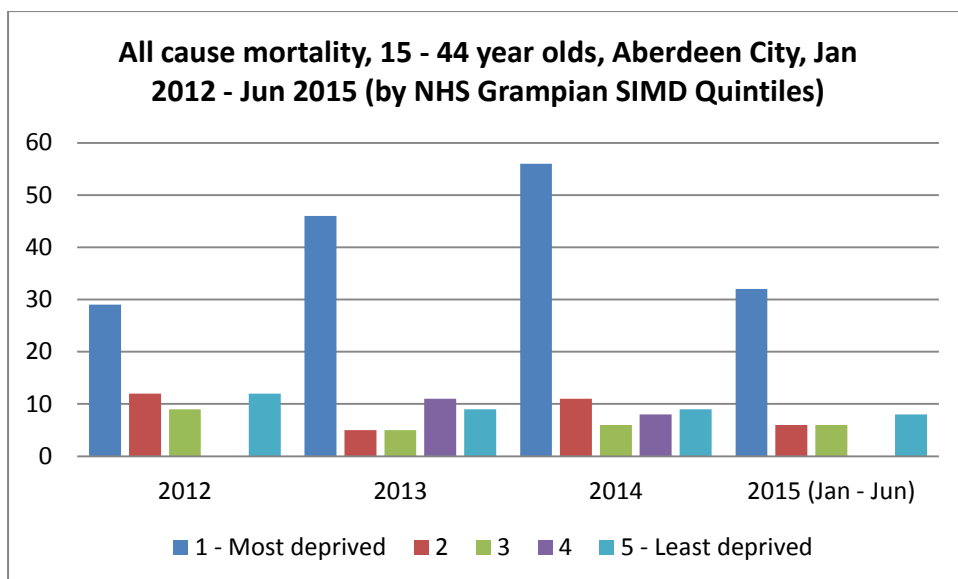
nations^{lxx}. Premature death is one of the simplest, most accessible indicators used to ascertain levels of ill-health.

As well as having a higher than national average death rate for all ages, Aberdeen City also has a higher rate of deaths amongst the under-75s compared to the national average. Around 20,000 people aged under 75 die each year in Scotland – in the NHS Grampian area, that figure is usually around the 1800 – 2000 mark.

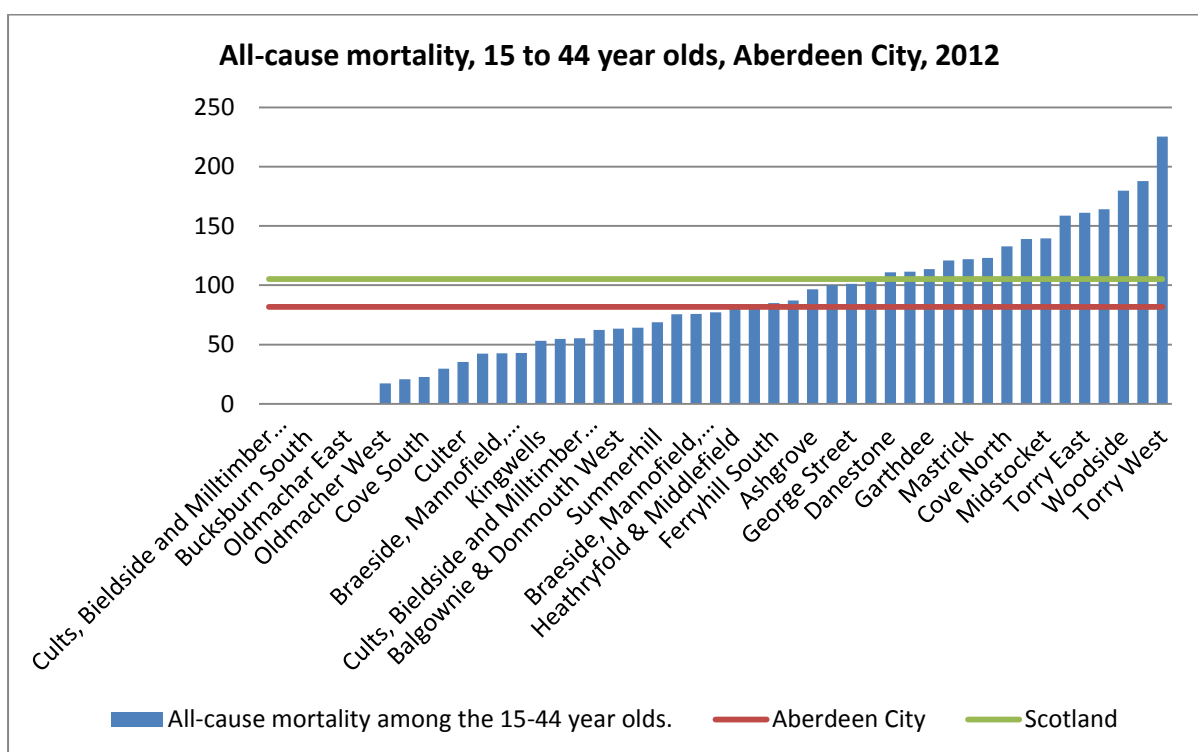


Source: National Records of Scotland

Locally, it is clear to see that the mortality rate of young working age people is considerably higher in the more disadvantaged areas of the city. This is consistent with national trends which show that there is a strong correlation between higher death rates and higher levels of deprivation. The chart below also shows that over recent years, the gap in all-cause mortality rates between the least and most deprived areas has been widening.



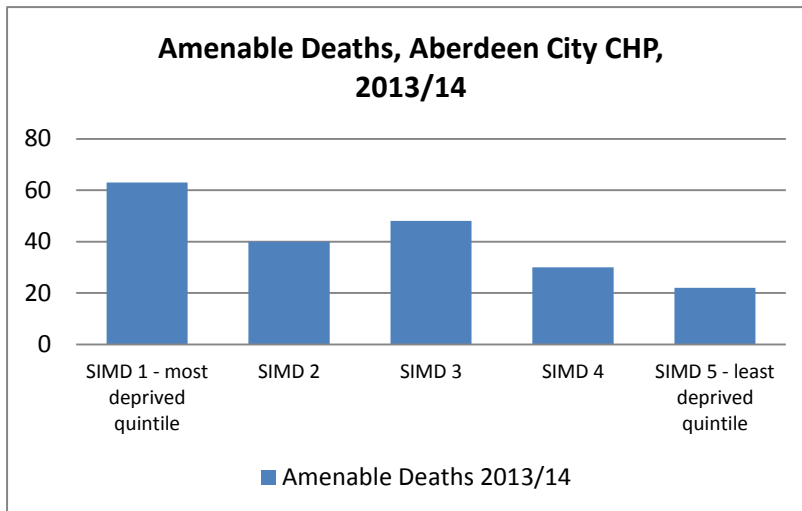
Source: NHS Health Intelligence



Source: Scotpho Health & Wellbeing Profiles

Amenable mortality is based on the concept that, in the presence of timely and appropriate healthcare, death from certain causes should not occur.

In 2013/14, there were 536 deaths in the NHS Grampian area that were considered amenable to health care; 203 (37.9%) of those were in the Aberdeen City Community Health Partnership.



There is a clear correlation between deprivation and amenable deaths in Aberdeen City, with those living in the most deprived quintile almost three times more likely to suffer an amenable death compared to peers living in the least deprived quintile.

Source: NHS Health Intelligence

Excess winter mortality continues to be a public health issue in Scotland and one which could potentially be amenable to effective intervention. Historically, there have always been more deaths over the winter months; mortality increases as temperatures fall. Winter 2013/14 had the lowest number of deaths registered and saw the second lowest ever recorded seasonal increase. It is worth noting that winter 2013/14 was a reasonably 'mild' winter with a mean temperature of 4.15°C. However, the situation was somewhat reversed the following year, with the largest seasonal increase since 1999/2000, despite 2014/15 being fairly 'typical' in terms of temperature.

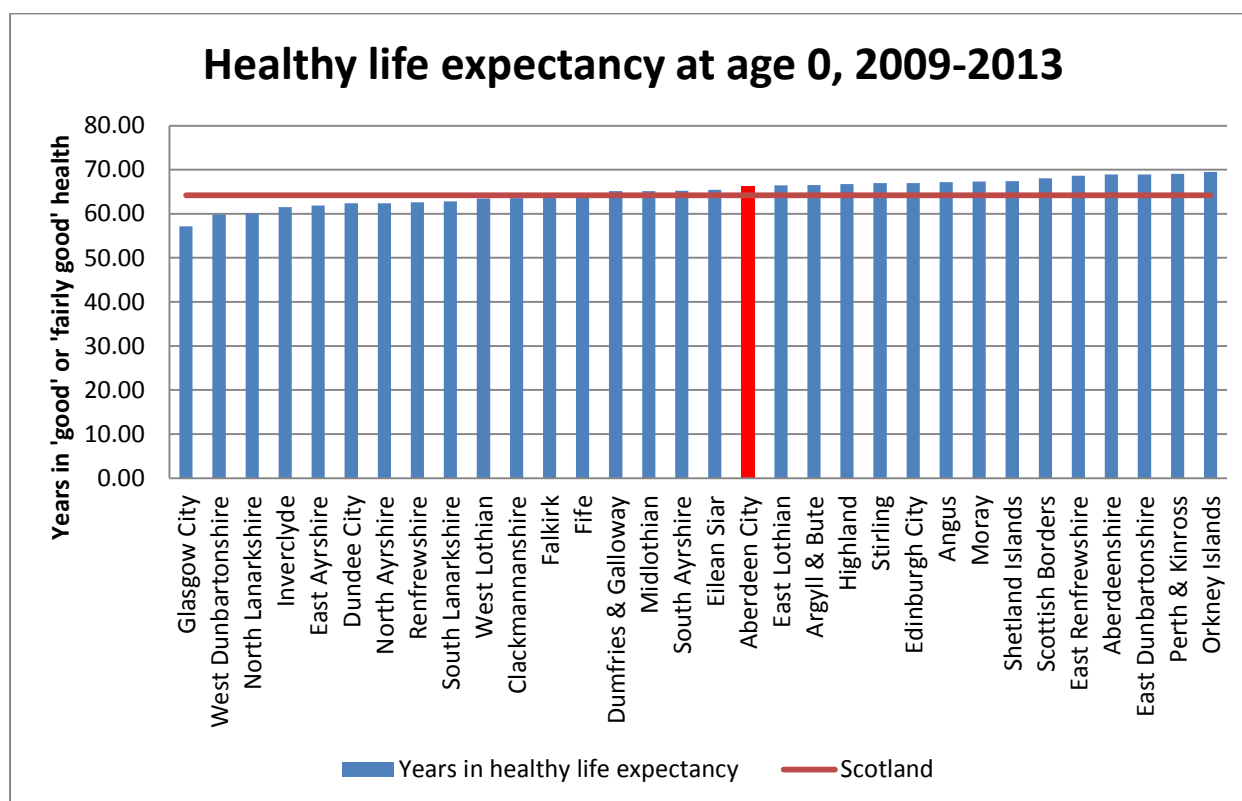
In Aberdeen City, there was a seasonal increase in mortality in winter of 2014/15 of 160 – this was an increase of 50 deaths compared to the previous year, and an increase of 70 compared to 2011/12. Almost nine out of ten 'additional' deaths in winter 2014/15 in Aberdeen were among those aged 65 or older, with over half of being among the 85+ age group.

There is no single cause of increased winter deaths, and the most common causes of death during the winter months is consistent with the year round data – most likely to respiratory or circulatory diseases such as pneumonia, coronary heart disease and stroke. Very few deaths are attributable to either influenza or hypothermia.

LIVE HEALTHIER

HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY

Healthy life expectancy is a measure of how long the population can be expected to live in general good health.



Source: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/population-dynamics/healthy-life-expectancy/data/local-authorities>

This means that for a baby born between 2009 and 2013 in Aberdeen City, subject to self-assessed health and mortality patterns for the city, would be expected to live in a healthy state for 66.2 years.

GENERAL HEALTH

In 2014, 74% of Scotland's adults reported that they were in 'good' or 'very good' health, while 95% of children were in 'good' or 'very good' health. The Scottish Health Survey then further analysed the responses and it is clear that as deprivation levels increase, good health decreases – 84% of respondents from the least deprived quintile reported that they were in 'very good' or 'good' health, compared to 57% in the most deprived quintile^{lxxi}. Age-related patterns are also evident – the percentage of people reporting 'good' or 'very good' general health declines as age increases. Levels of self-assessed general health have remained fairly stable over time.

Three-quarters of adults in Aberdeen City in 2014 reported that their self-perceived health was 'good' or 'very good' and again, as the population ages, self-perception of 'good' or 'very good' health declines.

LONG TERM CONDITIONS

More than two (46%) out of every five adults in Scotland have at least one long-term condition and the majority of those are living with one or more 'limiting' conditions. As can be reasonably expected, long-term conditions are more common with increasing age, with people aged 75 or older three times more likely to have a longstanding illness than those in the 16 to 24 age group^{lxxii}.

In 2014, the Scottish Household Survey asked a slightly different question, however the results were broadly similar. Thirty-nine percent of households across the country contain someone in the household who has a long-standing illness, health problem or disability; in Aberdeen City, the proportion is thirty-five percent. Long-standing illness, health problems or disabilities are more common in households containing older people, in lower-income households and in social rented households.

CANCER INCIDENCE

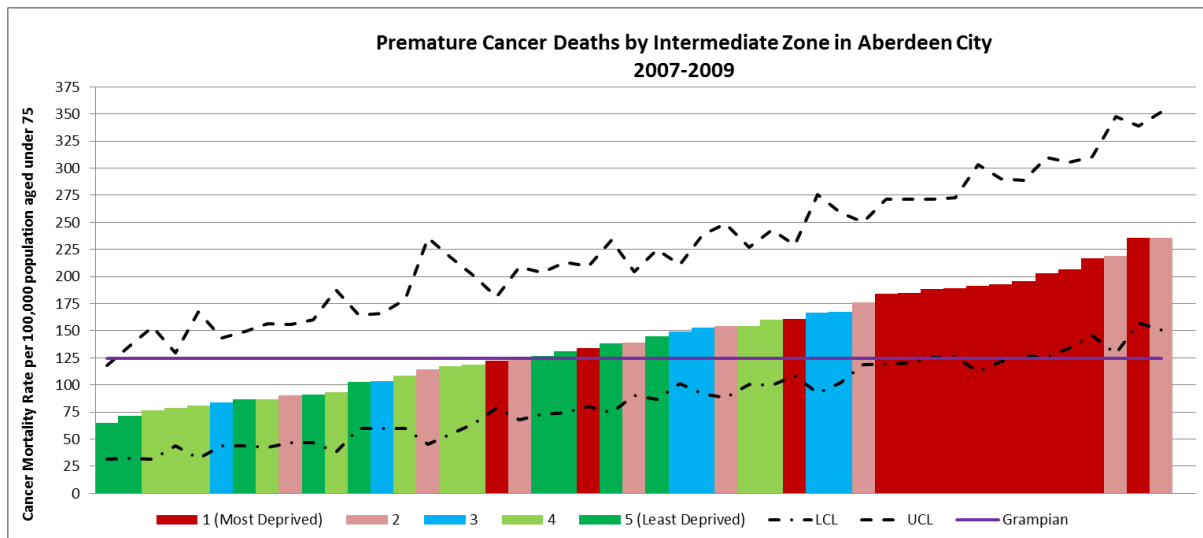
Cancer is one of the three biggest killers in Grampian and in Aberdeen City, cancer is the second biggest killer. In 2013, approximately 31,000 people in Scotland were diagnosed with cancer, continuing the increasing trend in cancer diagnoses.

For males, prostate, lung and colorectal cancers are the most commonly diagnosed types, collectively accounting for over half (52%) of cancers in men. For women, the most common cancers are breast, lung and colorectal which, collectively account for 56% of cancer in women.

Lung cancer is the most common cancer in Scotland, for both sexes, and lung cancer incidence rates in Scotland are among the highest in the world reflecting the country's high smoking prevalence.

Comparison with other Scottish local authorities shows that Aberdeen's rate of cancer registrations is slightly better than the national rate (624.5 registrations per 100,000 population in Aberdeen compared to 634.1 in Scotland); rates range from 527.7 registrations per 100,000 population in Orkney to 748.2 registrations per 100,000 in Glasgow City.

Although survival rates are improving, it is well-recognised that deprivation is associated with cancer mortality. The chart below clearly illustrates this association.



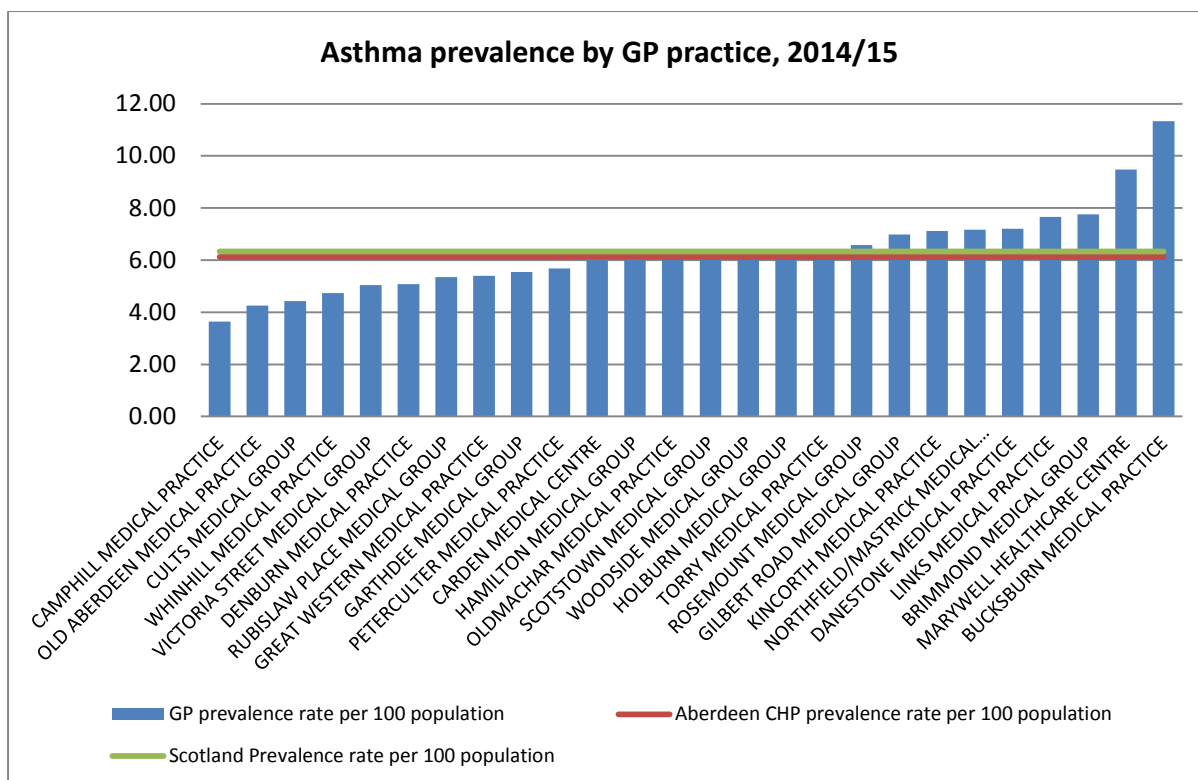
Source: NHS Health Intelligence

Premature death from cancer is more common in Hanover, Heathryfold & Middlefield, Ashgrove, and Mastrick. It is less common in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafeld North, Danestone, Oldmachar West and Hazlehead. People living in more deprived areas of Aberdeen are three times as likely to die from cancer as people from less deprived backgrounds.

ASTHMA

Asthma is a chronic and long-term condition. It is a significant cause of impaired quality of life and hospital admissions in Scotland. Based on cases identified in primary care registers, an estimated 6.3% of the Scottish population had active asthma in Scotland in 2014/15 and the prevalence rate has been increasing steadily over the past decade. In 2014/15, there were 15,466 patients in the Aberdeen CHP area on the QOF register for asthma, which equates to a raw prevalence rate of 6.12, slightly lower than the Scottish equivalent rate. Across Scotland, raw prevalence rates ranged from a low of 5.62 in Edinburgh to a high of 8.14 in Shetland. Comparison with other CHP areas show that Aberdeen ranks 9th out of the 36 CHP areas.

Asthma prevalence in Aberdeen City varies widely across the medical practices, however it must be borne in mind that these rates are the crude rates only and take no account of difference between practice populations in terms of their age and gender profiles.



Source: NHS Health Intelligence

Although there are significant differences in prevalence rates at individual GP practices in the City, nationally, there has been no correlation between asthma prevalence and levels of deprivation.

At 81.2 per 100,000 population, the rate of hospital admissions for asthma was higher in Aberdeen City than in Grampian as a whole, but still lower than the equivalent rate for Scotland (91.2 per 100,000 population). The rate of hospital admissions varies across different areas in the city, from a low of 14.98 admissions per 100,000 population in Ferryhill South to a high of 176.83 admissions per 100,000 population in Summerhill.

Despite the increasing prevalence, the number of deaths where the underlying cause was asthma continues to decrease. In 2014, there were only two deaths in Aberdeen City where asthma was the underlying cause^{lxxiii}.

DIABETES

Diabetes is a long term condition. There are two types of diabetes; type 1 and type 2.

In 2014, there were over 275,000 people with known diabetes in Scotland, which is 5.2% of the Scottish population. Prevalence of diabetes in the NHS Grampian area is slightly lower than the national prevalence (4.9% in Grampian); in 2014, 27,220 people in the Grampian area had known diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is most common in children and young people, typically those aged under 20. It is projected that the child population of Aberdeen City will increase by 2037 by around 45% therefore it is reasonable to expect that prevalence of Type 1 diabetes will also increase.

Type 2 diabetes is, by far, the most common type of diabetes and, in contrast to Type 1, prevalence increases with age. More than half of those with diabetes are aged 65 years or older.

15% of the over-65 population of Grampian have known diabetes. Therefore, as the number of older people increases each year, so does the prevalence.

BLOOD BORNE VIRUSES

Blood Borne Viruses (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV) continue to be of high priority for the Scottish Government, and a recent update to the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus (SH&BBV) Framework provides continued guidance to local authorities and their partners, including the NHS-Grampian SH&BBV Managed Care Network (MCN).

In Aberdeen City there are between 30 and 40 new diagnoses of HIV and usually over 100 of Hepatitis C each year. These are serious conditions that can be life-threatening if untreated. In Aberdeen there is a growing cohort of undiagnosed, often vulnerable, people who have been exposed to viral Hepatitis, for example through migration from countries with high prevalence (8% of the City population is now from non-white ethnic groups) or injecting drug use. There are also increasing numbers of individuals who are living with HIV as a long-term condition and into old age.

