

TORRY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2016

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

October 2016 V3.5



Community Planning
in Aberdeen

1. Introduction

This Strategic Assessment has been produced on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen and aims to be a comprehensive analysis of the demand, supply and delivery of services in the Torry neighbourhood.

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

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

Locality A (pop. Approx. 10,500)	Locality B (pop. Approx. 20,500)	Locality C (pop. Approx. 15,000)
Torry	Middlefield	Seaton
	Mastrick	Tillydrone
	Cummings Park	Woodside
	Northfield	
	Heathryfold	

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

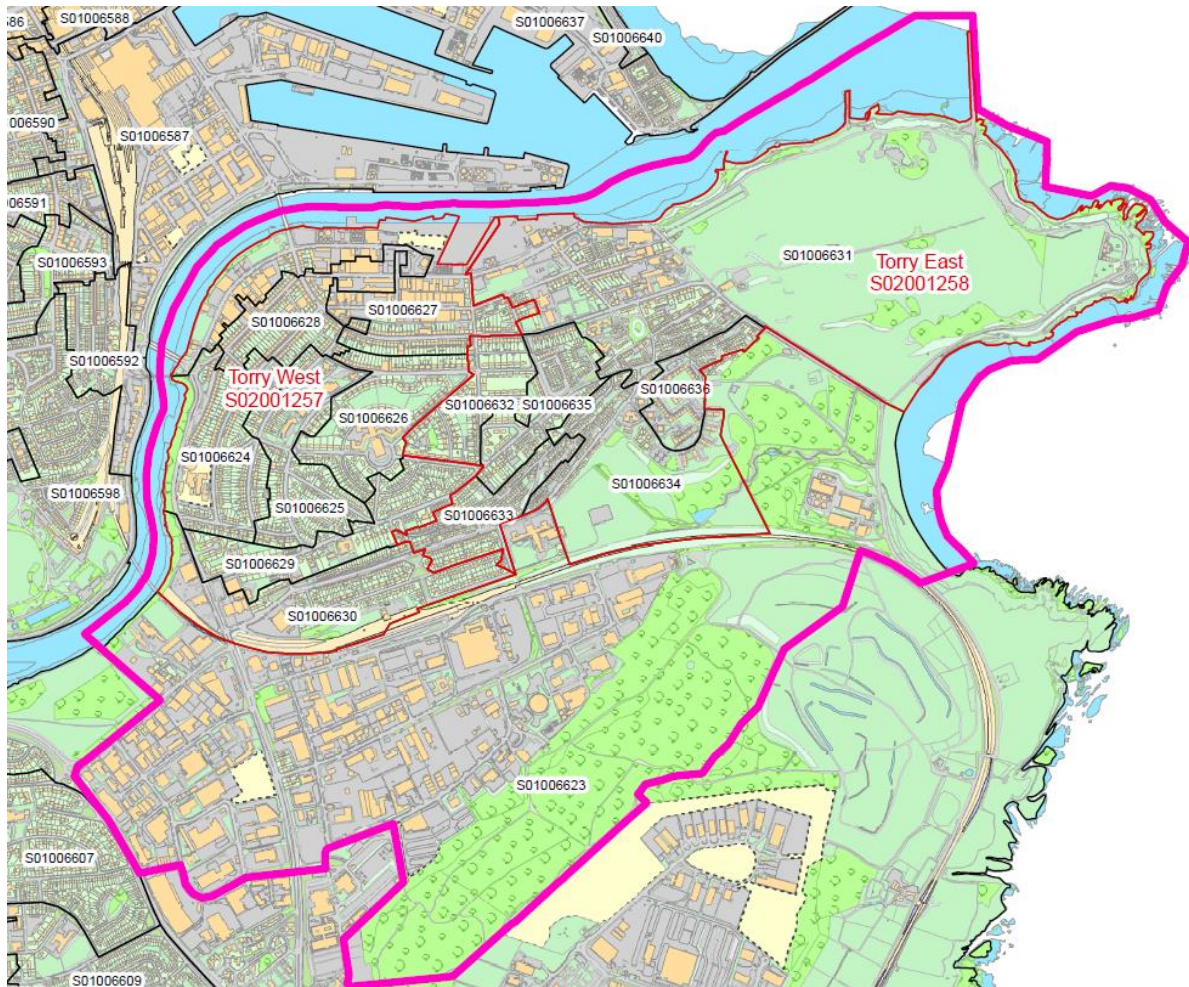
The strategic assessment has been structured around the **Economy, People, and Place** themes to retain consistency with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and to ensure that there are clear links between the strategic vision and priorities for the city and those of individual communities.

1.1 Data Quality and Accuracy

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

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

2. Torry Overview



The neighbourhood encompasses the whole Torry Community Council boundary. For the northern boundary, this may be broadly described as following the river from the lighthouse at the north breakwater westward to the Banks of Dee Nursing Home.

The western boundary runs south-east to Abbotswell Road, skirting the playing fields, south west along Abbotswell Road, down West Tullos Road to Craigshaw Street heading east to Craigshaw Drive before turning south and east to Wellington Road. The line then crosses Wellington Road and follows Craigshaw Drive then turns north to the junction of Hillview Road and Greenbank Crescent.

The eastern boundary runs along Greenbank Crescent to the Business Centre where it turns south and follows the edge of the car parks and Loirston Country Park to the end of Altens Farm Road. The southern boundary runs east from that point to the north of Nigg Holiday Park through Cat Cairn then turns north-east to Nigg Bay (excluding the refuse disposal site).

There are two primary schools, Tullos Primary on Girdleness Road and Walker Road Primary on Walker road and one secondary school, Torry Academy at Tullos Circle.

Torry has several shopping areas with the main one on Victoria Road. Retail outlets include banks, grocery shops, public houses, hardware stores, pet shops and post offices. Torry has several churches, including Torry St Fittick's Church on Walker Road, St Peter's Episcopal Church on Victoria Road, Torry United Free Church and the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, both on Grampian Road. There are several community centres and facilities which cater for a number of community groups, organisations and activities. In Tullos, there is a complex comprising a primary school, a swimming pool and a community learning centre on Girdleness Road. There are community centres at Abbey Place and Balnagask Road which are independently operated by local volunteers. Torry Neighbourhood Centre on Oscar Road houses GP surgeries, medical services and social work services. Deeside Family Centre is on Girdleness Road. Torry Library is located in the heart of the neighbourhood on Victoria Road. There is also a Youth and Leisure Centre on Oscar Road housing a community learning centre and sports and leisure services. Police Scotland is located on Victoria Road.

Torry has a coastal 18-hole golf course, Balnagask, situated within a nature conservation area on the Balnagask Headland, which has several historical and archaeological sites including the lighthouse designed by Robert Stevenson and built in 1833.

Torry neighbourhood comprises two 'intermediate zones'; Torry East and Torry West. The following table details the datazones, both 2001 base and 2011 base that mostly make up these intermediate zones. Although there are some boundary anomalies, the datazones are assessed as a reasonably good fit with the intermediate zones.

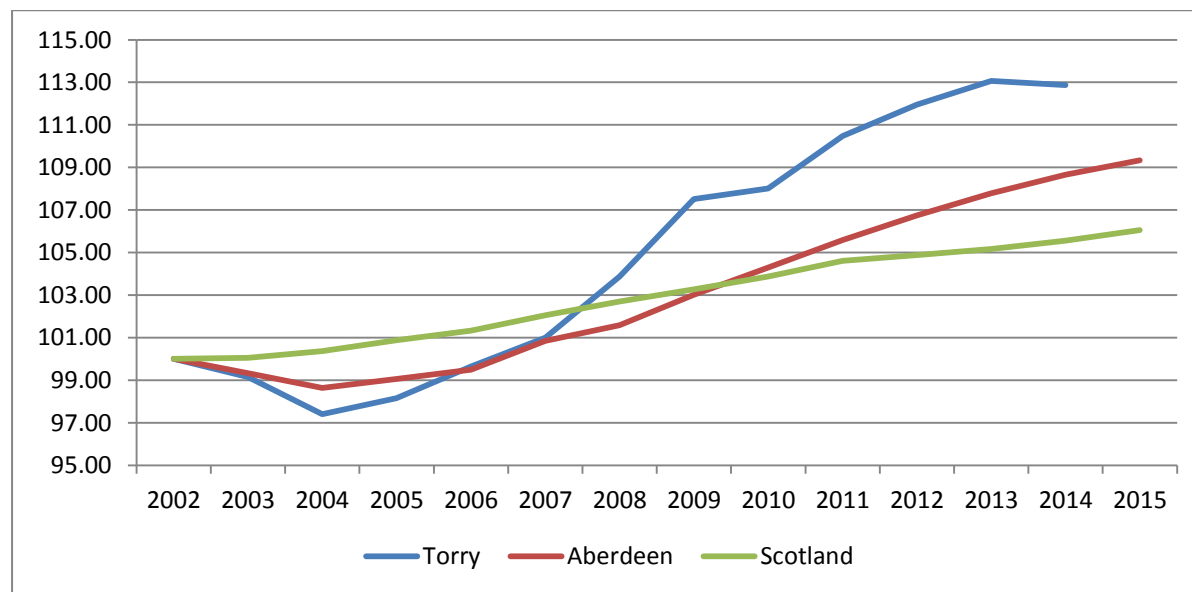
	2001 datazones	2011 datazones		2001 datazones	2011 datazones
Torry East	S01000057	S01006631	Torry West	S01000052	S01006624
	S01000060	S01006632		S01000055	S01006625
	S01000070	S01006633		S01000064	S01006626
	S01000071	S01006634		S01000066	S01006627
	S01000074	S01006635		S01000069	S01006628
	S01000082	S01006636		S01000078	S01006629
				S01000084	S01006630

3. Population and Demography

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

The population of Torry has changed significantly since the turn of the century, and has grown considerably over recent years. Population growth in Torry has exceeded the rate of growth in Aberdeen and in Scotland.

Figure 1: Population change in Torry, 2002 - 2014



The growth in population has been most evident in the western half of Torry neighbourhood, and is particularly pronounced in datazones S01000078 and S01000084 – the areas around Victoria Road, Sinclair Road, Walker Road and Menzies Road.

The population of Torry neighbourhood accounts for almost 5% of the City's total population.

Table 1: Torry's population by age group, 2014

	Torry East (%)	Torry West (%)	Torry Total (%)	Aberdeen (%)	Scotland (%)
0 – 4	7.28	5.81	6.48	5.40	5.46
5 – 9	6.95	4.36	5.53	4.55	5.40
10 – 15	6.97	3.99	5.34	4.72	6.18
16 – 19	4.50	3.20	3.79	4.52	4.72
20 – 24	7.62	10.01	8.93	10.32	6.87
25 – 29	8.47	12.38	10.86	10.23	6.66
30 – 34	8.14	10.65	9.51	8.54	6.42
35 – 39	7.11	7.64	7.40	6.56	5.89
40 – 44	7.49	6.45	6.92	6.29	6.75
45 – 49	6.80	6.36	6.56	6.46	7.55
50 – 54	6.51	7.26	6.92	6.49	7.45
55 – 59	5.33	5.81	5.60	5.92	6.63
60 – 64	4.16	4.58	4.39	5.05	5.91
65 – 69	3.89	3.44	3.64	4.59	5.71
70 – 74	3.33	2.44	2.84	3.31	4.29
75 – 79	2.38	2.13	2.24	2.88	3.49
80 – 84	1.78	1.56	1.66	2.21	2.48
85 – 89	0.79	0.83	0.81	1.33	1.40
90 +	0.50	0.64	0.58	0.65	0.74
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Aberdeen is a popular city for students and young professionals, and the city has a higher proportion of young working age than Scotland. Torry West has an even higher proportion of the resident population that fall into the young working age range (20 to 34 years), and a smaller proportion of children. The opposite is true in the eastern side of Torry however, where there is a higher proportion of children aged under 16. In particular, there is a high concentration of children in datazones S01000057, S01000060 and S01000074 – these areas cover the Balnagask area, and the area around Farquhar Road / Burnbank Terrace / Downies Place.

Torry as a whole has a very diverse population, and has been a popular area for economic migrants, particularly from Eastern Europe, to settle in the city. The western side of Torry is more diverse than the eastern side; more than a fifth of the population (according to the 2011 Census) of Torry West were born in a country other than the UK or the Republic of Ireland; 16.6% were born in another EU country and a further 6.33% of the area's population were born in a non-EU country. In Torry East 12.9% of the population were born in another EU country (other than the UK or ROI) and 3.6% were born in another non-EU country.

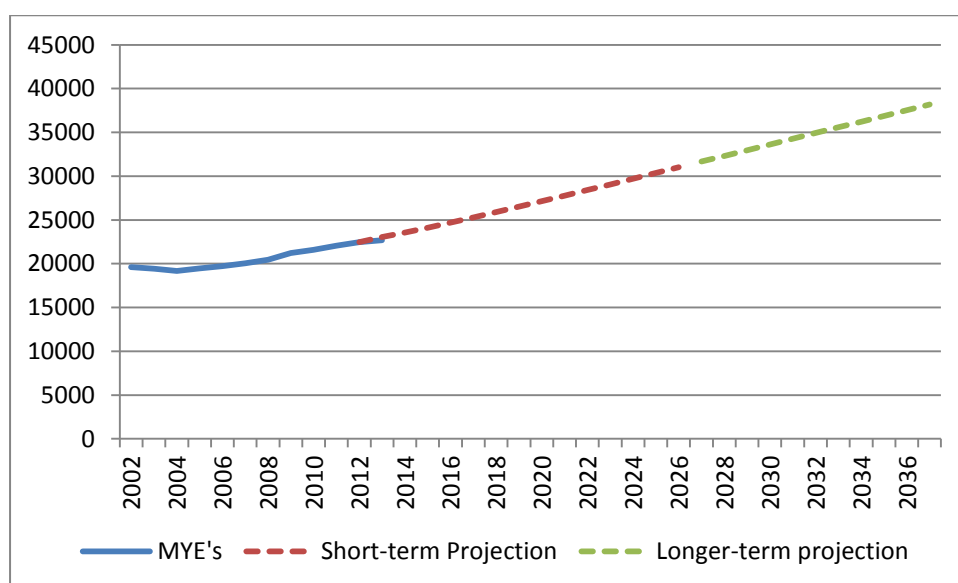
Slightly more than 11% of Torry West's residents speak Polish at home, while another 8.9% speak another language – other than English – at home. In datazone S01000078, an area which covers parts of Menzies Road, Walker Road and Walker

Lane – this is even more pronounced where slightly more than a fifth of the resident population speak Polish within the home. In Torry East, 9.1% of residents speak Polish at home, and 6.5% speak another non-English language in the home.

4. Population Projections

National Records of Scotland have recently produced population projections to 2037 at small level geography. Projections are not available at neighbourhood level however the forecast is that the population of the Torry / Ferryhill ward will continue to increase over the next two decades.

Figure 2: Projected population of Torry / Ferryhill ward, 2002 - 2037



The population of the Torry neighbourhood accounts for around 46-47% of the population of the wider Torry / Ferryhill ward, and therefore it can be reasonably assessed that the population of Torry will increase over the next two decades.

