



Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group

Meeting on WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2024 at 2.00 pm

**** Virtual - Remote Meeting, Aberdeen ****

B U S I N E S S

APOLOGIES

APPOINTMENT AND MINUTES

- 1.1 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (Pages 3 - 4)
- 1.2 Minute of Previous Meeting of 31 January 2024 - for approval (Pages 5 - 16)
- 1.3 Draft Minute of the Meeting of the CPA Board of 29 February 2024 - for information (Pages 17 - 22)

STRATEGIC BUSINESS

- 2.1 Draft Refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026 (Pages 23 - 90)
- 2.2 Draft Refreshed Locality Plans 2021-26: North, South and Central (Pages 91 - 128)
- 2.3 Children's Services Board Annual Report 2023/24 (Pages 129 - 206)

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 3.1 CPA Website
- 3.2 CPA Budget Setting Report 2024/25 (Pages 207 - 210)
- 3.3 Population Scoping (Pages 211 - 240)

- 3.4 Place Risk Register (Pages 241 - 258)
- 3.5 Health Research Determinants Collaboration Update (Pages 259 - 264)
- 3.6 Volunteer Charter (Pages 265 - 268)

FORWARD BUSINESS PLANNER AND FUNDING AND AWARD TRACKERS

- 4.1 CPA Forward Planner (Pages 269 - 270)
- 4.2 Funding Tracker (Pages 271 - 280)
- 4.3 Award Tracker (Pages 281 - 284)
- 4.4 Date of Next Meeting - 5 June 2024

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Email communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Community Planning Aberdeen

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of CPA Management Group

The Community Planning Aberdeen constitution states that:

- The Chair of the CPA Management Group will be appointed by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board and
- The Vice Chair will be appointed by the CPA Management Group.

Following organisational restructure within Aberdeen City Council, Angela Scott, Chief Executive will now be the Council's representative on the Management Group, replacing Gale Beattie, current Chair. The replacement creates a vacancy in the position of Chair of the Management Group. In line with the previous chairing arrangements and ensuring continuity with the CPA Board Chair and Vice Chair appointments, it is proposed that Angela Scott be nominated to the Board as Chair.

On 29 February 2024, Chief Superintendent Graeme Mackie stood down as the Vice Chair of the CPA Board. Subsequently, the Board agreed to appoint Susan Webb, Director of Public Health, NHS Grampian, as Vice Chair. In light of this, to ensure continuity with the Board appointments, it is proposed that Phil Mackie, Public Health, NHS Grampian, be appointed as Vice Chair of the CPA Management Group.

The CPA Management Group is asked to agree these proposals.

This page is intentionally left blank

COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN MANAGEMENT GROUP
31 JANUARY 2024

Present:- Gale Beatie (Aberdeen City Council) (Chair), Graham Smith (Police Scotland) (Vice Chair), Andy Barclay (Community Justice Group), Andy Buchan (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) Allison Carrington (Aberdeen Prospers), Michelle Crombie (Community Empowerment), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Jillian Evans (Sustainable City and NHSG), Nicola Graham (Skills Development Scotland), Maggie Hepburn (ACVO), Robert Laird (NESCOL), Alison MacLeod (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and Resilient, Included and Supported Group), Martin Murchie (Anti-Poverty Group), and Eleanor Sheppard (Children's Services Board).

Also Present:- Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)

Apologies:- Jamie Bell (Scottish Enterprise), Heather Crabb (University of Aberdeen), Ross Mackay (GREC Co-General Manager), and Alison Watson (Robert Gordon University).

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
1. Welcome	The Chair welcomed everyone to today's meeting.	
2. Minute of Previous Meeting of 25 October 2023	The Management Group had before it the minute of its meeting of 25 October 2023, for approval. <u>The Management Group resolved:</u> to agree the minute as a correct record.	
3. Draft Minute of Meeting of the CPA Board of 29 November 2023	The Management Group had before it the draft minute of the CPA Board meeting of 29 November 2023, for information. <u>The Management Group resolved:</u> to note the draft minute.	
4. Community Engagement on Priorities for Improving Local Outcomes	The Management Group had before it a report that presented the summary results of Community Planning Aberdeen public engagement held between 6 October and 5 November 2023 to strengthen community engagement in the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans. The findings have been used to inform the priorities within the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 6	The report recommended:- that Management Group (a) consider the engagement results as appended (summary at Appendix 1 and full report at Appendix 2) and agree that the report be submitted to the CPA Board in February 2024; (b) note that the results and comments had been used by the Outcome Improvement Groups; Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships to inform the development of the refreshed LOIP and Locality Plans with responses to the potential gaps identified contained at Appendix 3; (c) agree to recommend to the CPA Board that Partners take the results into their respective organisations to consider the key findings alongside their own strategic plans; (d) agree to recommend to the CPA Board that the results be reported to the Fairer Aberdeen Board for consideration of the findings when allocating future funding; and (e) note that once the refresh LOIP and Locality Plans had been approved that opportunities for citizens to participate in the Partnership's improvement activity both city wide and at a locality level would be promoted. Eleanor Sheppard welcomed the outcome reports and highlighted that the Children's Services Board had used the results within its annual report and encouraged all to do likewise. All Outcome Improvement Group chairs confirmed that their respective groups had considered the engagement outcome and updated proposals accordingly. The output of the engagement had also been used as part of the thematic stakeholder sessions. <u>The Management Group resolved:</u> to approve the recommendations.	
5. Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026 Refresh: Draft Stretch Outcomes	The Management Group had before it a report which presented the further draft Stretch Outcomes and improvement project aims proposed by the Community Planning Aberdeen Outcome Improvement Groups for inclusion in the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan for 2023 and for approval for issuing for public consultation on 5th February 2024.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 7 and Improvement Project Aims	The report recommended:- that Management Group – (a) consider and provide feedback on the draft refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 as at Appendix 1; (b) agree the table of proposed amendments to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 from the Outcome Improvement Groups as contained at Appendix 2; (c) consider the responses to the potential gaps raised following the public engagement at Appendix 3; (d) consider the balance of leadership across the proposed improvement aims highlighted at para 3.5 and detailed at Appendix 1; (e) consider the status of aims where no data had been provided, highlighted at para 3.6 and detailed at Appendix 1, and seek assurance that systems are in place for this to be available in advance of the final draft being submitted; (f) consider the balance of target locality/population across the proposed improvement aims highlighted at para 3.7 and detailed at Appendix 1 and determine whether city wide aims should be broken down to a locality level; (g) consider the balance of prevention and early intervention across the proposed improvement aims highlighted at para 3.9 and detailed at Appendix 1; (h) agree that the draft refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 as at Appendix 1, subject to any feedback being addressed, be published for public consultation on 5 February 2024 for 3 weeks; and (i) note the next steps as detailed at section 4 and that the Chairs would attend the CPA Board meeting on 29 February 2024 to present/discuss proposals. The Management Group discussed balance of leadership, data and target locality population when hearing from each of the Chairs present the current status of their aims. In relation to target locality/population, it was noted that as projects developed their charters further detail on proposed test group/locality would be contained and that it was important that projects that were proposing to focus on a specific group/locality did so collectively where possible to ensure as to not over ask communities/groups. In this regard Eleanor Sheppard advised that Northfield Academy was at capacity with requests to be a pilot.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 8	The Management Group then heard from each of the Outcome Improvement Group Chairs. Stretch Outcome 1 Martin Murchie explained, as discussed at the last meeting, there were many different views on the Stretch Outcome and scope of it and this was also raised at the stakeholder session. The Anti-Poverty Group felt that the current Stretch Outcome was unachievable. Following the feedback at the last Management Group meeting, the Group proposed that the Stretch Outcome be amended to “20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat by 2026. Martin explained that there was no consensus on the Stretch Outcome at the Stakeholder session. The Management Group discussed the proposed Stretch Outcome and feeling was that it was too narrow in focus and did not show the intent of the aims and needed to be aspirational. Martin explained that in coming up with the proposed Stretch Outcome, the Group’s view was that food links into all types of poverty and if the aims focused on reducing costs e.g. fuel and food, home energy efficiency and increasing income, cash first approach, increasing uptake of unclaimed benefits the collective outcome would be a reduction of people worrying that they would not have enough to eat by 2026. However, recognised comments from Management Group today and from stakeholder session and would look to broaden Stretch Outcome to include fuel poverty. Stretch Outcome 2 Allison Carrington, spoke to the proposals under Stretch Outcome 2. She highlighted that the stakeholder session feedback was supportive, there was a question regarding whether we could be focusing on meaningful work. At present focus on good quality, sustained employment. We would need to define what meaningful employment was and recognising that in certain sectors we have no control over jobs available. However, Allison was discussing meaningful work with Phil Mackie and exploring how it could be tested within one of the existing projects proposed.	Martin Murchie (ACC)

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 9	Aberdeen Prospers were also in discussion with Culture Aberdeen and Our Union Street regarding a potential aim supporting individuals to gain employability skills through volunteering opportunities such as installing and maintaining planters, gardening, etc. in Union Street. This aim would have connections with the aims under Stretch Outcome 15 and connections would be made as appropriate.	Allison Carrington (SDS)
	Stretch Outcomes 3-8 Eleanor Sheppard explained that from the development of the Children's Services Annual report, three key areas/potential gaps coming through so far: • The need to work differently with many in SIMD1 • The need to sharpen our use of poverty data • The need to address obesity	Eleanor Sheppard (ACC)
	In relation to the first two areas, Eleanor was drafting a paper to take to the next Children's Services Board meeting on opportunity to radically redesign how we deliver services to those most in need. Work being undertaken in Gateshead on this, as well as Human Learning Systems was referenced. It was suggested that a Grampian wide event on this could be held. Eleanor was also in discussion with Scottish Government over being a Pathfinder taking account of the work on whole family approach already embedded in Aberdeen such as the Fit Like Hubs. The Group discussed the need to work differently to deliver better services for people living in SIMD1 and where aims were proposing to test in a specific area, Outcome Improvement Groups needed to ensure that they were aligning and working together rather than all approaching the locality/target group individually. As above, there was a risk in potentially over asking of one locality/target group.	All OIG Chairs
	Discussion regarding obesity aim ongoing, however noted that aim 10.4 was focused on whole family approach and looked to support low-income families in priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight and want to ensure we're not duplicating any activity.	Eleanor Sheppard (ACC) /Alison MacLeod (ACHSCP)

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 10	Stretch Outcome 9 Andy Barclay advised that the Community Justice Group was proposing a change to the Stretch Outcome to ensure it aligned to the data available and focused on reducing the number of people charged with multiple offences and would be using live police data. He spoke to the aims and highlighted that they wanted to change aim 9.3 to ensure it was outcome focused and targeting the right area for example X% reduction of people into Custody Suite reporting additional support needs. In discussing the aims, it was highlighted the potential impact and unintended consequences of aim 12.4 on aim 9.10 and that this should be considered. Members also welcomed the addition of the adult anti-social behaviour aim and highlighted that LOIP was the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and therefore this was not a gap and another was not required.	Andy Barclay (Police Scotland) Michelle Crombie (ACC)
	Stretch Outcome 10 Alison MacLeod spoke through the proposal for Stretch Outcome 10, highlighting that there were no changes proposed following thematic session, all supportive. Still waiting some data but working on it and hope to have this for the final submission. All welcomed aim 10.4 and highlighted existing kitchens available support delivery of cooking classes for children and young people and their families. Alison MacLeod to connect in with Shona Milne. In terms of aim 10.8 (vaping) Jillian Evans advised that she was doing some work around vaping in primary schools and asked for the project team to connect with her. Finally, it was agreed that aim 10.5 would be prevention rather than early intervention. Stretch Outcome 11 Simon Rayner spoke through the proposals for Stretch Outcome 11, highlighting that there were no changes proposed following thematic session, all supportive. He also advised that they were connecting with aims under other Stretch Outcomes that were focusing on a similar group to ensure not duplicating activity, for example 10.6 and 11.3	Alison MacLeod (ACHSCP)