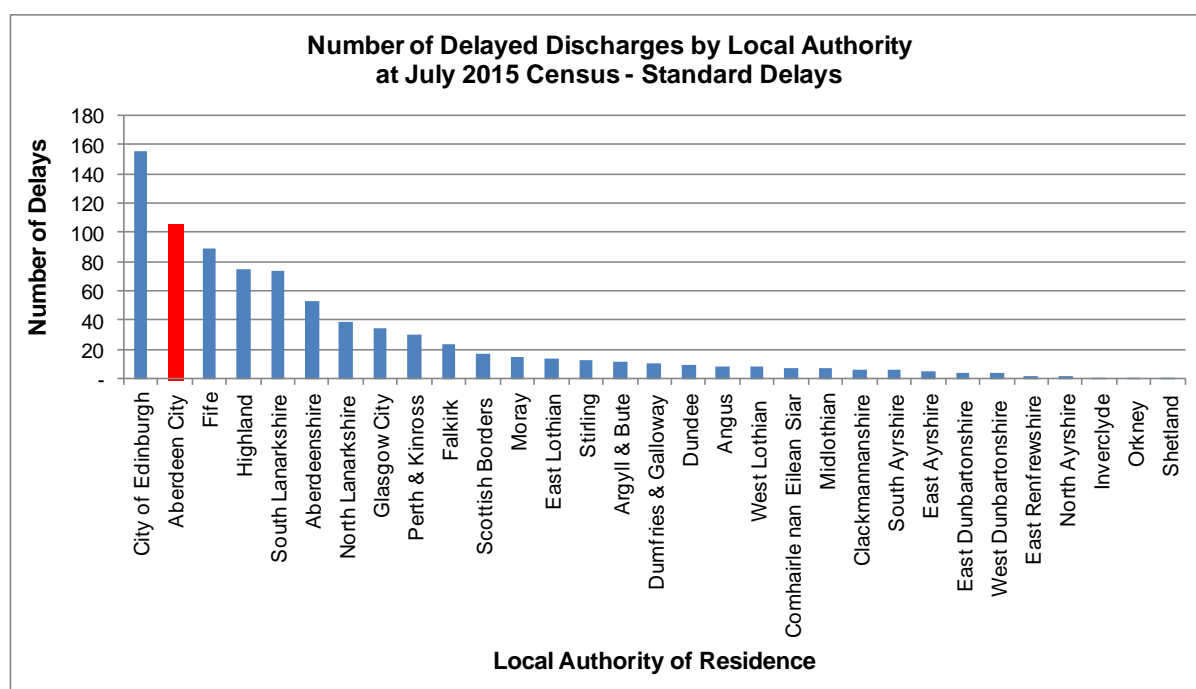
The local authority and Community Planning Partnership have an important role to play in supporting the Blood Borne Virus agenda to help people live longer, healthier lives, working in partnership with the MCN. For those who have been diagnosed and treated there needs to be adequate provision of social care to increase healthy life expectancy. The Community Planning Partnership may also support Health partners in creating opportunities for early diagnosis and referral to specialist services.

DELAYED DISCHARGE^{lxxiv}

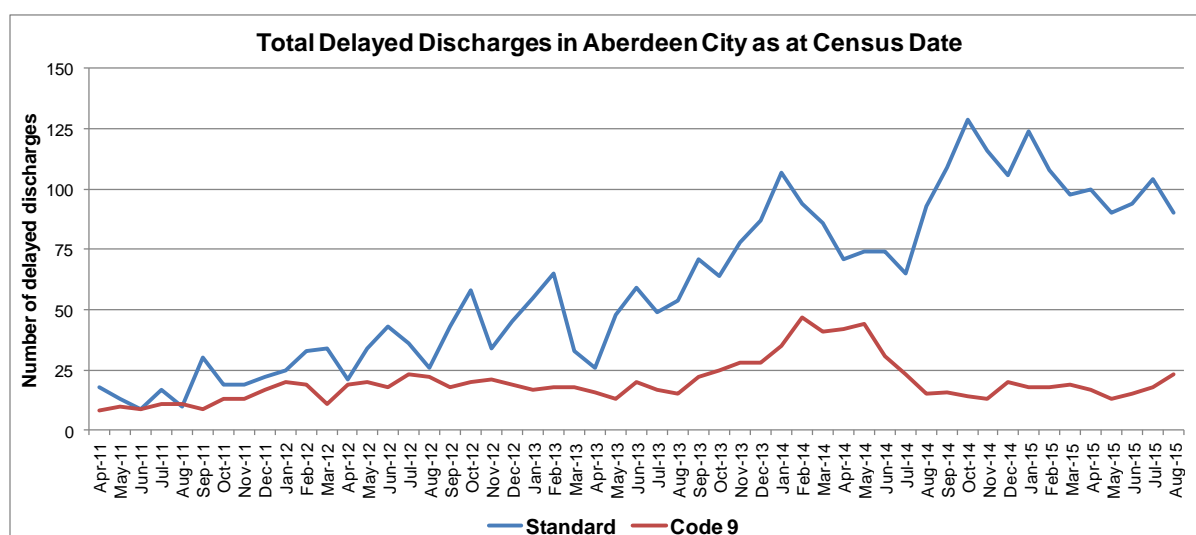
For most patients, following completion of health and social care assessments, the necessary care, support and accommodation arrangements are put in place in the community without any delay and the patient is appropriately discharged from hospital.

A delayed discharge occurs when a patient, clinically ready for discharge, cannot leave hospital because the other necessary care, support or accommodation for them is not readily accessible and/or funding is not available, for example to purchase a care home place.

Aberdeen City had the second highest number of delayed discharges of all local authorities at the July 2015 census^{lxxv}.



The trend in delays^{lxxvi} over time has seen approximately 50% more delays per month in the winter months compared to the rest of the year.



Source: ISD Scotland

Most delayed discharges occur as a result of the patient awaiting a suitable place in a care home, nursing home or residential home, or awaiting an appropriate care package to be in place to enable them to stay in their own home.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL & DRUGS

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable poor health and premature death in the world^{lxxvii}. Although the proportion of people who smoke continues to decline across Scotland, it remains a significant and extremely challenging public health issue.

Smoking prevalence among adults in Aberdeen City has reduced over the past decade, from 28% in 2003/04 to 24% in 2014^{lxxviii}. Despite the decrease, prevalence in the city is higher than the national prevalence rate.

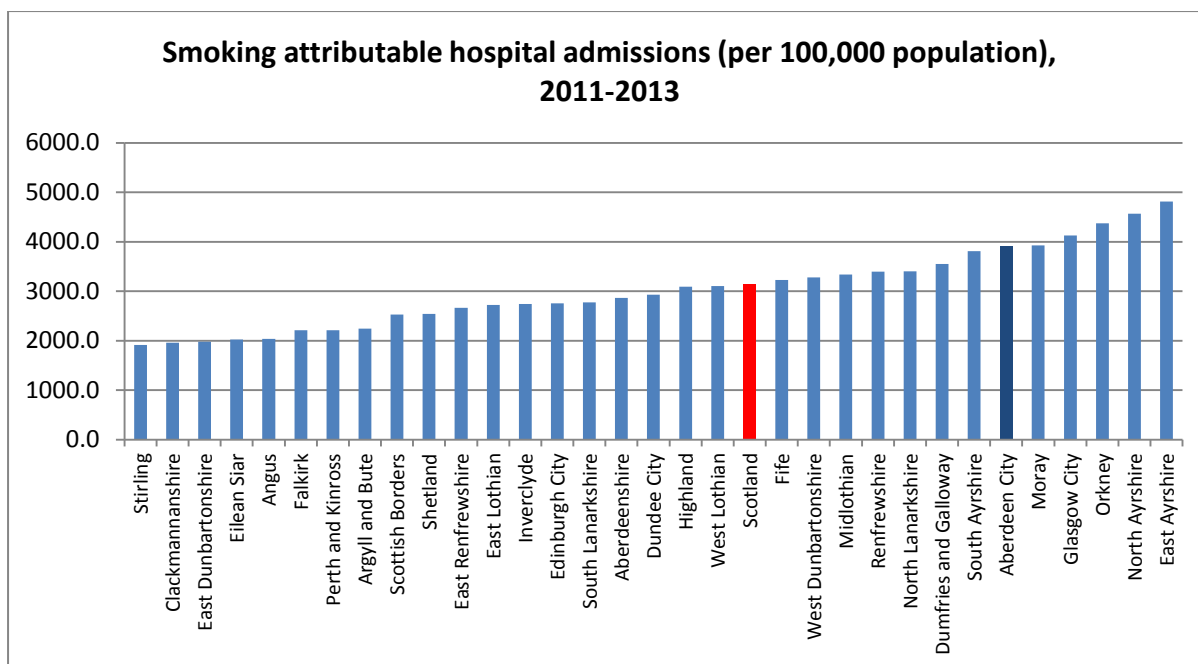
Females are more likely to be smokers than males in Aberdeen, which is in contrast to the national picture; in 2014, 26% of female respondents to the Scottish Household Survey in Aberdeen City indicated that they were a smoker compared to 22% of men. This may however be a sampling inaccuracy as, in the two previous years, males were more likely to smoke than females.

Although data is not available at a local authority level, nationally the link between higher levels of deprivation and increased smoking prevalence are clear and it can be reasonably assessed that it is a similar pattern in Aberdeen. Almost two-fifths of adults in the most deprived areas of Scotland smoke, compared to one in ten adults in the least deprived areas^{lxxix}.

As well as increased smoking prevalence rates, smoking-related diseases are more common in disadvantaged communities.

Smoking during pregnancy can have lasting effects on a baby's health and development. In Aberdeen, 14.1% of women reported smoking at first postnatal booking appointment, lower than the Scottish average (18.5%). Smoking during pregnancy is far more prevalent among most deprived communities, both locally and nationally; in Aberdeen, only 4.5% of women from the least deprived quintile smoked during pregnancy however this increased to 28.4% of women from the most deprived quintile^{lxxx}.

The rate of smoking attributable deaths in Aberdeen City is on par with the national rate, however the rate of hospital admissions for a smoking attributable condition in Aberdeen City is significantly higher (worse) – there were around 3,900 smoking attributable hospital admissions per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City in 2011-2013, considerably higher than the 3,100 admissions per 100,000 Scottish population^{lxxxi}.



Source: NHS Health Intelligence

Smoking related hospital admissions in Aberdeen City are higher within the most deprived communities and largely decline with a reduction in deprivation.

The current tobacco strategy, 'Creating a Tobacco-Free Generation: A Tobacco Control Strategy for Scotland' was published in March 2013 and sets out a five year plan for action across the key themes of health inequalities, prevention, protection and cessation.

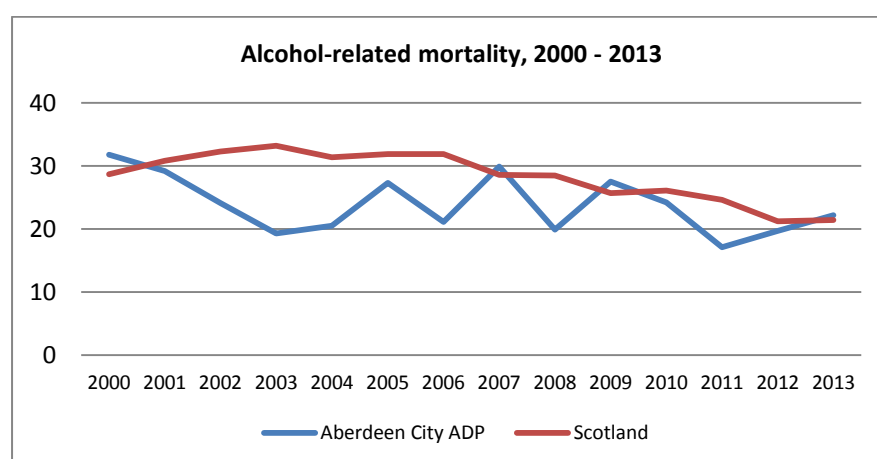
The Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership is a multi-agency partnership formed with the aim of delivering “measurable improvements in the quality of life for the people of Aberdeen, particularly their health and well-being in relation to alcohol and drugs.”

Like other cities in Scotland, Aberdeen faces major health and social challenges related to alcohol and drug misuse. As well as the most obvious health implications, such as alcoholic liver disease, other diseases, such as some cancers, are more prevalent among people who consume alcohol. In addition to the health harm, substance misuse is a contributory factor in a significant proportion of crimes such as minor assault, vandalism and domestic abuse. Being under the influence of drugs and / or alcohol does not only make a person more likely to offend, it also increases the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime.

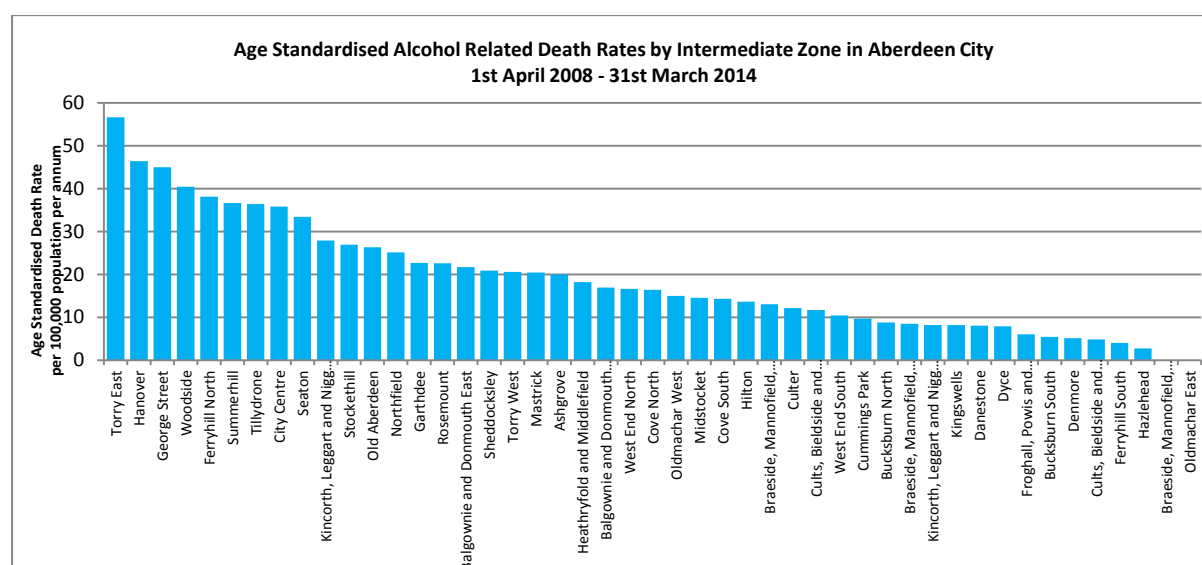
Alcohol misuse places an enormous burden on society. Excess alcohol consumption is widely recognised as a major threat to the health of Scottish people. Around 20% of people in Scotland consume alcohol at hazardous or harmful levels^{lxxxii}. Hazardous drinkers are those for whom their excessive alcohol consumption may cause harm in the future, while 'harmful drinkers' refers to those

whose alcohol consumption is at a level that is already causing physical, social or psychological harm. There are an estimated 33,400 hazardous drinkers and 3,100 harmful or dependent drinkers in Aberdeen City^{lxxxiii}. Hazardous drinking is particularly prevalent among the 16 to 24 year old men and women in the City and harmful drinking is most prevalent in the same age group but predominantly among males.

Aberdeen City's alcohol-related mortality^{lxxxiv} rate has fluctuated since 2000, although the general trend is one of improvement. The latest figures available show that, in 2013, the alcohol-related mortality rate in Aberdeen City was slightly higher (worse) than the national rate – this is the first time since 2000 that this has been the case.

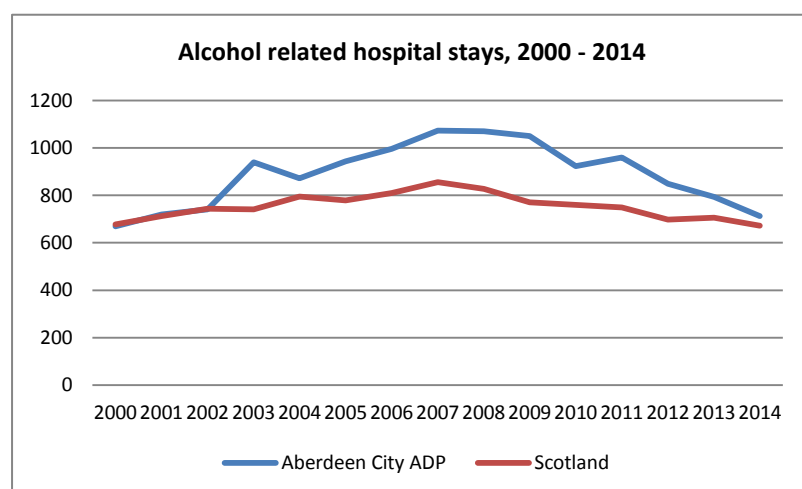


Data provided by NHS Grampian Health Intelligence shows that the rate of alcohol-related deaths varies greatly across the city but highlights that people living in more disadvantaged communities in the city are more likely to die of an alcohol-related condition.

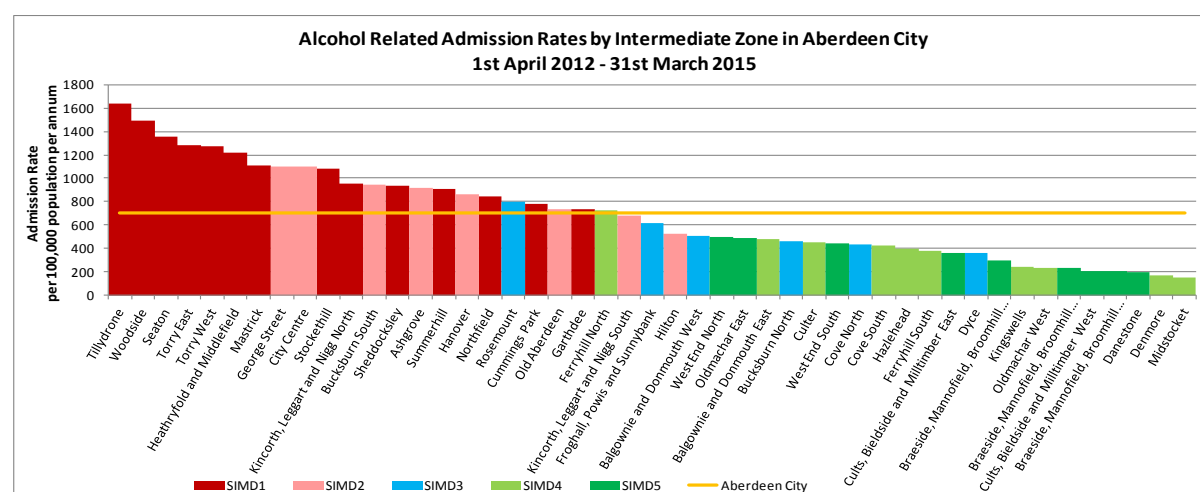


Source: NHS Health Intelligence

Alcohol related hospital stays in Aberdeen City have been significantly worse than the corresponding Scotland-wide rate since 2003, however the gap has narrowed significantly in the latter years.



Again, the vast differences across the city are evident when smaller geography is considered, with higher rates of alcohol-related admissions in the Woodside, City Centre, Seaton and Tillydrone areas.



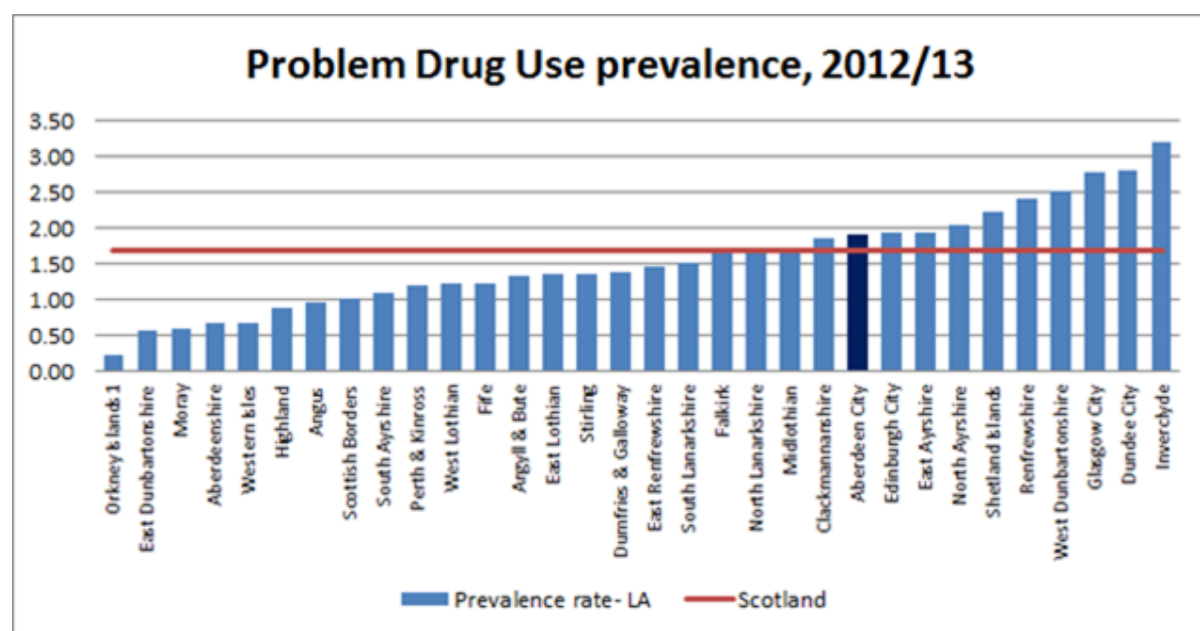
Average annual admission rates^{lxxxv}, for alcohol related illnesses, over the three year period ending 31st March 2015 ranged from 152.0 per 100,000 population in Midstocket to 1642.5 per 100,000 population in Tillydrone with an average rate across the city of 705.2 per 100,000 population.

Intermediate zones have been colour coded based on the SIMD quintile corresponding to the average deprivation score of the datazones making up the intermediate zone. The markedly higher rates in the more deprived areas are clearly illustrated in the chart above and it is evident that health harm from alcohol misuse largely falls on those living in areas of greater deprivation.

Ferryhill North is the only zone classed as SIMD 4 or 5 that has an above average admission rate while Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg South and Hilton are the only zones classified as SIMD 1 or 2 that have below average admission rates.

Most alcohol-related hospital admissions are unscheduled. Unscheduled care covers unplanned care ranging from attendance at Accident & Emergency and ambulance services to out-of-hours services and GP referral. Recent work mapping healthcare expenditure highlighted that around 25-30% of NHS Boards budgets are spent on unscheduled admissions to acute hospitals.

Drug misuse in Scotland is slowly reducing^{lxxxvi} but drug misuse remains a serious health issue across Scotland. In 2012/13, there were an estimated 59,500^{lxxxvii} problem drug users in Scotland – 1.68% of the 15 to 64 years population. Problem drug use tends to be higher in urban areas, with the four major Scottish cities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow) all showing prevalence rates above the national rate. As well as urban areas, local authorities with higher levels of deprivation, such as Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire and North Ayrshire, also had prevalence rates above the Scottish rate.



There are an estimated 3,100 problem drug users in Aberdeen City, two-thirds of whom are males. The highest prevalence rates of problem drug users in the city is among males in the 25 to 34 age range; this is consistent with the national picture.