Population projections are based on past migration, fertility and death trends and do not take into account local or national policy decisions. There are a number of factors that may affect the projections. On the 23rd June, the UK electorate voted to leave the European Union. Migration, and the high level of migration, was a defining issue in the referendum debate, and the vote to leave the EU raises questions about the future of the UK's migration policy. The impact of the decision remains unclear, and in particular the future of EU citizens already living in the UK will depend on policy decision by the UK government.

Aberdeen City has, over recent decades, been an attractive city for migrants, both from the UK and from other countries, due to the historically buoyant labour market and the economic prosperity associated with the oil and gas industry. At the time of writing, however, the city is experiencing a sustained period of economic difficulties, and this too will likely impact on future inward migration. It is therefore feasible,

and indeed likely that population projections will be adjusted downwards in the coming years.

ECONOMY

DEFINING POVERTY

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

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

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

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

CHILD POVERTY

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

It is difficult to establish a robust estimate of the level of child poverty in any area, and it is even more difficult when it comes to smaller geographies. HMRC defined children living in poverty as the proportion of children living in families either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60% of the median income. In 2016, the median household income in Aberdeen is £30,735, while in Torry it was over £10,000 less than this (£20,031).

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

In Torry, child poverty levels are greatest in datazones (2001 base) S01000055, S01000057, S01000060 and S01000082 which generally covers the Balnagask area.

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

Child Poverty Action Group also produce estimates on the proportion of children living in poverty, however this is only available at ward level. The latest estimate from CPAG is however more recent than the data from HMRC. In Torry / Ferryhill ward, CPAG estimate that, after housing costs, more than 22% of children are living in poverty.

The Scottish Government published statistics on poverty and income inequalityⁱⁱ in 2014/15 in Scotland on 28th June 2016. At the current time, these statistics are only available at a national level and show that relative poverty, for adults and children, increased in that year. It is likely that the local picture reflects this trend.

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

Torry as a whole is a very family-orientated neighbourhood, and in particular the East side of Torry has a high proportion of households with dependent children.

Table 2: Households with Children, Torry 2011

	Torry East	Torry West	Aberdeen City	Scotland
No dependent children	49.76%	62.22%	61.87%	58.93%
One dependent child	26.00%	23.81%	20.26%	20.35%
Two dependent children	16.64%	10.60%	13.57%	15.33%
Three or more dependent children	7.60%	3.37%	4.30%	5.39%

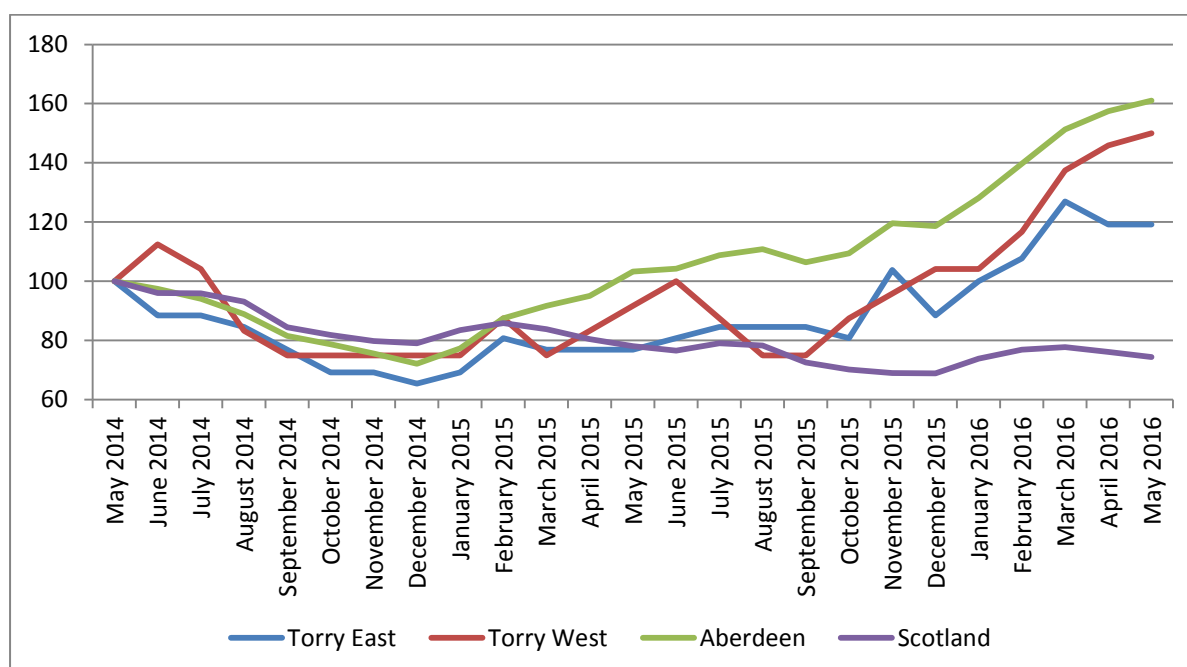
There is increased vulnerability to poverty in large families with 3 or more dependent children. Almost a quarter of households in Torry East have two or more children, with almost 8% of households containing three or more children.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

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

Aberdeen City, and indeed the north east region of Scotland, is currently experiencing a period of economic difficulty. The number of people claiming out-of-work benefitsⁱⁱⁱ in the city is rising, contrary to the national trend. In Torry, the number of claimants is also increasing, though at a slightly slower rate than the city-wide rate.

Figure 3: Growth in number of people claiming out-of-work benefits, May 2014 - May 2016



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

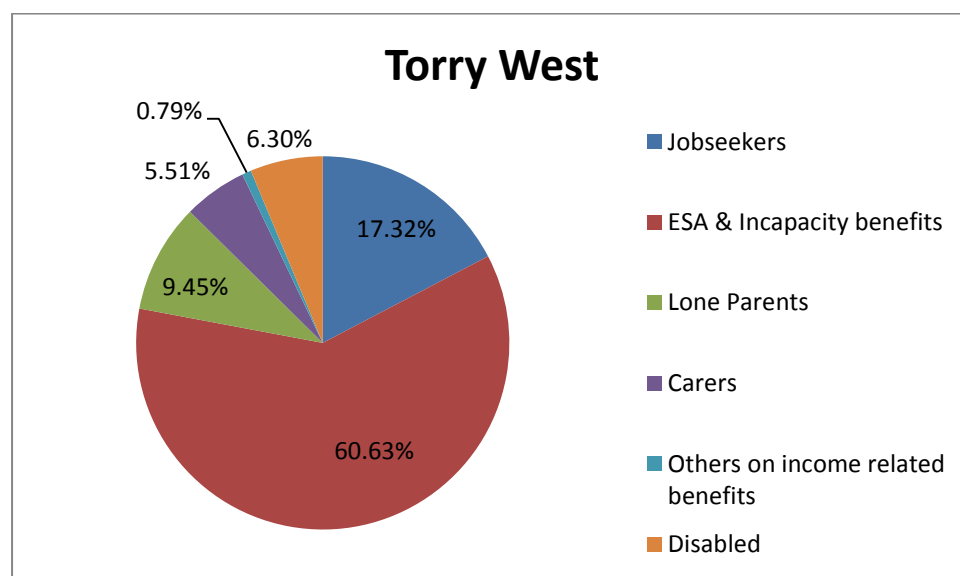
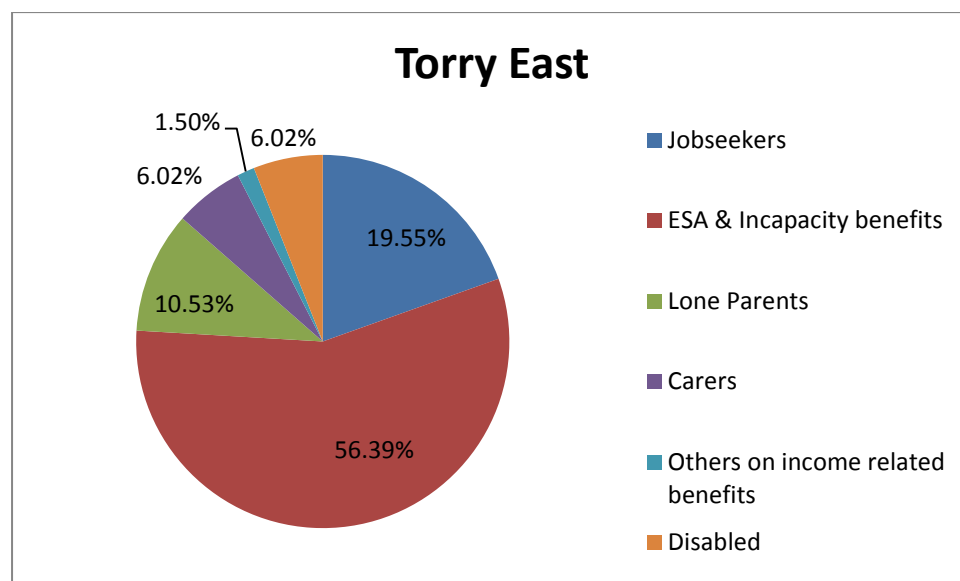
Although this is not a direct measure of levels of unemployment, it is assessed that it is the best and most timely indicator of the current employment situation within a small geography.

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

Approximately 15% of the working age population in Torry West, and around 21% of the working age population in Torry East are claiming benefits, and the vast majority (60.3% in Torry West and 56.4% in Torry East) are claiming Incapacity Benefit or its replacement Employment Support Allowance.

17.3% of people in Torry West that are claiming working age benefits are Jobseekers, while in Torry East this proportion is 19.5%, both proportions considerably higher than the national average (12.3%).

In both areas, around a tenth of those claiming working age benefits are lone parents; again, higher than the city-wide and national rate (7%).



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

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

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 shows that around 14% of the working-age population of Torry were employment deprived (16% in Torry East and 12% in Torry West). Some areas suffer from far higher levels of employment deprivation, with almost a quarter of working-age people in datazone S01006634 deprived of employment. This datazone covers a significant proportion of the community of Balnagask.

The main industries in which people in Torry are employed in are 'Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles', 'Human Health and social care activities' and 'Manufacturing'^{iv}.

A high proportion of people living in Torry are employed in unskilled or low-skilled occupations, such as machine operatives, sales and other elementary occupations^v. People employed in low-skilled occupations play a vital role in society, yet suffer unduly low remuneration.

Supporting people into work, and into better paid employment, requires action in a number of areas: ensuring there is sufficient availability of employment at the right level, helping people to achieve the right skills that enable them to enter the workplace, upskilling those already in employment to allow them to progress into better paid jobs, securing affordable childcare and making sure that our transport network allows people to travel across the city in a timely and cost effective manner.

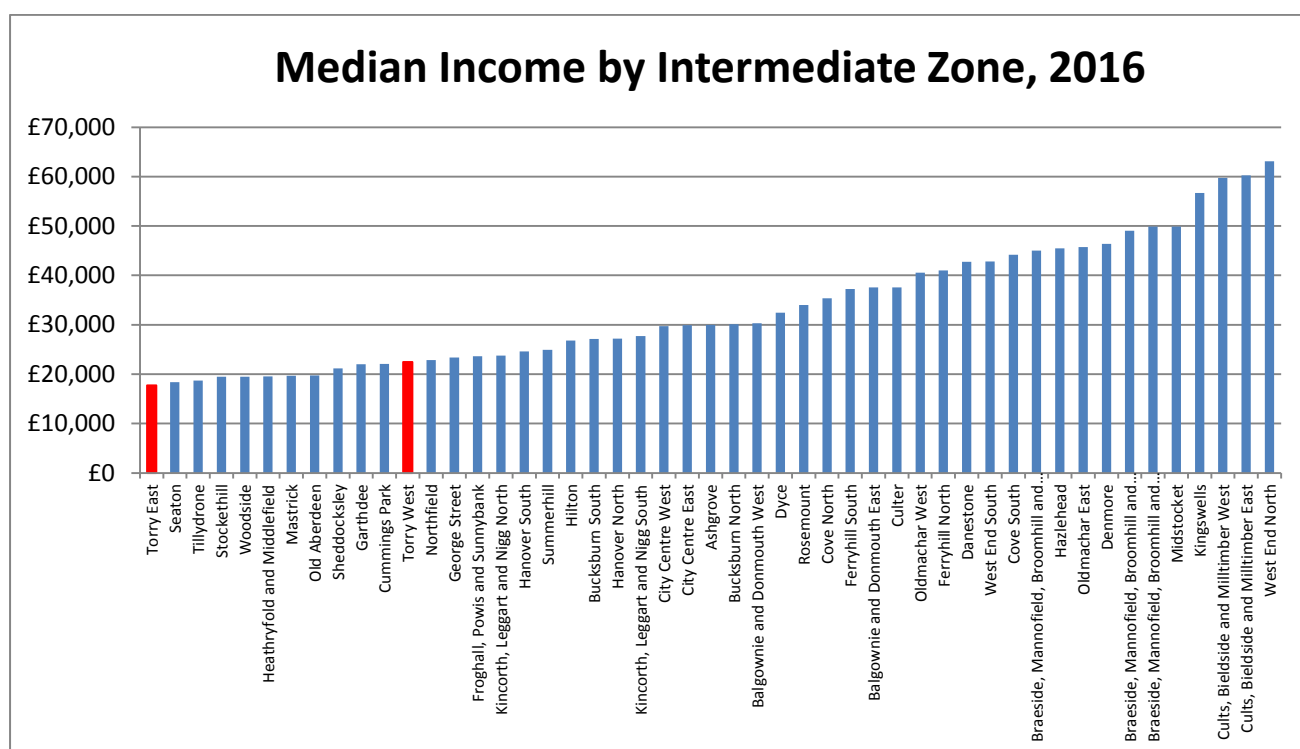
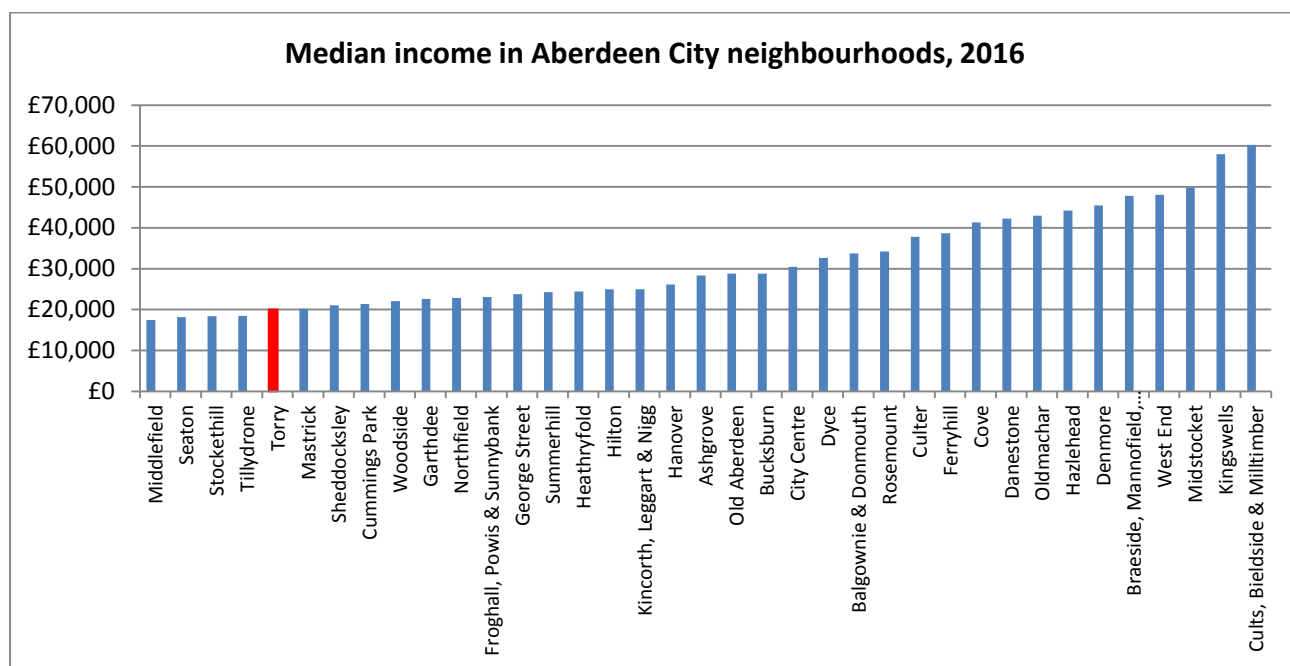
INCOME

As highlighted in the Community Planning Aberdeen Strategic Assessment, Aberdeen City has one of the most unequal pay structures in the UK. Not only is there great variation in earnings between men and women, but the differences between low and high income earners is stark.