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 11	both focus on women in pregnancy in the 40% most deprived SIMD areas and would both be led by same Project Manager. Stretch Outcome 12 Michelle Crombie explained that this was an initial draft of the new Stretch Outcome 12 which had been developed on the basis d on existing aims regarding homelessness. The Group welcomed the Stretch Outcome and supportive of the aims and direction of travel with the exception of 12.2 and that the testing of this aligned to 12.3. Stretch Outcomes 13-15 Jillian Evans spoke through the proposals for Stretch Outcomes 13-15 highlighting that feedback from the stakeholder sessions was that the change in Stretch Outcome 15 potentially removed the focus of “Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen’s area for nature by 2026” and therefore the Sustainable City Group were meeting this week and considering having the Stretch Outcome covering both aspects. There was also a potential gap raised in terms of managing and balancing the public perception, and the Group were considering whether further improvement aim to increase public awareness of the consequences of decisions such as grass cutting on the environment was required to be added or whether this should be a key part of each of the existing aims proposed. Stretch Outcome 16 Michelle Crombie spoke through the proposals for Stretch Outcome 16 highlighting that the thematic session was a good and constructive meeting. One potential gap in the current projects around general communication and closing feedback loops. Feedback had been a crosscutting theme across all projects which was why it does not have its own improvement aim at present – the potential gap would be considered by the Community Empowerment Group at its next meeting. The Chair also asked all Groups to ensure that they had sufficient resourcing to deliver the aims proposed.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 12 Public Mental Health in Aberdeen	<u>The Management Group resolved:</u> (i) agree the table of proposed amendments to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 from the Outcome Improvement Groups as contained at Appendix 2; (ii) agree that Outcome Improvement Groups look across the proposals from the other Groups and consider and connect with each other on any cross-cutting areas to ensure aims were aligned and no duplication of approach; (iii) agree that the draft refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 as at Appendix 1, subject to any feedback being addressed, be published for public consultation on 5 February 2024 for 3 weeks; and (iv) note the next steps as detailed at section 4 and that the Chairs would attend the CPA Board meeting on 29 February 2024 to present/discuss proposals.	All OIG Chairs Community Planning Team All OIG Chairs
	The Management Group had before it a report which presented a mapping of the improvement activity being taken forward by Community Planning Aberdeen against the NIHR Conceptual Framework for Public Mental Health. The purpose of the mapping was to support Community Planning Aberdeen to identify gaps which might exist in tackling public mental health through the refreshed LOIP, based on the draft available as of November 2023. Outcome Improvement Groups were being asked to consider these gaps and whether further proposals could come forward as part of the final refreshed LOIP being published in April to address these gaps; or in the future as part of the full scale review of the LOIP in 2026. The report recommended:- that Management Group (a) note the mapping and commentary provided at Appendix 1; and (b) consider how Community Planning Aberdeen might wish to address the gaps highlighted in finalising the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan in April 2023. The Management Group heard from Elizabeth Robinson, NHS, who explained that her commentary was in green text and mainly about moving further upstream and tackling the determinants/ building blocks of health and wellbeing, and the huge number of areas that the LOIP was trying to cover.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	<u>The Management Group resolved:</u> (i) to approve recommendation 1; (ii) to note that the mapping had been issued to each Outcome Improvement Group for consideration in finalising proposals for the refreshed LOIP, but also to use in developing change ideas for specific projects; and (iii) to invite Elizabeth Robinson to attend the respective Outcome Improvement Group meetings when they were considering this item.	All OIG Chairs
7. Draft Refreshed Locality Plans 2021-26: North, South and Central. Page 13	The Management Group had before it a report which presented the draft refreshed North, South and Central Locality Plans. The plans underpin the refreshed Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan, as well as individual partner plans, to cement a joint and coordinated approach between professionals and local communities to improve outcomes city wide and at a locality level. The report recommended:- that Management Group (a) consider and provide feedback on the draft refreshed Locality Plans 2021-26 as at Appendix 1, 2 and 3; (b) consider the links identified between the change ideas identified within the Locality Plans and the revised stretch outcomes and improvement project aims within the refreshed LOIP; and (c) agree that the draft refreshed Locality Plans 2021-26 at Appendix 1,2, and 3 subject to any feedback being addressed, published for public consultation on 5 February for 3 weeks. <u>The Management Group resolved:</u> to agree that the draft refreshed Locality Plans 2021-26 at Appendix 1,2, and 3 subject to any feedback being addressed, published for public consultation on 5 February for 3 weeks.	Michelle Crombie (ACC)/Alison MacLeod (ACHSCP)
8. CPA Improvement Programme	Management Group had before it a report which provided an update on the progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes and 89 improvement projects spanning the LOIP and Community Empowerment Strategy. Appended to the report was (1) the overview of	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 14 Update and Appendices	progress against the CPA Improvement Programme; (2) 15 project end reports; and (3) rationale for proposed removal of improvement aim “Increase by 10% the number of children experiencing child protection processes who have access to a professional utilising their alternative communication system by 2026” under Stretch Outcome 9. The report recommended:- that the Management Group (a) note and consider the overview of progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes and 89 improvement projects spanning the LOIP and Community Empowerment Strategy as contained at Appendix 1; (b) approve the 15 project end reports contained at Appendix 2 for submission to the CPA Board in February 2024; and (c) agree to recommend to the CPA Board that project aim “Increase by 10% the number of children experiencing child protection processes who have access to a professional utilising their alternative communication system by 2026” under Stretch Outcome 9 be removed from the LOIP as recommended at Appendix 3. The Management Group noted that of the original 74 aims approved in July 2021 (pre April 2023 update), 57% of these projects (42) have been achieved and 43% (32) had not been achieved. <u>The Management Group resolved:</u> (i) to approve the recommendations; and (ii) to commend the Project Manager and their team for their achievements and commitment to the projects.	
9. Community Planning Budget 2023/2024 – Q3 Budget Monitoring Report	The Management Group had before it a report which provided an update on the 2023/24 Community Planning Budget’s financial performance for the period 1 October 2023 to 1 December 2023. The report recommended:- that Management Group note Community Planning Aberdeen Budget’s performance during quarter 3 of 2023/24.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	<u>The Management Group resolved:</u> (i) to approve the recommendation; and (ii) to note that Michelle Crombie had followed up with the Civic Forum to confirm the status of the current funding which had been allocated to it and that further discussions were required.	Michelle Crombie (ACC)
10. Volunteer Charter Page 15	The Management Group had before it a report which introduced the Volunteer Charter and recommended that Community Planning Aberdeen became a Volunteer Charter Champion. The report recommended:- that the Management Group (a) agree that Community Planning Aberdeen becomes a Volunteer Charter Champion; and (b) appoint a CPA representative who was authorised to sign the Charter on behalf of the partnership and make such arrangements as necessary for it to be integrated within appropriate Community Planning structures. The Management Group discussed the Charter during which it was agreed that it was important that all partners consider the charter and confirm position in advance of the CPA Board determining whether to sign up. <u>The Management Group resolved:</u> to agree that each partner be asked to consider becoming a Volunteer Charter Champion and advise of decision in advance of the report being submitted to the CPA Board and determining whether to become a Volunteer Champion.	All partners
11. CPA Forward Planner	The Management Group had before it the CPA Forward Planner. It was noted that the Scottish Enterprise Strategy had been launched and were happy to present that at forthcoming meeting. <u>The Management Group resolved:</u>	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	to note the CPA Forward Planner.	
12. Date of Next Meeting	The Management Group noted that its next meeting would be held on 27 March 2024 at 2pm	

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD **29 FEBRUARY 2024**

Present: Councillor Christian Allard (Aberdeen City Council), Chairperson; Chief Superintendent Graeme Mackie (Police Scotland), Vice Chair; Gale Beattie (Aberdeen City Council); Councillor Kate Blake (Aberdeen City Council); Andy Buchan (as a substitute for Andy Wright, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); Pete Edwards (University of Aberdeen); Susan Elston (NESCOL); Councillor Martin Greig (Aberdeen City Council); William Hardie (Robert Gordon University, as a substitute for Duncan Cockburn); Councillor Miranda Radley (Aberdeen City Council); and Susan Webb (NHS Grampian).

Also Present: Michelle Crombie; Martin Murchie; Eleanor Sheppard and Allison Swanson (All Aberdeen City Council); Allison McLeod; and Simon Rayner (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership); Allison Carrington (Skills Development Scotland); and Jillian Evans (NHS Grampian)

Apologies: Evonne Boyd (Skills Development Scotland); Duncan Cockburn (Robert Gordon University); Councillor John Cooke (Aberdeen City Council and IJB Chair); Adam Coldwells (NHS Grampian); Matthew Lockley (Scottish Enterprise); Richard McCallum (Scottish Government); Angela Scott (Aberdeen City Council) and Andrew Wright (Scottish Fire and Rescue Services).

Page 47

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Engagement Session on the draft refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan	Michelle Crombie – Community Planning Manager – (Aberdeen City Council) welcomed the Board to the meeting and highlighted that Community Planning Aberdeen was currently in the final stages of a comprehensive process of refreshing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016-26 to ensure that it remained focussed on priority issues. The refreshed LOIP was due to be presented to the CPA Board on 29 April 2024 for approval. In advance of submission, there would be an engagement session which had been designed to explore with CPA Board members the Stretch Outcomes and improvement aims proposed from the Outcome Improvement Groups for prioritisation over the next two years and the rationale for these. The outcome of the session would be used to inform the development of the final proposals for the refreshed LOIP prior to being presented. Thereafter, Board members in small groups visited each of the five thematic discussion tables on the themes of economy, people (children and young people), people (adults), place and community empowerment as within the refreshed LOIP. The discussion was led by the Chairs of Outcome Improvement Group on the proposals within the <u>draft refreshed LOIP as had been consulted on with the public between 5-25 February 2024 and Board members were asked to consider the following questions:</u>	

Agenda Item 1.3

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
		• Are these the right Stretch Outcomes for the Partnership? • Do you believe these are the right improvement project aims to achieve our Stretch Outcomes by 2026? • Are we missing anything from your perspective? Thereafter, each Thematic Group shared feedback from overall discussions as summarised below. Economy – Martin Murchie – Anti Poverty Group Chair – (Aberdeen City Council), highlighted the following main areas raised in the economy thematic discussion: • Challenging environment with people experiencing in work poverty and importance of quality of employment • Population challenges – migration and birth rate employment and employability skills for all citizens. • Noting that each of the projects would be identifying the tests of change to support achievement of the respective aims and emphasised that projects would be focusing on additionality and not core business. People (Children and Young People) – Eleanor Sheppard – Children’s Services Board Chair – (Aberdeen City Council) highlighted the following feedback in the children and young people thematic discussion: • Reflection that the Children’s Service Plan, Stretch Outcomes 3-8 in the draft refreshed LOIP had been refreshed in April 2023 and was to be refreshed every 3 years. • Stretch Outcomes were aspirational, in particular Stretch Outcome 8 “100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination.” However, recognised that the feedback received from parents and carers on the consultation was that the 95% proposed should be more aspirational. • Noting that from the development of the Children’s Services Annual report 2023/24, there were three key areas coming through so far which were being explored by the Children’s Services Board: • Reshaping how we deliver services and engage with citizens in SIMD1 • The need to sharpen our use of poverty data • The need to address obesity using whole family approach	

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
		People (Adults) – Simon Rayner – Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Lead – (Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership) highlighted the following feedback in the adults thematic discussion: • Interrelatedness of projects across the Stretch Outcomes under the adults theme and benefits of linking up work to avoid duplication, in particular to ensure a whole system approach to supporting individuals with multiple complex needs • Noting that aims of reducing vaping and substance use of young people were under this theme to ensure whole family approach embedded • Query whether Stretch Outcome 11 ambitious enough • Feeling that aim 9.8 regarding hate crime needed refined, currently read as two things - confidence to report and increased reporting. Query whether it would be better to focus on increasing public confidence to report rather than the number of reported crimes • Opportunities to involve other organisations such as the Rowett Institute in project focused on supporting 50 low income families in priority neighbourhood to improve eating behaviours and adopt positive lifestyle choices to help towards a healthy weight. Place – Jillian Evans – NHS Grampian, highlighted the following feedback in the place thematic discussion: • Overall support for the Stretch Outcomes; • Recognition that a number of the aims are continuing, however the projects are resetting and identifying new improvements to support achievement people are actively involved; enthusiasm and new aim focused on community led actions in particular environmental improvements to their place in light of the engagement exercise • Noted there were a lot of comments on place during the engagement showing people were passionate about green space. Agreement that green space was important for a range of reasons, health and wellbeing, economic benefit and environmental protection, as well as playing a crucial role in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change; and • Noting the importance of raising awareness and understanding of the decisions taken to support nature, but also to inform and encourage behaviour change, a specific aim on this area had also been added in response to engagement feedback.	