In 2013/14 (the latest year for which data is available) there were 742 new individual patients / clients accessing services for an initial assessment in Aberdeen City. This is the third consecutive annual increase. The greatest increase has been of patients in their thirties, but the over 45s also increased in 2013/14 and males were more than twice as likely as women to be referred to drug treatment services for initial assessment.

Heroin was the most commonly reported 'main drug' used among new clients in Aberdeen City, followed by cannabis, diazepam and cocaine / crack cocaine.

Almost three quarters of new clients in the City first started using drugs when they were under 20 years old; with almost two-fifths of new clients indicating that they were younger than 15 years old when they first started using drugs.

Almost eight out of ten new clients in Aberdeen City are aged 30 or older, similar to the national picture and it is clear that the profile of drug misusers is ageing. The ageing of this population ties in with the emergence of heroin as a prominent drug in the 1980's.

There is a promising picture related to injecting drug use in Aberdeen City, with the proportion of new clients reporting injecting drug use continuing its reducing trend; in 2013/14, 26% of individuals reported currently injecting a significant reduction since 2006/07 when 51% of individuals reported currently injecting. Furthermore, only 4% of individuals reported sharing needles / syringes in 2013/14 – again, this is a considerably better picture than in 2006/07 when 12% of individuals reported sharing needles and/or syringes. Injecting behaviour is more prevalent among those who use heroin.

The provision of clean injecting equipment and paraphernalia for injecting drug use has been rolled out in Grampian as a means of preventing the spread of blood borne viruses. There are now 19 community pharmacies and six fixed-site needle exchanges in the region – five of the community pharmacies and two of the fixed site needle exchanges are in Aberdeen City.

The number of drug-related deaths in both Aberdeen City and nationally fluctuates from year to year; in 2005, there were 11 such deaths in Aberdeen City, rising to a high of 31 deaths in 2010, and in 2014 there were 26 drugs related deaths in the local authority area. In Scotland in 2005, there was 336 drug-related deaths, in 2010 that figure was 485, and in 2014, 613 drug-related deaths were recorded across the country. The ageing profile of drug users is evident in the demographics of drug-related fatalities – two-thirds of drug-related deaths occur among the over 35s – there has been a steady increase in this trend since the turn of the century^{lxxxviii}.

Heroin is often seen as a drug of deprivation, confined to more deprived areas. While its use is by no means confined, the prevalence of heroin use and indeed drug misuse in general, is evident in areas of greater disadvantage and multiple deprivation.

PREVALENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE IN ADOLESCENTS

Understanding the prevalence of alcohol and drug use in adolescents is important not only to give an indication of the health implications, but also because it may be indicative of future adult behaviour. The Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey^{lxxxix} is a biennial survey commissioned by the Scottish Government that looks at the behaviours of secondary school students.

Nationally, the proportion of 13- and 15-year olds that reported smoking, drinking alcohol and / or taking drugs has fallen significantly since the survey series began monitoring these particular behaviours. This trend has been replicated in Aberdeen City.

90% of thirteen year olds and 70% of fifteen year olds surveyed in the City reported that they had never smoked – 3% and 4% higher than the Scottish figures respectively. The proportion of pupils, in both cohorts, that have never smoked has been increasing both in the city and nationally since 2002.

The use of alcohol and drugs by parents or others caring for children is often encountered by agencies working with children and families, but it is difficult to determine the true number of children living in families in which there is parental drug or alcohol misuse. Across Scotland, it is estimated that there are around 65,000 children affected by parental alcohol misuse and between 40- and 60,000 children are affected by parental drug misuse.

In the year to 31st July 2014, 162 concerns were raised for children at child protection case conferences in relation to children on the Child Protection Register. Of these concerns, 54 were in relation to parental substance misuse, parental alcohol misuse, or parental drug misuse (some of the drug and alcohol misuse figures will also be included in the parental substance misuse category). This figure does not give the number of children on the register for either of these reasons, as a child may have multiple concerns identified.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Mental ill-health represents a significant public health challenge across Scotland, the U.K. and globally. Mental well-being can be a key factor in determining physical well-being, and vice versa.

In 2013/14, an estimated 14.5% of Aberdeen's population was prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis (although caution is required in interpreting this data as some medicines used to treat mental health are prescribed at a low dose for conditions other than mental ill-health)^{xc}. The trend in the percentage of the population prescribed drugs for these conditions in the City has been increasing over the past five years, and this is consistent with the national trend, albeit Aberdeen City fares more favourably than the national average (17.0% of the Scottish population are prescribed medication for anxiety, depression and / or psychosis).

Unfortunately, prescribing information is not available at a local area (Intermediate Zone) level. Additionally, it is not possible to explore this data by other potentially relevant factors such as age, gender or level of deprivation. However, if consistent with prescribing patterns for these drugs for Scotland as a whole, it is likely that in Aberdeen prescribing will be higher in women, in those in the most deprived areas and in those aged 45-49 years^{xci}.

In 2013/14, NHS Grampian spent £69.3 million on general psychiatric expenditure. The majority of that expenditure was for inpatient care. In the NHS Grampian area, that is a spend of £134 per head of population on general psychiatry.

The total number of occupied Local Authority funded Care Home beds for residents with mental health needs in NHS Grampian was 118.3 beds per 100,000 population. There has been a consistent decline in the number of occupied Local Authority funded Care Home beds in the NHS Grampian area over recent years – a reduction of 44% from 211.3 beds per 100,000 population in 2008/09^{xcii}.

NHS Grampian has the third lowest proportion of total staff for General Psychiatric services per 100,000 population out of Scotland's 14 NHS boards and the lowest of all mainland NHS boards.

The rate of people on incapacity benefit / severe disablement allowance with a mental health diagnosis (per 100,000 population) in the NHS Grampian area has fallen significantly over recent years, from 1,868 claimants per 100,000 population in 2008/09 to 259 claimants per 100,000 population in 2013/14. This is consistent with the national trend and, rather than being indicative of an improvement in the nation's mental health, the decreases are more aligned to the significant changes in the welfare policy – for example, incapacity benefit is no longer available and has instead been replaced by Employment and Support Allowance.

The mortality rate for persons in contact with mental health services in Scotland is three times higher than the mortality rate for the general population^{xciii}.

Often, non-medical interventions, sometimes called 'social prescribing' and often delivered by community or voluntary organisations, are effective at treating mental ill-health. Social prescribing is a means of linking people up with activities in the community that they might benefit from at an early stage. Social prescribing recognises the influence of social, economic and cultural factors on mental health and wellbeing, and aims to improve access to services and opportunities for people suffering mental ill-health.

Social prescribing can take many forms, ranging from signposting only to more formal referral and feedback pathways. In the city, there are a range of different activities and models in operation, most of which are informal and include patients / clients being referred to:

- Physical activity interventions for those with diagnosed health conditions.
- Cash in your Pocket financial inclusion partnership
- Library service

The city would benefit from a comprehensive audit to establish what services are on offer, what the uptake of such services are and to identify any gaps and maximise existing activity.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

National prevalence studies^{xciv} estimated that, at any one time, one in ten children and young people suffer from mental ill-health. Poor emotional and behavioural wellbeing in children and young people not only affects their physical health but can affect their ability to learn and achieve and their enjoyment of their childhood and teenage years.

Using the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBs), which is conducted through the SALSUS with 13 and 14 year olds at school, a WEMWBS score is given based on how individuals have rated their mental wellbeing. A WEMWBS score can range from 14-70, between 40 and 59 is categorised as average. The higher the score the better someone's mental wellbeing – so a higher mean score also indicates the same.

In Aberdeen 13 year old boys, and 13 and 15 year old girls in 2013 had a higher mean WEMWBs score than the Scotland figures. 15 year old boys however in Aberdeen had a lower score than the Scotland rate in 2013 at 48.9 compared to the Scotland rate of 50.2. In Aberdeen mean WEMWBs scores improved for 13 and 15 year old boys and girls between 2010 and 2013 however comparable scores for Scotland decreased.

WEMWBS scores calculated below were collated from the SALSUS and were based on 1,000 pupils participating in the SALSUS survey in 2010 and 750 in 2013.

Area	Year	Mean WEMWBs Score			
		13 Year Old Boys	15 Year Old Boys	13 Year Old Girls	15 Year Old Girls
Scotland	2013	51.3	50.2	48.7	45.1
	2010	50.9	50.8	49.9	48.5
Aberdeen	2013	52.8	48.9	48.4	46.5
	2010	49.5	49.4	48.5	48.3

^{xcv}

The NHS in Scotland provides mental health services for children and young people with a wide range of mental health conditions including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, behaviour problems, depression and early onset psychosis.

This treatment is provided through Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services. These services, which are mainly outpatient and community based, are provided by a range of staff including psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists, child psychotherapists, occupational therapists and other allied health professionals.

The Scottish Government requires the NHS in Scotland to measure the time people wait for treatment and this includes people waiting for CAMH services. The Scottish Government has set a standard for the NHS in Scotland to deliver a maximum wait of 18 weeks from a patient's referral to treatment for specialist CAMH services from December 2014.

In 2015, 63% of CAMHS patients in NHS Grampian were seen within the 18 week period, significantly lower than the Scottish rate where over three-quarters (76%) of these patients were seen within 18 weeks^{xcvi}.

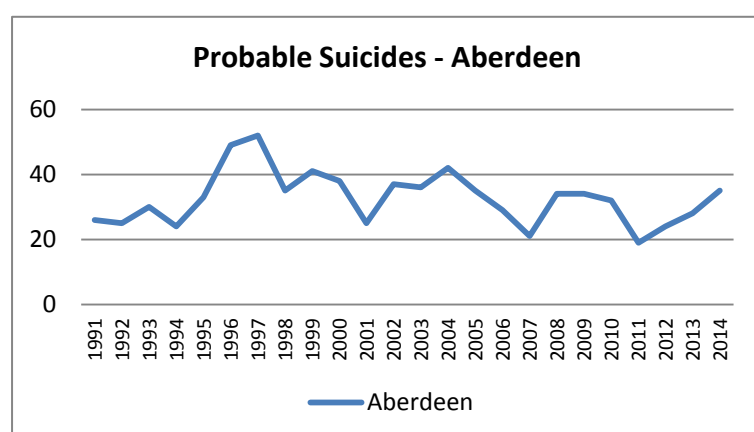
Delivery of good quality and timely mental health services depends on having the required number of staff in the right post. As at 31st December 2015, NHS Grampian employed 9.8 whole time equivalent clinical staff in child and adolescent mental health services per 100,000 population. This is the second lowest rate of CAMHS staff, per head of population, in Scotland; only NHS Orkney employs few staff per head (9.3)^{xcvii}.

SUICIDE & SELF HARM

In 2014, there were 696 probable suicides recorded in Scotland, the third consecutive annual drop, and a 22% decrease from the number of such deaths recorded in 2011. Aberdeen City however bucks this trend, and in 2014 35 probable suicides were recorded in the City; an increase of 7 deaths from 2013.

The number of suicides in the city and across the country, fluctuates from year-to-year. Between 2004 and 2014, the number of probable suicides recorded annually has ranged from a low of 19 in 2011 to a high of 42 in 2004.

Nationally, men are more than twice as likely as women to complete suicide. The most common method of suicide for males is “hanging, strangulation and suffocation” followed by ‘poisoning’, although for females the opposite is true. Although no local data is available, anecdotally, it is assessed that the trend in Aberdeen City follows the country-wide trend and that hanging is the most commonly used method of completed suicide. Men in their forties and early fifties are the most likely demographic to complete suicide in Scotland.



The increase in suicides in the city in recent years may be linked to the economic downturn in the city. Further research would be required to explore this issue in greater detail.

Further analysis regarding suicides across Scotland has been carried out by ISD Scotland and this indicates that in the majority of cases where the victim was a Scottish resident, he or she had been prescribed mental health drugs in the 12 months prior to their death^{xcviii}.

Furthermore, women are more likely than men to have been prescribed mental health drugs in the year prior to their suicide; this may indicate women being more likely to seek help when suffering from poor mental health.

Suicide prevention is a priority for all Community Planning Partners in Aberdeen City, as indeed it is for the Scottish Government.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN

For the past three years, the rate of stillbirths per 1,000 births in Aberdeen has been higher than the national rate and in the year ended 31st March 2015, the rate in the city was 4.3 stillbirths per 1,000 births (compared to 3.2 stillbirths per 1,000 births in Scotland). However, it should be noted that the number of stillbirths is small, with 12 recorded in the city in 2014/15, a decrease of 8 from the previous year.

Data is not yet available to allow further analysis, however research has shown that there are a number of factors that may contribute to the risk of stillbirth. Mothers living in poverty, teenage mothers and mothers over 40 as well as mothers from some ethnic backgrounds are at a higher risk of stillbirth.

TERMINATIONS

Termination of pregnancy is one of the most commonly performed gynaecological procedures carried out in Scotland.

In the year ended 31st December 2014, there were 11,475 terminations carried out in Scotland, a 9.4% reduction over the last decade (12,665 terminations were carried out across Scotland in 2005). In Aberdeen, the general trend has followed this, although at a lower rate of reduction – in 2014, there were 746 terminations in the City, compared to 778 terminations carried out in 2005.

In each of the past ten years, the rate of terminations in Aberdeen City (per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44) has consistently been above the national rate and has been one of the worst performing local authority areas in the country.

17% of terminations carried out across Scotland are among women aged under 20; in Aberdeen City less than 14% of terminations are among women in this age group.

Dedicated resources allocated to sexual health services under the Respect and Responsibility strategy has resulted in increased access to specialist services. This, along with timely and increased access to emergency contraception, continued awareness raising and increased provision of long-acting reversible methods of contraception (LARC), and increased and improved sexual health awareness and education has resulted in a reduction in terminations and pregnancies among young women.

54% of terminations in Scotland are among women aged in their twenties, in Aberdeen this age group accounts for 59% of terminations.

Women's reasons for choosing to terminate a pregnancy vary, but often occur as a result of a woman's fear that having a child would interfere with their education, work or ability to care for dependents, or because of affordability^{xcix}.

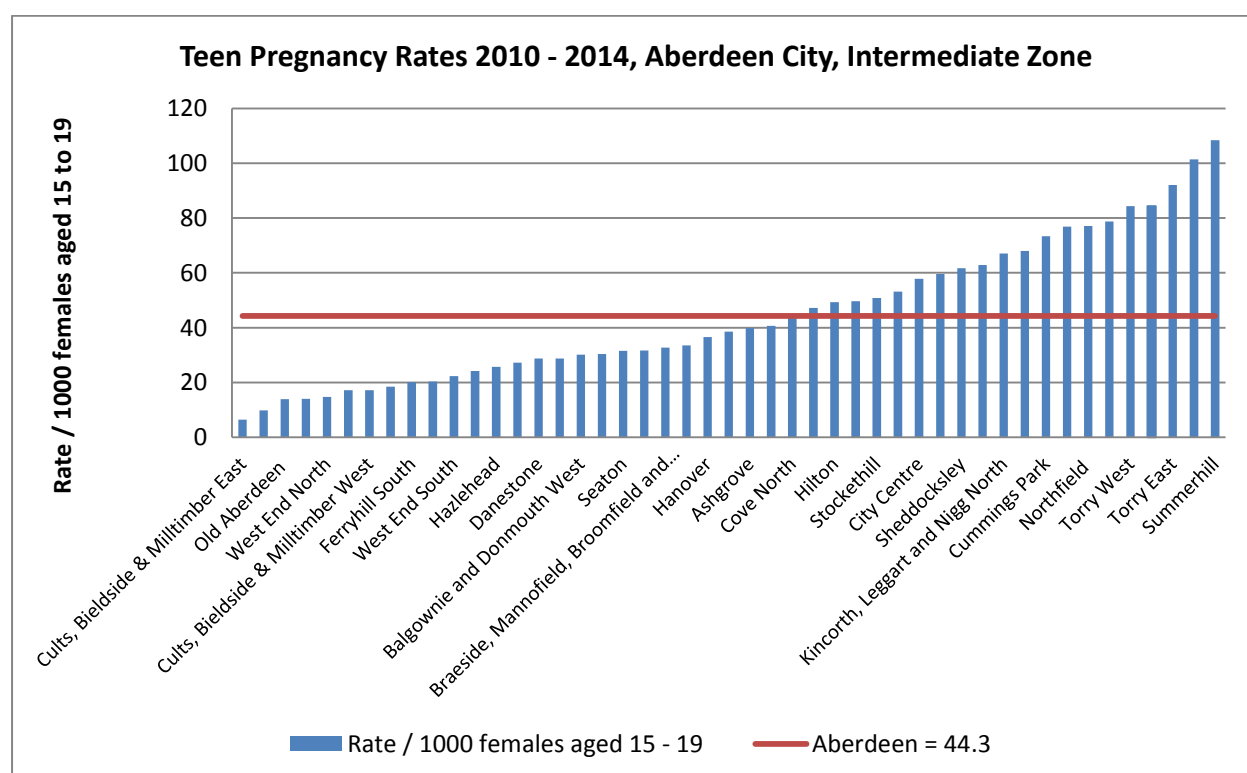
There is a clear link between deprivation and termination rates at both a national and local level. In the NHS Grampian area, the rate of termination in the most deprived

quintile was 19.1 terminations per 1,000 women aged 15 – 44, compared to 8.5 terminations per 1,000 women living in the least deprived quintile.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Scotland has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Europe, therefore reducing unintended teenage pregnancy is a national target for the Scottish Government. Teenage pregnancies across Scotland, in all age groups, have been consistently decreasing over recent years. Since 2007, rates in the under-20 age group have decreased by 34.7%^c; the under 18 age group rate has decreased by 33.9% (since 2005/07 three year rolling aggregate) and the rate among the under 16's has decreased by 30.1% (again, from the 2005/07 three year rolling aggregate). The trend in Aberdeen City has largely followed the national trend, with a notable difference in the under-16's – although the teenage pregnancy rate among this age group has declined, it has only fallen by 9.2% (the second lowest decrease across all Scottish Local Authorities). The decrease in the other age groups, the under 18s and the under 20's has been broadly similar to the national reduction. The rate, per 1000 population, in all three age groups in Aberdeen City is slightly higher than the respective national rate.

Inequalities are an important feature of teenage pregnancy - the link between deprivation and teenage pregnancy is strong. Females (aged 15 to 19) living in Summerhill are more than 16 times more likely to experience a pregnancy than those living in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber East.



Source: NHS Health Intelligence

A closer look at the latest available data relating to the local authority shows that teen pregnancies are more likely among young women living in some of our regenerations areas – Torry, Tillydrone, Woodside, Northfield, Heathryfold and Middlefield.

Not all young people who become pregnant have specific risk factors, but there are some young people who are more vulnerable. The most vulnerable groups include, but are not limited to young people;

- Living in poverty and / or areas of deprivation
- Who are looked after and accommodated or care leavers
- Who are, or at risk of, homelessness
- Who have poor attendance at school
- Who have low educational attainment
- Who are disabled
- Who have a learning disability
- Who have experienced abuse and violence
- Who are in contact with the justice system
- Whose parents had children under 20

The forthcoming Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy due for publication in Spring 2016 will renew the focus on improving the health and wellbeing of young people and supporting them with their choices in parenthood. It proposes that Community Planning Partnerships assign a senior accountable person for co-ordinating the leadership and implementation of the strategy. There are also recommendations for local authorities, schools, youth workers, NHS boards and the Third sector. Work is currently being undertaken to identify gaps in service provision across the City through Healthy and Active Outcomes Group and the Integrated Children's Services Board.

The strategy highlights that parents under 20 tend to have poorer perinatal outcomes. It also shows that younger mothers face significant socio-economic disadvantage in terms of lower educational qualifications, lower employment levels and lower income. Young fathers are at greater risk of being unemployed. The strategy aims to increase the choices and opportunities available to young people and recognises that reducing levels of pregnancy in young people helps to reduce the likelihood of poverty and a recurring cycle from one generation to the next.

In general, across Scotland and in Aberdeen City, mothers are generally getting older. Of the total number of births in Aberdeen City in 2014/15, almost 56% of mothers were aged 30 or older; in 1998, in just under 43% of births was the mother in this age group. Conversely, women under 20 accounted for just 2.6% of the total number of maternities in 2014/15, a significant reduction from 8.4% in 1998^{ci}.

BREASTFEEDING

“Nutrition plays a crucial role in the early months and years of life and is important for achieving optimal health.^{cii}” Not only are there considerable health benefits for children – such as reduced risk of ear and respiratory infection - but there is also evidence that suggests that women who breastfeed have lower risks of breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

Across Scotland, breastfeeding rates have remained fairly stable over the last decade. In 2014/15 48.3% of babies were breastfed at the first visit (around 10 days of age) – and 35.2% were exclusively breastfed - falling to 38.0% at the 6-8 week review. Breastfeeding rates in Aberdeen City have also remained fairly static (between 2010/11 and 2014/15), however rates are considerably higher than the national figures, and the city is only outperformed by Edinburgh City, Shetland and Orkney. In 2014/15, 63.4% of babies in Aberdeen City were breastfed at the first visit, and 45.5% were exclusively breastfed.

The likelihood of a baby being breastfed is correlated with a number of factors; older mothers are more likely to breastfeed than younger mothers.

There is a clear association between deprivation and breastfeeding rates, with lower rates of breastfeeding in areas of greater deprivation. As well as the numerous and well-documented health benefits, breastfeeding can be an important tool to tackle food poverty and lower rates of breastfeeding in deprived communities suggest that those that could benefit most from the financial savings are missing out. Babies born into deprived backgrounds are already at a disadvantage, but by tackling the lower rates of breastfeeding in our more deprived communities, inequalities can be narrowed. Evidence has shown that a child from a low income background who is breastfed is likely to have better health outcomes than a child born into a more affluent background who is formula fed.

Women living in West End North are more than four times as likely to breastfeed as women living in the Northfield area. Other areas where there is a low rate of babies who are breastfed are Torry East, Cummings Park, Mastrick, Sheddocksley and Heathryfold and Middlefield^{ciii}.

As well as deprivation, there are other factors that affect the likelihood of breastfeeding, including maternal age, education and smoking status. Older mothers, those with higher levels of education and those in more professional / managerial positions are all more likely to breastfeed than their peers. Given that mothers in the most deprived areas in Scotland commonly start a family around the age of 22, while those living in less deprived areas tend to be older (31 is the most common age) this ties in with breastfeeding prevalence being higher in areas of less disadvantage.

SMOKING DURING PREGNANCY

Aberdeen City has a statistically lower (better) percentage of women smoking during pregnancy compared with the Scottish average (15% of pregnant women in Aberdeen City reported being a smoker at their initial booking appointment, compared to 20% of pregnant women across Scotland)^{civ}.

There is a clear correlation between deprivation and smoking during pregnancy; women living in the most deprived areas of the city are almost seven times more likely to smoke during pregnancy than women living in the least deprived areas.

Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of health issues for both mum and baby. Smoking during pregnancy more than doubles the risk of stillbirth, raises the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, as well as resulting in higher risk of premature birth and low birth weight. The burden of maternal smoking is not just in early life either; babies born to smoking mothers are more likely to suffer from developmental issues and to grow up to be obese, diabetic and asthmatic^{cv}.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Scotland's children are protected against many serious infectious diseases through a child immunisation programme. Vaccination programmes are an effective public health measure and work by providing protection for the immunised individual reducing the spread of disease among the wider population.