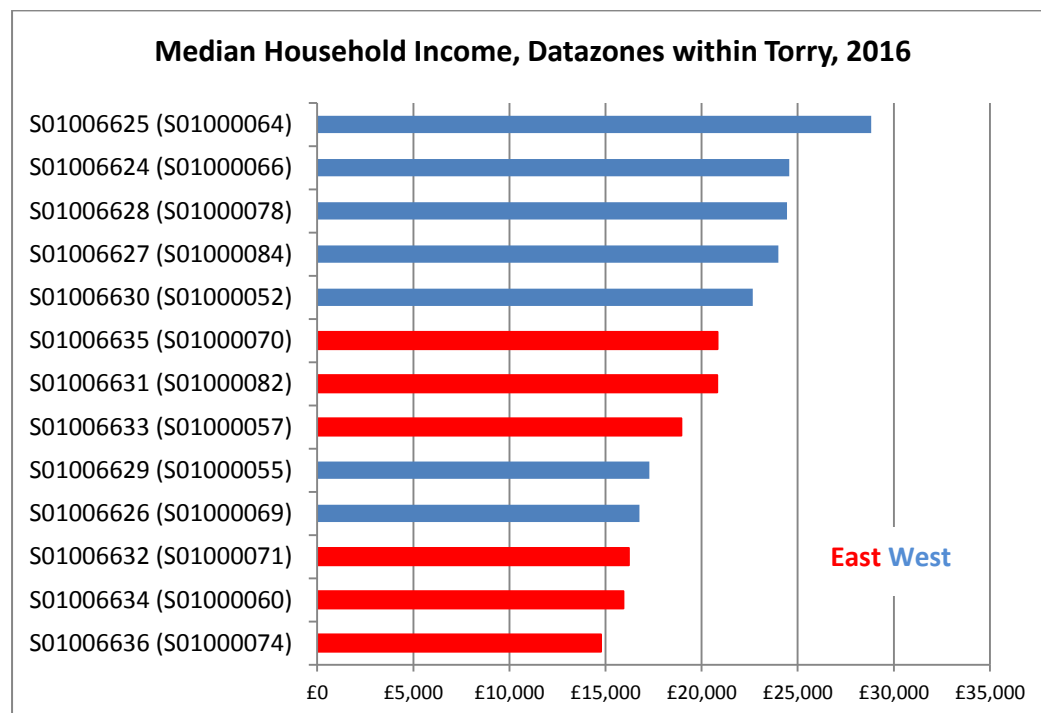
In Aberdeen, an average of 8% of the total population are classed as 'income deprived'^{vi}. Income deprivation is much more problematic in Torry, with almost a fifth (18%) of the neighbourhoods population being income deprived. Income deprivation is, in general, more prevalent in the Eastern side of Torry. Unsurprisingly, and closely correlated to employment, the area around Balnagask (datazone S01006634) is of concern, with 28% of the population being income deprived. Datazone S01006636 is also of concern, with 29% of the resident population income deprived, yet only 17% are employment deprived. This may be indicative of people in this area being largely employed in low paid jobs.

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

Median household income in Aberdeen City in 2016 is £30,735, almost £4,000 more than the Scottish median household income. Income levels are not evenly distributed, and ranges from £17,442 in Middlefield to £60,250 in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber. The median income in Torry is £20,031.



There is also considerable inequality of income within the Torry neighbourhood, with median household incomes ranging from £14,772 to almost double that.



Clearly, datazones S01006636 (this area was previously datazone S01000074), S01006634 (previously S01000060) and S01006632 (previously S01000071) are the three datazones with the lowest median incomes. S01006636 and S01006634 generally cover the area known as Balnagask, which S01006632 is the area immediately to the east of Torry Academy.

PEOPLE

The resident population of Aberdeen has altered considerably since the 1980's, and the same is true at the Torry neighbourhood level. With the exception of the elderly population (over-65s) every other age group has risen in Torry, and this is largely down to the attractiveness of the area to families and those looking to resettle in the city.

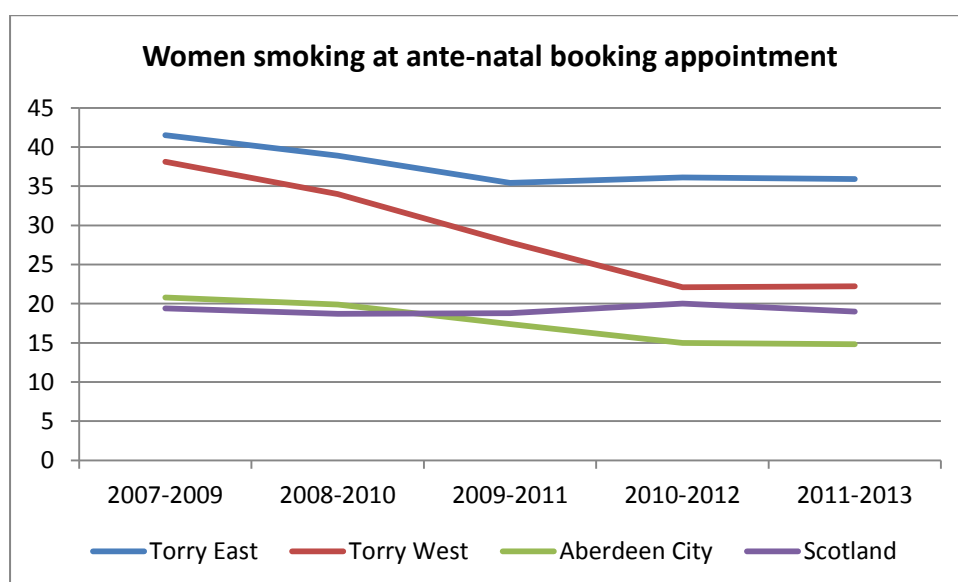
Torry is a relatively large, primarily residential area that boasts a very varied and diverse resident population. The neighbourhood is popular with European nationals who have been drawn to the city primarily as a result of economic success and buoyant labour market.

EARLY YEARS & CHILDHOOD

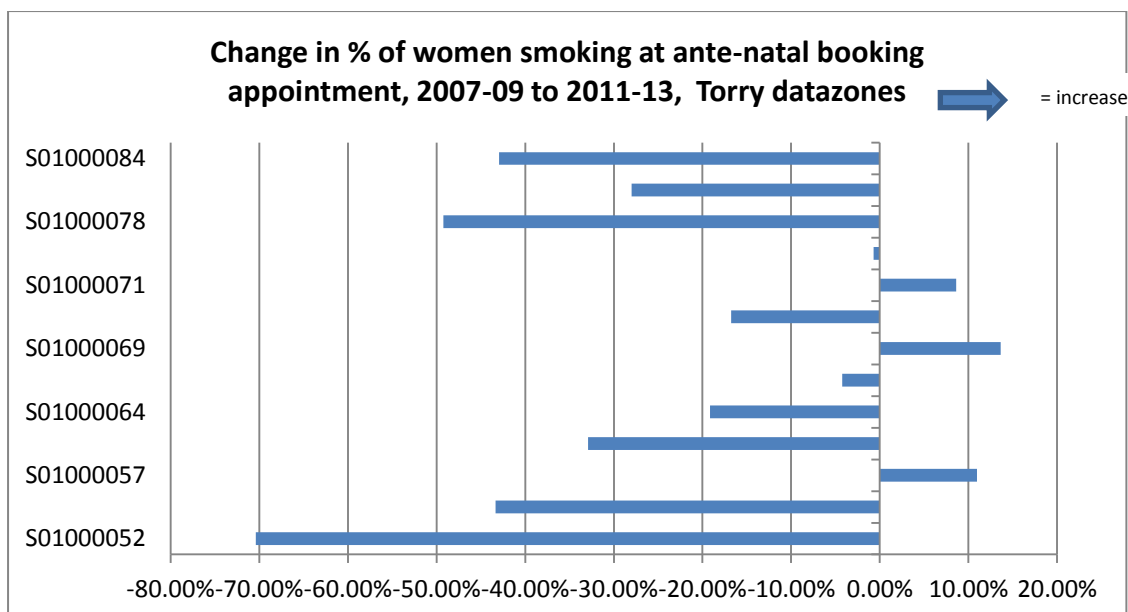
ANTE-NATAL SMOKING

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

Over recent years, the percentage of women smoking at the time of their ante-natal booking appointment has decreased in Scotland and in the city, as indeed it has in Torry.



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

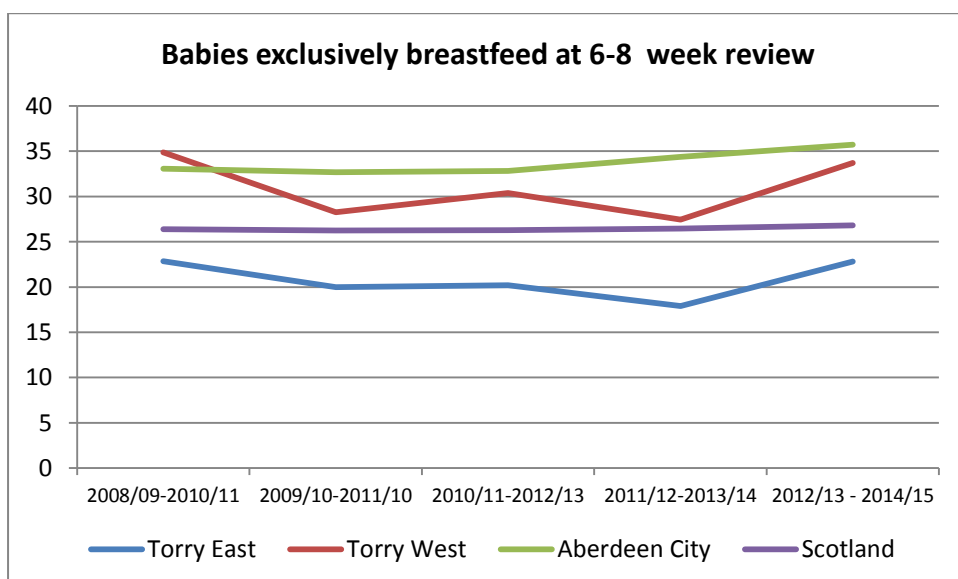


BREASTFEEDING

Although Aberdeen City consistently performs favourably in relation to rates of breastfeeding when compared to the Scottish average, there is considerable variation in those who do and those who don't breastfeed across the city.

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

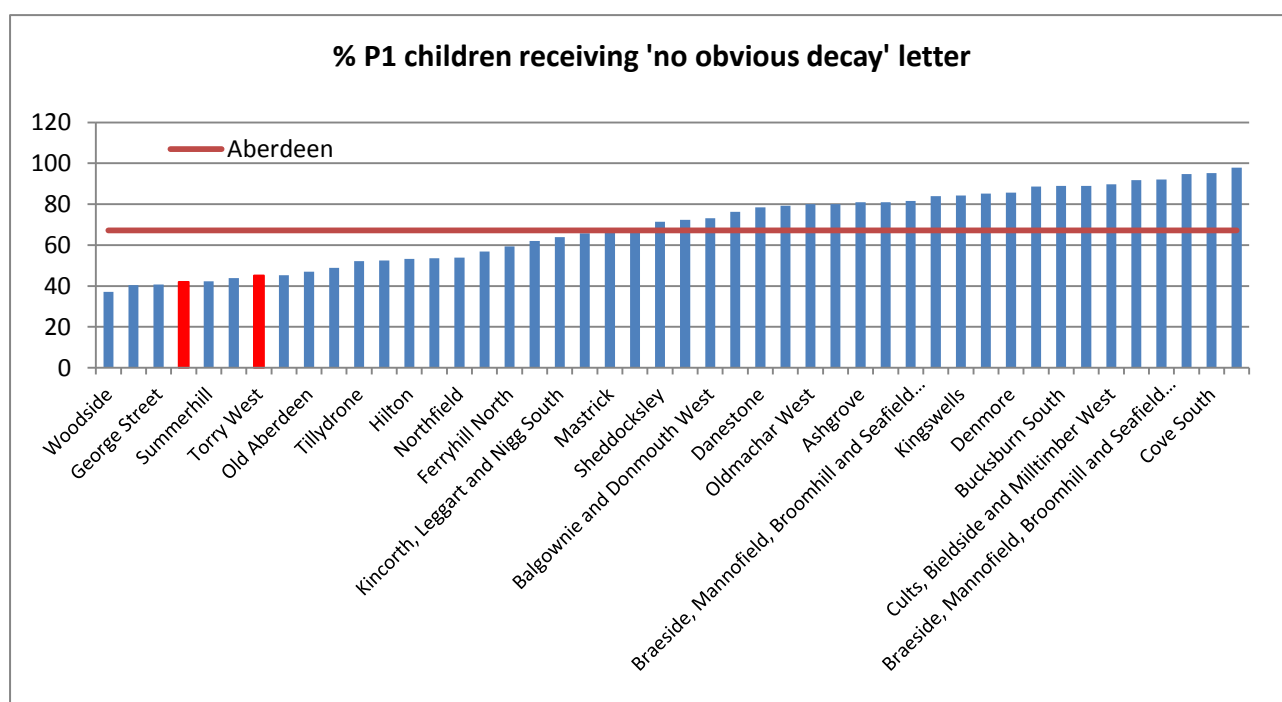
Analysis shows that breastfeeding, both at the time of the first visit and at the 6 – 8 week review point, is lower in Torry East than in the western side of the neighbourhood. Breastfeeding rates in Torry East have consistently been lower than both the city-wide and nationwide rates, and have not shown any improvement over the past 5 years.



CHILD DENTAL HEALTH

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

Children in Torry generally suffer from relatively poor dental health. In Torry East, in 2014/15, almost 6 Primary 1 children in every ten had suffered some form of tooth decay, and the situation isn't much better in Torry West.



While there has been some improvement in the western side of Torry, the same cannot be said of the eastern side, with almost 4 in every 5 primary 7 aged children showing signs of dental decay.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

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

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

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

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

Currently, there are around 200 part-time nursery places available in Torry, but population statistics show that, at the time of writing, there are 512 children aged between 1 and 5 in the Tullos and Walker Road Primary School catchments. Therefore, not only will the requirement be to almost double the amount of hours available for 3 and 4 year olds, but there will be more than double the number of children to cater for in the long term.