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 20		Community Empowerment – Michelle Crombie - Community Planning Manager – (Aberdeen City Council), highlighted the following feedback in the community empowerment thematic discussion: • Supportive of having the new community empowerment section and important that this is embedded in the refreshed LOIP to re-emphasise commitment to the Community Empowerment Strategy and communities being equal partners; • Reasonable Stretch Outcome and discussion as to how it was measured and representativeness of the City Voice • Importance of looking at ways to work together to engage with all citizens and capture what matters most to them through all projects; and • Importance of accountability and ensuring through our reporting mechanisms that we are hearing the voice of our citizens and working together to gather those actionable insights and reporting back to citizens. <u>The Board resolved: -</u> (i) to thank the chairs of the Outcome Improvement Groups for the engagement session; and (ii) to note that Outcome Improvement Groups were finalising proposals and that the refreshed LOIP 2016-26 would be submitted to the next meeting of the CPA Board for consideration.	
	2. Appointment of Vice Chair	The Board heard from the Chair who advised that Chief Superintendent Graeme Mackie would be standing down as the Vice Chair. Superintendent Mackie would remain a member of the Board. The Chair advised that Susan Webb, Director of Public Health, NHS Grampian, had confirmed that she was happy to take on the role as the new Vice Chair. The Chair asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Vice Chair or did the Board agree the appointment of Susan Webb as Vice Chair. There being no further nominations, the Board agreed to appoint Susan Webb as Vice Chair. The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Mackie for his enthusiasm and commitment to the role and in helping lead the charge to work in partnership to help improve the lives and opportunities of our citizens.	

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
		<u>The Board resolved: -</u> (i) to appoint Susan Webb as the new Vice Chair; and (ii) to thank Chief Superintendent Graeme Mackie for his time and commitment during his tenure as Vice Chair.	
3.	CPA Board Minute of Previous Meeting of 29 November 2023 - for approval.	The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 29 November 2023 for approval. <u>The Board resolved: -</u> to approve the minute as a correct record.	
6	Draft CPA Management Group Minute 31 January 2024 – for information	The Board had before it the draft minute of the CPA Management Group meeting of 31 January 2024 for information. <u>The Board resolved: -</u> to note the draft minute.	
Page 21	CPA Board Forward Planner	The Board had before it the CPA Board Forward Planner. <u>The Board resolved: -</u> to agree the Forward Planner.	
6.	CPA Improvement Programme Quarterly Update and Appendices	The Board had before it a report which provided the final update on the progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes and 89 improvement projects spanning the LOIP and Community Empowerment Strategy in advance of the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) being considered on 29 April 2024. The report also presented 15 project reports. <u>The report recommended: -</u> that the Board - (a) note and consider the overview of the progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes and 89 improvement projects spanning the LOIP and Community Empowerment Strategy as contained at Appendix 1; (b) approve the 15 project reports contained at Appendix 2; and (c) agree that project aims “Increase by 10% the number of children experiencing child protection processes who have access to a professional utilising their alternative communication system by 2026” under Stretch Outcome 9 be removed from the LOIP as recommended at Appendix 3.	

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
		<u>The Board resolved: -</u> (i) to approve the recommendations; and (ii) to commend the Project Managers and their teams for their achievements and commitment to the projects.	
7.	Date of Next Meeting – 29 April 2024	The Board noted that its next meeting would take place on 29 April 2024 at 2pm.	



Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Draft Refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026
Lead Officer	Angela Scott, Chair of CPA Management Group and Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
Report Author	Allison Swanson, Improvement Programme Manager
Date of Report	20 March 2024
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 27 March 2024

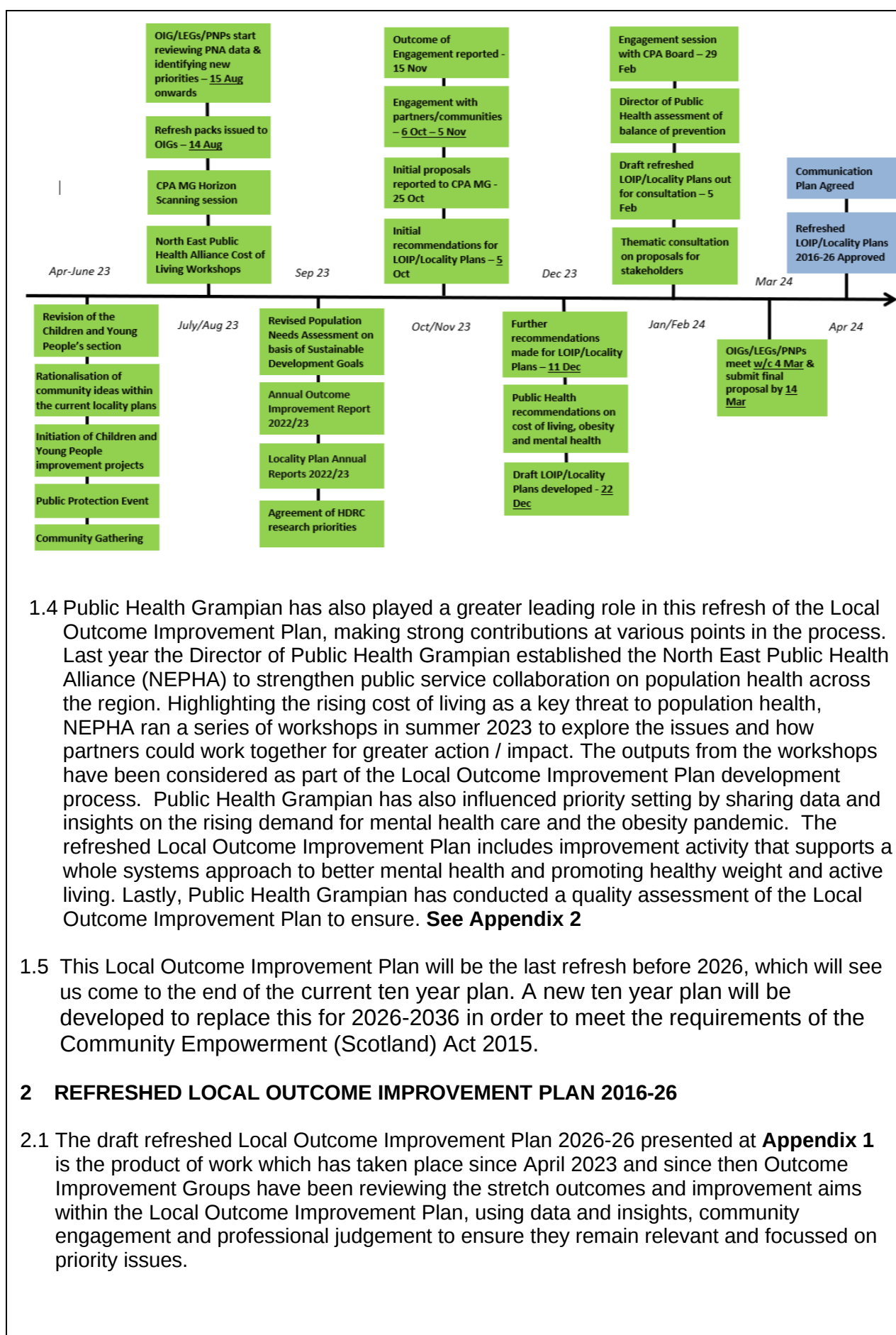
Purpose of the Report

This report presents the final draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 which has been refreshed during 2023-24 to ensure Community Planning Aberdeen is prioritising the improvement activity most likely to have the greatest impact in achieving our vision of Aberdeen as a place where all people can prosper by 2026.

Summary of Key Information

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires statutory community planning partners to work together to achieve improved outcomes and reduce inequalities which result from socio-economic disadvantage. As required by the Act, Community Planning Aberdeen meets this duty through the development and delivery of the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016-26. The ten year plan sets out priority local outcomes which member organisations are committed to improve for and with local people. The city wide LOIP is underpinned by three area based Locality Plans, as well as member organisation's single system plans.
- 1.2 The [Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#) (LOIP) was first published in August 2016. Since then it has been refreshed every two to three years to ensure it reflects changing priorities as a result of progress achieved and the moving external environment. In 2023 we began refreshing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan for the third time since it was first published. See diagram below for overview of the 2023-24 LOIP Refresh process.
- 1.3 Enhancing the development process for this latest refresh was the deeper involvement of people using the Place Standard tool. The exercise, carried out online and in-person, engaged 470 residents in telling us what things they think are good now and what improvements they think we should work on together to make things better in the future. The output of the engagement has informed the proposals with the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans. (See [full](#) and [summary](#) reports). A public consultation and stakeholder thematic sessions were held as detailed in the diagram below and further information on these are available at the [LOIP Refresh webpage](#).



2.2 Summary of key changes

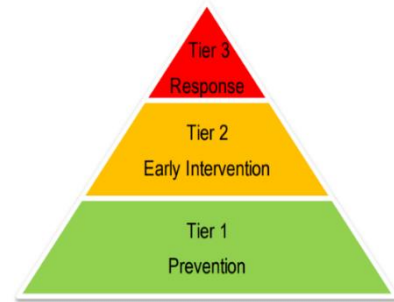
- Community Planning Aberdeen will have 16 Stretch Outcomes, with:
 - Stretch Outcomes relating to employability and skills development merged into one
 - New Stretch Outcome focused on reducing homelessness (**note this stretch outcome is still subject to change at this point as we work with the Royal Foundation to develop further as part of the Homewards Programme**); and
 - New section on community empowerment, incorporating Stretch Outcome 16 approved in 2022 as part of the community empowerment strategy.
- All other stretch outcomes have been renewed and refreshed on basis of place standard and our ambitions for improvement by 2026.
- Inclusion of intervention tier for each improvement aim to demonstrate the balance between the three tiers of prevention and early intervention

2.3 The refresh process has provided the opportunity to revisit all priority stretch outcomes and as above a number of changes are proposed. The table below provides a comparison of the stretch outcomes agreed as part of the refresh in 2021 and those proposed in 2024.