In Scotland, the target of the national immunisation programme is for 95% of children to complete courses of childhood immunisations^{cvi} by 24 months of age. An additional target of 95% uptake of one dose of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine by 5 years old (with a supplementary measure at 24 months) was introduced in 2006 to focus efforts to reduce the number of susceptible children entering school.

In Aberdeen City, 94.8% of children completed a primary course of immunisations for diphtheria, polio and haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib); although only slightly below the target rate, the Aberdeen CHP recorded the lowest rate of all Scottish CHPs.

The proportion of children that completed the primary course of immunisations by the age of 12 months in Aberdeen City is lower than the national rate and Aberdeen City records the lowest uptake rate of all Scottish CHPs^{cvi}.

In the City, annual uptake rates by 24 months of age for primary courses of immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio & Hib, Men C and PCV remain lower than the national rates and the lowest uptake rate of all Scottish CHPs. Annual uptake of the first dose of MMR vaccine by 24 months in the city is 93.5%, again slightly lower than the national uptake of 95.4%.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Autism is a lifelong developmental disorder. It affects everybody differently, and as such different levels of support are needed; some people living with the disorder have the ability and capacity to live independently with minimal support, while others need very specialist support.

According to research by the London School of Economics, Autism costs the UK more than £34b each year. Getting an exact number of people living with autism in Aberdeen, or anywhere, is difficult, however it is estimated that there are approximately 2,000 people living in the city with autism.

The prevalence of autism spectrum disorder has increased, but this is likely to be for a number of factors other than a true increase – autism is now more likely to be recognised and diagnosed than ever before.

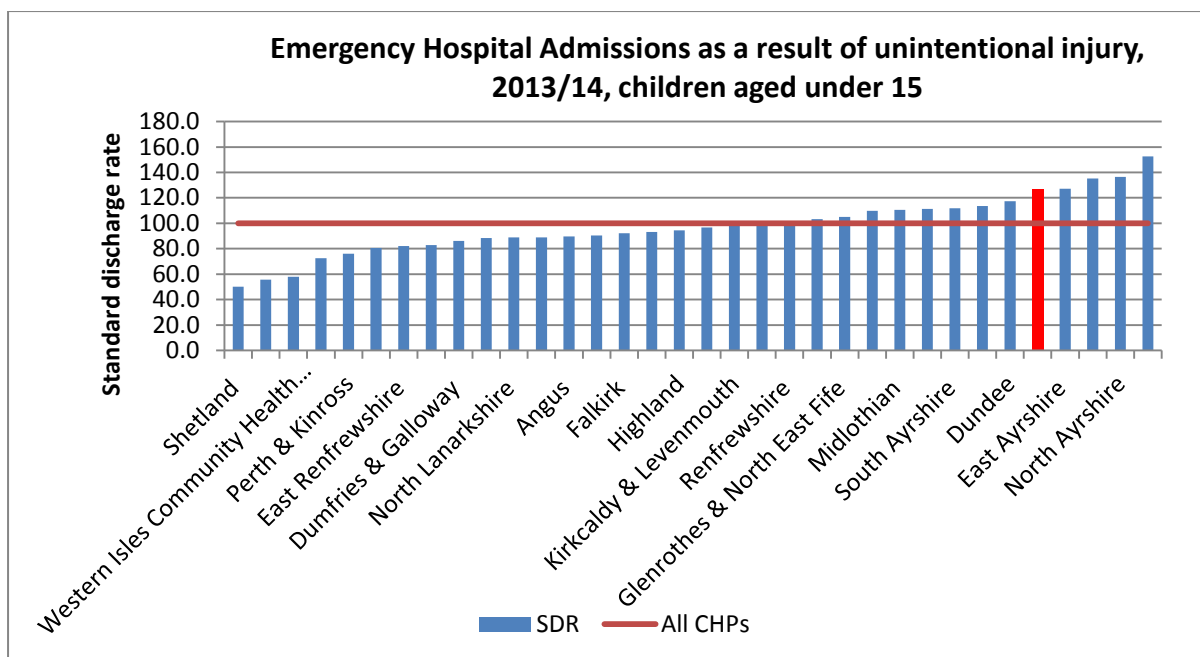
UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES^{cviii}

Unintentional injury is one of the main causes of death and is one of the most common causes of emergency hospital admission in children. Unintentional injury is also one of the most common causes of emergency hospital admission among adults. The term 'unintentional injury' is preferred to 'accidents' as the latter implies that events are inevitable and unavoidable whereas a high proportion of these incidents are regarded as being preventable.

In the year ended 31st December 2013, the latest year for which data is available, 13 children in Scotland died as a result of an unintentional injury. In addition, 1,651 adults aged 15 and older across Scotland also died as a result of an unintentional injury that year.

In 2013/14, there were 54,673 emergency admissions to hospital in Scotland as a result of an unintentional injury, an increase of around 2% from the year before. Three-fifths of these emergency admissions were due to a fall.

In the year ended 31st March 2014, there were 358 emergency admissions to hospital as a result of an unintentional injury in children aged under 15. By looking at the Standardised Discharge Rate (SDR) we can see that this is higher than the rate of all Community Health Partnerships (CHPs) combined, and is one of the highest rates in the country.

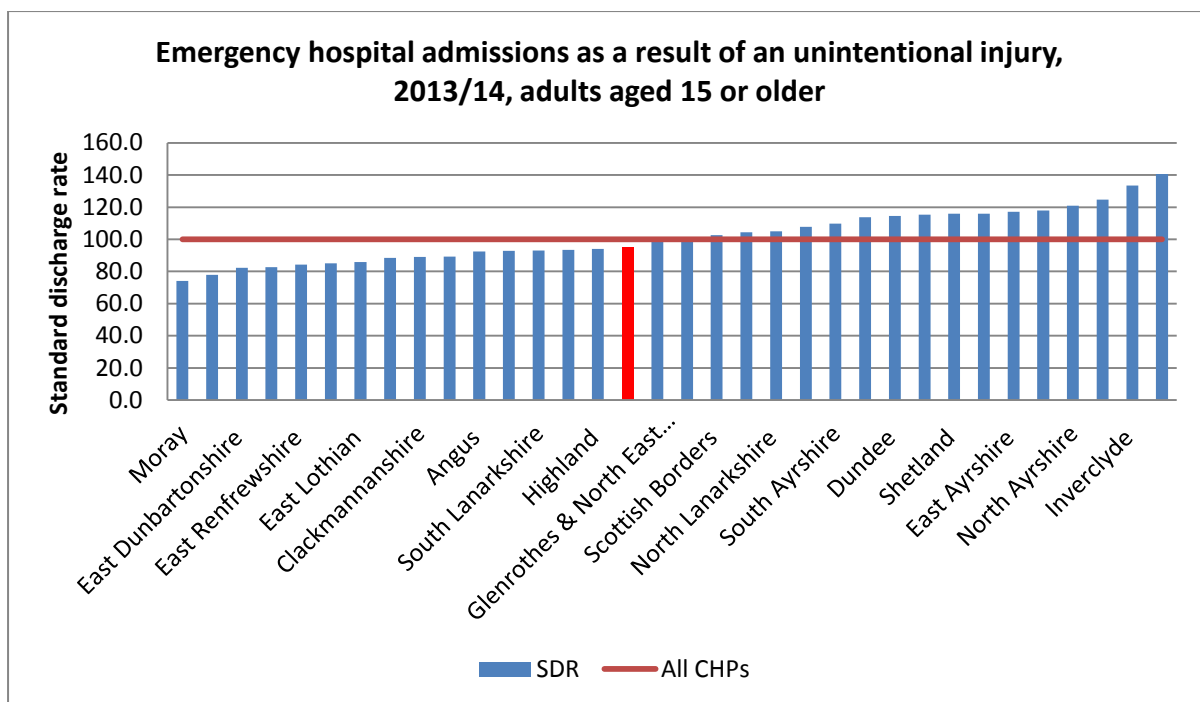


Source: ISD Scotland

Analysis carried out at a local level^{cix} shows that, in Aberdeen City, unintentional injuries in children are most common among the under 5s, and in all children, falls are the most common cause of an unintentional injury.

The local analysis also highlights that emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury in children are highest in children from the more deprived communities of Aberdeen – Cummings Park, Mastrick, Heathryfold and Middlefield, Torry East and Northfield (for the under 5s); Torry East, Cummings Park, Mastrick, Heathryfold & Middlefield and Stockethill (for those aged 5 to 9) and for those aged 10 to 14, most patients were from Northfield, Woodside or Kincorth, Leggart and Nigg North areas.

Conversely, the standard discharge rate for adults admitted to hospital as an emergency as a result of an unintentional injury in Aberdeen City is lower than the rate across all CHPs.



Source: ISD Scotland

Although people of all ages can suffer an unintentional injury, among all adults those aged 65 or older are far more likely to be admitted to hospital as a result of an unintentional injury.

Unfortunately, Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland no longer report on whether the unintentional injury was sustained within the home or elsewhere. This data would help us effectively target prevention measures.

HEALTHY WEIGHT

Obesity is a continuing major public health challenge in Grampian, and Scotland overall. Scotland has one of the worst obesity records among OECD countries and obesity in Scotland is estimated to cost NHS Scotland as much as £600m per year.

There is a well-documented association between raised obesity and deprivation levels; in Scotland, 81.1% of children from the least deprived areas were classified as healthy weight, but that figure dropped to 73.2% in the most deprived area^{cx}. There is also a strongly evidenced link between the quality and quantity of greenspace and health. And, the quality and quantity of greenspaces in Aberdeen are generally poorer in areas of deprivation. Opportunities for physical activity are ever more present in areas with accessible & usable greenspace. Obesity is a current and future health concern, as it can lead, or contribute, to physical and mental health problems in later life.

Children's weight and growth is an important indicator of their general health. In Aberdeen City, 74.1% of children in Primary 1 in 2013/14 were classified as healthy weight, slightly lower than the national figure of 76.4%, with 13.9% of children being

at risk of being overweight and 11.3% at risk of obesity (the figures for all NHS Boards in Scotland were 12.4% and 10.1% respectively). Data relating to the correlation between unhealthy weight and deprivation levels are not available at a local level, however it can be reasonably assumed that the trend in Aberdeen City follows the national trend and that children are at greater risk of being overweight or obese as deprivation increases.

One effective measure for reducing obesity among school-age children is to ensure children remain within school premises at lunch time. For many children, the only reliable meal they have is at school, and therefore schools have an opportunity to improve child health and reduce obesity before it becomes a problem.

Obesity can reduce peoples overall quality of life. In Scotland, an increasing proportion of both men and women have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or over, classifying them as “overweight, obese or morbidly obese”. In 1995, 56% of men aged 16 to 64 had a BMI of 25 or over, in 2014, this has increased to 67%. For women, it is a similar situation; 47% of women aged 16-64 in 1995 had a BMI of 25 or over, and in 2014 that has risen to 58%^{cxii}. There is a strong association between increasing age and a person being overweight or obese. More than three-quarters of the adult population aged 55 to 74 were overweight or obese and around a third (33 to 36%) of the population aged 45 to 74 are obese or morbidly obese (BMI of 30 or over).

In Grampian, there was a significant rise in obesity levels among males in the decade to 2013. Although there was an increase nationally, the trend in Grampian is far greater than the national trend. This is also the case for female obesity^{cxii}. Two-thirds of the population covered by NHS Grampian are overweight or obese (have a BMI of 25 or over)^{cxiii}.

People who are overweight not only have the immediate and obvious health risks, but there is also an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers. On a wider level, being overweight can affect a persons’ ability to work and remain economically active. It can also affect overall wellbeing and mental health.

One way to treat obesity is by adopting a healthy and varied diet. An individual’s diet is one area in which they can make a difference to their overall health. In 2014, only one in five adults in Scotland met the 5-a-day recommendations, while 10% did not consume any fruit or vegetables. Again, inequalities are highlighted when considering the correlation with deprivation; 15% of adults living in the most deprived areas of Scotland consume five or more portions of fruit or vegetables per day, this increases to 25% of the population in the least deprived areas. It is a similar story for the consumption of fruit and vegetables amongst children, with children from the most deprived areas eating less than their peers from the least deprived areas. Generally, both adults and children from more deprived areas eat less healthily than those from the less deprived areas^{cxiv}.

The issue is far more complex than merely encouraging people to eat better. Wider issues, such as access to healthy food options, food insecurity, lack of practical cooking skills and the location and density of fast food and other takeaway outlets all influence the food choices that people make. The food environment in neighbourhoods – the so-called “foodscape” – is an influence on people’s health and diet. People exposed to takeaway food outlets are more likely to consume takeaway food^{cxv}.

But encouraging a healthy and varied diet is a complex issue. For example, providing access to healthy food options, licensing of fast food and other takeaway outlets, food insecurity and a lack of practical cooking skills all impact on the choices that people make.

Prevention and management of obesity and those at risk of obesity is a priority for action for all Community Planning Partners and is not the sole responsibility of health services.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical inactivity contributes to nearly 2,500 deaths in Scotland each year and it is estimated that the costs to the NHS in Scotland of physical inactivity are around £91 million per year.

Critical to maintaining a healthy weight and reducing the burden of excess weight, is physical activity. Physical activity has many health benefits in terms of preventing serious ill health. It also increases energy levels and leads to an improvement in a person’s sense of wellbeing.

National guidance recommends that adults should aim to be active daily, and that over the course of a week, activity should add up to 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity. In 2014, almost two-thirds of adults in Scotland met these guidelines, and this has remained fairly static over recent years. But a fifth of adults did fewer than 30 minutes of moderate activity per week. There are some differences among varying demographics, with men more likely than women to meet activity guidelines. Younger age groups are more likely to be active than more mature people – activity rates steadily decline as age increases.

Physical activity among children aged 2-15, including school-based activity, fares better, with over three-quarters of children being active for at least an hour a day. But there are significant differences in activity levels between boys and girls, particularly in the 2 to 4 and 13 to 15 age groups.

As well as the differences in activity levels correlated with age and gender, there is a strong association with deprivation. Physical activity tends to decline as deprivation increases. 83% of children from the highest income families took part in any form of sport in the week preceding the survey, but this reduced to only 51% of children from the lowest income households. For adults, the same is true. In general, participation

in sporting activities is highest among those from the least deprived areas and this may, at least partially, be attributable to cost; 5% of respondents from the least deprived area cited “It costs too much” as the reason for not participating, while that increased to 14% of respondents from the most deprived areas.

The Access 2 Leisure scheme offers a discount to residents of Aberdeen City who are aged 60 or over, have a disability, or are on a low income, to all Sport Aberdeen facilities. It also offers discounted childcare services for children under 12 and at some cultural facilities. Almost 58,000 people take up the benefits of the scheme, the majority of whom are over 60. There is clearly the potential to increase physical activity particularly among those from areas of disadvantage by promoting use of the scheme in areas which suffer from high levels of deprivation. While there are cost implications of this, it may be that a ‘trade-off’ is required, for example, raising the age of eligibility. Taking into account population projections which highlight that the population of Aberdeen City is getting older, raising the age of eligibility may make the scheme more sustainable for the future.

Being physically active does not mean that a person needs to be participating in sports but can be about simple lifestyle choices. Those who walk, cycle or take public transport to work are more likely to meet physical activity recommendations than those who drive.

OLDER PEOPLE

“Older people are an asset to this country and preparing for an increasingly ageing population is one of our biggest national challenges.” *Scottish Government*

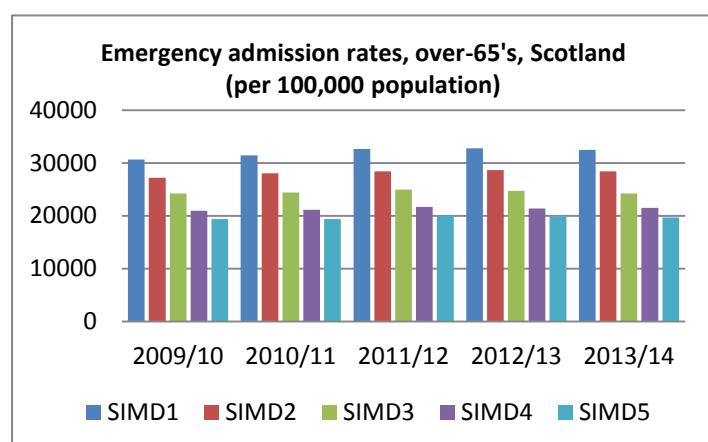
The Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership is working together to optimise the health and wellbeing, social inclusion and independence of Aberdeen’s people.

The over 65 population of Scotland is likely to increase by around 60% by 2037, and in Aberdeen that increase is projected to be almost 56%. An ageing population will mean an increase in care requirements, as an increasing number of people with multiple and complex needs will place increased demand on the whole health and social care system.

A significant proportion of NHS Boards total budgets are spent on unscheduled admissions to acute hospitals. A steady rise in the number of emergency admissions has been a source of considerable pressure to NHS Scotland over the past decade, with an increase of over 16% in the number of emergency admissions in Scotland over the past decade^{cxvi}.

Aberdeen City has also seen an increase in emergency admissions, however at a far lower rate than the national trend at slightly over 2%. The over-65s account for a significant proportion of the total emergency admissions; 37.1% of emergency admissions in Aberdeen City in 2013/14 were among the over-65s, compared to

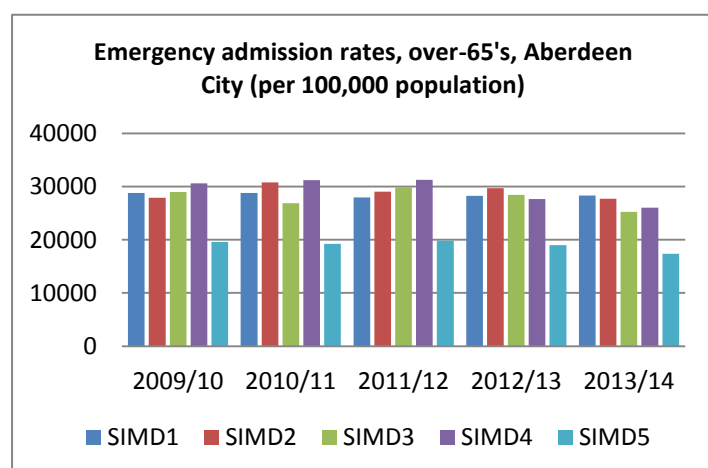
42.8% of emergency admissions across the country in the same year being among the over-65s.



Although less pronounced than the whole of Scotland, it is evident that, even within Aberdeen City, there is a correlation between deprivation levels and the risk of being admitted to hospital as an emergency patient.

This correlation is evident across all age groups and is not

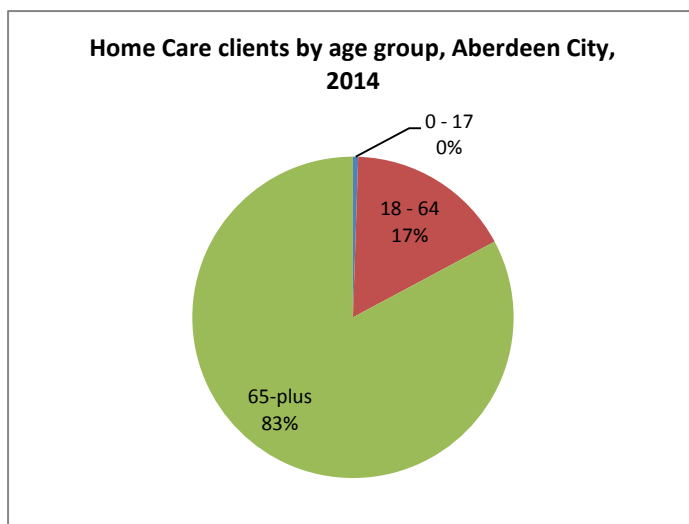
confined to the older population.



As well as being more likely to be admitted as an emergency patient at all, people aged 65 or older living in the most deprived quintile are around one and a half times as likely to have two emergency admissions and twice as likely to have three or more emergency admissions than those living in the least deprived quintile.

Receiving care at home allows a person to remain independent for longer. Home care services provide people with support, practical help and personal care to enable them to remain within their own homes for as long as possible.

In March 2014, 1,920^{cxvii} home care clients in Aberdeen City received Home Care, an increase of 120 clients from the previous year and 18,500 hours of Home Care were recorded over the census week^{cxviii}. 82.8% of Home Care clients in Aberdeen City were aged 65 or over, with 40% of the city's Home Care clients being aged 85 or older.



Across Scotland, local authorities are increasingly purchasing care from the private and voluntary sectors, rather than providing care themselves. In Aberdeen City, all such care is provided by the private and/or voluntary sectors.

As well as 600 Home Care clients, in March 2014, an additional 1,530 people received Community Alarms or telecare in Aberdeen City, again the majority of whom

are aged 65 or older.

Direct Payment provision increased in the 2013/14 financial year, with almost £3.5 million spent (up from £2.7m in the preceding year).

Although analysis is not available at a local level, nationally the rate of adult Home Care clients goes up with increasing relative deprivation. There appears to be a correlation between deprivation and being in receipt of direct payments, with those living in the least deprived areas more likely to be in receipt of direct payment.

DEMENTIA

Dementia is a significant health concern in Scotland and with an increasingly ageing population there are critical challenges ahead. There were approximately 90,000 people with Dementia in Scotland in 2015^{cxix}, around 3.6% of whom are under 65. Dementia prevalence increases with age and with a projected 60% increase in the over-65 population nationally, the number of people living with dementia is expected to double.

In Aberdeen City, there is an estimated 3,380 people with dementia, however these are not all diagnosed cases. Although not a formal record of the number of diagnoses, we know from Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) data that there are almost 1,600 registered with GP practices in the city that have a formal diagnosis of dementia. Stigma and fear of the disease may result in people being less willing to come forward.

People with dementia retain the same rights as anyone else, but the nature of their illness often restricts their ability to protect those rights. In addition, the illness leaves them vulnerable

As the life expectancy of the Scottish population continues to rise, more people will experience dementia, and more will experience advanced dementia. Consequently, more people will die with dementia. Dementia is therefore a key health issue facing

Scotland over the coming years. Not only will the demand for health and social care services increase, there will also be the significant financial and economic impact.

The majority of people with dementia need care either daily or constantly. A vast amount of care for people with dementia is provided by informal carers – usually friends or family, but there will also be an increased demand for formal care.

STROKE

Although more people are now surviving, in 2013 there were just under 4,500 deaths in Scotland where cerebrovascular disease was the underlying cause. One of the most common types of CVD is stroke, and each year around 15,000 people in Scotland suffer a stroke. Many of the risk factors associated with CVD – such as smoking, poor diet, alcohol consumption and physical inactivity – have a high prevalence within Scottish society. Stroke is a largely preventable and treatable disease, although not all risk factors can be removed by lifestyle changes. Stroke can, and does, occur at any age, however 80% of stroke patients are aged 65 or older.