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

Currently, early learning and child care in Torry is supplied by the local authority in nurseries attached to two primary schools. These nurseries are operating at full capacity and therefore it is clear that more physical space will be required as the demand grows.

BIG NOISE TORRY

Big Noise Torry was launched in July 2015, and is a partnership venture between Aberdeen City Council and Sistema Scotland with the overall aim of improving the lives of children in one of the city's most disadvantaged areas. The ultimate goal of Big Noise is, through the medium of music, to build confidence resilience and ambition in children, and improve educational performance, health and wellbeing so that children are able to reach their full potential. Projected outcomes include:

- Positive behaviours in relation to alcohol and drugs
- Improved outcomes from education and learning
- Improved employability
- Reduced involvement in criminality
- Increased resilience
- Improved Pride and Confidence and; a sense of community identity through involvement in Arts

At the time of writing, Big Noise works with all nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 2 children that attend Walker Road or Tullos Primary Schools. In addition, all Primary 3 and Primary 4 children can attend the Big Noise After-school club, which runs three days a week.

As well as after-school clubs, Big Noise runs holiday clubs during October, Easter and Summer holidays. Children are provided with hot meals, snacks and activities, some of which are also open to family members.

EDUCATION

Children living in the Torry neighbourhood are served by two primary schools – Tullos Primary School and Walker Road Primary School – and one secondary school, Torry Academy.

The majority of children attending both primary schools come from an area of significant deprivation (based on 2012 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation), particularly at Tullos Primary School where almost 90% of children live in an area that is amongst the most 20% deprived communities in Scotland^{vii}.

It is widely recognised that in order to learn and succeed, children must be well nourished and cared for. Although merely living in a deprived community does not mean automatic entitlement to free school meals, it appears that there is an imbalance between those who may be entitled and those who are claiming the benefit.

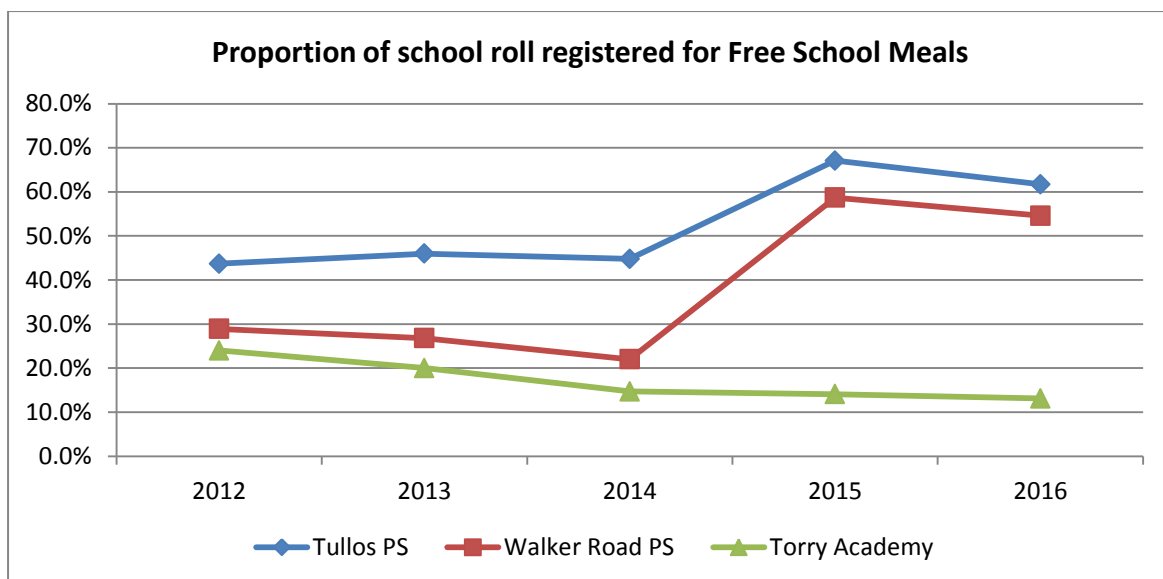
Table 3: Children entitled and registered for free school meals

	% of school roll living in most deprived quintile (20%) ^{viii}	% of P4 – P7 pupils entitled and registered for free school meals ^{ix}
Tullos Primary School	89.1%	27.61%
Walker Road Primary School	62.8%	18.18%
Torry Academy	71%	13.1%

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

There are also some religious and community groups in Aberdeen that provide free, healthy cooked food for children who usually receive free school meals, but there is no knowledge of such a scheme operating in Torry at the current time.

As highlighted above, it is difficult to measure child poverty accurately due to the time lag on available data. To gain a better understanding of the current picture and the impact of the current local economic situation, we can review the trend in the proportion of pupils registered for free school meals. It should be noted that the statistics in the chart below relate to the percentage of the total school roll that are registered for free school meals, and will differ from the statistics above which relate only to Primary 4 to Primary 7 pupils, as all P1-P3 pupils in Scotland receive free school meals.

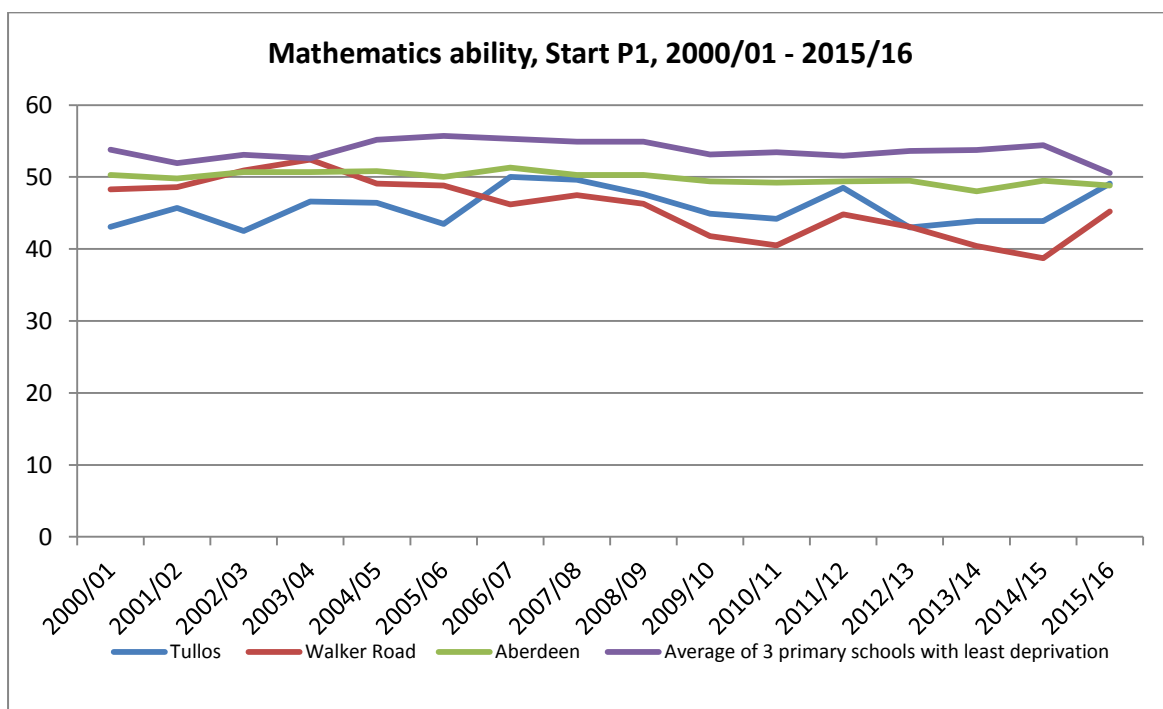
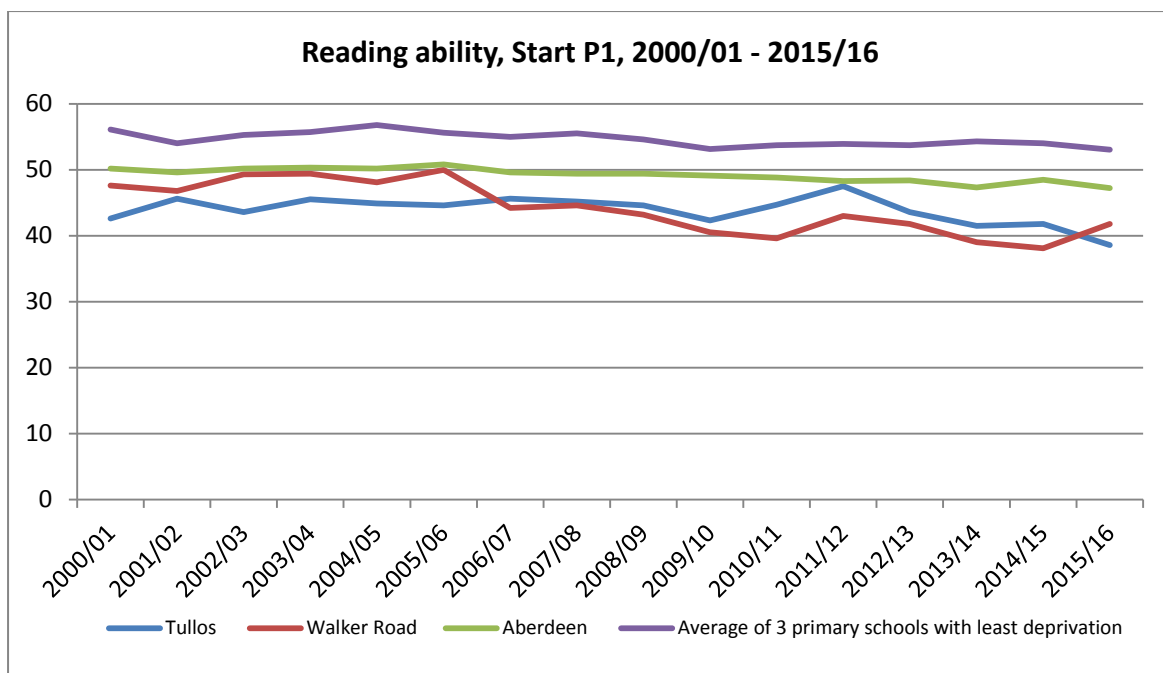


The proportion of children attending primary school in Torry that are eligible and registered for free school meals has increased considerably between 2014 and 2015. This increasing proportion may be linked to an initiative by Aberdeen City Council to introduce a cashless catering system into Tullos and Walker Road Primary Schools in September 2014 and March 2015 respectively. The cashless catering system aims to reduce the stigma attached to free school meal entitlement and also seeks to automatically validate entitlement using council tax benefit records. Since it is known that there are high levels of deprivation in Torry, the increase should be viewed positively.

The proportion of children and young people that attend at Torry Academy and are registered for free school meals has fallen steadily over the past five years, and uptake amongst those that are entitled and registered is relatively poor, with only between 30- and 40% of those who are entitled to the benefit taking advantage of it. Given that more than 70% of the pupil population at Torry Academy live in an area that is among the most deprived in Scotland, the downward trend is surprising and may indicate a need for greater promotion of free school meals.

There are a large number of convenience stores, sandwich shops and/or takeaways in close proximity to Torry Academy. It is assessed that a large proportion of children and young people, including those who may be entitled to free school meals, will be purchasing lunch from these premises.

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



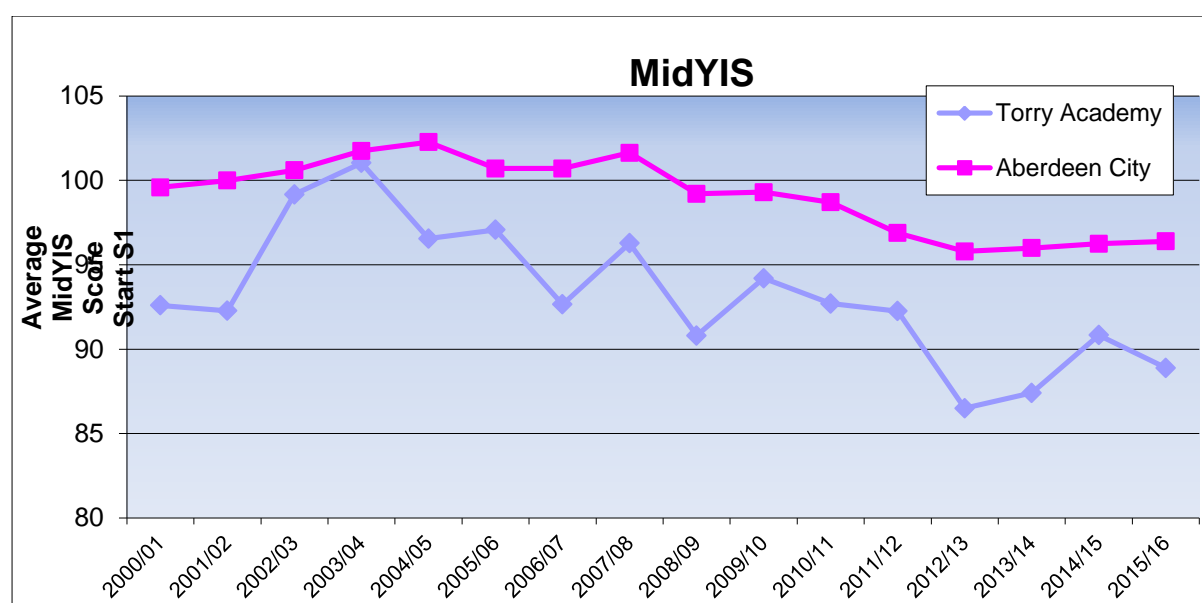
The charts above show that children in Torry consistently start primary school at a disadvantage in terms of reading and mathematics ability compared to children from less disadvantaged backgrounds.