Stretch Outcomes 2021	Stretch Outcomes 2024
Economy	
1. No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026	1. 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.
2. 400 unemployed Aberdeen City residents supported into Fair Work by 2026.	
3. 500 Aberdeen City residents upskilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026.	2. Working towards a 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.
People (Children & Young People)	
4. 95% of children (0-5 years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026.	3. 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5. 90% of Children and young people will report that their experiences of mental health and wellbeing have been listened to by 2026. This is reflected in interactions, activities, supports and services.	4. 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.
6. As corporate parents we will ensure 95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, health and emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026.	5. By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026.
7. 95% of children living in our priority localities will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.	6. 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.
8. Child friendly city where all decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them as rights holders by 2026.	7. 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.
	8. 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination.

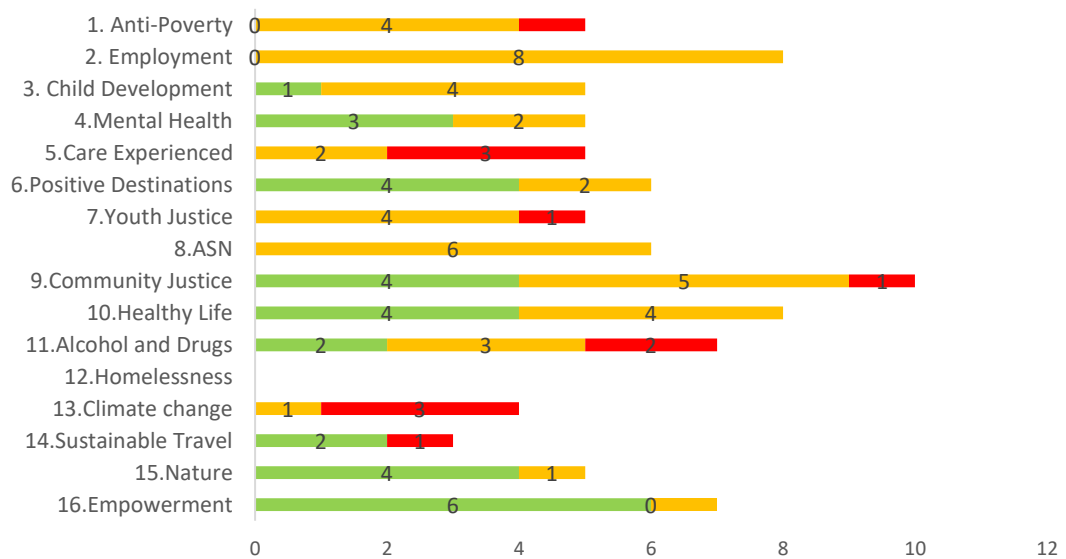
9. 30% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.	
People (Adults)	
10. 25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026.	9. 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026
11. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.	10. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.
12. Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026	11. Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.
	12. Reduce overall homeless presentations by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026. (Draft, subject to change)
Place	
13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by 42.5% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.	13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
14. 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026.	14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking; 5% of people cycling and wheeling as main mode of travel and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026
15. Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026	15. 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.
Community Empowerment	
	16. 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.
2.4 Along with draft refreshed LOIP 2026-26 attached are: • a summary of the Plan at Appendix 3; and • a Children and Young Person's version of the Plan at Appendix 4 2.5 <u>Prevention and early intervention approach</u> 2.6 We have taken a prevention and early intervention approach to planning for improved outcomes by using the Tiered approach adopted by Aberdeen City Council (ACC) and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP). Each of the improvement aims has been categorised to evidence the shift and demonstrate that there is an appropriate balance between the three tiers. This analysis has been detailed within the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan.	

- **Tier 1** – Prevention (Taking action to prevent the occurrence of harm through universal measures)
- **Tier 2** – Early Intervention (A. Interventions that ward off the initial onset of harm and create empowered resilient communities and staff and B. intervening before further harm takes place in a way that avoids the later costs in both human and financial terms of handling the consequences of that harm)
- **Tier 3** – Response (harm has occurred)

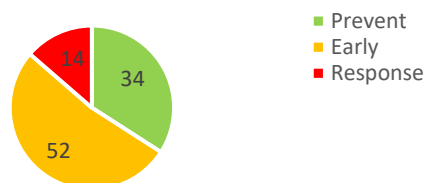


2.7 As shown below, 34% of aims are prevention, 52% early intervention and 14% response.

No. of projects per stretch outcome, categorised by tier



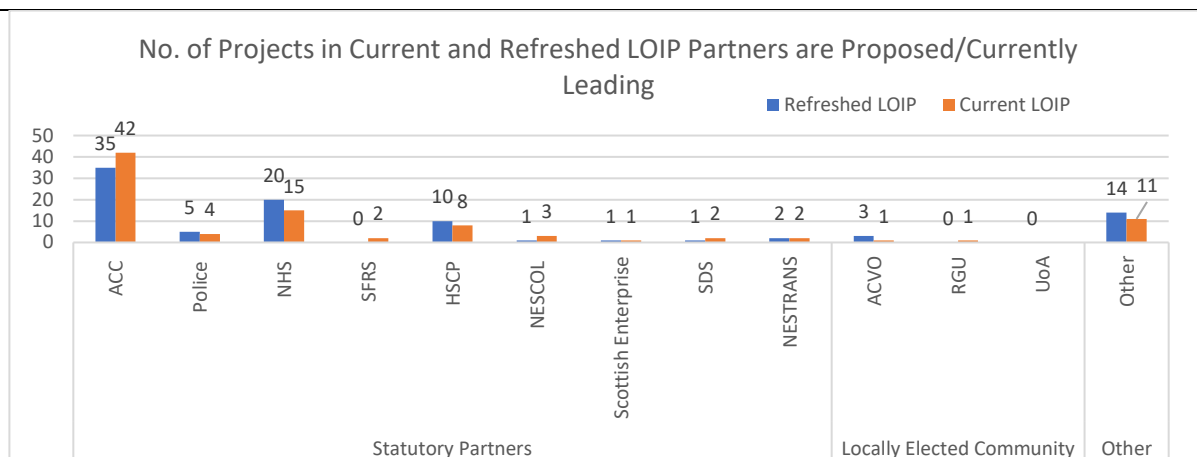
% of LOIP project aims categorised by tier



2.8 **Leadership and Resourcing**

2.9 Strong leadership and commitment of resources by individual partners continues to be fundamental to the successful delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Partners demonstrate this commitment through their leadership and contribution to the improvement projects which they have collectively identified to break down and achieve the Partnership's priority 16 stretch outcomes.

2.10 Lead partners have been identified by the Outcome Improvement Groups for each of the improvement projects proposed for the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan. This is summarised in the chart below. Four projects are proposed to be co-led.



- Note that this chart only communicates leadership of improvement projects and not the breadth and depth of partner involvement in improvement activities

2.11 Outcome Improvement Groups have been asked to ensure that they have sufficient capacity and access to partner resources to progress the improvement projects proposed as part of this refresh.

3. CPA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2024-26

3.1 Subject to the approval of the refreshed LOIP by the CPA Board in April 2024, the current CPA Improvement Programme will also be revised. As above, the programme for 2024-26 will ensure a phased and coordinated approach to the initiation of new projects and the testing of changes.

3.2 Community Planning Aberdeen will continue to take a phased and coordinated approach to the initiation of new projects and the testing of changes with and by communities. This is to help ensure that resources are being managed effectively and channelled to the projects of greatest importance and that no one partner or community is overwhelmed by the number of projects or changes being tested. Improvement projects are intended to be time limited, using rapid cycle testing to gather data and gain confidence quickly in the efficacy of a change before scaling up. This ensures that resources are not being committed to implementing changes on a city wide level which are not showing to be effective at the testing stage. Projects should be closed as aims are achieved to allow partners to move on to the next priority.

3.3 Capacity Building/Support

3.4 CPA continues to be committed to using Quality Improvement (QI) methodology to carry out improvement work. To support the delivery of improvements, building confidence and capability of our Project Leads to use the quality improvement tools remains vital. CPA already has a number of established mechanisms for providing Project Teams with advice, support and coaching. However, with new Project Leads and Teams we need to continue to refresh and promote those opportunities. Model for Improvement bootcamps will continue. In addition, we are widening the advice and support with new areas of support now being offered as part of the programme. For example, communication to different audiences at different stages of our projects is important in both increasing the participation and engagement with our communities, but also in improving story telling about what we are achieving and working with projects to engage with communities and gain the voice of individuals with lived experience, ensuring that the improvements being identified are informed and co-designed by communities and individuals with lived experience. The programme of support can be viewed at [Appendix 5](#).

4 NEXT STEPS

Public Health review of proposals – Appendix 2	Feb/March 2024
CPA Board Meeting to approve refreshed LOIP	29 April 2024
Communication Plan to launch the Refreshed Plans – Appendix 6	May 2024
Review partner representation and refresh membership	June/July 2024
Revised CPA Improvement Programme to ensure achievement of all LOIP improvement project aims over the next two year	June/July 2024
Reporting of new and refreshed project charters to commence	June/July 2024
Reporting of progress of improvement aims to recommence	June/July 2024

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the Management Group:

- i) Subject to further amendment of Stretch Outcome 12 on homelessness, endorse the draft refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 presented at Appendix 1 for submission to the CPA Board on 29 April 2024;
- ii) Subject to approval by the Board agree that Partners be asked to update their strategic plans to align to the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan and cascade the refreshed Plan across their organisations and community networks to raise awareness;
- iii) Note the summary and children and young people versions of the refreshed LOIP as presented at Appendices [3](#) and [4](#);
- iv) Consider the LOIP in conjunction with the draft Locality Plans (Item 2.2) which seek to connect the priority issues being tackled within the LOIP to community assets;
- v) Note the support available to improvement projects teams as presented at [Appendix 5](#);
- vi) Endorse the communication plan as presented at [Appendix 6](#) for both the promotion of the approval of the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans and ongoing promotion; and
- vii) Agree next steps as detailed at section 4.

Opportunities and Risks

The revised Population Needs Assessment 2023, along with the Annual Report against the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2022/23 and the Locality Plan Annual Reports 2022/23 and quarterly improvement project tracking reports provide on the evidence base for what Community Planning Aberdeen has achieved since the LOIP was refreshed in 2021. This is critical to ensuring that the Partnership continues to respond to local need, taking into account the changing context and priority issues.

Consultation

The following people were consulted in the preparation of this report:

Michelle Crombie, Community Planning Manager
CPA Management Group
Outcome Improvement Groups;
LOIP Project Managers;
LOIP Lead Contacts;
Integrated Locality Planning Team
Key stakeholders and members of the public

Background Papers
LOIP 2016-2026; Locality Plans for North, South and Central and PNA 2023

Contact Details:

Michelle Cochlan
Community Planning Manager
Aberdeen City Council
mcochlan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Allison Swanson
Improvement Programme Manager
Aberdeen City Council
aswanson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Aberdeen Prospers Group:
Chair, Allison Carrington
Skills Development Scotland
Allison.Carrington@sds.co.uk

Anti Poverty Group
Chair, Martin Murchie
Aberdeen City Council
mmurchie@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Children's Services Board
Chair, Eleanor Sheppard
Aberdeen City Council
esheppard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Resilient, Included Supported Group:
Chair, Alison Mcleod
ACHSCP
AliMacleod@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Alcohol & Drugs Partnership:
Chair, Gale Beattie
Police Scotland
GALEB@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Homewards Aberdeen Coalition:
Contact: Anu Kasim
Royal Foundation
anu.kasim@royalfoundation.com

Community Justice Group
Chair, Claire Wilson
Aberdeen City Council
CIWilson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Empowerment Group
Chair, Michelle Crombie
Aberdeen City Council
mcrombie@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Sustainable City Group:
Chair, Jillian Evans
NHS Grampian
jillian.evans3@nhs.scot

en

Page 31

Draft as at 19 March 2024

Local Outcome Improvement Plan



Community Planning
Aberdeen

2016-26

Refresh April 2024

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Foreword	3-5
2. The Aberdeen Context	6-9
3. Vision for Aberdeen City	10-12
4. Prosperous Economy	13-17
5. Prosperous People (Children & Young People)	18-26
6. Prosperous People (Adults)	27-37
7. Prosperous Place	38-43
8. Community Empowerment	44-47
8. How we will Achieve our Outcomes?	48-49
9. Our Golden Pyramid	50
10. Governance and Accountability	51-52
11. Change Log	53-54
12. Endorsements	55



FOREWORD



Councillor Allard, Co-Leader of Aberdeen City Council and Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen



Susan Webb, Director of Public Health, NHS Grampian, Vice Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen

A place where all people can prosper – that remains our collective vision for Aberdeen. Regardless of our background or circumstance, everyone in our great city should enjoy the same opportunities to flourish as an individual. The Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) sets out the means for achieving this. Launched in 2016, the 10-year Plan is led by Community Planning Aberdeen, the local partnership of public, private and third sector organisations and communities all working together to improve people's lives across Aberdeen.