In Aberdeen City, the age and sex standardised rate discharge rate for stroke decreased between 2012/13 and 2013/14, however, longer-term, the rate has increased, from 311.9 per 100,000 population in 2004/05 to 361.8 per 100,000 population in 2013/14 (an increase of 16%). This general trend mirrors the national trend, however the increase in the discharge rate in Aberdeen City exceeds the increase in the national discharge rate for stroke (1.9% increase over the decade).

Stroke is the most common cause of severe disability in Scotland. A third of people who have a stroke are left with a long-term disability. It is more common among men and older age groups are more likely to suffer a stroke. By 2037, the over 65's population of Aberdeen City is projected to grow by 55.4% - but the projected growth is not equal between the sexes – the over 65 male population is projected to grow by 71.1% while the over 65 female population is projected to grow by 43.7%. Taking current prevalence rates and trends into account, it is therefore reasonable to predict a rising rate in stroke incidence and in turn there will be increased need for long term care – both formal and informal care.

CARING COMMUNITY

Currently around 16% of Scotland's adult population provide regular help or care for any sick, disabled or frail person. Informal care is most likely to be provided by those aged 45 and older. People from low income households are far more likely to provide regular care than people from high income households – 23% of respondents in low income households provide regular help or care, compared to only 13% in the highest income households.

In relation to child carers, there is a marked difference between boys and girls who provide regular help or care for a sick, disabled or frail person; 14% of boys aged 13

to 15 provide regular help or care, compared to 4% of girls in the same age bracket. Again, children who provide regular care, in particular boys, are more likely to be from low income households.

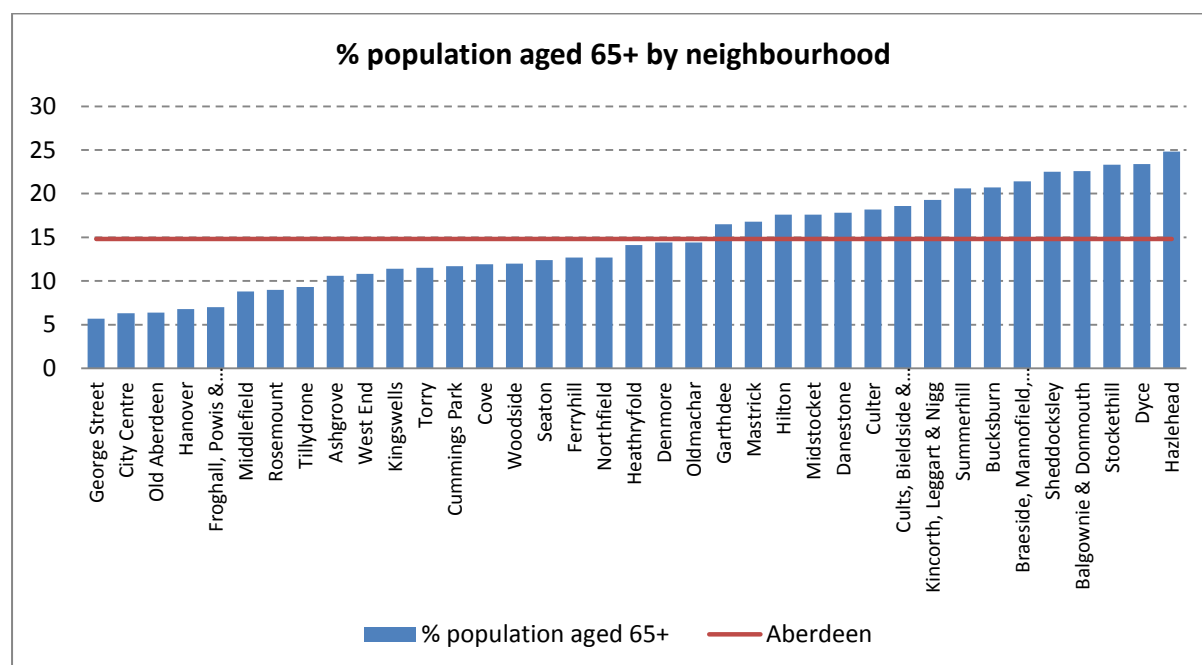
17% of adults who provide informal care stated that their caring duties have impacted on the amount of hours they are available / or have worked. Clearly, given that those people that are more likely to provide informal care are from lower income households, caring duties may be causing significant financial detriment.

An ageing population will likely result in an increased demand placed on family and friends to provide informal care. The majority of informal carers report receiving no support, or support only from family and friends. As well as increased demand on health and social services to provide care for the ageing population, there will also likely be a requirement for additional caring support services.

FUTURE ISSUES

AGING POPULATION

The older population is widespread thorough the city and the proportion of the resident neighbourhood populations that are in the over 65 age bracket varies widely; in some areas, less than one in ten of the resident population is in this age group, whereas in other areas, such as Hazlehead and Dyce, more than one in every five people is aged 65 or over.



In addition to the current population, it is expected that the number of older people will rise sharply over the next two decades. This trend will have a number of consequences for how NHS Grampian, as well as other Community Planning partners provide services. The continued growth of the older population will place

additional pressure on the health and care systems as demand for services increases and complex needs become more common. Therefore, it is imperative that there is greater emphasis placed on preventative and anticipatory care.

POPULATION GROWTH

As well as an ageing population, the whole population of Aberdeen is projected to increase by 28% by 2037, with an increase in the child population (aged 0-15) of around 45%. While an increasing population as a result of more births and fewer deaths is a good thing, and indicative of the vast improvement in public health, clearly a rising population will place additional pressures on all public services.

As highlighted in other sections of this document, Aberdeen City already experiences difficulty with the recruitment and retention of staff, not just of key workers, but of the wider public sector workforce. In an area where there is a high cost of living, pressure on the education system and a tight labour force, recruiting the required health and social care workforce will remain a challenge. Planning the workforce required to meet the needs of a projected population is a complex task; the need to have the right number of people with the right skills in the right place in a changing landscape with increased complexity of needs is a critical concern.

SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT

The Social Care (Self-directed support) (Scotland) Act 2013 came into force on 1st April 2014 and places a duty on local authority social work departments to offer people who are eligible for social care a range of choices over how they receive that care and support. Self-directed support is a major change to the way that people's social care needs are supported. It allows people to choose how their support is provided and gives them as much control as they want of their individual budget.

CHALLENGES

- A rising population overall and rapidly ageing population will result in a higher prevalence of health problems linked to older people, such as dementia, unintentional injuries, stroke and diabetes.
- The economic downturn in Aberdeen City may impact negatively on the mental health and wellbeing of the population.
- As a result of the economic downturn, there is the potential that health inequalities may be exacerbated.
- Local data regarding the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder is limited.
- Workforce planning in a changing landscape remains a challenge at a local level.
- The main challenge for all partners is the need to shift the emphasis towards prevention of ill health.

OPPORTUNITIES

- The integration of health and social care and the renewed focus on enabling people to remain independent for longer provides an opportunity to improve health outcomes for older people.
- Members of the ageing population are more susceptible to accidents within the home. There is an opportunity for greater integration between partners to ensure that people are living in homes that are suitable and safe.
- There is an opportunity for Aberdeen City to become more “dementia friendly” as the population of the city with dementia looks likely to grow.

DATA GAPS IDENTIFIED

- Unintentional injury – ISD no longer report on whether sustained within the home or not.
- There is a lack of robust data surrounding the health and wellbeing of particular groups, such as those with learning disabilities. This applies to both Children and Adults.
- Obesity at Aberdeen City level
- Physical activity – only available at Grampian level from Scottish Health Survey? This relates to 2008 – 2011

SAFER & STRONGER

“Helping local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live and offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.” “A safer and stronger Scotland for our families and communities will be a more successful Scotland”
Scottish Government

“We want communities to thrive, becoming better places to live and work, contributing to a more economically-cohesive Scotland, higher rates of labour market participation and sustainable economic growth. We will achieve this by improving housing and neighbourhoods, fighting crime and reducing the fear of crime.”

OVERVIEW

The Safer and Stronger theme, like all other themes in this Strategic Assessment has many interdependencies - external economic and demographic factors may impact upon this objective; for example, the current times of fiscal austerity may result in increased acquisitive crime, while an ageing population opens the door for more crimes of dishonesty targeted at some of the most vulnerable members of our society, as well as the possibility of increased numbers of unintentional injury and home fires among this age group.

As well as tackling crime, we need to reduce the risk of accidental harm, by continuing to improve road safety, fire safety and home safety.

Keeping people safe is at the heart of what we, Community Planning Aberdeen, do.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

For the 2015 General Election, the turnout was 66.1%^{cxx}, a slight increase from the previous general election in 2010, when 65.1% of eligible voters turned out to vote. In Scotland, the turn-out was even higher (71.1%). At a local level, approximately 68.1% of Aberdeen's^{cxxi} eligible population turned out to vote in the 2015 general election; those in the Aberdeen South constituency were more likely to vote than those in the Aberdeen North constituency.

Turnout for the Scottish Independence Referendum was even higher than the turnout for these national elections; almost 85% of eligible voters in Scotland turned out to cast their vote. In Aberdeen, the proportion of electorate that turned out to vote was slightly lower at 81.75%.

Age is a factor when considering the likelihood of voting, with older age groups most likely to vote; less than half of people aged 18 to 24 vote. Socioeconomic factors also significantly affect voter turnout; those who turnout to vote are generally the more educated and more financially stable members of society. This means that those people have the best chance of having their views represented at government; unless tackled, political influence will continue to polarise at a local and national

level, and those most in need of having their voices heard remaining less engaged with representatives.

Community Councils are the most local tier of statutory representation in Scotland. They bridge the gap between local authorities and the communities they serve and are made up of elected representatives. There are 28 Community Councils active within Aberdeen City. As well as voting, age and socioeconomic factors are evident in the participation of local communities at Community Councils.

Many people approaching retirement – people in their fifties and early sixties – do not see themselves as ‘old’; in addition, these people are more likely than their younger peers to have time to devote to community development and the motivation to improve how services in their local area are designed. They are also most likely to have caring responsibilities for parents, spouses and grandchildren. There is a real opportunity for Aberdeen City to capitalise on the knowledge and expertise of this age group, and reap a multitude of outcomes for individuals, communities and public services.

THIRD SECTOR

Volunteers are a valuable national resource. In Scotland, 27%^{cxxii} of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in 2014; in Aberdeen City, 29% of the adult population formally volunteered – almost one in every three adults.

More than 62,000 volunteers in Aberdeen City contribute 6.2 million volunteer hours annually, worth £107 million to the local economy. Women are more likely than men to volunteer. Those aged 65 plus are the least likely volunteers in the city – this may indicate that this age group are more likely to benefit from the assistance that volunteers can provide rather than be in a position to volunteer themselves.

As life expectancy continues to increase in Aberdeen and Scotland, older people make up a greater proportion of the population. There has been much concern raised regarding the increased demands on health and social care in particular, but it should be recognised that older people contribute significantly to society and by encouraging and enabling older people to take part in volunteering, we are promoting and contributing towards healthier ageing. The older age groups, for example those aged 50 plus, are more likely to have time available to devote to volunteering, and are also more likely to have the motivation to become involved in activities to benefit others.

As deprivation levels increase, volunteering rates tend to drop^{cxxiii}. Given the relative affluence in Aberdeen, combined with the demography of the City, there is a healthy potential volunteering resource that the city can utilise. By expanding volunteering in the city, both formal and informal, local public services can reap the benefits, both fiscal and health-wise.

People in Aberdeen are most likely to volunteer for children / youth activities, followed by hobbies / recreational activities then for health, disability and social welfare activities; fewer people volunteer for either community / neighbourhood groups or for older people's activities^{cxiv}.

There are over 1,000 third sector organisations active within Aberdeen, with 846 charities registered with the Office for Scottish Charity Regulator active in the City.

The majority of third sector organisations active in Aberdeen have an income of less than £100,000 though there are some with significantly more. Funding for third sector organisations comes from a range of sources; some receive funding from public bodies such as Aberdeen City Council and NHS Grampian, some from grant-awarding bodies such as the Big Lottery and Robertson Trust, while others fundraise their whole income. Local Government spending cuts are impacting on the level of service provided by voluntary organisations, as the fall in income is passed on to those organisations. Similar to public services, voluntary organisations are being asked to do more with less.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 provides an opportunity to increase volunteering further, and will promote community capacity building.

TERRORISM

Terrorism presents a serious and sustained threat to the United Kingdom and our overseas interests. The overall threat to the UK from international terrorism is SEVERE, meaning that an attack is highly likely. The most significant and pressing threat to the UK is from Islamist extremists, and terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq, including Al Qaida and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (known as Isil, Isis, and Islamic State) possess both the intention and the capability to direct attacks in the west and towards western interests.

The majority of terrorist attack plots in the UK have been planned by British residents. There are several thousands of individuals in the UK who support violent extremism or are engaged in extremist activity.

British nationals who have fought for extremist groups in Syria continue to return to the UK, increasing the risk of terrorist attacks. Using skills acquired overseas, they may organise attacks under direction from Syria or on their own initiative, or they might radicalise others to do so. While the majority of returners will not mount attacks in the UK, the large numbers involved mean it is likely that at least some of them will.

Simple, self-organised attacks by UK-based Islamist extremists have increased and are inherently harder to detect than more complex and ambitious plots. Groups like ISIL make full use of social media and modern communication methods to glamorise their horrific acts and inspire others to commit them.

Not all extremist activity is direct attack planning. UK-based Islamist extremists have supported terrorism by:

- Radicalising individuals to believe in the legitimacy of joining a terrorist network or carrying out a terrorist attack;
- Fundraising for terrorist networks often through criminal activity such as diverting money donated to legitimate charities;
- Acquiring false documents for use by terrorists;
- Attending outward bound training in the UK as preparation for travelling overseas to join terrorist groups; and
- Facilitating the travel of radicalised British individuals overseas so that they can join a terrorist group, potentially receive training and direction to plan an attack back in the UK.

The threat is constantly changing, presenting major challenges for the UK's intelligence agencies and the police.

CONTEST is the name of the United Kingdom's counter-terrorism strategy. It was first developed in 2003, and updated in 2011. The strategy is based around four strands:

- **PREVENT** terrorism by tackling the radicalisation of individuals;
- **PURSUE** terrorists and those that sponsor them;
- **PROTECT** the public, key national services and UK interests overseas;
- **PREPARE** for the potential consequences of an attack.

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism that lead to terrorism. There is no specific profile of people who may be particularly vulnerable to extremism – it is not simply people from deprived communities, or those with low intelligence, or those who are unemployed.

To think that extremism doesn't happen locally is to bury our heads in the sand. A former St Machar Academy pupil – Abdul Raqib Amin appeared in an online propaganda video for Islamic State in June 2014 – in his mid-20s – was killed in a RAF drone strike on 21st August 2015.

Tackling extremism is not just the domain of the police; all Community Planning Partners are responsible. The NHS in Scotland has many contacts with a variety of patients on a daily basis, education services spend significant amounts of time with students, housing officers, repairs tradesmen and the fire service all enter homes on a regular basis and may be the first people to raise concerns.

TACKLING CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

The vast majority (95%)^{cxxv} of people in Aberdeen rate their neighbourhood as a very good or fairly good place to live; three in every five people rate their neighbourhood as a 'very good' place to live. The perception of neighbourhoods being good to live in varies with deprivation levels, with people living in the most deprived communities more likely to recognise the neighbourhood in which they live as 'fairly good' rather than 'very good'.

Although on the whole it appears that Aberdeen is a good place to live, the perception of the majority of people was that neighbourhoods have either stayed the same or become a little worse over the past three years. People living in the most deprived communities across Scotland are the people most likely to report their neighbourhood as having gotten a little or a lot better; this data is not available at a local level, however it is reasonable to assume that there is a similar trend in Aberdeen City.

83% of Aberdeen City's residents feel very or fairly safe while out walking alone in their neighbourhood, a significant improvement from the previous year when 77% of people in Aberdeen reported feeling safe while walking alone in their neighbourhood.

The excessive consumption of alcohol can often increase the likelihood of both perpetrating and being a victim of crime, particularly within the City Centre area. Unsurprisingly, violent crime is most common late at night or early in the mornings and at weekends. In three out of every five violent crimes, the victim perceived the offender to be under the influence of alcohol, and under the influence of drugs in 29% of violent crimes^{cxxvi}.

Police are not always informed of crimes - the SCJS highlights that police did not come to know of around 60% of crimes (as reported to SCJS) – the most common reason being that the victim felt that police could do nothing, followed by the incident being "too trivial". In 66% of crimes that were reported to police, victims were satisfied with the way police dealt with the matter.. People are more likely to be satisfied if they can see an officer face-to-face – those that only had telephone contact were less satisfied.

VICTIMS & VICTIMISATION

Recorded crime in Scotland is at its lowest level in over 40 years^{cxxvii} and recorded crime across the country reduced by 5% between 2013/14 and 2014/15. Crime in Aberdeen reduced by almost 10% between the 2 years and has reduced by over 43% since 2005/06.

Sexual crimes in the city increased by almost a quarter between 2013/14 and 2014/15, however the number of crimes recorded still remains lower than the figure

recorded a decade ago. Sexual crimes recorded across Scotland also increased between the two years; however the national increase was much lower, at 11%. Sexual crimes have increased in Scotland since 2008/09; however the trend in Aberdeen has fluctuated. Much of this increase may be attributable to increased confidence in Police and as such more victims coming forward to report historical crimes.

Although crimes of dishonesty in the city decreased in the most recent year, it should be noted that shoplifting increased by 11%; nationally, there was a small decrease in the number of shoplifting offences recorded. The increase at a local level may be indicative of the current economic downturn. Despite the decrease in 2014/15, Aberdeen City's rate of dishonesties, per 10,000 population, is significantly above the Scottish average rate (330 crimes of dishonesty per 10,000 population in Aberdeen City, 237 crimes per 10,000 of Scotland's population), third only to City of Edinburgh (456 crimes of dishonesty per 10,000 population) and Glasgow City (377 crimes per 10,000 population).

Despite the significant improvements in crime rates, adults in Scotland still perceive that the risk of being a victim of crime is far higher than it actually is, and thus the fall in crime may be going unnoticed. For example, across Scotland, adults were 20 times more likely to think that they were likely to be mugged or robbed in the street than they actually were; 20 times as many adults thought they were likely to have a motor vehicle stolen than were actually likely to experience this; and 10% of adults thought it likely that their vehicle would be damaged by an act of vandalism - more than twice the actual risk of it happening^{cxxviii}. The gap between actual crime rates and the perception of crime, and the reasons for the gap, are complex; it is likely that much of the heightened perception is engendered by negative media coverage. The perception of the risk of falling victim of crime is dependent on circumstance; the younger age group (aged 16 to 24) are the most likely victims of crime, and crime is more likely to occur in areas of deprivation, meaning that people living in disadvantaged areas are more likely to be a victim of crime compared to those living in the more affluent areas.

Unsurprisingly, the City Centre has, by far, the highest crime rate. This would be the case for all other cities in Scotland, due to a high concentration of transient population, often under the influence of alcohol. Disregarding the City Centre, Torry West and Woodside both have relatively high crime rates, in stark contrast to Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber East^{cxxix}.

Keeping People Safe is core business for Community Planning Aberdeen, regardless of their socio-economic status, age, or gender. Victims of crime may suffer the initial and immediate impact, such as financial loss or physical harm, but the psychological impact often goes unnoticed – stress, emotional distress and a heightened fear of crime for example. Research has shown that a small proportion of the population suffer a high proportion of crime and that the more crimes a person

is a victim of, the more likely a further offence becomes. Being a repeat victim of crime does not lessen the impact of crime, as people do not 'get used' to being a victim of crime.

Victims of crime are slightly less likely than non-victims to perceive that the criminal justice system gives punishments that fit the crime (only three in ten victims are confident that the punishment fits the crime) and slightly more than half of all adults say the system provides victims of crime with the support and services they require.

COMMUNITIES

The 2012/13 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey estimates that around one in six adults in Scotland were the victim of at least one crime, in the year preceding the survey. However, the perception and fear of crime is often heightened, particularly when someone has been a victim of crime. The gap between actual crime and perceptions is a complicated one; however it is likely that the media, and the sensationalist reporting by some outlets of high profile cases, contribute towards this misconception.

Locally, around six in ten adults were confident in the ability of police to prevent crime, while 71% of adults in the city were confident in the ability of the police to respond quickly to appropriate calls. Confidence was lower among the older age group in relation to dealing with incidents as they occur, investigating incidents after they occur, and solving crimes. Conversely, the older age group were those most likely to have confidence in the police's ability to catch criminals^{cxxx}. Generally, confidence in the police locally is slightly lower than the national average.

Confidence in all aspects of the criminal justice system continues to improve. More than three-quarters of adults were confident that the current system allows those accused of crimes a fair trial. Only around a third of adults were confident that the criminal justice system gives appropriate punishment and less than three fifths thought the system was effective at bringing those who commit crime to justice^{cxxxi}.

In December 2014, Police Scotland carried out a public consultation survey. Over 1,720 residents of Aberdeen City responded. Almost three-quarters of the public knew that there is a Community Policing Team responsible for policing their local area and, while most knew how to contact them, a third of people who did know of the local CPT did not know how the team could be contacted. The remainder of the local population were not aware of the existence of the Community Policing Team^{cxxxii}.

It appears that visibility of officers in local areas may still be a concern; however this at least in part may be as a result of people not actively looking for officers and therefore them going unnoticed during local patrols. Only 11% of respondents saw uniformed officers patrolling their local area on most days.

Perhaps surprisingly, the issue of most concern to the residents of Aberdeen City is Violence, followed by Drug Dealing / Misuse. This is despite a continued decrease in the number of violent offences in Aberdeen City in 2014/15.

Less than a fifth of people in Aberdeen City considered that Antisocial Behaviour and Vandalism are priority issues in their area. This is despite antisocial behaviour being the most commonly recorded incident type in the city and Group 4 crimes – which includes fireraising, vandalism, malicious mischief and reckless conduct – accounting for almost a fifth of crimes recorded in the city. This indicates that only those who have been the victim of such behaviour may identify such low-level offending as a prominent issue in the city.

53% of adults in Scotland are not confident that prisons are effective in rehabilitating offenders who have been convicted of a crime and almost seven in ten people do not believe that prison is an effective deterrent. Two-thirds of adults are confident that community sentencing is an effective way of dealing with low level, non-violent offending, but despite this 60% believe that community sentences do not discourage offending and 52% are of the opinion that community sentencing does not punish low level offending. Striking a balance between punishment and rehabilitation is challenging for all concerned; it is right and proper that the punishment should fit the crime, but often a custodial sentence would not be in the best interests of the offender, and community sentences are more appropriate for most crimes.

“Social isolation and loneliness are significant problems in Scotland”^{CXXXiii}. Although not confined to the older generation, older people are particularly vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness owing to loss of friends and family, reduced mobility, ill-health, income restrictions and / or lack of access to suitable transport. Social isolation and loneliness have a significantly negative impact on physical and mental health; loneliness is closely linked to depression and extreme loneliness can increase an older persons’ chance of dying before their time.