The diverse nature of the Torry population may, at least partially, be a contributing factor to the lack of basic language, literacy and numeracy skills of primary school children. The proportion of children attending Tullos Primary School for whom English is their 'first language' has fallen over the past decade; at the time of the 2015 pupil census, only 53.2% of pupils at the school use English as a 'first language'. At Walker Road Primary School, only 65.5% of pupils use English as a

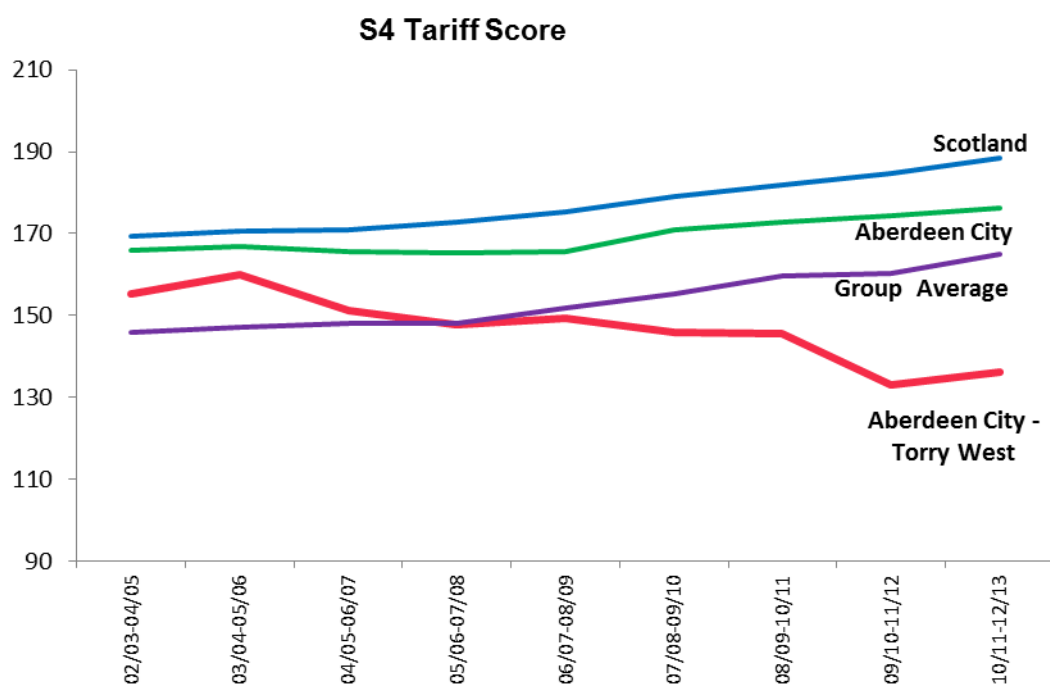
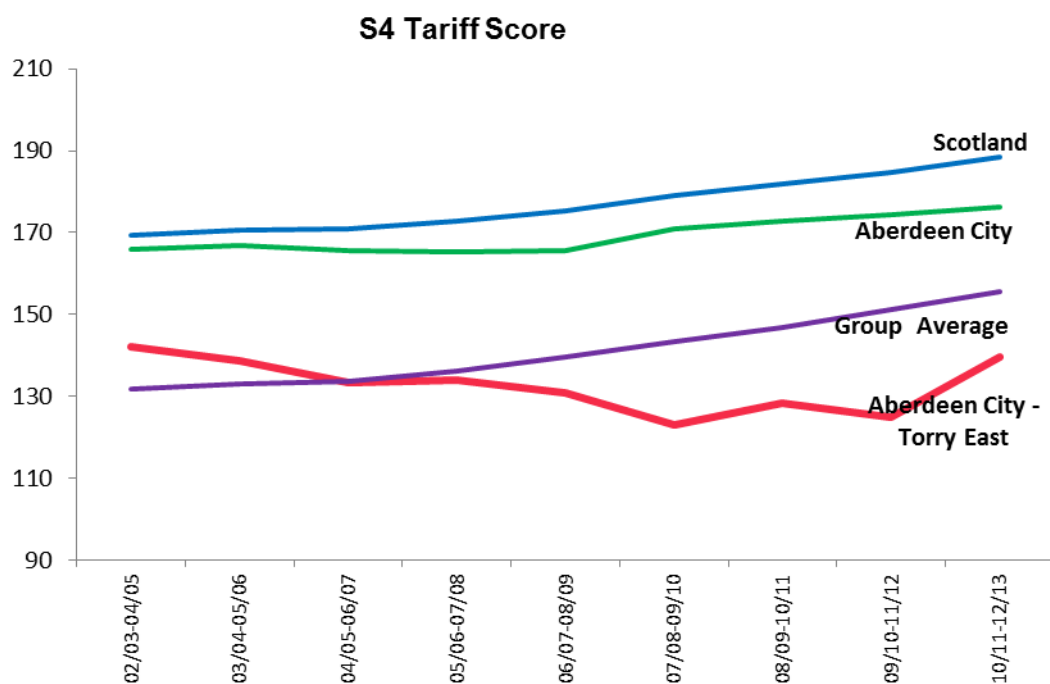
‘first language’ and again, this proportion has been reducing over the past decade, though at a lower rate than Tullos.

Tullos Primary School is one of four schools in Aberdeen City that receive / will receive funding from the Attainment Scotland Fund, a Scottish Government fund that aims to improve literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for primary school pupils.

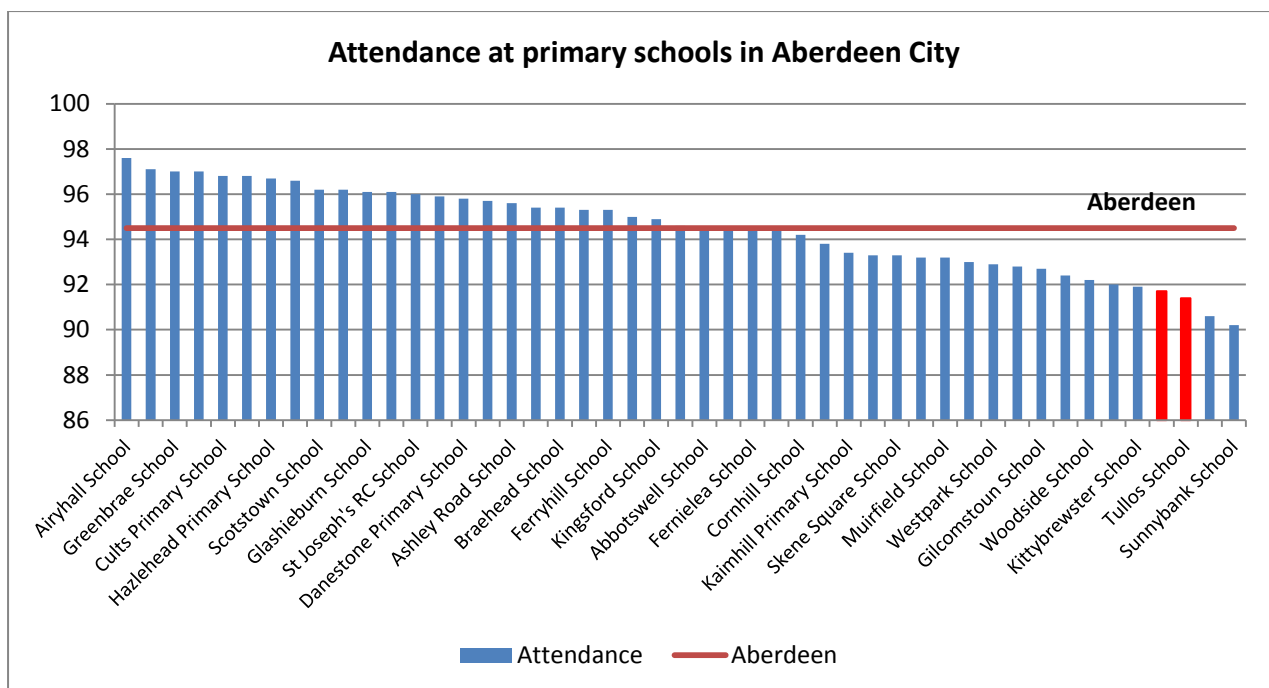
The attainment gap is also evident in secondary schools, and children starting secondary school at Torry Academy generally do less well academically than the city average.



Until fairly recently, the Scottish Government recorded the tariff score of S4 pupils from across the country. In recent years however, the national qualifications framework has changed and this is no longer a meaningful measure, although it is the only data available at this time. The Community Planning Outcomes Profile (CPOP), developed by the Improvement Service, tracks this data over a period of time and looks at other comparable areas. The CPOP shows that, in relation to the S4 tariff score, both Torry East and Torry West are areas of the city that have some of the poorest outcomes, and have shown little or no improvement over the years.

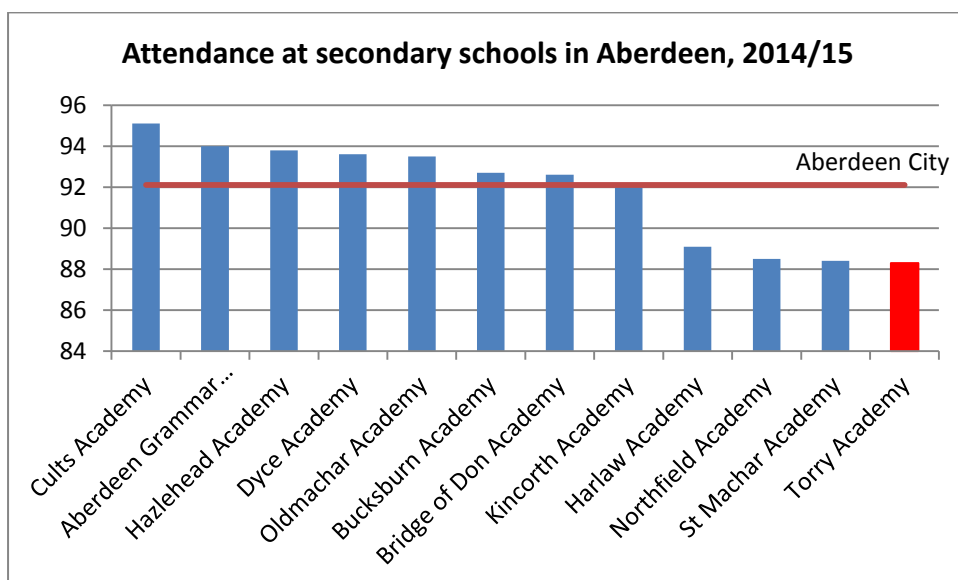


There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement. Both Tullos and Walker Road Primary Schools suffer from some of the poorest attendance levels in the City.



Tullos Primary School, in the 2014/15 academic year (the latest available data) recorded the highest proportional authorised absence of all primary schools in Aberdeen City.

Torry Academy also has the highest absence rate of all secondary schools within the City. Truancy is a particular issue at the school.



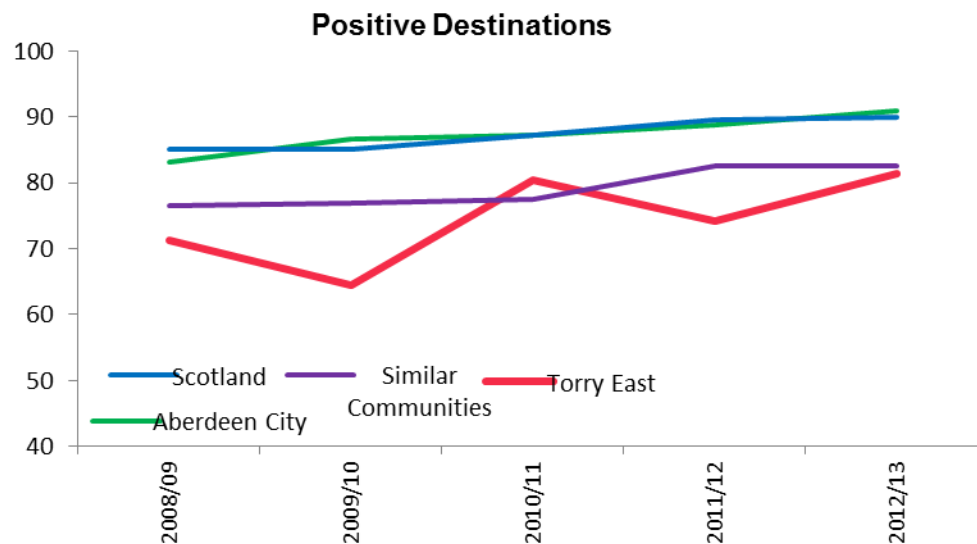
Poor attendance at school is linked to poorer academic attainment and limited future career prospects. Poor attendance can also lead to isolation from peers, and the poor attendance of some may impact on the attainment of regular attenders given that truants are more likely to be disruptive when they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

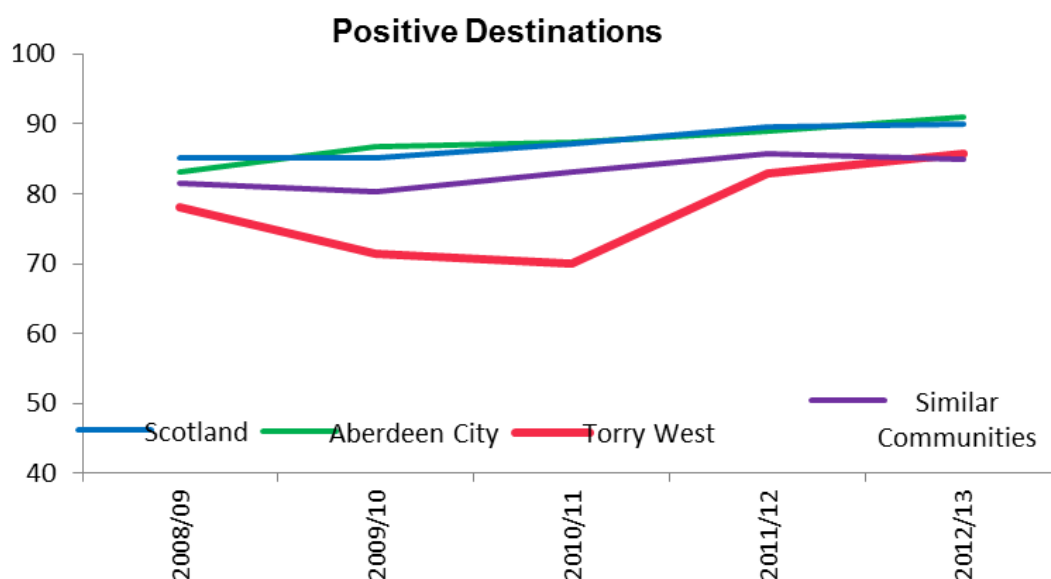
Work is ongoing to replace Torry Academy and Kincorth Academy with a new, purpose built school based in Cove. Aberdeen City Council has agreed to set aside more than £120,000 for a bus service for children in families who may struggle to meet the transport costs associated with the move to the South of City Academy^x.

POSITIVE DESTINATIONS

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

Information from the Community Planning Outcomes Profile clearly illustrates school leavers in Torry East and in Torry West are less likely than others in the city, and others in similar communities from across Scotland, to enter a positive destination.





Most young people that live in Torry attend Torry Academy, and most pupils at Torry Academy are from the Torry neighbourhood. Although not directly comparable, more timely data from Skills Development Scotland shows that young people who attend Torry Academy are less likely than their city-wide peers to enter a positive destination, and have a greater likelihood of being unemployed after leaving school.

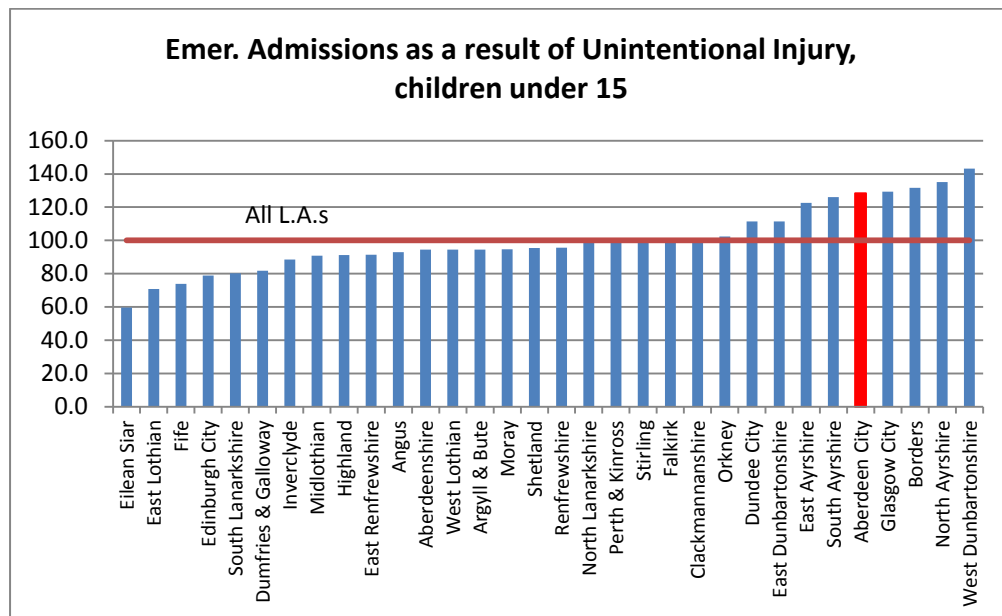
86.7% of young people that left Torry Academy in the 2014/15 academic year entered a positive destination (Education, Training or Employment), while 90% of school leavers across the city.