A huge amount of work had already been done across the partnership to take forward LOIP projects, and this positioned us well for the final two years of our ten year plan.

We know it has been a challenging period for people, and as we continue our recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, people, families, businesses, communities have also had to deal with the rising cost-of-living. Like all areas of Scotland, public services in Aberdeen are facing increasing demand with reducing resources.

With people having to make difficult decisions between heat and food, evidence shows that general physical and mental health have been affected, with our most deprived communities most impacted. The scale of the challenge is understood and we are committed to taking forward projects that aim to increase access to food, fuel, homes and financial support. In addition, we will continue to look at how we best support and provide services to people living in our priority neighbourhoods to reduce inequalities. Whilst taking a targeted approach to support our most vulnerable communities, we are keen to ensure our universal services create a culture in which healthy behaviours are the norm for everyone; starting in the early years and consistent throughout our lives.

We are proud of our achievements and progress to date from supporting people and families across the City with 696 households helped with fuel bills to achieve £134,464.52 in fuel bill savings; increasing household income by helping 7677 people to access £1,185,861.93 per week of unclaimed benefits; supporting 53 unemployed people to start a business and 228 people into sustained, good quality employment; helping 595 people to upskill and reskill to access employment opportunities; an 98% increase in Real Living Wage employers, with 103 employers seeing over 1,800 workers receive an increase in wages since the establishment of the real Living Wage movement in the city.

These achievements highlight the benefits of Community Planning working effectively together across all areas that impact the place we live; from mitigating the acute impact of the cost of living crisis, the transition to a low-carbon economy, and the need to tackle poverty, reduce inequalities and empower communities. Notwithstanding the work already undertake across the partnership to take forward LOIP projects, we know from our engagement with the communities that we have more to do collectively. We are not complacent. Let us consider the challenges and our response.

We know that the effects of harmful drinking and substance use on individuals, their families and communities are wide-ranging, and we strive to sustain the positive outcomes shown in latest data available at the end of 2022 and our commitment to take forward a range of interventions in our communities to achieve this is evident in the plan.

Aberdeen's progress in reducing homelessness stalled with a 25% increase in homelessness applications in 2022/23 caused by post-pandemic movements, rising rents, and economic uncertainty. As a Partnership we are committed to reducing homelessness and last year we were delighted when Aberdeen was successful in its bid to join the Homeward programme, led by The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales. The programme aims to end homelessness, making it rare, brief, and unrepeatable and through the addition of a new Stretch Outcome "Reduce overall homeless presentations by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026" shows our determination to reduce homelessness in the city.

We believe that by enabling individuals and communities to take control of their lives and their local environment, we can build a stronger, more resilient city for the people who live here. We have seen a 7.3% reduction in the number of people reporting that they feel they have influence and sense of control. That is why we are adding Stretch Outcome 16 "50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026" from the Community Empowerment Strategy into the LOIP. Our ambition is to work in partnership with all communities, valuing their vital role in improving outcomes for our city. We recognise that power inequalities have existed in the past and continue to exist today, and we are committed to addressing these issues by increasing awareness and creating opportunities for participation in local planning and decision making.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on our children, young people, and their families. It has affected the economy, opportunities, mental health and wellbeing, and highlighted the needs of our most vulnerable young people and the inequalities they face. We have six stretch outcomes within the LOIP focused on children and young people, which show our commitment to addressing these challenges and our ambition to support every child, irrespective of their circumstances; to grow, develop and reach their full potential.

The ‘natural’ and ‘built’ environment can have a significant role in determining the quality of life for the people who live here and is vital to improving health and reducing inequality. We know that we need to do more to mitigate the risk from climate change and to support our communities to be resilient in taking independent action towards understanding the risks presented by climate change and adapting to them. We are focusing on reducing carbon emissions, increasing sustainable travel, protecting our natural environment and ensuring that our spaces and buildings are well cared for.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, we recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and support economic growth which doesn’t compromise the climate and nature – issues at the core of our Local Outcome Improvement Plan. We have shown the alignment of our projects across each of our four strategic themes with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Through delivery of our projects, we are determined to create a more equitable, sustainable and robust future for all.

The refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan and our updated Locality Plans, allow us to reach out to our people, communities and businesses, and by continuing to work collectively and successfully we can help to make life better for everyone, leaving no one behind, in this great city that we call home.

Community Planning Aberdeen Board Members

Angela Scott Chief Executive Aberdeen City Council	Graeme Mackie Chief Superintendent Police Scotland	Adam Coldwells Chief Executive NHS Grampian	Susan Webb Director of Public Health NHS Grampian	Andy Wright Local Senior Officer Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Susan Elston Regional Chair North East Scotland College	Sarah Chew Chair ACVO	Duncan Cockburn Vice Principal for Strategy and Planning Robert Gordon University
Councillor John Cooke Chair of Integrated Joint Board	Councillor Christian Allard Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Kate Blake Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Martin Greig Aberdeen City Council	Councillor Miranda Radley Aberdeen City Council	Yvonne Boyd Head of Operations North East Skills Development Scotland	Pete Edwards Vice Principal University of Aberdeen	Matt Lockley Head of Innovation & Place, Scottish Enterprise



THE ABERDEEN CONTEXT



Like all areas of Scotland, public services in Aberdeen are facing increasing demand with reducing resources. In order to understand how best to prioritise our shared resources, we need clarity on the current and future needs of local people in Aberdeen. Our approach to [Population Needs Assessment](#) ensures we systematically analyse data across a broad range of indicators to identify the major issues facing the City. The following paragraphs provide a summary of findings from the most recent data available as of August 2023.

Our Economy

While the gap between the wealth of the North East region and Scotland has been progressively narrowing since 2015, Aberdeen remains a competitive and productive city with GVA (Gross Value Added) per head in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire being 23.7% higher than the Scottish average in 2021. However there have been challenges. Between 2019 and 2022 the number of growth sector enterprises decreased by 830 and the number of people employed in these enterprises has fallen from 60,890 to 52,630. Similarly direct employment in the Oil and Gas sector has decline from its peak of 30,600 in 2015 to 21,000 in 2021. Nevertheless, the oil and gas sector continues to be a significant employer, directly and indirectly (i.e. within the wider supply chain) supporting around 60,000 jobs in the North East. The region is now embracing an economic diversification strategy, transitioning to new forms of renewable energy and supporting the growth of high-value jobs in non-energy sectors.

In the year from April 2022-March 2022, 76% of Aberdeen's working age population was economically active and 71.9% were in employment – lower than the respective rates for Scotland (77.4% and 74.4% respectively). Following a drop in average weekly wage (median gross) in 2020, the weekly wage for people living in Aberdeen City has increased

and at £637.90 in 2022 was similar to the rate for Scotland of £640.30. The proportion of people earning less than the living wage has decreased from 11.9% in 2020 to 6.7% in 2022 and is lower than the rate for Scotland of 9.0%.

Data from SIMD 2020 suggests that overall Aberdeen remains a relatively affluent city - based on SIMD 2016, 40% of Aberdeen's data zones are in the 20% least deprived areas of Scotland. However, there remain areas of deprivation, with 8% of Aberdeen's data zones being classified as being in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland. More recent data suggests that in 2021/22, 20.5% of children in Aberdeen were living in poverty – up from 18.3% in 2020/21. While there is limited data on the effect of the cost of living crisis, it is likely to have an impact on many households with particular groups of people being more likely to feel the effects. These include: lone parent families; households where someone is disabled; families with three or more children, minority ethnic families; families with a child under one year old and families where the mother is under 25 years. Results from the City Voice show an increase in the proportion of respondents who worried they would not be able to afford to heat their home or have enough food to eat and data from food banks shows an increase in uptake with almost 62,000 emergency food parcels being distributed in 2022/23. In the year 2022-23, there were 1,762 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation in Aberdeen City Council. This is up from 1,404 in 2021-22 – an increase of 25%.

Our People (Children and Young People)

In 2021 there were 35,860 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City – this equates to 15.8% of the City's total population which is slightly lower than the Scottish figure of 16.6%. In 2022 there were 14,573 primary school pupils and 10,430 secondary school pupils in Aberdeen City. There were also 140 pupils enrolled in Special Schools.

In July 2022 there were 480 Looked After Children and young people in Aberdeen City – equivalent to 1.2% of the 0-17 years population (same as Scotland). Foster care is the most common setting for Looked After Children in Aberdeen City. At 38.5%, the proportion of children in kinship care (at home with parents or with friends/relatives) is lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland. While improved, as in Scotland the attainment outcomes for CECYP are still lower than those for all pupils. In 2021/22 in Aberdeen City 76.1% of Looked After Children left school with 1 or more qualification at SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) level 4 (78.3% for Scotland). Similarly, 67.4% were in a positive destination at follow-up compared to 90.8% for all pupils and 70.4% for Scotland. The percentage of school leavers (all pupils) in a positive follow-up destination varied by deprivation (based on SIMD) with 85% of school leavers in the most deprived quintile having a positive destination compared to 95.3% of those in the least deprived quintile. The number of children on the Child Protection Register increased from 83 in 2021 to 115 in 2022.

In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 4,144 referrals received to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Grampian of which 3,135 (75.6%) were accepted. Data from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey suggests that those in the low family affluence group and those who did not disclose their gender were more likely to report a range of negative outcomes and feelings across nearly all measures.

Our People (Adults)

Based on Census data, at March 2022 Aberdeen City had a population of 224,000. This equates to 4.1% of Scotland's population. Between 2011 and 2022, the population in Aberdeen City grew by 0.5% (from 222,793) compared to an increase of 2.7% for Scotland as a whole. Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen city has a higher proportion of people aged 16-64 years (68.2% compared to 64.6%) and a lower proportion of people age 65+ years (17.1% compared to 20.1%) and under 15 year-olds (14.7% compared to 15.3%).

Aberdeen City has a relatively diverse population. The most recent available figures (year ending June 2021) show an estimated 22.5% of the City's population was born outside of the UK compared to 9.7% for Scotland.

Estimated life expectancy at birth in Aberdeen is broadly in line with Scottish averages at 80.7 years for females and 76.9 years for males (80.7 years 76.5 years respectively for Scotland). However, as in Scotland, life expectancy is strongly associated with deprivation, with those in the most deprived areas having a lower life expectancy than those in the least deprived areas with a difference between those in most and least deprived areas of 10 years for males and 8.1 years for females. Healthy life expectancy measures years lived in good health. While life expectancy has remained broadly stable, healthy life expectancy has decreased for both males and females from 66.3 years in 2014-16 to 61.4 years in 2019-21 for females and 62.8 years to 60.2 years for males.