Across Scotland, around 80,000 people say they often or always feel lonely, and two in every five older people cite the television as their main form of company^{CXXXiv}. These stark figures are likely to increase due to the projected demographic changes across Scotland; the over 75 population is expected to grow by over 70% by 2037, thus the issue of social isolation is one of the biggest challenges facing our communities. By effectively tackling social isolation and loneliness, we can improve older people’s quality of life and help to reduce or limit the dependence on costly health and social care services.

In 2013, the Aberdeen City Befriending Partnership was launched in an effort to tackle social isolation among Aberdeen’s older people. Despite receiving over 450 referrals, further funding could not be secured and the initiative was brought to an end in 2014.

Financial austerity, and resulting budget cuts, have the potential to exacerbate social isolation among all communities, but this is particularly the case for older people who may rely on public services more than younger generations.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Low level offending and antisocial behaviour have a corrosive effect on communities, and as such must be swiftly and effectively dealt with. What is often seen as 'minor' disorder can often have major consequences. Antisocial behaviour can, and does, have a negative effect on communities and individuals; it can lead to a heightened fear of crime.

Despite years of partnership initiatives, in 2014/15 there were still more than 10,000 incidents of antisocial behaviour reported to police in the city, however this was an 8% decrease on the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour in the preceding year. The decreasing trend looks set to continue in 2015/16.

As well as complaints to police, data is available that gives the number of ASB complaints received by Aberdeen City Council Antisocial Behaviour Investigation Team (ASBIT). In 2014/15, the team dealt with a total of 3,132 'contacts', of which 125 cases were managed by the ASBIT team. Contacts passed to case management tend to be the most persistent and / or serious cases of antisocial behaviour. It should be noted however that these figures cannot simply be combined with the number of incidents recorded by Police, to give an overall picture of antisocial behaviour in the city, as often police initially receive the call, and then pass to ASBIT. Therefore there will be an element of double counting.

SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

Serious Organised crime is estimated to cost the Scottish society and economy billions of pounds each year. It is estimated that, across the UK, there are around 37,000 individuals linked to around 5,500 organised crime groups. In Scotland, it is assessed that there are around 3,700 individuals operating in 232 organised crime groups^{CXXXV}.

Serious and Organised crime is one of the greatest threats facing Scotland; it ruins lives and blights communities. To effectively target serious and organised crime requires true partnership working – it is not simply the domain of the police.

Many organised criminals, and organised crime groups, are entrepreneurial and opportunistic and are often involved in a variety of illegal profit-making activities.

Human trafficking is the coercion, entrapment, and exploitation of human beings, in the form of forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and slavery. It is one of the fastest growing and lucrative criminal activities in the world.

There are significant intelligence gaps relating to the true nature and extent of Human Trafficking in Scotland - it remains largely unknown. Human trafficking is very much a 'hidden' crime that goes on behind closed doors. There is certainly human trafficking in Scotland and, Aberdeen being seen as a wealthy city is a destination of choice for those seeking to exploit vulnerable people.

Although evident in some remote and rural areas of Scotland, the large cities are the main centres for the country's sex industry. The Oil industry and the associated wealth and disposable income, makes Aberdeen City an attractive place for those looking to exploit people into the sex industry. The international dimension to Aberdeen's population, both settled and transient, makes the city a target for serious organised crime. For example, anecdotally it has been suggested that the bi-annual event dedicated to the Oil and Gas Industry, Offshore Europe, brings busloads – and plane loads - of women involved in the sex industry to the city, seeking to capitalise on the increased visitors to the city.

The buoyant hospitality sector in Aberdeen also acts as a draw for those looking to exploit people. Trafficker's Commercial sexual exploitation takes place in hotels, but also can be employed in this sector.

Human trafficking spans all victim demography; however the most likely victims are women and girls.

In response to legislation that was out of date and not fit for purpose, the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act received Royal Assent on 4th November 2015. This piece of legislation seeks to provide greater support for victims of human trafficking, at the same time as allowing for more severe sentencing upon those either directly involved in, or on the periphery, of human trafficking. While in theory this legislation is a huge step forward in Scotland's response to the changing nature of human trafficking, it remains to be seen how these provisions will be implemented.

Strong partnerships are at the heart of tackling serious organised crime. Police in Aberdeen remain extremely pro-active in relation to tackling Serious Organised Crime and work closely with other Community Planning Partners. Numerous joint operations with Trading Standards have been carried out to combat the sale of counterfeit goods.

Counterfeit goods are fake items deliberately made to look like genuine branded, usually designer branded, items. Proceeds received from the sale of counterfeit goods are often used to fund other types of serious organised crime.

Police Scotland have also entered into a data sharing agreement with Aberdeen City Council in relation to procurement and landlord registration with a view to deny organised criminals access to legitimate enterprise.

VIOLENT CRIME

As stated above, violent crime in Aberdeen City is on a downward trend, however there are still some clear links to be made, particularly with the night-time economy and the consumption of alcohol and, to a lesser extent, drugs.

Unsurprisingly, violent crime – both serious and ‘minor’ crimes of violence – are most common in late nights and early mornings, particularly at weekends and the greatest concentration of violence occurs in the City Centre. This suggests that the economic lures of the City Centre and the vibrant night-time economy in Aberdeen are contributing factors to the level of violence.

PROTECTING PEOPLE

NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE

Marketed as ‘legal highs’, ‘bath salts’, ‘plant food’ and ‘research chemicals’, New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) have featured in media reports across the country over recent years.

NPS are substances that have similar effects to illegal or illicit drugs like cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis. In most cases, the chemicals they contain have never before been used in drugs for human consumption and as such, their use can carry serious health risks such as paranoia, seizures, coma and, in some cases death.

While many drugs that were previously sold as ‘legal highs’ are now controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act, which means that they are now illegal to possess or to supply to others.

Late 2015 a co-ordinated operation between Trading Standards and Police Scotland, codenamed Operation Alexander, targeted shops across Scotland selling ‘legal highs’. This action was taken under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 because trading standards officials “reasonably suspected” that NPS fail the general safety requirements for consumer products.

By Friday 18th December, officials had visited 53 such shops and seized 7,323 – worth in excess of £146,000 - products across the country; 5,744 of those products were seized from shops in Aberdeen City, worth an estimated retail value of more than £100,000.

In June 2015, Police Scotland, as a key partner in Aberdeen City Community Safety Partnership, successfully applied for a closure order for a ‘headshop’ in Aberdeen. The closure order was the first of its kind to be served on a shop selling legal highs in Scotland.

The owner of the shop was also known to be involved in serious organised crime. During the 3 month closure order, the landlord of the premises agreed to terminate the lease on the shop.

It is recognised that there are a number of such shops within the city boundaries, and those that consume goods purchased within may be putting their health at serious risk.

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN ABERDEEN CITY

Domestic abuse in Aberdeen City continues to rise and in 2014/15 there were almost 3,100 incidents recorded by Police Scotland – an increase of 13.9% compared to the previous year. Domestic Abuse across the country also increased between the years, but at a far lower rate – in 2014/15, there was over 59,400 incidents recorded nationally, an increase of 1.8% from 2013/14. Based on a report from 2009, the average domestic abuse incident costs £25,560 and therefore the cost of domestic abuse to Aberdeen's public purse in 2014/15 was in excess of £78m.

Children who live with domestic abuse are at increased risk of behavioural issues, and are at greater risk of suffering mental ill-health in adult life. In the majority of domestic abuse incidents in the City, no children were present within the home or other locus at the time of the incident. But, in a fifth of incidents, one or more children witnessed the incident. Regardless of whether a child witnessed, or was present at the time, being exposed to domestic violence can have a significant detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of children; children may become anxious or withdrawn, have difficulty sleeping, perform less well at school and can develop more serious symptoms such as self-harm and / or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Although domestic violence can be perpetrated by men or women towards men or women, in reality, males account for the overwhelming majority of perpetrators while victims, in the vast majority of cases, tend to be females^{cxxxvi}.

Domestic Abuse appears to be more common among the younger (under 35) age groups, but this is likely indicative of a greater willingness to report abuse, with domestic difficulties more likely to be hidden among the older age groups.

The challenge for Community Planning Partners remains that most Domestic Abuse takes place within a residential setting and is therefore sometimes of a covert nature. Another difficulty is due to the reduced opportunity for corroboration.

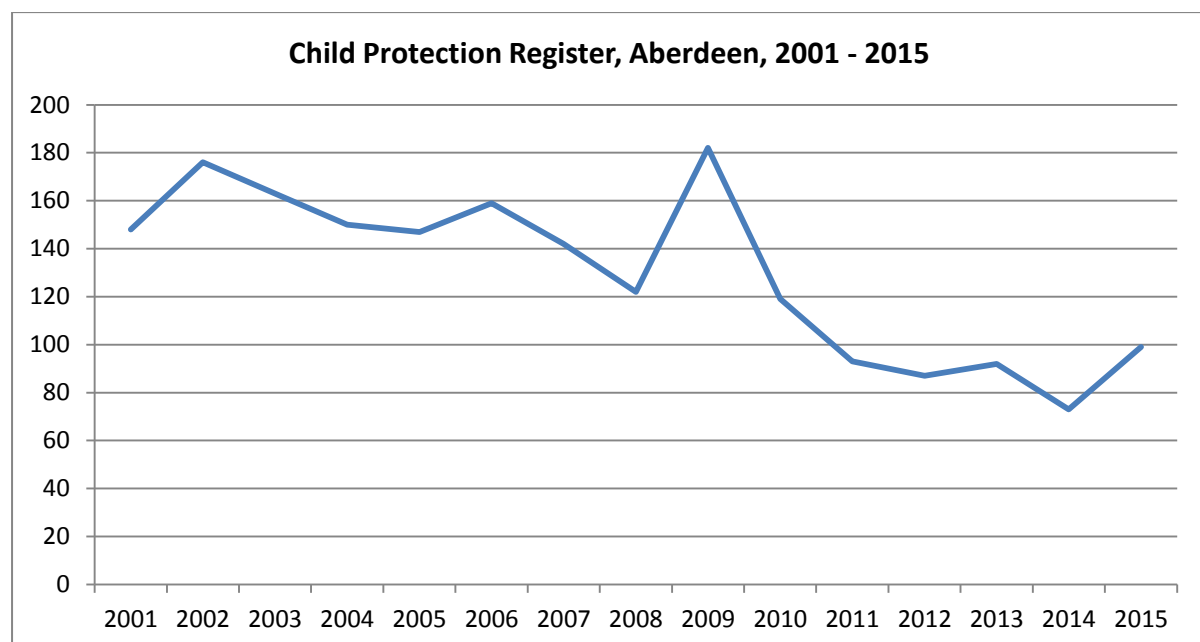
Following a pilot in Aberdeen and elsewhere, there has been a national roll-out of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS). This scheme, which in certain circumstances allows people to find out whether their partner has a history of domestic violence, has now been rolled out nationally. Aberdeen City have received numerous applications to the scheme which has given those at risk of domestic abuse the information to assist in making an informed decision on whether to continue in a relationship. This scheme has potentially prevented a number of people within Aberdeen becoming the victims of domestic abuse.

The city's criminal justice social work services receives Scottish Government funding to run 'Caledonian', a programme working with male perpetrators of domestic abuse and the women and children affected. The programme runs in the City and Aberdeenshire and forms part of a court ordered Community Payback Order.

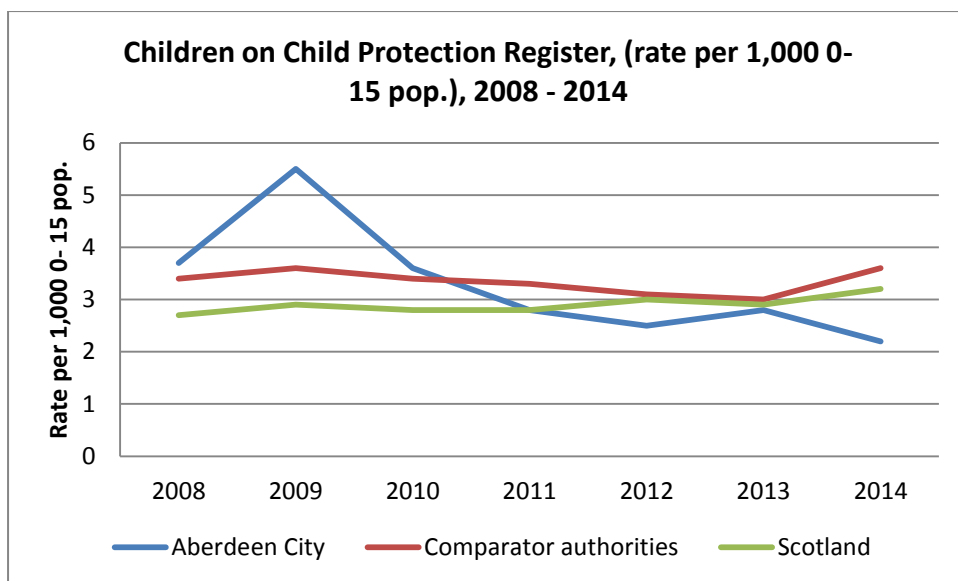
Domestic abuse remains a concern for a number of Community Planning Partners and is a key priority for Aberdeen City Community Safety Partnership.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection means protecting children from abuse or neglect. Across Scotland, the number of children on the Child Protection Register has increased by 18% since 2008; In Aberdeen, there was a significant increase in the number of children on the Child Protection register in 2009 (an increase of 60 from the previous year) but overall there has been a 33% reduction in the number of children on the register between 2008 and 2015.



In Scotland in 2013/14, 3.2 children in every 1,000 children under 16 were on the child protection register; in Aberdeen, that rate was 2.2 children in every 1,000 and in comparator authorities it was 3.6 children in every 1,000.



Despite the reducing trend, it is recognised that ascertaining the true extent of child protection issues is hindered by its often hidden nature, particularly in pre-school children and those out with the education system. Nevertheless, the reduction is also likely indicative of improvements in the early identification of issues and early intervention.

Emotional abuse was the most common concern raised for children on the Child Protection Register in Aberdeen City, followed by parental alcohol and/or substance misuse, neglect and domestic abuse.

In 2015, more than seven in ten children on the Child Protection Register were of pre-school age (under 5). While this proportion has fluctuated over the years, this is the highest proportion over the past 15 years and is a sign that early and effective intervention is working in Aberdeen City.

Population projections from the National Records of Scotland indicate that Aberdeen City will see an increase in the child population of around 45%. If these projections are borne out, there is clearly the potential for an increase in the number of children on the Child Protection Register. Given that Aberdeen City has historically experienced difficulties with the retention and recruitment of those involved in child protection, such as social workers, this may become a pinch point for the future.

Inequality and deprivation have a significant impact on family life, and therefore it is imperative that the focus is to tackle inequalities and by successfully doing so, we can reduce the demands on children's services.

ADULT PROTECTION^{cxxxvii}

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 is legislation designed to alleviate the risk of harm and to reduce harm that is taking place before it escalates. The Act places a duty upon Councils to investigate whether action is needed to stop

or prevent harm. The Act permits the use of assessment orders, removal orders and banning orders to protect adults at risk.

The Act highlights the importance of cross-partner working. The following organisations have a duty to co-operate with each other, where harm is known or suspected;

- the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland;
- the Care Commission;
- the Public Guardian;
- Police Scotland;
- Health Boards;
- Local Authorities;
- the Health board; and
- any other public body or office holder that Scottish Ministers specify.

Having a particular condition such as a learning disability or a mental health problem does not automatically mean an adult is at risk. A person can have a disability and still be able to safeguard themselves. For an adult to be considered 'at risk', all three parts of the following definition must be met.

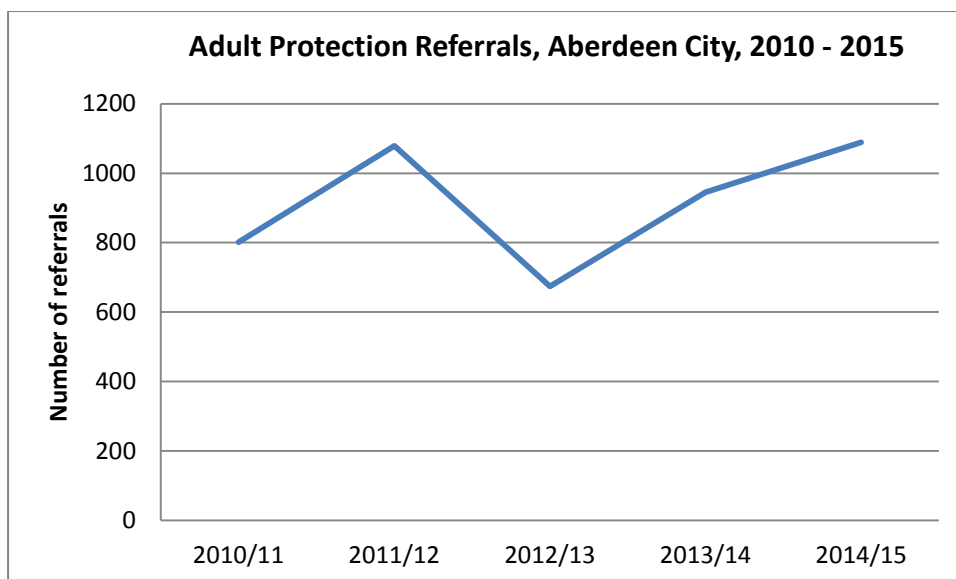
The Act defines adults at risk as people aged 16 years or over who:

- are unable to safeguard themselves, their property, their rights on other interests;
- are at risk of harm; and
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than others who are not so affected.

The Act defines four main types of harm:

- Conduct which causes physical harm:
- Conduct which causes psychological harm (such as fear, alarm or distress):
- Unlawful conduct which appropriates or adversely affects property, rights or interests, i.e. financial harm:
- Conduct which causes self-harm.

The number of Adult Protection referrals received in the city has fluctuated over the years, but overall, there is an increasing trend. This is most likely due to increased awareness of the process and improved recording methods.



Most referrals to the adult protection process are as a result of physical harm, but financial harm is also a growing problem. The perceived wealth of the city, and of its residents, makes people a target for unscrupulous individuals or enterprises.

Over the most recent years, around half of all referrals received were for adults aged 70 or older. Although age does not necessarily mean a person is 'at risk', the complexity of an ageing population means, coupled with continued awareness raising, means it is reasonable to envisage a continued increase in the number of referrals.

FIRE SAFETY^{cxxxviii}

Accidental dwelling fires can have a significantly negative impact upon both individuals and the wider community and are financially costly to householders and housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes.

Despite a modest increase in the number of accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen City in the most recent years, the longer overall trend is downward, however the rate, per 100,000 dwellings in the city remains higher than the national rate. Although higher than the national rate, the number of dwelling fires in the city remains low.

An increasingly high proportion of accidental dwelling fires are self-extinguished prior to the arrival of fire crew. In 2010/11, 40% of all accidental dwelling fires required no action by attending fire crew. In 2014/15, that proportion had risen to 52% highlighting that earlier detection is reducing the severity of house fires.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fires highlights the high number of incidents that involves a cooking appliance, with the source of ignition in around 70% of such fires being a cooking appliance. In most cases, the appliance itself is not the issue but fires arise results simply from occupiers being distracted while cooking, or by carelessness.

A common theme in relation to home fires is the link with substance use. In around a fifth of accidental dwelling fires recorded over the past five years, the person involved was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and / or drugs.

There is a link between areas of deprivation and higher rates of accidental dwelling fires; over the past five years, house fires have been 11 times more likely to occur in the most deprived areas than the least deprived. The neighbourhoods at greatest risk for accidental dwelling fires are Torry, Seaton, Hanover, Tillydrone and George Street.

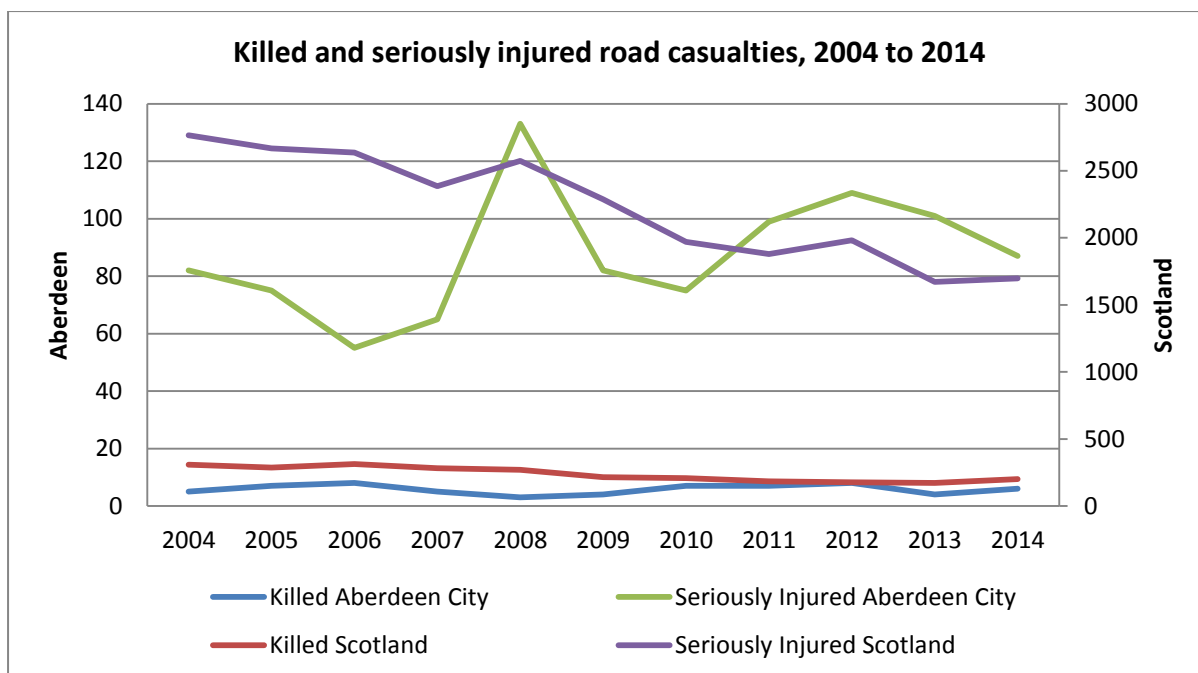
Secondary fires can be either deliberate or accidental, and can include not only grassland and refuse fires but also fires in derelict vehicles or buildings. The areas of the city most likely to have a secondary fire, based on data for the past five years, are Torry, Middlefield, Woodside and Northfield. Over the five year period, the number of secondary fires has reduced in most neighbourhoods, however in Northfield, George Street, Tillydrone and Cove there was more secondary fires recorded in 2014/15 than in 2010/11.

The economic cost of secondary fires comparable to dwelling house fires is relatively small, however this cost is felt not only by Scottish Fire and Rescue but it is a cost to all partner agencies.

Supporting our ageing population to remain living independently within their own home will inevitably require greater resources and improved partnership working. Not only is there a challenge to protect older people from fire within their home, but services that were traditionally seen as emergency responders can also play a part in reducing slips, trips and falls and other accidents within the home.

ROAD SAFETY

Road safety in Aberdeen City continues to be a challenge and one which is no doubt exacerbated by the high level of private vehicles on the City's roads.