Most (41.3%) former school pupils at Torry go on to enter further education (College education), with only 16% entering Higher education (typically, university). This is in contrast to the city-wide picture, where a larger proportion of young people enter higher education (38.1%) than enter further education (26.9%). This further highlights the inequalities suffered by young people in Torry.

Torry Academy is one of ten target schools in the North of Scotland that benefits from being part of ASPIRENorth – a national Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP) which aims to increase progression to higher education in both colleges and universities from schools which have historically had low levels of progression.

UNINTENTIONAL INJURY IN CHILDREN

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



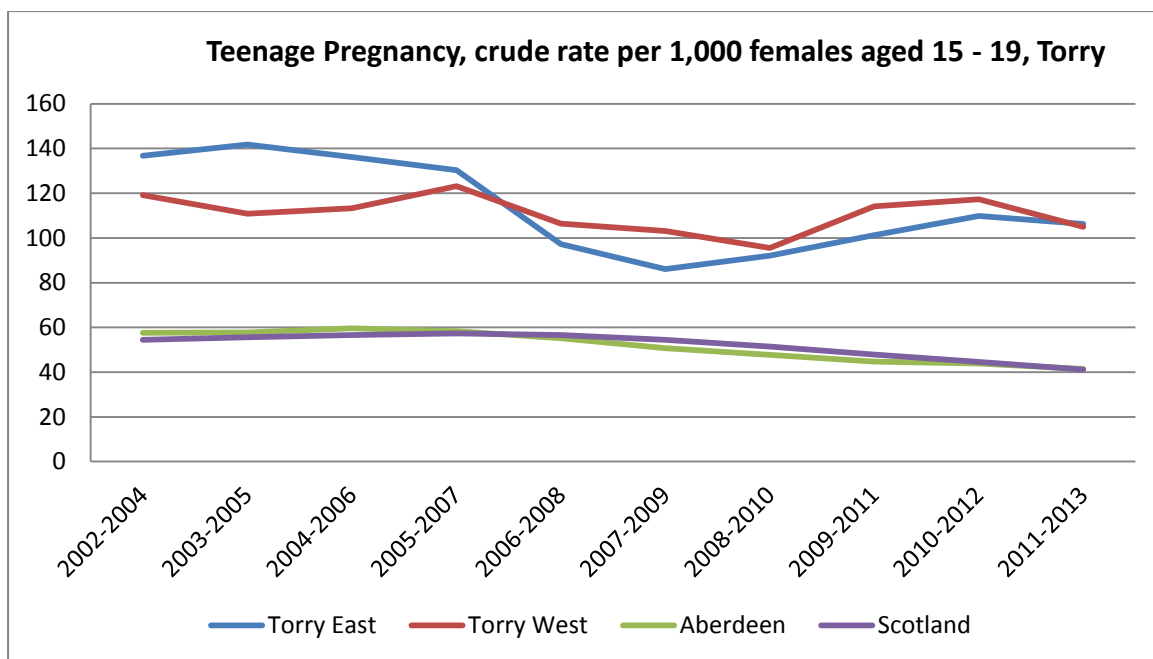
Emergency hospital admissions due to an unintentional injury are most common among the under 5s, and for all children under 15, a fall is the most common cause of the injury.

Data provided for the city-wide Strategic Assessment indicates that unintentional injury in children is associated with deprivation, and Torry is one of the high risk areas identified.

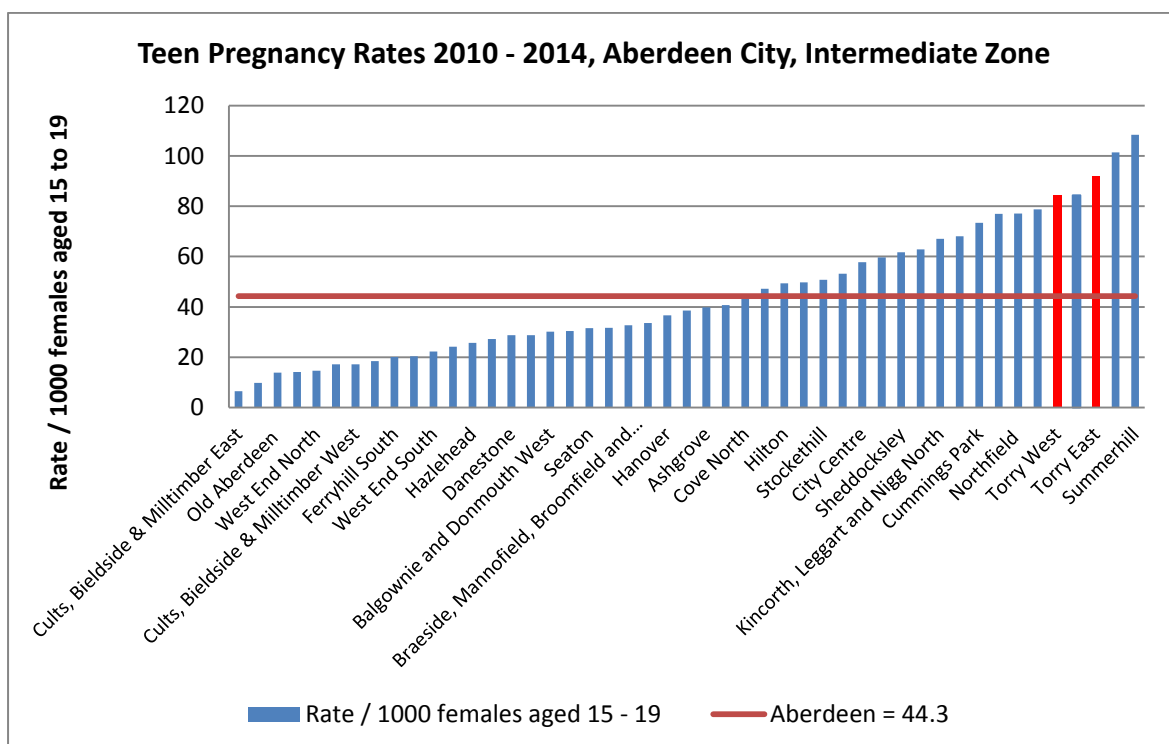
Unfortunately, ISD Scotland no longer publish details of where injuries were sustained. Robust data of this nature could be used to further analyse any potential issues – for example, a higher rate of injuries sustained within the home for example may suggest some home safety initiatives would be beneficial – however it was assessed that this measure was too subjective and contained considerable volume of incorrect or inaccurate data.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

The trend in teenage pregnancy in Aberdeen, and indeed in Scotland, is reducing, and rates of teenage pregnancy in the city have almost halved over the past decade. Notwithstanding that, there are still significant inequalities between neighbourhoods, and Torry records some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the city.



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



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

ADULT LIFE

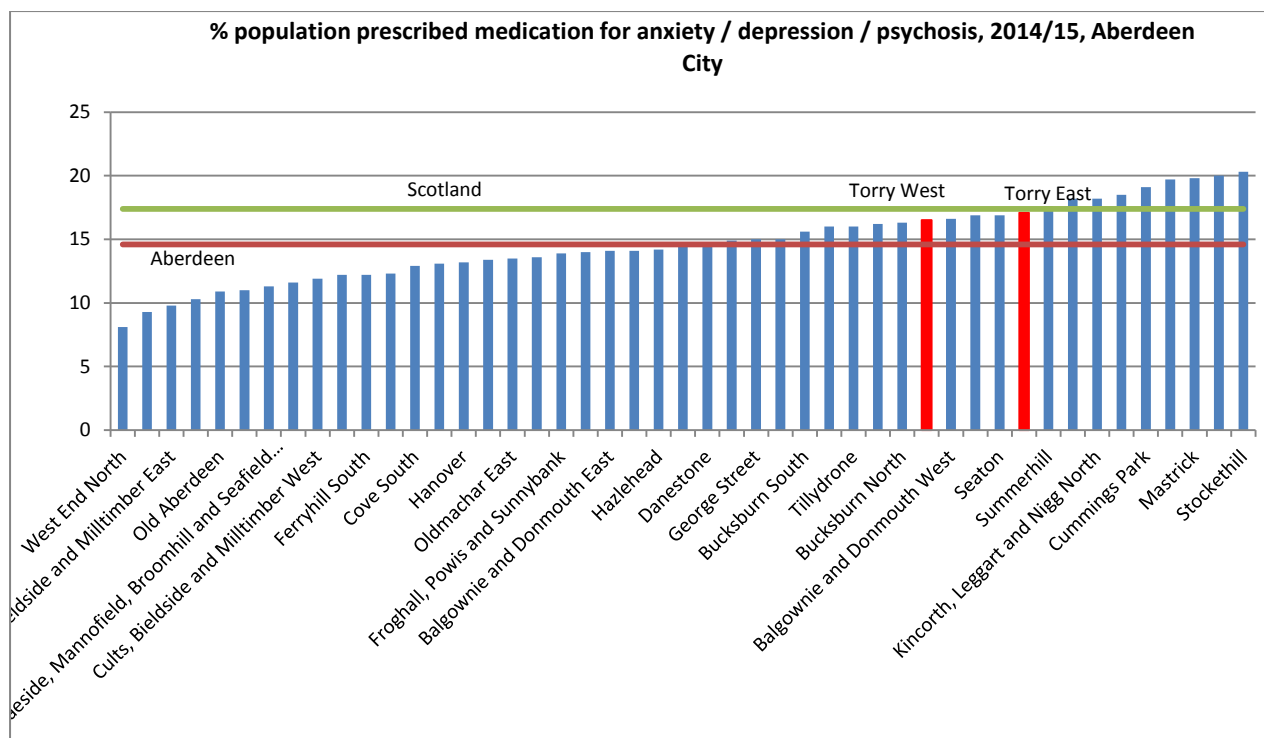
Generally speaking, working-age adults in Aberdeen are educated to a higher level than in many other council areas in Scotland, with 31.8% of working age adults education to degree level in Aberdeen, the fourth highest rate of all 32 Scottish local authorities (after City of Edinburgh, East Dunbartonshire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

There is a large contrast in the qualifications gained by working age adults across the City. At the time of the 2011 Census, one in five adults in Aberdeen had no qualifications, compared to a quarter of adults in Scotland. The level of skills amongst Torry's working age population is generally low with almost a third of adults having no qualifications. In some areas within the neighbourhood, the proportion of adults with no formal qualifications is much higher. In datazone S01000052, to the south west of the Torry neighbourhood, almost half (46%) of all adults had no formal qualifications, but taken collectively it's the Eastern side of Torry that fares worst in terms of poor adult qualifications; more than a third (36.3%) of adults living in Torry East have no formal qualification, while only 15.9% have a degree or higher qualification.

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

HEALTH

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



Although not all people living in an area with poor outcomes will experience mental ill-health, higher rates of poorer mental health are more prevalent in areas of disadvantage.

It is widely recognised that an accurate assessment of mental ill-health is difficult, due to the very nature of the problem.

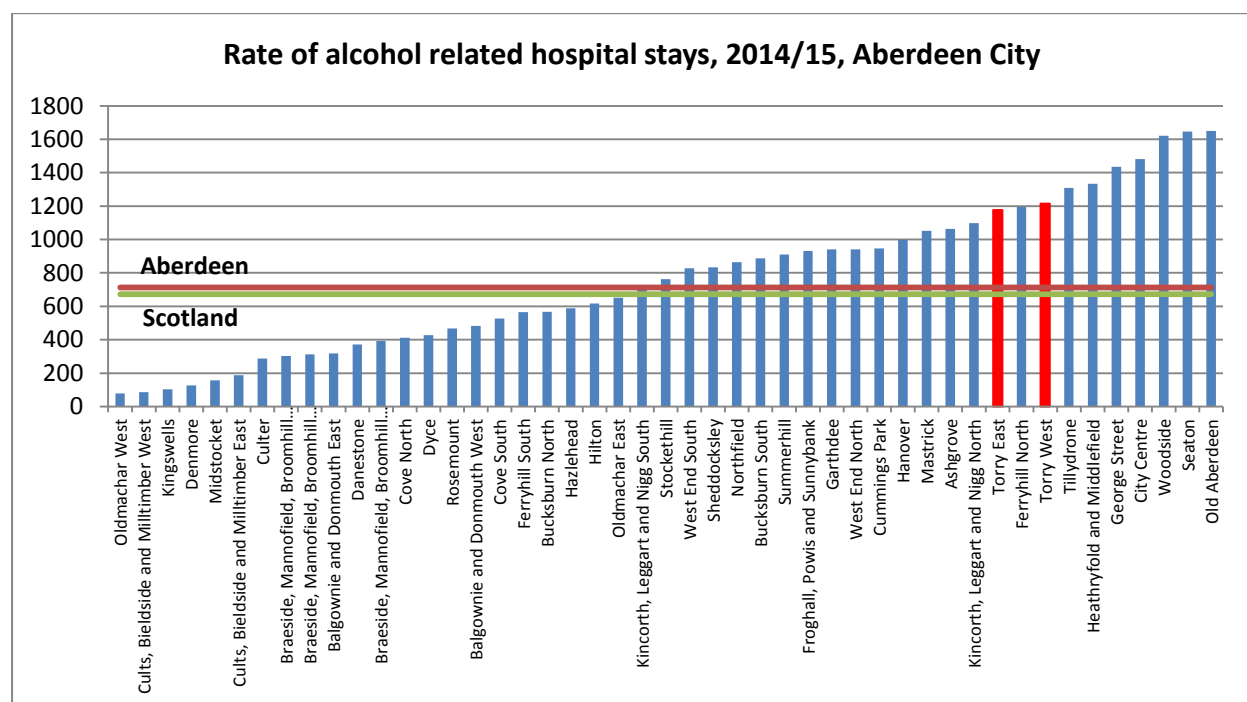
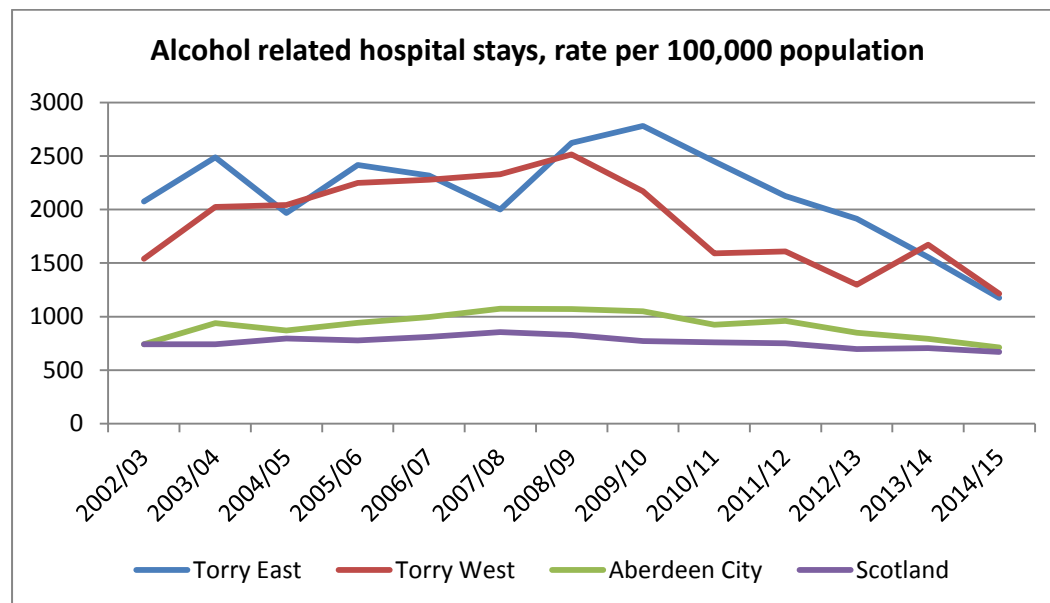
Poverty, poor education, unemployment and low income are all risk factors for poor mental health, and therefore it is assessed that the mental health of Aberdeen's population in general, and in particular in the more disadvantaged communities, will suffer as a result of the local economic downturn.