There is a mixed picture in relation to health behaviours. Positive signs are lower than average rates of smoking and smoking during pregnancy, and higher than average rates of active travel. At 25%, the rate of adults drinking above the guideline recommendations of 14 units per week has also decreased but is still slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 24%. There has been a drop in the number of drug-related deaths with 42 drug-related deaths in 2022 in Aberdeen City – down from 62 deaths in 2021. Five year age-standardised rate for 2018-2022 was 22.0 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 23.4.

In 2020/21, 16.3% of people in Aberdeen City were prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. While lower than the national rate (19.3%), consistent with trends in Scotland the proportion of people receiving prescriptions for these conditions has been increasing in recent years, from (13% in 2010/11). In 2022, there were 28 probable suicides in Aberdeen City (22 males and 6 females) – up slightly from 27 in 2021.

In general, where data is available, it shows a strong relationship between deprivation and health and health behaviours, with those in the most deprived areas having worse outcomes than those in the least deprived areas.

Our Place

Aberdeen has the 8th largest local authority population in Scotland. The city is made up of 37 neighbourhoods, 13 of which are recognised as deprived based on Scottish Index of Deprivation (SIMD).

The importance of Community Empowerment has been recognised in the Community Empowerment Strategy. In June 2023, most respondents (71.8%) to the City Voice agreed that efforts to address community issues are worthwhile and that they would like to be involved in decisions that affect their community (70.5%). However only 31.8% said they knew how to get involved in decisions and 22.1% that they were currently involved. There are currently over 80,600 volunteers in Aberdeen City, contributing 6.2 million hours of help every year in Aberdeen.

In 2022/23 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,449), Road Traffic Offences (4,162) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,608). In 2021/22 there were 2,579 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – down slightly from 2,610 in 2020/21. The rate of accidental dwelling fires is slightly higher in Aberdeen (163 per 100,000 dwellings) than in Scotland (157). The number of people injured in road traffic accidents increased from 64 in 2021 to 82 in 2022.

There is a national and local commitment to meet the target of Net Zero Emissions by 2045. Since 2005, CO₂ emissions in Aberdeen have fallen by 40.4% since 2005 to 1,130 kt in 2021. In 2021, per capita levels were slightly lower in Aberdeen (4.97 tCO₂e) compared to Scotland (5.1 tCO₂e). While the amount of household waste generated increased in 2020 and 2021 compared to the preceding years, the amount going to landfill has decreased – falling from 58,021 tonnes in 2016 to 9,376 tonnes in 2021.

The carbon impact of household waste has fallen from 253,016 tonnes CO₂e in 2016 to 224,544 tonnes CO₂e in 2019 (although again there were increases in 2020 and 2021 compared to the immediately preceding years). Active travel can also play a part in reducing emissions. In 2021, an estimated 24% of people in Aberdeen City used active travel (walking or cycling) to get to work or education. This is an increase from 21.4% in 2018/19. However, climate change is being experienced now across Aberdeen with changes to local rainfall patterns and weather events putting increasing numbers of people and property at risk. In December 2022, almost 60% of City Voice respondents reported being worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather events – double the response in 2020. The most recent Flood Risk Management Strategy produced by SEPA for the North East Local Plan District (2022-2028) identifies 4 areas in Aberdeen City that are potentially vulnerable to flooding – Aberdeen City North (Bridge Of Don, Dyce, Kingswells-north), Aberdeen City – South (Central), Peterculter, Cove and Nigg Bay (Cove Bay and Nigg Bay). The total number of people at risk from flooding for the North-East Local area is 51,000. The number of people at risk of flooding for Aberdeen City is 32,510. This means that 63.75% of the number of people at risk from flooding in the North-East are within Aberdeen City.

Greenspace is important for a range of reasons, including health and well-being, economic benefit and environmental protection. Our greenspaces also play a crucial role in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change. While Aberdeen has a diverse mix of greenspaces for people and wildlife, the types, quantities, quality and accessibility of these are not evenly distributed across the City. Areas of social deprivation tend to have lower diversity and quality spaces which in turn can impact on the health outcomes for those communities. In December 2022, 69.9% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with their local greenspace – up from 65% in March 2020.

The Partnership's response to these challenges is set out in this Local Outcome Improvement Plan which details the improvement activity the Partnership will prioritise and resource to effect change.

Place Standard Engagement

Between 6 October and 5 November 2023, Community Planning Aberdeen carried out an engagement exercise, based on the national Place Standard tool, to discover what things people of Aberdeen think are good now and improvements they think would make our city and our communities better in the future. 470 people participated (309 through the online engagement; 55 through the locality events and 106 through the children and young people's version).

Participants were asked to score 14 themes on a scale of 1-7, where 1 meant there was a lot of room for improvement (very bad) and 7 meant there was very little room for improvement (excellent). The themes covered both physical (for example its buildings, spaces, and transport links) and social (for example whether people feel they have a say in decision making) aspects of our City and all aligned to our current priorities (Stretch Outcomes). To help identify potential areas for improvement participants were also asked:

- What are top 3 things that are good now?
- What are the top 3 things we could make it better in the future?

The data and comments gathered by the simulator have been considered alongside the population needs Assessment in making decisions about which improvement projects should be within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Our improvement projects will test change ideas gathered from stakeholders and communities to support achievement of our Stretch Outcomes.

The five highest ranking themes were:

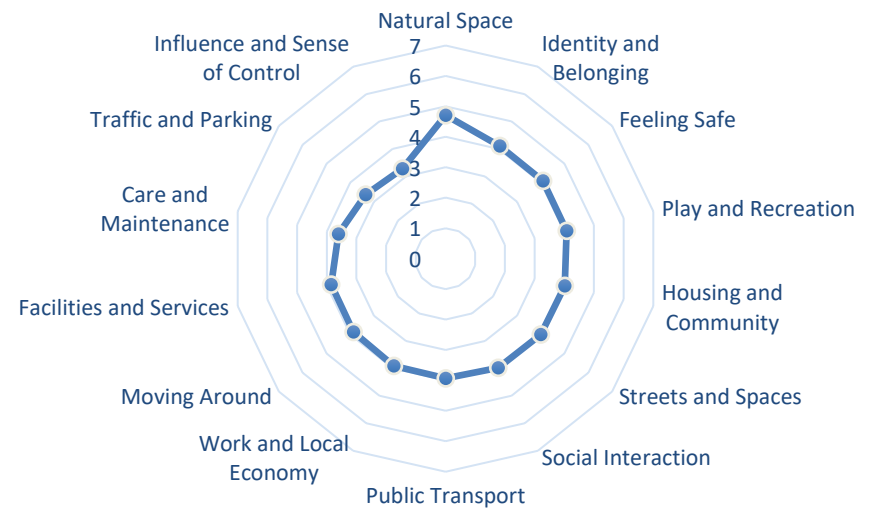
1. Natural space (4.7)
2. Identity and belonging (4.1)
3. Feeling safe (4.1)
4. Play and recreation (4.1)
5. Housing and community (4.0)

A total of 11,394 comments were received across each of the 14 themes, combining all 'good' now comments, and all 'improve' comments by respondents.

The top 5 themes for 'good' comments were:

1. Moving around
2. Public Transport
3. Streets & Space
4. Natural space and
5. Play and recreation.

Mean scores - all participants



OUR VISION FOR ABERDEEN CITY



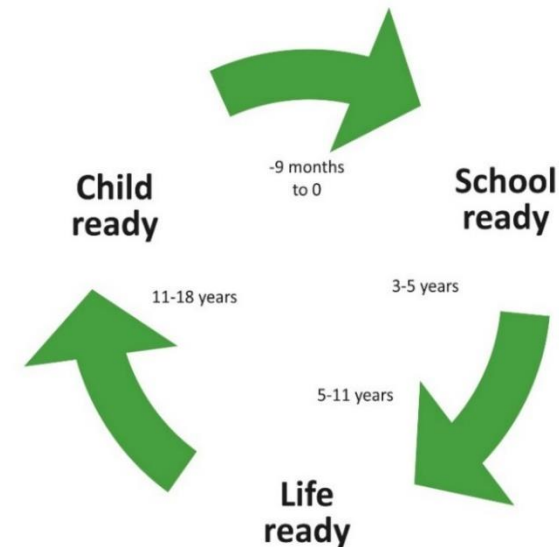
‘A place where all people can prosper’

Our vision for 2026 is Aberdeen as a place where all people can prosper. This means all people being able to access the opportunities available in our great City, regardless of their background or circumstances. This reflects our desire to help all people, families, businesses and communities to do well, succeed and flourish in every aspect. To achieve this vision we are committed to tackling the issues that exist in our society which prevent equal opportunity for all to lead a happy and fulfilling life.

Despite the relative prosperity that Aberdeen has enjoyed compared to other areas of Scotland, there are problems faced by our City which have endured for decades and have been stubbornly resistant to improvement. Our evidence confirms what we already know; that inequalities in health, education and employment opportunities continue to exist in some communities and that this is most acute for those families living under the grip of poverty.

Through early intervention and prevention, we aim to create the conditions for prosperity and support future generations to be prepared and made **ready for school, for work, for adulthood** and for life itself – see diagram 1. This calls for attention to be paid to care experienced children, young offenders, children of offenders and those living in poverty - because their levels of risk are very much higher than those of other children and young people of their age.

Diagram 1 – Whole life approach



No single sector or profession can improve outcomes for people and place alone. Collaborative efforts across the Community Planning Partnership are key to achieving our ambitions for the City of Aberdeen.

We understand that real transformation will come from acting beyond the walls of our public service organisations and infrastructures and thinking about Aberdeen as a **‘City of Learning’**.

Becoming a **City of Learning** means capitalising on the vast opportunities, resources and potential for enabling people to learn and develop themselves in ways that meet their needs, interests and ambitions. In this way they can participate more fully in their own lives and in the life of the City to help their families and communities prosper. This approach builds on the pioneering work of the Learning Cities in the USA and the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities movement. It recognises the lifelong opportunity that exists for people to learn to address gaps in their opportunity, achievement and/or skills – see diagram 2.

Diagram 2 – Lifelong learning approach



How will we know we are making a difference?

Setting out a vision for how we want things to be in the future is the easy part. Believing that it is possible and making it happen is entirely different.

This plan sets out the improvement projects we will take forward to achieve our vision as **a place where all people can prosper**.

Our ultimate measures of success in achieving this vision will be that **by 2026:**



We still have the **highest** GVA (Gross Value Added) per head in Scotland



Fewer than 10% of our children are living in poverty



We are living in good health for **at least five years longer**



Our carbon emissions are **61% lower**

How will we make it happen?

Our 16 Stretch Outcomes break down our overall vision into four themes of People, Place, Economy and Community Empowerment and into manageable thematic programmes of work. In taking a structured approach to improvement we are very clear about what it is we are trying to accomplish, how we will know whether a change is an improvement and what changes we will make to secure this improvement. These stretch outcomes tackle poverty as they manifest at every stage of a person's life journey. The following chapters in this document include the detailed improvement projects we will take forward to achieve these stretch outcomes.

OUR 16 STRETCH OUTCOMES

ECONOMY	PEOPLE (Children & young people)	PEOPLE (Adults)	PLACE
1. 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026. 2. Working towards a 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.	3. 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026 4. 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026. 5. By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026. 6. 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026. 7. 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026. 8. 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination.	9. 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026 10. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. 11. Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026. 12. Reduce overall homeless presentations by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026.	13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. 14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking; 5% of people cycling and wheeling as main mode of travel and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026. 15. 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT			
16. 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.			