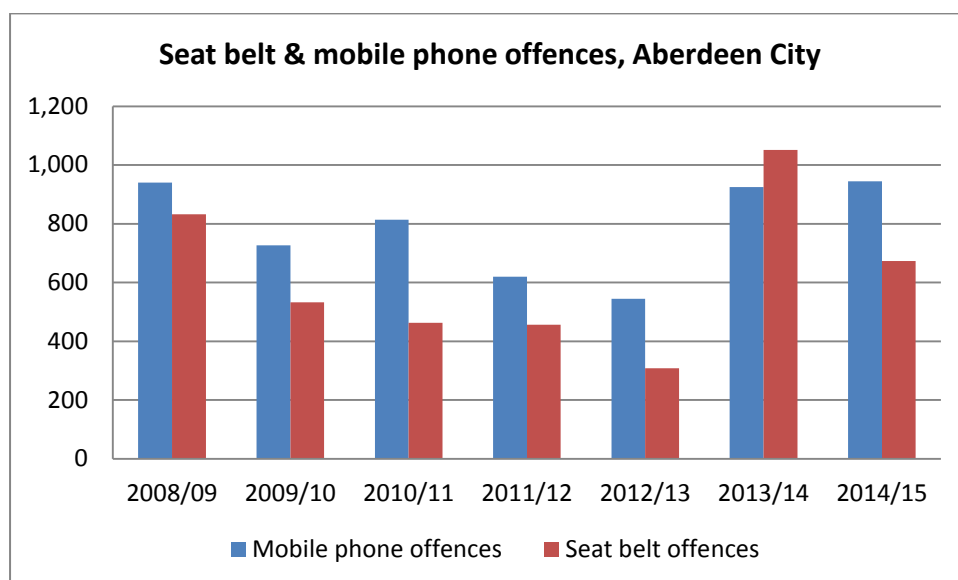
As shown in the chart above, the number of people killed on the City's roads has remained fairly static over the years, with 64 people killed over the past 10 years.

However, the trend in relation to casualties sustaining serious injury on the City's roads is concerning and, although the number of people sustaining injury has fluctuated over the years, the change over time has been one of an increase. Between 2004 and 2014, there has been a reduction of almost 40% in the number of killed or seriously injured casualties in Scotland; but in Aberdeen City, there has been a slight increase (7%).

Road casualty reduction targets are monitored by the Community Safety Partnership, and particular vulnerable groups and emerging trends are identified by regular monitoring. The Traffic Management Team monitor all collisions where there has been a fatality or a casualty has sustained serious injury to establish if transport infrastructure was a causal factor.

Speeding remains an issue in Aberdeen City. In 2014/15, the number of speeding offences recorded in Aberdeen City was 35% higher than the previous year; in Scotland, there was a 26% decrease in the number of speeding offences recorded between the two years. Speed is clearly a key risk factor in road traffic collisions and high speed collisions tend to result in greater severity of casualty. While the setting of speed limits is one of the most effective measures in reducing road traffic injuries, it must be followed up by sustained and visible enforcement. Infrastructure developments can also help with modifying and reducing speed, and can therefore assist with a reduction in the number of collisions and the severity of injury sustained.

Despite high profile media and enforcement campaigns, drivers in Aberdeen continue to flout the law on using mobile phones whilst driving. Between 2008/09 and 2012/13, the number of mobile phone offences reduced by 42%, but the number of people using a mobile phone while driving has increased dramatically over the past two years.



In addition, there has been a considerable increase in the number of people detected for driving while not wearing a seat belt. Seat belt usage reduces the chances of traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries, yet in 2013/14 there was a large increase in the number of offences recorded. While this is no doubt as a result of pro-active enforcement campaigns, it is concerning that there is a sizeable proportion of motorists on the City's roads that are happy to drive around without wearing a seat belt.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The Christie Commission has made it clear that there is a pressing need for reform of public service delivery.

In 2014, 50% of respondents to the Scottish Household Survey in Aberdeen City reported that they were very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services delivered (Local health services, local schools and public transport), considerably less than the 62% of national respondents who are fairly or very satisfied with these services. There is some variation across the services, with 79% of Aberdeen's respondents in 2014 reporting that they were satisfied with local health services (down from 86% in 2013), 71% were satisfied with local schools (up from 67% in 2013) and 64% were satisfied with public transport (again, an increase from 2013 when 58% of respondents claimed they were satisfied with the quality of public transport in the city). From the results, it is clear that the residents of Aberdeen City want greater involvement in decision-making.

There are some significant differences between the opinions of the residents of Aberdeen City and the national population when it comes to public services:

	Aberdeen City	Scotland
My local council is good at letting people know about the kinds of services it provides	32%	49%
My local council provides high quality services	30%	47%
My council is good at letting local people know how well it is performing	28%	41%
My local council designs its services around the needs of the people who use them	22%	41%
My local council does the best it can with the money available	20%	41%
My local council is addressing the key issues affecting the quality of life in my local neighbourhood	23%	37%
My council is good at listening to local people's views before it takes decisions	10%	26%
I can influence decisions affecting my local area	20%	23%
I would like to be more involved in the decision my council makes that affect my local area	46%	34%

Although there are clearly some issues concerning the perception of the local communities and the Local Authority, it is clear to see that there is an opportunity to capitalise on the knowledge and commitment within the city, with almost half of all respondents stating they would like to be more involved in the decision making process in Aberdeen City.

FUTURE ISSUES

The last decade has seen a considerable reduction in crime in the city. However, given the current economic climate, and the intense pressure on public spending, there is a real concern that crime, in particular acquisitive crime, may increase. In addition, unfortunately the relative affluence in the city has in the past attracted some unscrupulous individuals with even more unscrupulous practices. Often, these people target the elderly or most vulnerable members of our society. As highlighted at various points throughout this document, Aberdeen City has an ageing population, and the older population are often the most targeted group for fraud.

Despite considerable reductions, crime remains a major concern for the public.

The integration of Health and Social Care, and the focus on enabling a larger older, and perhaps more vulnerable, population to live independently within their own home raises the potential for an increase in fires in the home

In September 2015, Aberdeen City's Community Planning Partnership announced that the city stood ready to accept around 100 refugees from war-torn Syria. While there have been no issues as yet, there is the potential for an increase in conflict between refugees and host communities. Such tensions may be fuelled by misconceptions and sensationalist reporting styles, particularly in relation to attacks by Islamist terrorist groups.

The Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 received Royal Assent on 12th February 2015. The Act aims to disrupt the ability of people to travel abroad to engage in terrorist activity and will improve law enforcement ability to identify who is responsible for sending communications via the internet or accessing an internet communications service.

In a bid to ensure that Aberdeen is best placed to grow for the future and service the region's economic success, Aberdeen International Airport published its 30 year masterplan. Considerable expansion is planned, including extending the runway and enhancing the terminal building with the overall aim of extending the airport's international reach. While this is no doubt a good and perhaps long overdue move, widening the international connections brings with it some risks and may increase the security threat at a local level and make the region more susceptible to acts of terrorism.

Phil Gormley QPM took up post as the new Chief Constable of Police Scotland in January 2016, replacing Sir Stephen House. Following the merger of 8 Scottish Police Forces and the national agencies in 2013, the former Grampian Police area was split into 2 separate divisions; A Division covered Aberdeen City, while B Division covered Aberdeenshire and Moray. More recently however, A and B Divisions have merged to become the North East Division, of which Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson is the Divisional Commander.

In January 2016, it was announced that police control rooms in Inverness and Aberdeen will close later in 2016, with all services relocated to either Dundee, or Bilston Glen.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are progressing with implementing the special resources strategy. This will result in enhanced capability and capacity in water rescue and rope rescue in Aberdeen City.

On 24th July 2015, the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 received Royal Assent. The Act will essentially give communities greater influence over public bodies and will allow communities to identify needs and issues and request action to tackle these issues. It will mean that communities will have more of a say

in how public services are delivered and will “give people a stronger voice in their communities”.

Within the Act, there is an emphasis on tackling inequality and disadvantage.

It is expected that most parts of the Act will come into force in summer 2016.

On 9th October 2015, the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament. The Bill aims to prevent abuse, harassment or sexual harm in a number of ways, via both criminal and civil law. The Bill also extends the circumstances where courts may grant non-harassment orders against individuals and updates the law on the prevention of sexual harm by people considered to be at risk of offending. The Bill seeks to address the growing problem of ‘revenge porn’.

A national redesign of ‘community justice’ is taking place in Scotland. Currently eight Community Justice Authorities are responsible (under the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2005) for bringing partners together to develop and deliver on plans to reduce reoffending, for allocating statutory funding for Criminal Justice Social Work Services (under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968), and for sharing good practice. Aberdeen falls under the remit of the Northern Community Justice Authority. From 1st April 2017 responsibility for strategic planning and delivery of community justice will be taken forward by partners in each local authority area. In addition a national body – Community Justice Scotland - is to be formed to oversee the new arrangements, to give assurance to Ministers about progress towards achievement of Community Justice outcomes, and to promote the benefits of ‘community justice’. The ‘Community Justice (Scotland) Bill’ which is likely to receive Royal Assent in June 2016, will underpin these changes.

The emphasis of the new model lies in a collaborative approach between partner organisations, communities, and the individuals who find themselves involved with the ‘Justice System’ and their families. It aims to encompass all those who may be able to contribute to improving outcomes for individuals, families and communities, including organisations/services which may not traditionally have been involved with community justice. Communities lie at the heart of this new model, and the local strategic planning and delivery of services through Community Planning Partnerships are central to the new arrangements.

From 1st April 2017 statutory ‘Community Justice Partners’ locally must have in place a separate ‘Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan’, including actions required to achieve these outcomes. The Plan must be developed with the involvement of local partners, services, and community representatives, and must have regard to the national Community Justice Strategy and related Performance Framework which is currently being developed, as stipulated in the draft Bill. An annual report on progress towards achieving outcomes must be prepared, published and submitted to the new national body.

CHALLENGES

- In an increasingly elderly population, there is a challenge to reduce social isolation.
- Ensuring that the fear of crime is not disproportionate to the risk of crime itself.
- The economic downturn may impact upon crime trends. The potential exists for an increase in crimes of dishonesty as people struggle to make ends meet. There may also be an increase in the number of vehicles on our roads without MOTs, insurance etc. as people seek to cut costs.
- With increasing numbers of young and older people, there is a challenge to manage relationships between the two age groups to mitigate for issues such as increases in the fear of crime or poor perception of young people.
- Ensuring adequate service provision to communities in the context of ever decreasing public sector budgets.

OPPORTUNITIES

- To become a more inclusive Aberdeen and enhance engagement from all communities. To work with our communities and involve them in the decision making process, and to engender a sense of ownership and responsibility among communities.
- To improve outcomes for people involved in the Justice System and for the communities of Aberdeen via the forthcoming move to local responsibility, through Community Planning Aberdeen, for strategic planning and delivery of Community Justice services.
- The Community Empowerment Act will provide greater emphasis on the requirement of Community Planning Partners to engage with communities, and for people to become more involved in the decision making process.
- There is an opportunity to tackle information gaps around the protection of children, and outcomes for looked after children.
- To encourage and support more empowered and capable communities by involving them in the shaping and delivery of formal and informal services, i.e. Friends of Groups.

DATA GAPS IDENTIFIED

- Social isolation at a local level

GREENER

“Improving Scotland’s natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.” Scottish Government

OVERVIEW

Our climate is changing and all of us, national and local government, businesses, communities and individuals, need to change how we go about our daily lives to respond to and mitigate the consequences of that change.

The continued transition to a low carbon economy is both an economic and environmental necessity. Low carbon economies have long since been associated with improved physical and mental health and wellbeing, but the benefits are wider – as well as improved quality of life for individuals, a low carbon economy provides business opportunities and affords greater resilience to unpredictable commodity and energy prices. The development of low carbon products, processes and services invites inward business investment and creates jobs.

A low carbon economy is critical to securing sustainable economic growth and only by changing the collective behaviour of businesses, individuals, communities and the public sector can we make a difference. We must all do what we can to reduce carbon emissions and slow down climate change; for individuals, making a few small changes such as turning off lights and computers, composting food and garden waste and walking or cycling where possible will all play a major role in slowing climate change.

Renewable energy is one of Scotland’s most important industries, providing jobs, creating economic growth and playing our part in tackling climate change. The Renewable Energy Directive set a target for 20% of the EU’s energy consumption to be generated from renewable sources by 2020. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act set Scotland out as world leading in terms of its ambitions and expectations.

Scotland is certainly playing its part, having committed to producing 100% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and 50% by 2015. In 2014, 49.8% of Scotland’s gross electricity consumption was generated from renewable sources.

Aberdeen, with its entrepreneurial mind-set and high quality skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects has a pivotal role to play in this transition. Indeed, a crucial role if we are to transition our economy from fossil fuel sector dominance and current lack of resilience to oil price shocks.

Aberdeen City has healthy extent of greenspace, and within the city boundaries are four Sites of Special Scientific Interest, four Local Nature Reserves, one Special Area of Conservation^{cxxxix} and a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites. There is a very strong and ever-growing body of evidence demonstrating that quality and accessible outdoor areas contribute towards improving health and wellbeing, the economy and the environment. But in times of serious financial constraints, we need

to be innovative in the way in which these spaces are designed, delivered and managed. The City's exceptionally high levels of community participation in its greenspace resource should be applauded, supported and further encouraged. This puts decision making at the hearts of communities, can deliver additional capital investment and delivers revenue efficiencies for all public bodies.

Aberdeen is a fast growing city with high levels of development. Development, if not carried out with careful consideration, can be a ticking timebomb, leaving a legacy which takes years and significant resources to resolve. Contrary to this, well thought out, high specification development has potential to deliver real and tangible long-term outcomes. Therefore, extreme care must be taken regarding the design, delivery and therefore impact that the new developments will have on the quality, quantity and integrity of greenspaces, habitats (including trees), wildlife and on energy use / carbon emissions, waste, transport and air quality and the long-term implications for the city & its inhabitants. More homes, businesses and public facilities also mean an increase in pressure and demand on infrastructure and services.

Plans are afoot to expand the current harbour in Aberdeen into Nigg Bay. Aberdeen Harbour has been operating at, or near, capacity for a number of years. Therefore the harbour's expansion is considered as required to ensure the continued economic success of the city and the wider North East region. It is assessed that the expansion of the harbour will have limited impact on the existing road network however some upgrading and amendments to existing road infrastructure will nevertheless be required. Any improvement to the road network carries the risk of increasing through-traffic in the Torry area and may exacerbate an already sensitive issue. Additionally, and inevitably, with the harbour expansion would come landscape, greenspace and wildlife impact. The anticipated increase in usage of the Coast Road by heavy goods vehicles and emissions from ships using the harbour will likely have an adverse effect on air quality in the area.

The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route is a major transport infrastructure project designed to improve transport links in the North East of Scotland. The road is predicted to help support continued economic growth, reduce congestion and lower pollution in the City Centre. While there are positive impacts of the AWPR, there will also be adverse effects across the city and indeed the wider region. Emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases are expected to increase. In addition, there is a significant loss and fragmentation of green and agricultural land, habitats, trees and wildlife populations. This will undoubtedly impact on the integrity of these resources for the city and their role in the wellbeing of our citizens.

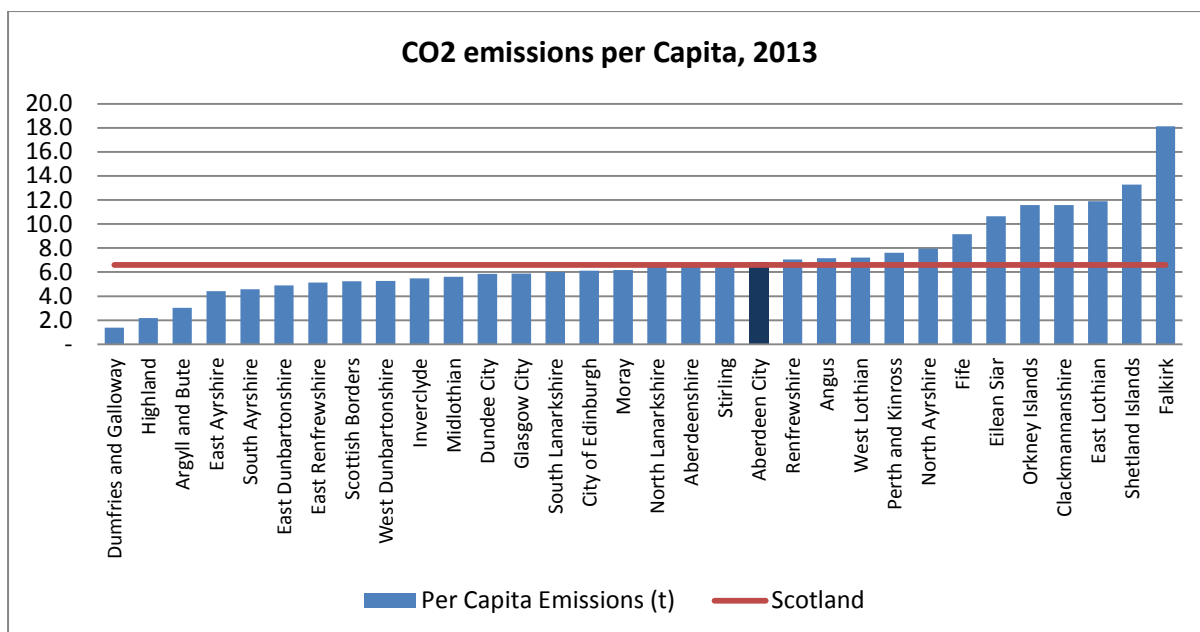
Community Planning Aberdeen has an important role to play in reducing carbon emissions that have a negative impact on environment and which lead to climate change. Lives are being lost to climate change, but the potential health benefits of a low carbon lifestyle can be immense. Air pollution is a major public health problem in the UK. Reduced dependence on motorised / fossil fuel based travel will not only reduce pollution, it will also lead to greater activity levels and therefore help in the fight against obesity.

There is global consensus that greenhouse gases are contributing to changes in the global climate, with extreme weather events becoming more frequent and intense. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 has set ambitious targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases – 80% by 2050, with an interim target of 42% reduction by 2020.

In terms of carbon emissions reductions, Scotland is one of the best performing areas of the UK, second only to the North East region of England^{cxl}.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main greenhouse gas and accounts for over 80% of greenhouse gas emissions. There is a continued reduction in per capita carbon emissions in Aberdeen City. In 2005, emissions were 8.6 kt CO₂ per capita. By 2013, carbon emissions in the city had reduced to 6.8 kt CO₂ per capita. Almost half (48.5%) of CO₂ emissions in the city are attributed to the industry and commercial sector, around a third are attributed to the domestic sector with the remaining attributed to the transport sector. Carbon emissions per capita are broadly in line with the national rate.

Aberdeen has, to date, kept up with national emissions reduction targets through relatively straightforward interventions. However, maintaining this trend and pace will become ever harder as the scope of reduction becomes more challenging. Success will depend on collaboration between all actors in the City, including all public bodies.



Carbon reductions between 2005 and 2013 have been most evident in the domestic sector and are linked to a significant reduction in emissions from domestic electricity. The conversion to efficient heating systems in almost all council-owned housing has likely contributed significantly to this and may be indicative of a concerted move to a low carbon economy by the wider population of Aberdeen. High energy costs and other economic factors are likely contributory factors.

Emissions attributed to the industrial and commercial sector reduced in most areas, however in the city there has been a doubling of emissions from large industrial installations over the 8 year period. However, these are generally EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) installations (such as power stations and industrial plants) and are not usually within the control of the local authority. That said, there is an increasing momentum for the public sector to reclaim control of energy production and supply from the private sector, through municipal energy. Aberdeen has been particularly successful at this, leading the way in the UK in terms of Heat & Power Networks. Plans are afoot to construct an Energy from Waste 'power station' that has the potential to increase the capacity of locally produced, low carbon heat & power for Aberdeen.

Initiatives such as Aberdeen Heat & Power, the Energy from Waste facility, and the myriad of low carbon initiatives currently being developed and sponsored by the public sector in Aberdeen have the real potential to drive forward Aberdeen's transition to a world leading low carbon economy. Aberdeen's citizens and communities should not be forgotten in this transition as there is a real role for communities to play in the democratisation of energy in Aberdeen – an area of yet untapped potential.

Carbon from roads account for around a fifth of total carbon production in Aberdeen City, and the sector has seen the least change in carbon emissions reduction over time and there needs to be continued focus in this area. . In a bid to help tackle the issue of carbon emissions from road transport, the Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project was launched in the city in Spring 2014. The impact of this change has yet to be seen. Although the outcomes are likely to be small in terms of relative emissions, they help to prove low carbon possibilities and help to set a ‘direction of travel’..

The attitudes which people hold towards environmental issues influences their behaviour with regards to the environment. Around half of the City’s residents perceive climate change to be an issue which needs immediate and urgent attention^{cxli}, but around a fifth of local people are of the opinion that it is a more of a problem for the future. Those with higher levels of education are most likely to recognise the immediacy of climate change. Almost one in five people in the city with no educational qualifications perceive there to be no real problem with climate change – this is significantly higher than the 11% of the Scottish population that do not see a climate change issue.

For Aberdeen to become a leading low carbon economy, the way we live, work and travel will need to change. But in order to succeed, there must be a decisive change in peoples’, business’ and the wider public sector attitude towards carbon emissions and low carbon opportunities.

RENEWABLES

The Scottish Government target for renewable electricity generation is for renewables to generate the equivalent of 100% of gross annual consumption by 2020, with an interim target of 50% by 2015. In 2014, just under half of all Scotland’s electricity needs were met by renewables – a significant improvement from 2000 when renewable sources delivered slightly more than 12%^{cxlii}. For the first time ever, renewables were the single largest contributor to electricity generation in Scotland – higher than both nuclear generation and fossil fuel generation. Early indications are that renewable electricity generation in Scotland will continue in this vein over coming years.

The overall levels of fossil fuel output in Scotland are decreasing and this shift reflects the high price of fossil fuels in Europe.

More than 20,000 people across Scotland are employed directly in the low carbon and renewable energy economy.

Aberdeen has become a global leader for renewable energy due to the knowledge and supply chain skills within the city. Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) is one of the longest established energy development organisations in the UK with a membership of more than 170 businesses at the time of writing^{cxliii}. Over the coming years, a close working relationship between Aberdeen City Council and AREG will

continue to identify projects to provide additional renewable energy infrastructure which will bring significant economic benefits to the city and the wider North East region.

EXTREME WEATHER

In November 2015, for the first time ever, the average global temperature had risen by 1 degree Celsius and is already halfway towards the arbitrary “threshold” of a 2°C increase on pre-industrial levels that is judged to be dangerous.

In the UK, we are witnessing more extreme weather events, such as flooding, storms, drought and warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. These changes bring about some opportunities, such as increased tourism through warmer weather and increased land productivity, but significant challenges, such as flood damage, are also a consequence of climate change. As well as disrupting the daily routine of the city’s residents, extreme weather events wreak havoc on infrastructure such as roads, railways and buildings.