LIFESTYLE BEHAVIOURS

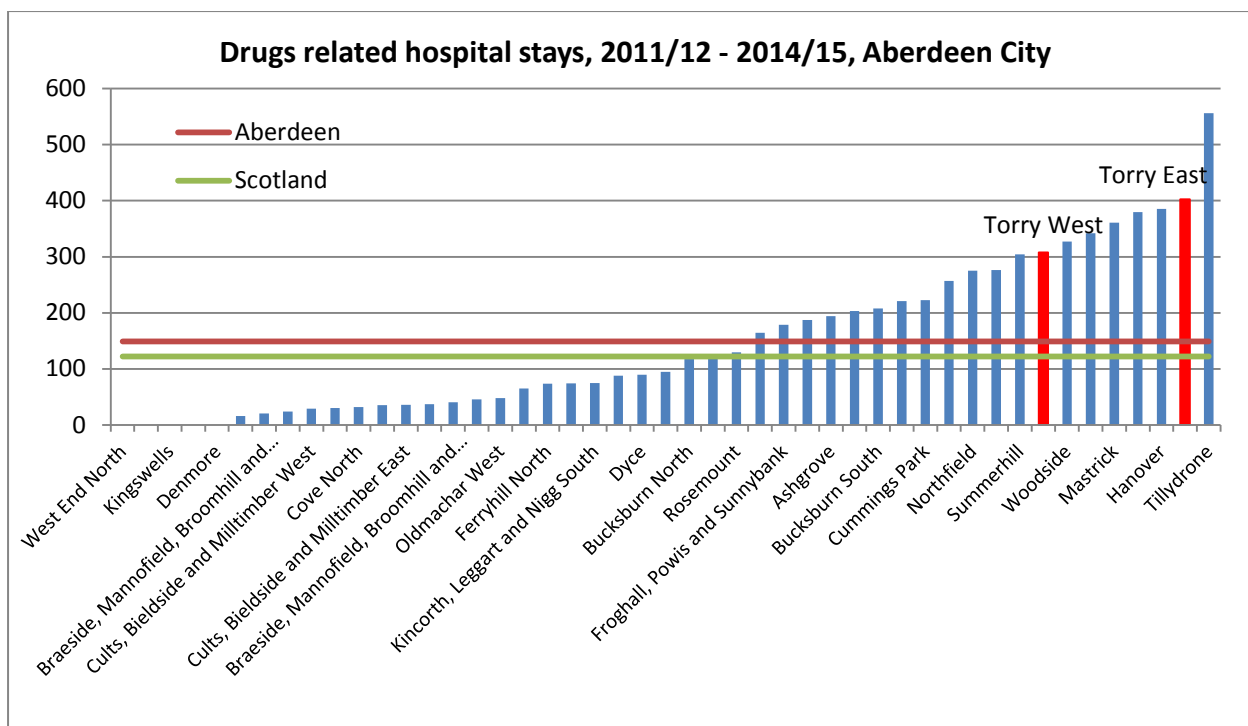
Poor lifestyle behaviours are widely known to negatively affect the health of the population. Over recent decades, significant improvements have been made in changing, and reducing behaviours such as smoking, excessive alcohol use and drug misuse, improving peoples diet and increasing peoples level of physical activity. But improvements have largely been seen mainly among those in higher socio-economic groups, with those in lower socio-economic groups still at much higher risk of partaking in poor lifestyle behaviours. This leads to widening health inequalities.

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

There has been considerable improvement in the rate of alcohol related hospital stays in Torry, but the rate remains significantly higher than the city-wide or national rates.



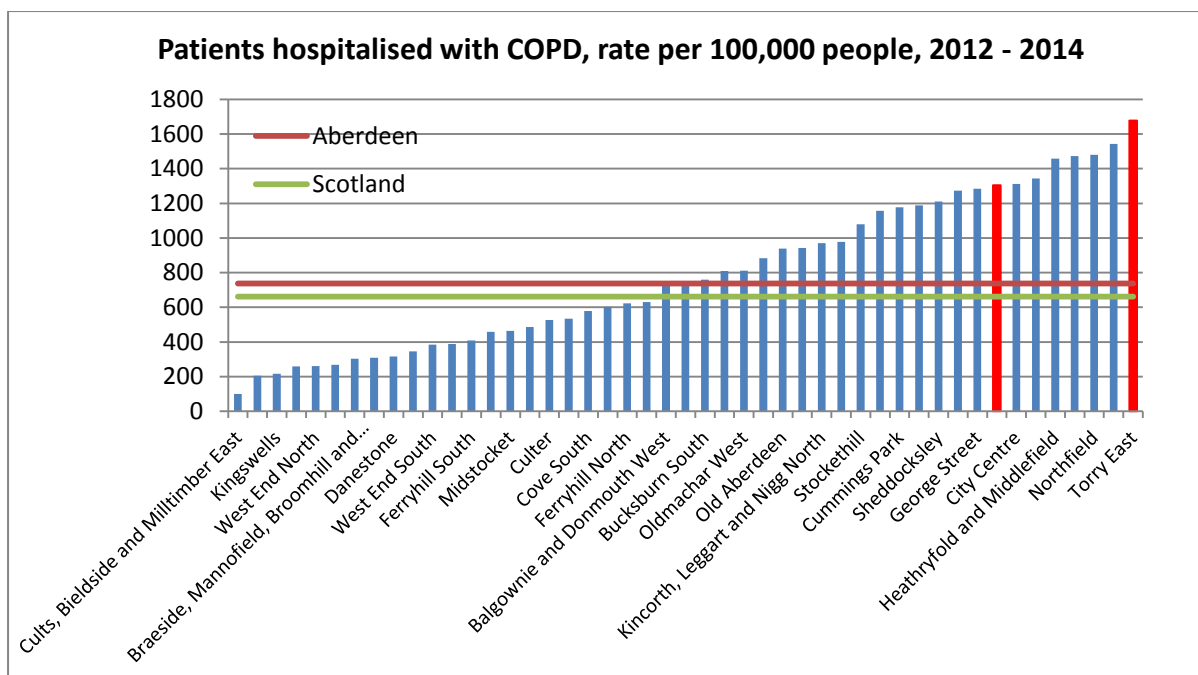
Similar to the correlation between deprivation and excessive alcohol consumption, hospital stays as a result of a drugs related illness or injury are higher in areas with greater levels of deprivation.



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

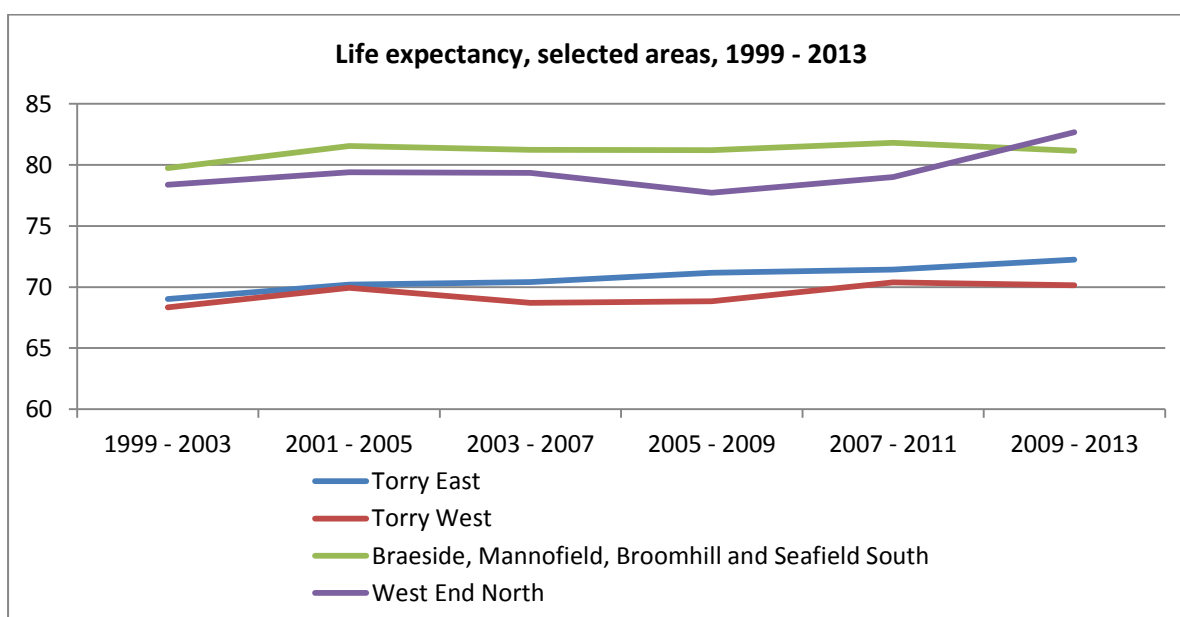
National research has shown that there is a strong correlation between smoking prevalence and deprivation. Although data is not available at a local level, it is probable that the situation in Aberdeen follows this trend, and therefore Torry would be an area that would be expected to have higher prevalence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

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is the name for a collection of lung diseases, which have occurred as a result of long-term damage to the lungs, usually because of smoking. Although not directly a measure of smoking levels within lower level geography, the rate of hospitalisations as a result of COPD is a good indicator of how lifestyle behaviours are affecting a populations health. As the chart below shows, both the east and west sides of Torry have high rates of COPD hospitalisations.



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

Advances and healthcare, and improvements in lifestyles have means that people in Torry, as indeed in Aberdeen and across the country, are living longer than ever before. Nevertheless there are still significant inequalities in the city, with people in Torry, generally, expected to live for around 10 or 11 years less than peers living in West End North or Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield South. There is no doubt that poorer lifestyle choices contribute to this significant difference.



LATER LIFE

Almost 12%^{xii} of the population of Torry is aged 65 or older, a smaller proportion than Aberdeen City, where 15% of the population are in this age group.

As highlighted above, the population of Aberdeen is growing and ageing, and in the Torry / Ferryhill ward, it is projected that this age group will increase by around 34% by 2026, and by 77% by 2037.

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

The housing stock in Torry is predominantly flatted properties which may prove inaccessible and / or unsuitable for many older people, who may suffer increased frailty and are at greater risk of having multiple and complex care needs. This may result in an increased number of people from Torry seeking minor property adaptations or even possibly alternative accommodation as they get older, and as flatter properties become more unsuitable. It is unlikely however that older people will be amenable to relocating to another part of the city from an area in which they have spent their lives.

The proportion of people living in Torry at the current time that are aged 65 or older is lower than the Aberdeen and Scotland proportions, but 30.39% of the neighbourhoods current population is aged between 30 and 49 while across the City 27.85% of the population fall into this age bracket and in Scotland its 26.61%. This indicates that there is likely to be long-term pressures on housing stock as this demographic ages.

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

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

Although Torry doesn't record the highest rate of emergency admissions amongst the areas over 65 population, rates are above both city and national rates. Once again there is considerable variation however, with datazone S01000082 predominantly accounting for the high rate in Torry East, while in Torry West, datazone S01000084 is the most problematic area. It is worth noting however that both areas are comparable, both in terms of performance and improvement, to other similar areas in Scotland.

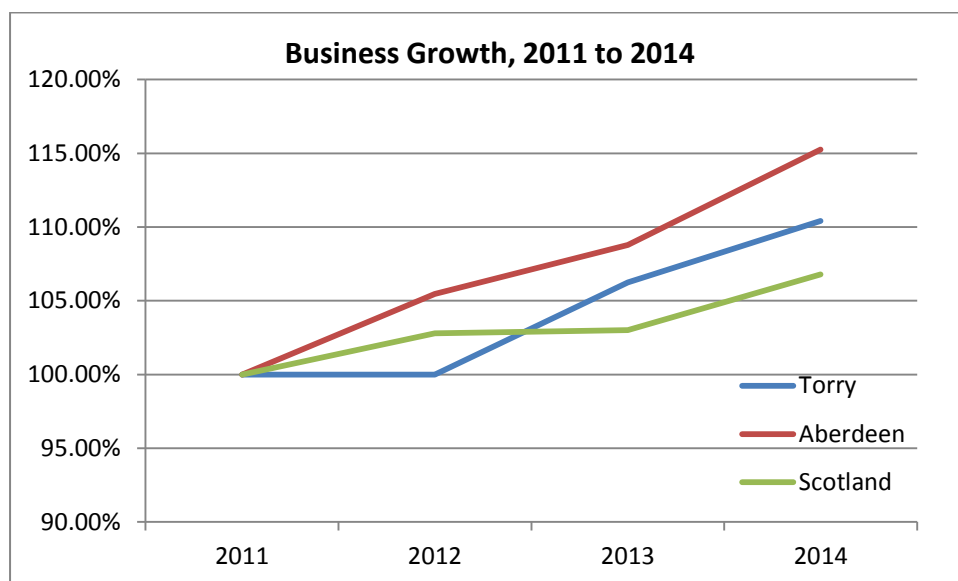
Unfortunately, older people are statistically at greater risk of accidents in and around the home. Many accidents which older people suffer are attributable, either wholly or partly, to increasing frailty and failing health. Most accidents in older people are falls.

PLACE

BUSINESS

Torry has a thriving business environment, and Tullos East, Tullos West and Altens Industrial Estates are all within close proximity to the neighbourhood. The industrial estates are dominated by companies closely associated with the oil and gas industry.

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



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

There are some large scale developments planned for Torry and the surrounding area that are likely to impact on the local economy to some degree, if approved.

Planning permission has been granted in principle for the expansion of Aberdeen Harbour into Nigg Bay. It is reported that, by year 20, additional facilities at the Nigg Bay site would result in Aberdeen Harbour supporting 15,000 jobs^{xiii} – an increase of 30% on current figures, and therefore providing additional job and business opportunities for people in Torry and the rest of the city.