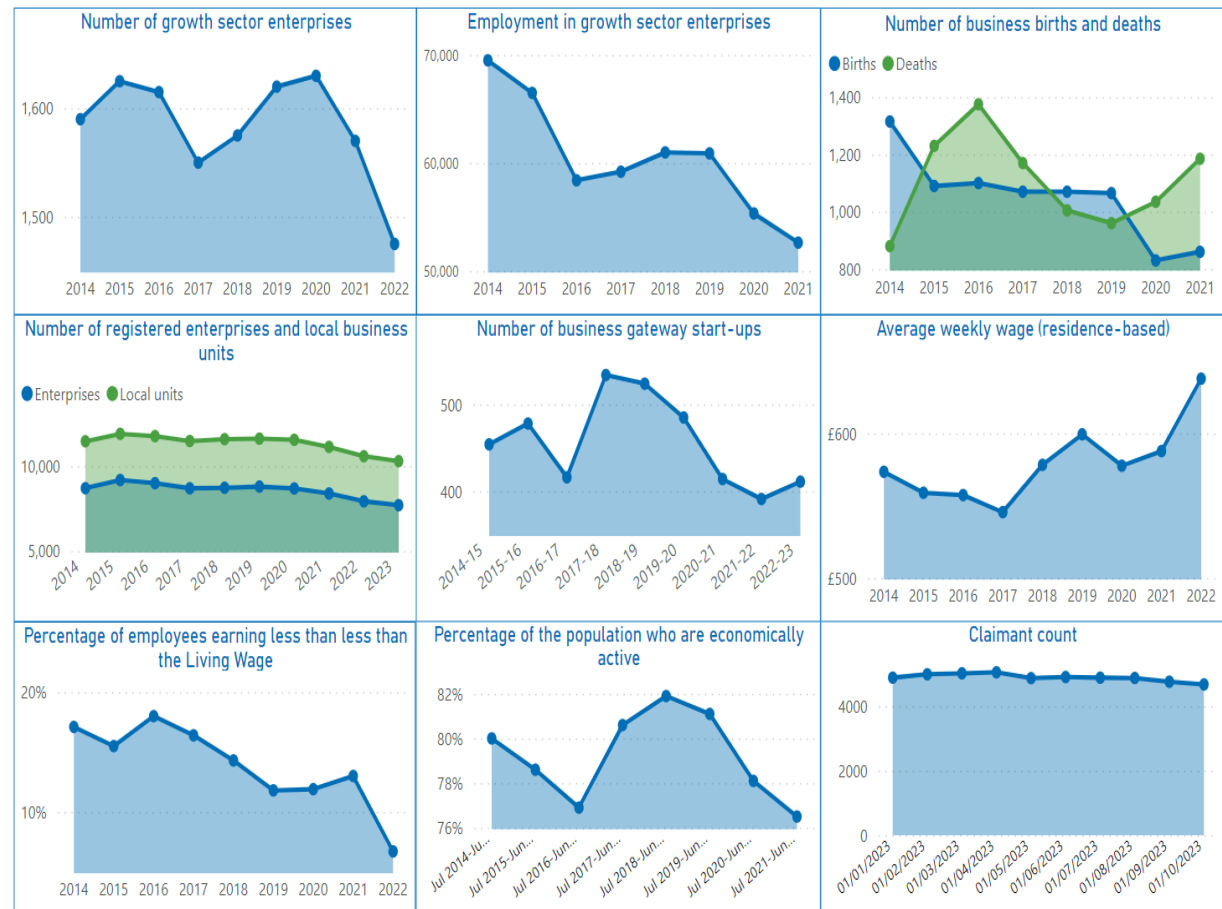
PROSPEROUS ECONOMY



POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT DATA:

A healthy economy supports a healthy population. People who are economically secure, have better health and wellbeing. We want everyone in Aberdeen to benefit from a healthy economy and to have equal opportunities to be economically active. However, Aberdeen continues to experience the impact of the economic change that has arisen from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the cost of living with increased inflation, food and energy prices. Our employment in the city is at its lowest level since 2016, with roughly 1 in 4 of the working age population economically inactive. This is impacting on people across the city, but we know that people living in our priority neighbourhoods, women, children, people with a disability, minority ethnic communities and on a low income are more likely to be affected.

The cost of living crisis, combined with existing inequalities, increase the risk of acute poverty and reduce wellbeing. We are committed to working in partnership, with our communities, to develop and provide targeted, locally based solutions to mitigate against the cost of living and support the long term financial security of all households. For example, we have projects supporting people access affordable and healthy food, as well as being able to live in homes suitable to their needs and which can be kept warm and dry.



Linked to a rise in poverty is growing financial insecurity. A primary focus will be supporting people access the financial support they are entitled to, whilst enabling their financial resilience in the longer term by increasing the opportunities for unemployed residents to gain good quality work opportunities, where they are able to. Accessing support and the type and range of employment opportunities were key themes from our public engagement. Our plans are focused on providing targeted support for people who need help in removing the barriers to accessing employment opportunities; and creating and giving people greater opportunities to develop and gain new skills at all points in their life. Business creation continues to be key to both developing new employment opportunities and to diversifying the economy. Aberdeen Prospers is committed to improvement activity around providing the correct support for those wishing to start or expand their own business, including social enterprises.

A common theme from our public engagement was the cost of public transport and the challenges this caused for people accessing services and job opportunities. To mitigate against this we are aiming to reduce transport poverty and support people to access the opportunities that are available, connect in their communities and engage with services.

We know that people in work are also experiencing poverty. Employers paying the real living wage can mean the difference between surviving and thriving. Over the past two years we have been working in partnership to increase the number of employers paying the real living wage and 100 employers are now living wage accredited. We are committed to sustaining and expanding this with our goal to achieve real living wage city accreditation by 2026.

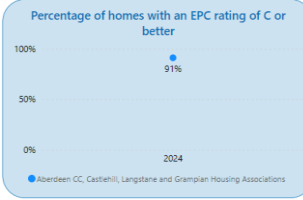
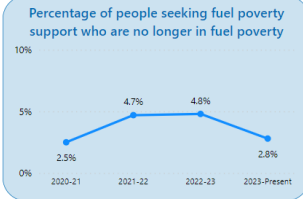
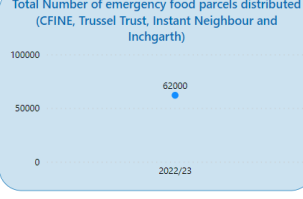
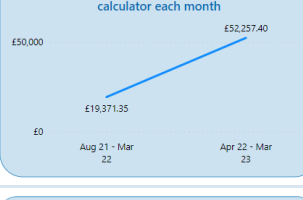
STRETCH OUTCOMES

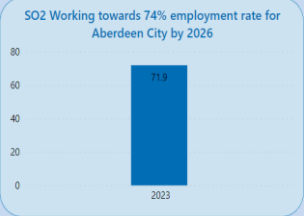
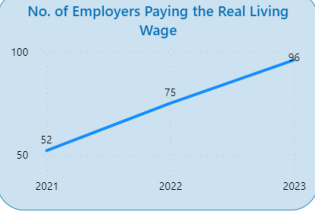
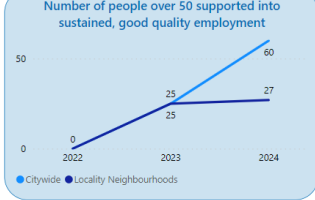
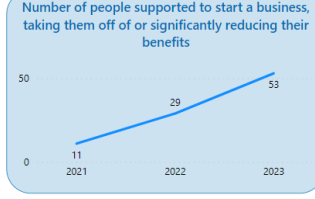
1. 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.
2. Working towards a 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026

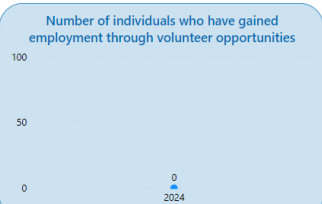
LEAD PARTNERS:

- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)
- Business Gateway
- Culture Aberdeen
- Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC)
- North East Scotland College (NESCoI)
- NHS Grampian
- SCARF
- Scottish Enterprise
- Skills Development Scotland



Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
1. 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/or not be able to heat their home by 2026. Percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/or not be able to heat their home  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Anti-Poverty Group	Mitigating the causes of poverty and supporting those experiencing poverty.	1.1 Increase to 92% the number of homes that meet an EPC rating of C or better by 2026.	Percentage of homes with an EPC rating of C or better 	Social housing; City Wide; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		1.2 10% of people seeking fuel poverty support are no longer in fuel poverty by 2026.	Percentage of people seeking fuel poverty support who are no longer in fuel poverty 	City wide; people living in social housing Early Intervention	SCARF
		1.3 Increase the number of people referred from food banks to cash first initiatives by 10% by 2026.	Total Number of emergency food parcels distributed (CFINE, Trussel Trust, Instant Neighbour and Inchgarth) 	City Wide; Early Intervention	Cash First Partnership
		1.4 Increase the uptake of unclaimed benefits across Aberdeen City by 10% by 2025.	Average value of benefits identified by the benefits calculator each month 	City Wide; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		1.5 Ensure 100% of those assessed as homeless are offered a financial assessment to check they are accessing all appropriate benefits by 2025.	% of people presenting as homeless who complete a benefit check & access to appropriate benefits 	City Wide; people presenting as homeless; Response	Aberdeen City Council

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
2. Working towards 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Aberdeen Prospers	Supporting labour market to recover from impact of Covid-19 on employment.	2.1 Support 25 people from ethnic minorities into sustained, good quality employment by 2026.		City Wide; Ethnic minorities; Early Intervention	Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) / Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC)
		2.2 Support 25 people into good quality jobs within Health and Social Care by 2026.		City Wide; Long term health conditions and/or disabilities; Early Intervention	NHSG
	Increasing the number of people in Aberdeen in sustained, fair work.	2.3 Increase employer sign up to the Real Living Wage by 5% year on year to 2026 to achieve Real Living Wage City Status by 2026.		City Wide; Employers Early Intervention	Scottish Enterprise
		2.4 Support 100 people into sustained, good quality employment by 2026, with a particular focus on those from priority neighbourhoods and people over 50.		Priority neighbourhoods and people over 50; Early Intervention	Skills Development Scotland
		2.5 Supporting 100 people to start a business in Aberdeen who will be coming off the benefits system or significantly reducing their benefits through starting a business by 2026.		City wide; benefits claimants; Early Intervention	Business Gateway

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
	Fewer employers reporting skills gaps	2.6 Support 40 young parents into training and / or employability provision by 2026.		City wide; Young parents (mothers and fathers) aged 16 to 25 Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		2.7 Upskill 50 individuals who are experiencing digital barriers to apply for employment opportunities by 2026.		City Wide; People experiencing digital barriers; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		2.8 Support 25 individuals to gain employability skills through volunteering opportunities by 2026.		City Wide; People experiencing barriers to employment; Early Intervention	Culture Aberdeen

LOCAL SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

[City Region Deal 2021-2025](#)

[City Centre Masterplan](#)

[Council Delivery Plan](#)

[Cultural Strategy for Aberdeen](#)

[Destination Tourism Strategy 2022-2030](#)

[Granite City Growing; a food growing strategy for Aberdeen 2019-24](#)

[Granite City Good Food Plan - Plan of the Sustainable Food City Partnership](#)

[Net Zero Aberdeen Building and Heating Strategy](#)

[Net Zero Aberdeen Energy Supply Strategy](#)