Aberdeen City holds approximately 80% of the flood risk within the North East of Scotland. There are 5 areas within Aberdeen City that have been classified by the National Flood Risk Assessment as being potentially vulnerable to flooding. The main areas at high flood risk in Aberdeen are along the large watercourses, including the River Dee, River Don and the Denburn and the coast and harbour-side area.

The changeable weather patterns are evident globally; it is not just a local phenomenon. The seeming plethora of extreme weather events – in particular heavy rainfall events – is linked to climate change. With a warming climate, there is a higher probability of extreme weather events occurring; Scottish Environment Protection Agency predict that over the next century Aberdeen could see a 20% increase in rainfall and up to half a meter sea level rise, with the annual cost of flood damage in the city estimated at £17million^{cxliv}.

Severe weather can also have shorter-term resource implications for public services; waste collection delays, school closures, debris clearance and key workers such as police officers, healthcare workers and social services staff being unable to make it to their designated place of work. Travel restriction is not just limited to key workers and extreme weather restricts the ability of everybody to get to their place of work.

As public bodies, all Community Planning Partners have a moral and statutory duty to respond to the challenge of climate change. Despite efforts to limit the man-made causes of climate change, some level of climate change is inevitable, and as such the partnership must be prepared. Warmer, wetter weather may result in less school closures and reduced requirement for road gritting / clearing, but the impact will likely be felt in other service requirements.

WASTE

On the 9th June 2010, the Scottish Government launched Scotland's first Zero Waste Plan which sets out a vision for a zero waste society. The plan sets two targets that apply to all waste: 70% of waste to be recycled, and a maximum of 5% of waste to be sent to landfill. These targets are to be achieved by 2025.

Over recent years, Scotland has made huge progress on waste, dramatically reducing the amount of waste dumped in landfill sites and recycling has soared.

Excessive or poorly managed waste leads to environmental damage. The recycling of waste plays a key part in the reduction of the environmental impact of consumption and production. The recycling of materials such as paper, glass, plastic and metal also saves energy that would be used in the extraction and manufacture of goods from raw materials and avoids methane emissions from landfill.

In 2014, 38.2% of household waste in Aberdeen City was recycled. Although this is slightly less than the 42.8% of household waste across Scotland that is recycled, it is the highest of all four major Scottish cities. Nevertheless, it falls short of the interim target set by the Zero Waste Plan of 50% of household waste in Scotland to be recycled by 2013.

In 2014, in Scotland, 83% of people reported generally recycling paper, 81% card, 75% glass, 77% metal food and drinks cans, and 80% plastic bottles. In Aberdeen, it was 80%, 79%, 77%, 76% and 73% respectively.

There are marked differences in the way the people of Aberdeen dispose of food waste; for those in houses and bungalows, half dispose of food waste in the caddy provided by the local authority. For people living in a flat, maisonette or apartment, almost three-quarters dispose of food waste in general waste.

AIR POLLUTION

Protecting and improving the air quality of Scotland is vital to safeguard the health and wellbeing of its population. Government statistics estimate that air pollution in the UK costs up to £20 billion each year and reduces the life expectancy of every person by an average of 7-8 months.

Generally, air quality in Scotland is considered to be good, but there are pockets within the country and indeed locally, where air quality is particularly poor. Air pollution has negative impacts on human health and the natural environment. Road transport, large fuel burning plants and agriculture are key sources of these pollutants.

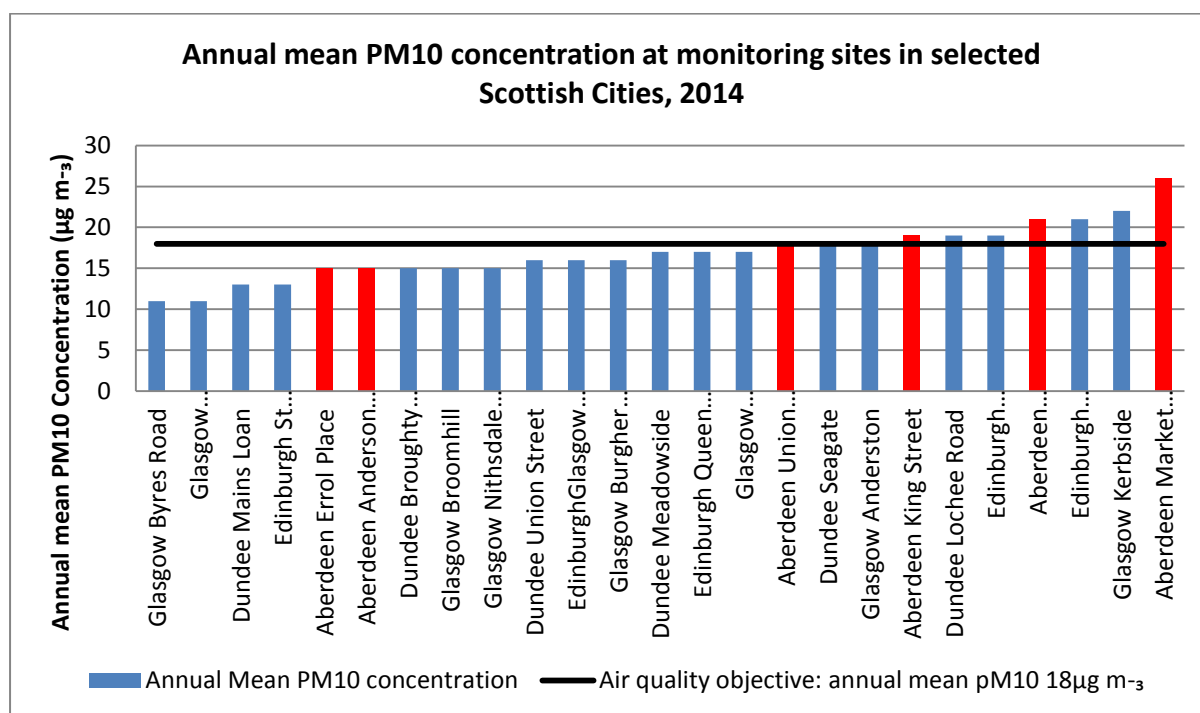
Road traffic is the main source of air pollution in Aberdeen. Transport trends in Aberdeen have generally followed the economic performance of the city, and car

ownership and usage is high. In addition, the population of the city swells in the daytime, as people travel into the city predominantly for the purpose of employment and primarily by private car increasing congestion and therefore air pollution.

Three-quarters of households in the city have access to one or more cars, and for residents of Aberdeenshire, many of whom work in the city, that increases to 85%. Access to, and ownership of, motor vehicles is more common amongst those with higher incomes^{cxlv}.

Aberdeen City Council monitors air quality at over 55 sites throughout the City, and as a result of concerns raised, the following areas have been declared Air Quality Management Areas;

- Parts of the City Centre
- Anderson Drive / Haudagain / Auchmill Road corridor
- Wellington Road (Queen Elizabeth II Bridge to Balnagask Road)



Source: Scottish Environment Statistics Online

Market Street, Wellington Road and Union Street in Aberdeen have all been named as among the worst streets in Scotland for air pollution^{cxlvi}. Air quality in these areas varies, however hourly monitoring shows that generally air quality is poorer during times of peak road traffic^{cxlvii}.

Aberdeen Harbour is located in the City Centre adjacent to Market Street, and while it is recognised that emissions from shipping are likely to contribute to overall air pollution in the area, road transport is the main cause of air pollution in the area.

Wellington Road is one of the main routes to and from the City Centre and much of the commuter traffic in the area comes from neighbouring Aberdeenshire or Dundee and Angus.

Poor air quality as a result of traffic congestion prevents people from wanting to walk or cycle, impacting on physical activity negatively on health outcomes, yet encouraging more people to walk or cycle is the best way to improve air quality.

GREENSPACE / WILDLIFE / TREES

There is significant and growing evidence demonstrating the benefits to the health and wellbeing of people and places of access to good quality green and natural spaces. Obesity is a major public health concern in Scotland, and rates of obesity in the North East have been increasing over recent years. As well as the obvious benefits to physical health, regular access to natural space has a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing, by reducing stress and aiding relaxation and improving general mood and concentration.

Greenspace and wildlife is not just about the environment, but rather are cross-cutting issues. Access to greenspace and wildlife contribute to healthier communities, wealthier and fairer communities, safer and stronger communities and smarter communities; in general, good quality greenspace & wildlife populations improve peoples' quality of life. In order to be of real benefit, the greenspace resource and wildlife populations need to maintain integrity through being part of a connections network. This network also provides additional 'ecosystem services' by acting as space to travel sustainably (walk & cycle), reduce the impacts of extreme weather and flooding, absorb carbon emissions, clean air, and so on.

People who live within close proximity of their local greenspace are more likely to visit it and three-quarters of people in Aberdeen live within a 5 minute walk to the nearest greenspace; a further 15% live within a ten minute walk. Quality greenspaces make a significant contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of our communities by increasing levels of physical activity, strengthening mental health and combating social isolation. Poor quality and degraded greenspace contributes towards health inequalities.

Allotment / community gardening provides the opportunity to encourage a healthier lifestyle; from the growing and harvesting of healthy food, encouraging physical exercise and creating a natural learning environment. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 will provide stronger protection for allotments and encourages councils to provide more allotments in response to the high demand. Aberdeen City Council currently own 468 allotment plots, the majority of which are located in the south of the city. Demand for allotments is high and availability is severely restricted. The Act requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to

provide allotments if waiting lists exceed certain trigger points, however it has yet to be clarified what constitutes reasonable steps.

Aberdeen benefits from private and community developed allotments and growing spaces. The value communities play in delivering facilities and opportunities at no cost local public services should not be overlooked. On the contrary communities should be further supported to meet these ends.

Well-designed and managed greenspace can attract inward investment, from individuals and businesses. A city with greenspace that is well-maintained and well-used is attractive to businesses and can have a significant economic impact. A city with good quality greenspace is also attractive to individuals and can also have a positive impact on the recruitment and retention of staff. Creation, or development of, greenspace in areas of deprivation can assist in the regeneration of that area and as such can help reduce inequality; an area with well-maintained greenspaces is more attractive than an area with neglected and wasted spaces. Investment in the city's greenspaces highlights the city as a good place to work, live, visit and do business.

A place that is nice to walk around in and has sufficient availability of green places in which to walk or sit directly correlates with levels of satisfaction people feel about their local area. Greenspaces can, and should be, the glue that binds our communities together. Good quality greenspaces encourage people to get out and about and interact with others. They also offer an opportunity to enhance community spirit by encouraging people to play an active part in caring for their local environment. Well-designed spaces can also 'design out' crime, and reduce people's fear of crime.

As highlighted above, there is a trend of increasing rainfall in Scotland and indeed significant flooding has been experienced in the city over recent months, most notably in late December 2015 / early January 2016. Greenspace can help reduce the risk of flooding, with soft ground and soil allowing rainwater to drain away.

It is expected that the level of development in Aberdeen, coupled with 'natural' impacts exacerbated by human activity (i.e. invasive species) will be having a significant impact on the quantity and quality of Aberdeen's wildlife populations and tree stocks. No data currently exists on the quantity and quality of Aberdeen's wildlife and tree populations, and can be very difficult to obtain. It is expected that wildlife populations are following a general trend of decline as they are at a national and global level. It's important these risks and impacts are considered and managed in order to ensure a healthy and functional environment for the City and its people. Further work in this area is required to build a clearer baseline, better understand the key issues, frame the objectives and define the means to buck current trends.

Having said that, there have been notable successes in recent times: protecting red squirrels, re-introduction of red kites and white tailed sea eagles as well as mass tree

planting through the 'Tree for Every Citizen' project. Therefore, it's proven that the picture need not be eternally bleak and that proactive actions can be taken, if the will and resources exist.

TRANSPORT

The number of cars on Scotland's road has increased significantly since the turn of the century, with around 2.7 million vehicles licensed to be on our roads.

Aberdeen City has a high rate of car-ownership, one of the highest rates in the UK, but growing congestion is one of the most serious transport problems facing the city.

In Aberdeen, six in ten adults employed in the city (who do not work from home) travel to their place of work by car, most commonly as a driver. Over a quarter (25.2%) of all adults in the city walk to work; this is considerably higher than the Scottish average (12.9% of employed adults in Scotland who do not work from home walk to work).

Aberdeen is the most congested city in Scotland, with a fifth (19.2%) of all car journeys delayed due to congestion.

Most journeys undertaken in the city are for short distances, with more than half being for distances of up to 3km (less than 2 miles). Driving short distances is costly, both to individuals and to society. Enabling people to drive less will unlock economic and health benefits for Aberdeen City and its inhabitants, but in order to unlock these benefits we need to encourage people to change their travel behaviour, and create safe and appealing walking and cycling conditions.

Satisfaction with public transport amongst the city's residents is improving. In 2012/13, 59.3% of adults in the city were satisfied with public transport, with 25.5% of the city's population reporting they were either fairly or very dissatisfied. In 2014, the situation improved slightly, with 63.8% of respondents saying they were satisfied and 19.6% saying they were dissatisfied. Almost nine in ten adults in the city perceive public transport to be very or fairly convenient.

Although the majority of people are satisfied with public transport, there are clearly issues with both the timeliness and the cost of buses in the city. Only around a third of respondents felt that bus fares in the City are good value; the lowest percentage of any of the Scottish local authorities by a considerable margin.

A fifth of all car journeys in the city are delayed by congestion, but by increasing public transport usage, walking and cycling this can be reduced.

In 2014, less than half of children (48.8%^{cxlviii}) in Aberdeen walked to school. This is a considerable shift from 2008, when 62.4% of children walked to school. Although this is the general trend nationally, the reduction in those walking to school in

Aberdeen has exceeded the reduction across Scotland. However, Aberdeen City still has the sixth highest proportion of children walking to school out of all 32 Scottish local authorities.

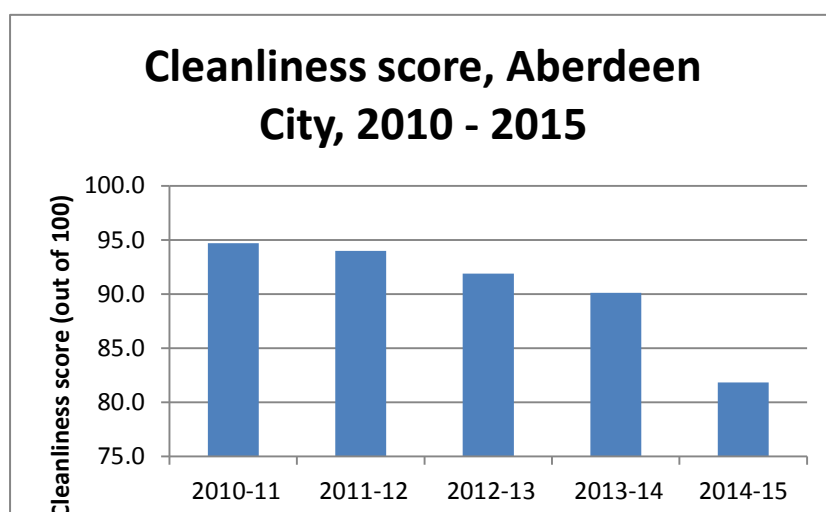
The proportion of those cycling has remained fairly static over the years; in 2014, 2.2% of children in the city cycled to school (the third lowest proportion), while more children are now being driven to school or travelling by bus than in 2008.

Critical to achieving sustainable economic growth for Scotland, the development of transport infrastructure is necessary to improve connectivity and reliability. In particular, the development of green infrastructure would encourage people to walk or cycle instead of taking the car and would reduce traffic congestion, reduce emissions, improve air quality and overall contribute to an improvement in general health. Changing the way in which people travel would support achieving climate change targets and would enhance business efficiency by reducing travelling times.

STREET CLEANLINESS

The cleanliness of streets and public spaces is an indicator of civic pride, and the lack of cleanliness is an issue which can have a detrimental impact on communities. Areas that appear dirty, untidy or unattractive not only have an impact on environmental health and community spirit, but poorly kept areas can deter investment, and therefore impact on economic well-being.

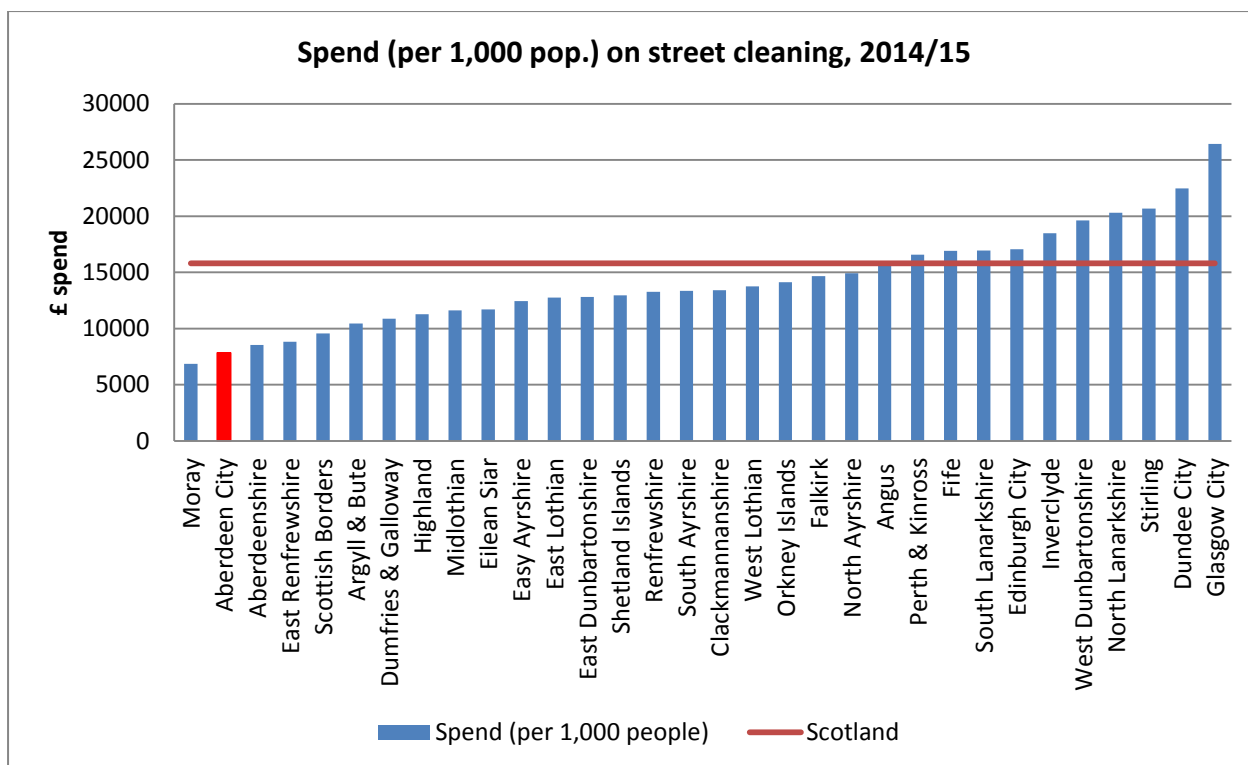
The cleanliness score is achieved following an independent inspection of sample streets and other relevant land in the city. Various factors will influence the overall cleanliness in the city. These include things such as the availability of litter bins, the adoption and enforcement of littering policies and council policy on litter picking.



The overall cleanliness score in Aberdeen has been dropping over recent years, and in 2014/15, Aberdeen recorded the lowest overall cleanliness score of all major Scottish cities.

Source: Local Government Benchmarking Framework

In 2014/15, Aberdeen City Council spent £7,830 per 1,000 people on street cleaning, almost half the national spend per 1,000 people (£15,818), and almost half of what the council spent on street cleaning per 1,000 in 2010/11.



Source: Local Government Benchmarking Framework

It is important that Aberdeen makes a favourable impression if we are to continue to attract inward investment. The importance of a clean and well-kept city cannot be underestimated.

FUEL POVERTY

“A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, it would be required to spend more than 10% of its income on all household fuel use.”
Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement (2002)

In Scotland, more than one in three people are living in fuel poverty. While that statistic is slightly lower in Aberdeen City, three in every ten people in the city are living in fuel poverty. A tenth of Scotland’s population is living in extreme^{cxlix} fuel poverty; locally, 8% of the city’s population is living in extreme fuel poverty.

People of all ages, and from all walks of life, can be affected by fuel poverty, but older people, those on low incomes and those with disabilities are amongst those at greatest risk. There are some areas of the City where a significant proportion of the population – more than 40% - are in fuel poverty; Woodside, Tillydrone, Seaton, and Kittybrewster among them. But fuel poverty can also be found in other, more affluent areas due to high costs and the low energy efficiency of older homes.

Fuel prices are an important factor contributing to fuel poverty, but the increases over recent years have been offset by rising household incomes and improving energy efficiency. Over recent years, Aberdeen City Council has successfully installed efficient heating systems in the vast majority of its residential properties, however there is still a small cohort (less than 3.5%) of properties with inefficient heating systems. In most cases, this is due to the reluctance of the tenant to allow a new heating system to be installed. On 28th March 2014, the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing came into force and sets a minimum standard in an effort to reduce fuel poverty in Scotland. The action already taken by Aberdeen City Council in achieving the Scottish Quality Housing Standard will mean that little or no investment is needed for most properties, but for those properties that still have inefficient heating systems, for whatever reason, action may have to be taken to ensure these properties meet minimum standards.

Living in cold conditions is a serious health risk, and the impact of cold housing on health should not be underestimated. Not only is there the impact – directly or indirectly – on physical health, but fuel poverty is detrimental to mental health through the stress it places on individuals.

The Scottish Government had a target to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016, but it is clear that this target will not be met, but the eradication of fuel poverty in Aberdeen should be a core commitment.

CHALLENGES

- To ensure that people in Aberdeen are not living in fuel or food poverty.
- Changing travel behaviour of Aberdeen City residents, and encouraging greater use of greener transport options.
- Balancing the essential requirements for integral greenspace, wildlife and tree networks with the demand for development land in the city.
- Planning and adapting for increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events, and the associated cost challenges.
- Meeting the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.
- Balancing infrastructure investment, such as housing developments and Nigg Harbour extension, with the potential impact on the environment.
- Meeting ambitious carbon reduction targets.
- Delivering improvement in air quality in key hotspots in Aberdeen.

OPPORTUNITIES

- To reduce congestion, improve air quality and human health by promoting and delivering modal shift from private vehicles to public transport, cycling and walking on a day-to-day basis.

- To improve hard & soft (greenspaces, etc.) infrastructure in the city and subsequently make Aberdeen a more attractive place to do business.
- Encouraging healthier eating and more resilient communities in Aberdeen City by supporting and encouraging the use of allotments and community growing spaces
- Decreasing waste and increasing recycling within the City.
- Increasing economic diversification and resilience through delivering a low carbon economy.
- Including communities directly in the energy revolution by giving them an active role in energy developments.

DATA GAPS IDENTIFIED

- Detailed neighbourhood / sector level energy use
- Data on financial value of ecosystem services to Aberdeen City
- Quantity, quality and trends in city's tree stock
- Status and trends in city's wildlife populations
- Trends in quantity & quality of city's greenspace & greenspace network resource – the City's second Openspace Audit, taking place in 2016, will help to address this data gap

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