There is a proposal to develop a new £120 million Energy from Waste facility in the East Tullos Industrial Estate.

Torry is a thriving community based close to Aberdeen City Centre. Victoria Road is the main service area, and has a variety of retail and food outlets, licensed premises,

a bank, a post office and small local grocery stores. In addition, there are two supermarkets on Wellington Road, and so most everyday needs can be catered for within the neighbourhood. A drive around the area indicates that there are few vacant retail premises, but local knowledge highlights that in at least one case, a retail unit has been boarded up and vacant for at least a decade. This projects a negative image and may lead to a poor perception of the area.

However, there appears to be a discord between the retail / recreation facilities that are in the area, and the perception of the communities as, during the 'Shaping Torry' consultation event, it was highlighted that there is a desire to upgrade the shops and look of Victoria Road, and that residents feel that there is a need to develop meeting places such as cafes, restaurants etc. There are also community concerns at high levels of through traffic, particularly HGVs, using Victoria Road.

It is true however that the range of shops and facilities has changed over the years, in line with the changing demographics of Torry, and the area now has shops which cater to Eastern European households.

HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLDS

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

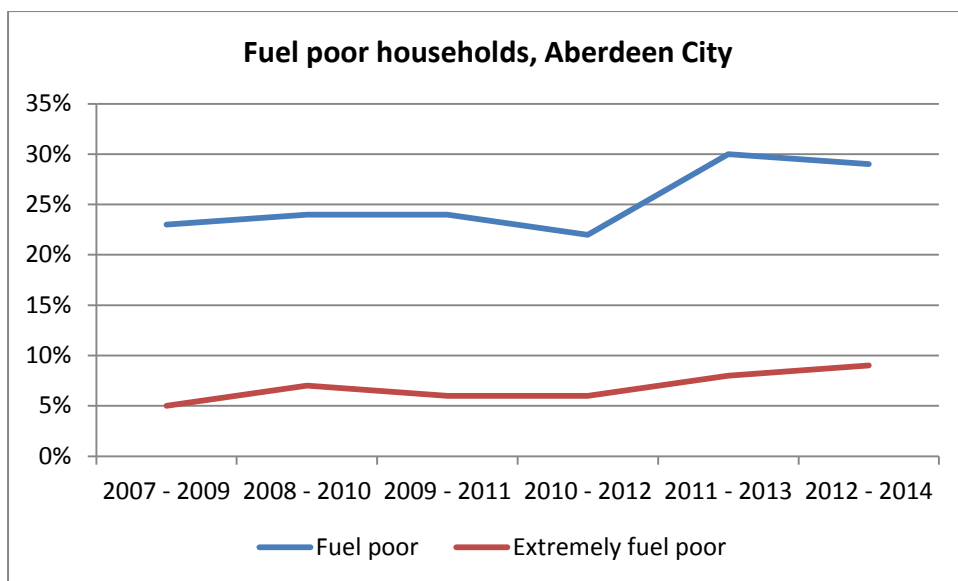
Torry is a relatively large and quite tightly populated residential area, and the areas housing stock is dominated by flatted properties.

The majority of housing in Torry is rented accommodation, with the most common landlord being the local authority. Although not every areas within the neighbourhood is dominated by council housing, around 4 in five households in the Balnagask areas of Torry is social rented accommodation.

FUEL POVERTY

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

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



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

Data available relating to 2010 – 2012 indicates that, at that time, between 20- and 30% of households in Torry were living in fuel poverty.

Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council are working in partnership to develop a new £120 million Energy from Waste (EfW) facility at Greenbank Crescent, East Tullos, and a planning application was submitted on 7th March 2016. The plant, if approved, will generate heat and power and will have the ability to provide secure, low cost energy to households, businesses and council facilities, and therefore has the potential to reduce fuel poverty.

Over recent years, there has been considerable investment in, and improvements to, much of the housing stock within the Torry neighbourhood, with many houses benefiting from thermal upgrading.

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

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Torry has historically been an area significantly impacted by issues such as vandalism, youth disturbance and wilful fireraising, and in particular, , this is prevalent in the Balnagask area which has been affected by a relatively small groups of youths over the years. This is borne out by community engagement feedback, in which the Balnagask area is highlighted many times as an area in which people don't feel safe.

Most vandalisms fall into one of two categories – youth related or alcohol related. Victoria Road in particular is a main thoroughfare, with a large number of licensed

premises in the vicinity. Typically, vandalism is an spur-of-the moment crime, and it is difficult to detect if there is a lack of witnesses. Again, Victoria Road has been highlighted during community consultation as an area in which people don't feel safe, particularly at weekends.

Torry also has a relatively high rate of domestic abuse incidents, and it is recognised that this is most likely still under-represented. Again, research has shown that there is a strong association between the excessive consumption of alcohol and domestic abuse. Much academic research has pointed to economic difficulties resulting in an increase in domestic violence, and this should certainly be monitored.

In four out of the last five years (2010/11 to 2014/15) the Torry neighbourhood has been of greatest concern in Aberdeen in relation to accidental house fires, and around 9% of the accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen City during that time occurred in Torry.

Most house fires in Aberdeen City are related to cooking appliances, followed by those that are smoking related.

Most smoking-related house fires in the city start in the bedroom, and are usually down to careless disposal of cigarettes or smoking materials. As highlighted above, there is no local data on smoking prevalence, but by looking at hospitalisation as a result of COPD, it is assessed that there is a high level of smoking prevalence within the Torry neighbourhood.

WASTE & RECYCLING

Significant funding of £105,000 has been obtained from Zero Waste Scotland over the last couple of year for a project called TIF (Tenement Infrastructure Fund). The project focuses on improving access for the residents in tenements to communal recycling and food waste facilities consequently helping to improve recycling rates and cleanliness of the Torry neighbourhood. The funding paid for the stanchions and associated road works with the Housing department providing money to pay for the new communal bins. We selected 16 priority streets from residents' wishes, feedback from crews and waste officers surveying the whole area of Torry.

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

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

and cleaner plus there has been good feedback from residents about the changes to the service. Like in all neighbourhoods, the education of those that live and work in the area is key to reducing environmental issues. Many people are unaware of the knock-on effect that fly-tipping has on health and amenity. Often those who do dump rubbish do so as they are unwilling or unable to pay for uplift, yet many are likely to be entitled to free uplift.

TRANSPORT

Just under half (49%) of Torry's population travel to their place of study either by public transport, on foot or by bicycle, considerably higher than the 42% of the City's population that use these methods to travel to work or study.

Most people in Torry work or study within 5km of their home, and this is likely a contributory factor in high number of people that walk or cycle to go about their daily business.

More than a third of people in Torry travel to their place of work or study either on foot or by bicycle^{xiv}, yet during the 'Shaping Torry' engagement event in 2015, the community highlighted that poor maintenance of pavements, steps and handrails, dirty streets and the lack of safe cycling routes in the area were all an issue.

The availability, accessibility and / or cost of public transport is often highlighted as an area of concern to Aberdeen City residents, and this too is the case for some of those living in Torry^{xv}. Public bus services are provided by both Stagecoach and First Bus, and both provide regular services into the City Centre which costs around £1.75 for a single journey. Transport between Torry and Aberdeen Royal Infirmary is provided by stagecoach. The service runs approximately every 20 minutes, typically takes around 25 to 30 minutes and costs £2.25 one way.

The cost of public transport in Aberdeen City is among the highest in the country^{xvi}, and people in Torry highlight the cost of public transport as an issue. 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.

General opinion in Torry is that public transport routes make it easier to travel into the city centre than to remain within, and travel around, Torry. Opinion in the area also highlights that there is a need to clean up and maintain bus stops to encourage more people to use the bus network.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Good quality, accessible open spaces provide opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy their environment. Well designed and well managed areas can be used for

play, recreation, to enhance community cohesion and can help ensure that local areas are viewed in a positive way.

The amount of green infrastructure, green space and / or open space is plentiful in Torry, but poorly maintained areas discourage people from using such spaces.

Most people visit green space that is within close proximity to their home, and having green space that is within a 5-10 minute walk from home increases the possibility that people, including children and older people, will use it. Torry benefits from sitting alongside a stretch of beautiful coastline, but a lack of seating, toilets and food and drink facilities prevents people from making the most of the area.

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

FLOODING

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

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

PVA 06/18, Aberdeen City – Deeside, covers the centre and western areas of Aberdeen City, including some parts of the Torry neighbourhood. It is estimated that, within Potentially Vulnerable Area 06/18, approximately 8,100 residential properties and 2000 non-residential properties are at risk of flooding, with average annual damages of around £12 million, mainly as a result of river flooding. While there are some areas of the Torry neighbourhood that are within the potentially vulnerable area, this area is relatively minimal and is the area closest to the River Dee, around South Esplanade / Torry Battery etc.

Everyone is responsible for protecting themselves and their property from flooding, and home and business owners and occupiers can take simple steps to reduce

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

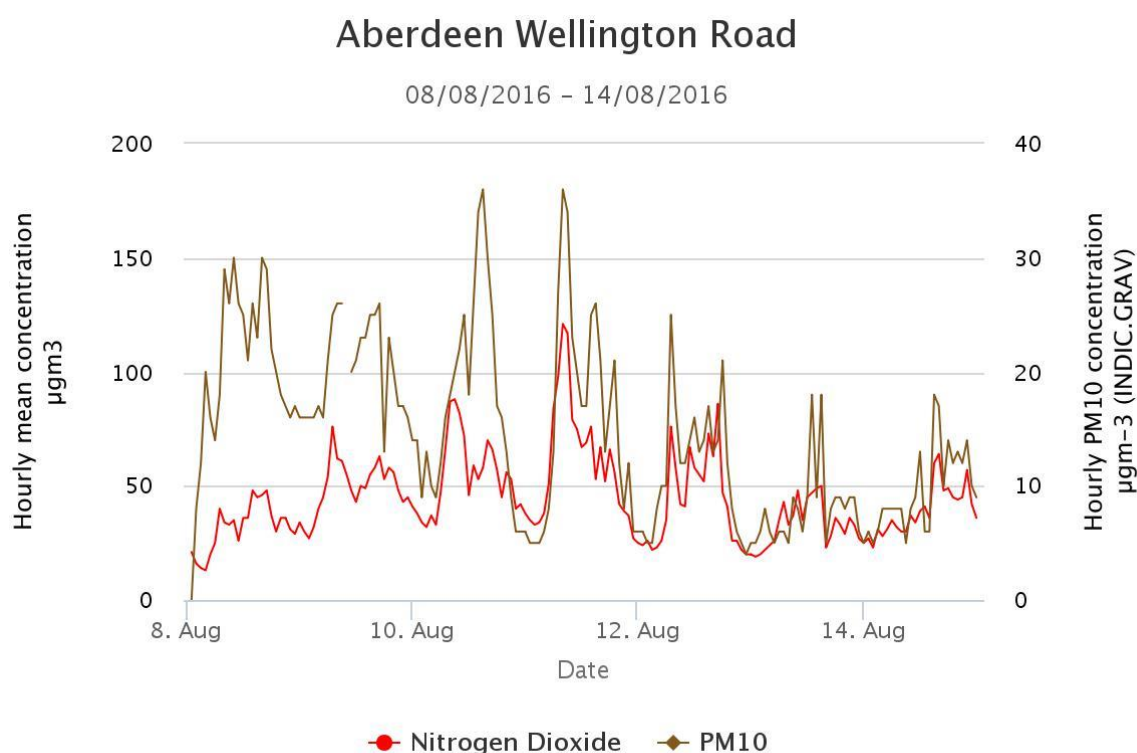
It is the responsibility of householders and business owners to ensure that they are adequately insured against flooding.

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

AIR QUALITY

Air pollution can be, and is, harmful to people, animals and the environment. It damages health, and is estimated to be responsible for between 2,000 and 3,500 deaths each year in Scotland^{xviii}.

Wellington Road is one of the main commuter routes into Aberdeen from the south and it is one of the most polluted streets in the country.



Highcharts.com

The chart above shows the concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide and PM10 matter in Wellington Road in the latest week (at the time of writing). The chart shows that the concentration of both is heightened during the working week.

TECHNOLOGY

Data relating to the access, ability and desire of local people to use the internet is limited, but it is assessed that there are many barriers to accessing and using the internet.

Accessing and being able to comfortably and confidently use the internet affords people with many more opportunities; people can apply for benefits online, search and apply for jobs, and keep in touch with friends and family around the world.

The Scottish and UK Governments have a commitments to an ethos of 'digital by default', and this clearly presents a challenge to services, communities and individuals.

In an effort to tackle low rates of internet access, Aberdeen City Council are increasing the provision of free wi-fi in public spaces, and free wi-fi is now available at Torry Library and Torry Sports and Learning Centre.

In the year August 2014 to July 2015, Community Learning and Development delivered 3,130 hours of digital literacy learner hours to people in the City.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND PERCEPTIONS^{xx}

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

There is a very strong sense of Community Spirit alive and well within the Torry neighbourhood, but the general feeling is that more needs to be done to positively promote the neighbourhood and dispel the negative perceptions of Torry as well as celebrate it's heritage and environment. While it is recognised that the diversity of Torry is to be celebrated, residents feel that more work needs to be done to break down language and cultural barriers.

Analysis of the many public engagement events that have been held in Torry over the years implies that the local community do not have much faith or trust in public services, particularly in the local authority. There is an ongoing need to improve the perception of public services within Torry, and for public services to greatly improve communication with the neighbourhood.

THE FUTURE

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

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

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

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

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

ⁱ Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland: 2014/15

ⁱⁱ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/06/3468/downloads>

ⁱⁱⁱ Those claiming Jobseekers Allowance and those claiming Universal Credit who are out of work

^{iv} Scotland's Census 2011

^v Census 2011

^{vi} The number of adults and their dependants in receipt of Income Support, ESA, JSA, Pension Credits and Child and Working Tax Credit. SIMD 2012

^{vii} Based on the 2012 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Matching of pupils postcodes to SIMD16 rankings is not yet available.

^{viii} Pupil Census 2015

^{ix} As at February 2016

^x <https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/fp/news/local/row-over-threat-of-pupils-paying-for-travel-to-academy/>

^{xi} www.statistics.gov.scot, Qualifications of working age adults

^{xii} N=1,244

^{xiii} www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk/article/benefits-of-expansion

^{xiv} Census 2011

^{xv} Shaping Torry Consultation Event write up

^{xvi} 'Behind the Granite', Aberdeen City Council,

<http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=64566&SID=332>

^{xvii} <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17174/north-east-local-flood-risk-management-plan-2016-2022-web-version.pdf>

^{xviii} [http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13771670.Revealed air pollution killing 3500 Scots every year/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13771670.Revealed_air_pollution_killing_3500_Scots_every_year/),
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-35304167>

^{xix} http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/latest/site-info?site_id=ABD8&view=graphing

^{xix} (the following documents were also used to identify quotes in infographic)

- Shaping Torry Event 2015
- Torry Learning Partnership Young People Focus Group October 2015
- Torry Community Signature Report April 2010
- Shaping Torry Questionnaire June 2015
- Neighbourhood Community Plan May 2009
- South Engagement Event 2009
- Torry Community Council 2009
- Tenant Participation consultation May 2009
- Imagining Aberdeen March 2016
- Torry Academy Youth Consultation November 2014
- Informal Consultation for primary provision and community hub May 2016