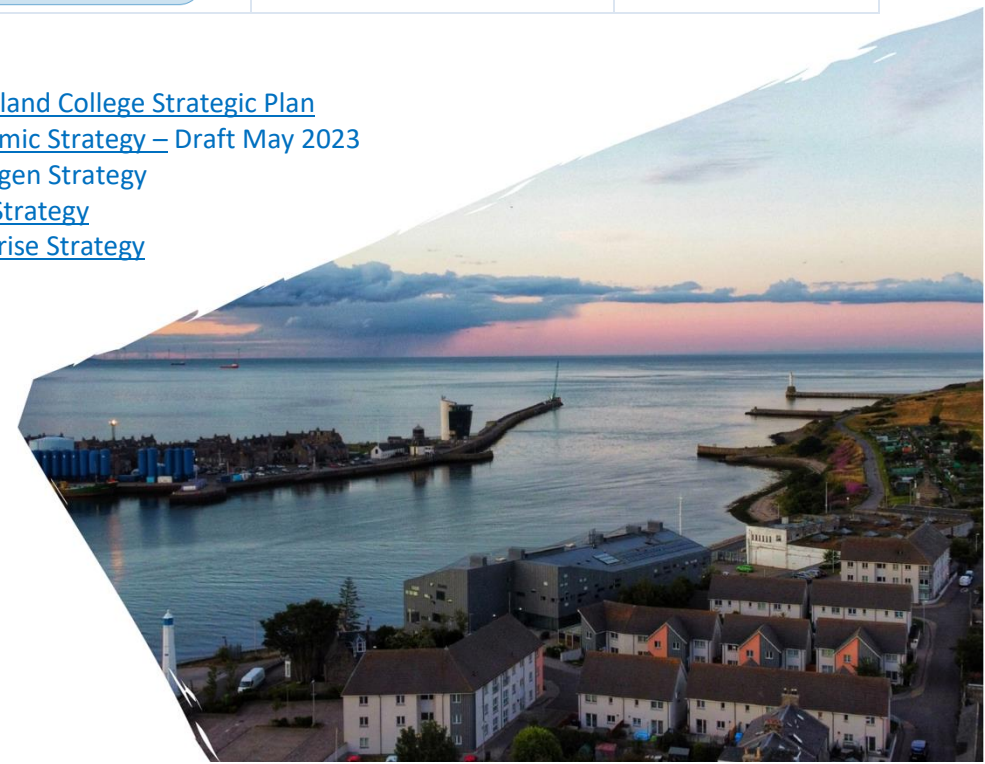
[North East Scotland College Strategic Plan](#)

[Regional Economic Strategy – Draft May 2023](#)

[Regional Hydrogen Strategy](#)

[Regional Skills Strategy](#)

[Scottish Enterprise Strategy](#)



PROSPEROUS PEOPLE (CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE)



Our ambition is to make Aberdeen a place where all children and young people can grow up loved, safe and respected so that they can realise their full potential. The Stretch Outcomes outlined below and the improvement aims aligned to them reflect these aspirations and support the delivery of the Children Services Plan.

Over the next few years we will work with families and young children to ensure they have the best possible start in life by helping them reach their developmental milestones. We continue to have a focus on improving mental health and wellbeing and increasing the attainment of our children and young people. Our improvement projects also provide focussed interventions for those who require the most support such as: those from our priority neighbourhoods; those experiencing poverty; those who are Care Experienced; at risk of entering the Justice system; or who have additional Support Needs/disabilities ensuring they have the same opportunities to thrive as their peers.

POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT DATA:



Co-location and co-delivery are increasingly evident across the universal services and our multi-agency Fit Like Hubs provide a model for targeted partnership integration and delivery. We now need to build on this positive start to ensure services at universal, targeted and specialist levels of our Tiered Intervention Framework provide effective early and preventative Family Support. We recognise that co-designing more integrated services with service users and their families will be critical to the delivery of the Stretch Outcomes for Children and Young People.

There is also a need to improve the alignment of children's services with adult services in order to take a whole family approach and address issues that can arise at transition points. In developing our stretch outcome outcomes, we have listened to the priorities of our children and young people, their families and those who support them through opportunities to engage with the data informing our planning and monitoring and from survey data held across the Community Planning Partnership. We undertake a yearly review of the data as part of our statutory reporting on progress and use the insight gleaned to validate or help reset our Plans.

Meaningful and effective participation will be central to the delivery of our LOIP Improvement aims and we will monitor and report on how our children and young people have directly influenced service delivery through Community Planning Aberdeen.

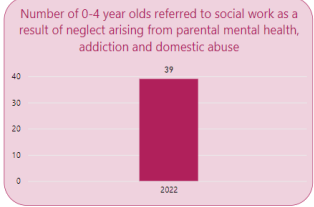
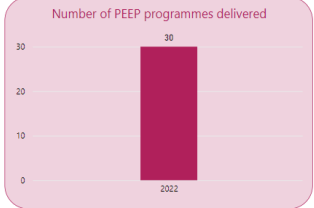
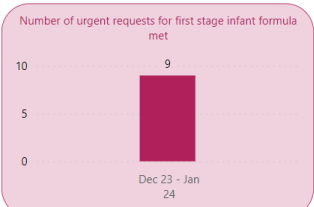
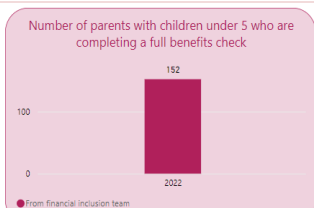
STRETCH OUTCOMES

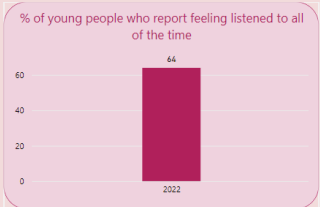
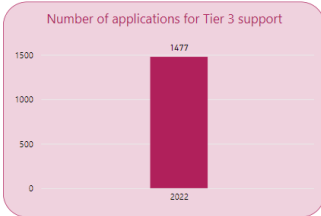
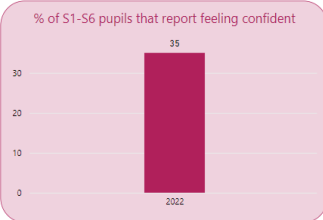
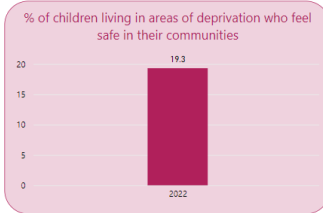
3. 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026.
4. 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.
5. By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026.
6. 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.
7. 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.
8. 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination.

LEAD PARTNERS:

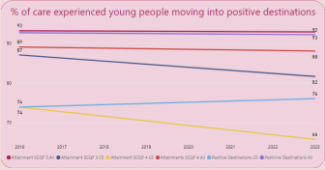
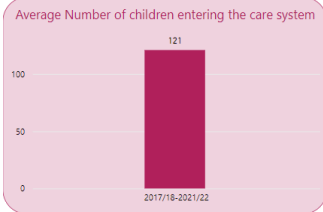
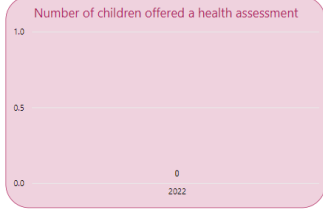
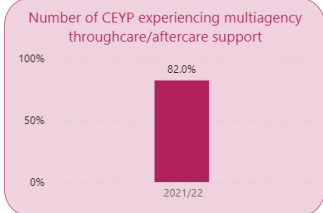
- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
- ACVO
- NHS Grampian
- North East Scotland College
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

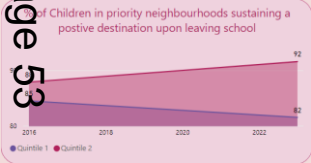
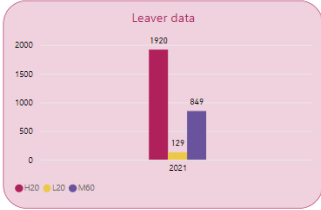
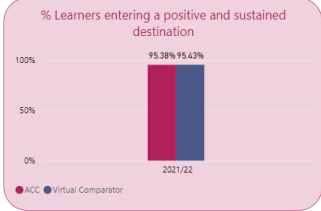
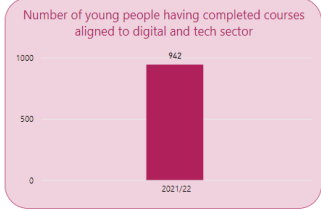
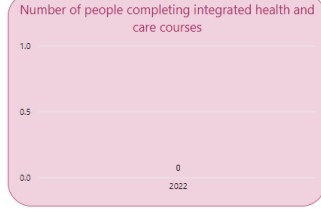


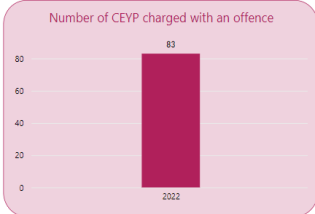
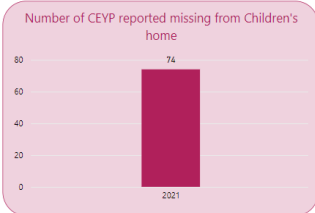
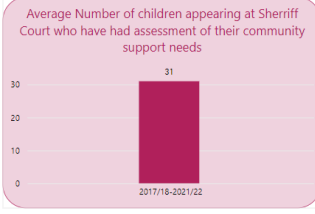
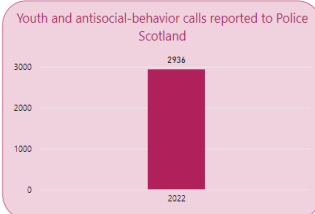
Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
3. 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Children's Services Board	Ensuring that families receive the parenting and family support they need.	3.1 Reduce by 5% the no. of children aged 0-4 who are referred to Children's Social Work as a result of neglect arising from parental mental health, addiction and domestic abuse 2026.		City Wide; children aged 0-4; Early Intervention	ACHSCP
		3.2 Increase by 40% the number of Peep programmes delivered by multi-agency partners by 2025.		Priority Neighbourhoods; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
	Improving health and reducing child poverty inequalities.	3.3 100% of urgent requests for first stage infant formula and nutritional support for pre-school children are met by 2024.		City Wide; Early Intervention	NHSG
		3.4 Increase by 10% the no. of parents with children under 5 who are completing a full benefits check by 2024.		City Wide; All new Parents and Parents of Pre-school Children; Prevention	NHSG
		3.5 Improve dental health at primary 1 to the national average by reducing the levels of dental health decay in areas of deprivation to 50% by 2025.		Priority Neighbourhoods; Children pre primary 1; Early Intervention	NHSG

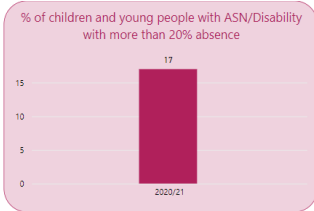
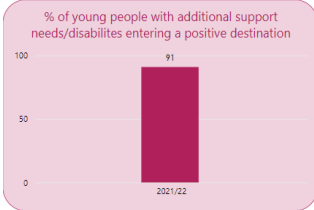
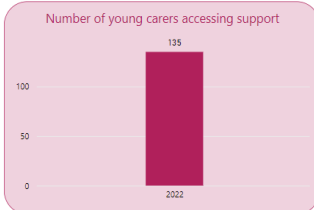
Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
4. 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026. 	Improving timely access to support.	4.1 Reduce demand on Tier 3 services by 5% by 2026.		City wide; Early Intervention	NHSG, CAMHS
		4.2 Reduce waiting time for interventions starting, by each tier 2/3 service by 5% by 2026.	Baseline to be established as part of the project.	City wide; children and young people requesting Tier 2 and 3 mental health assistance; Prevention	NHSG, CAMHS
		4.3 100% of children leaving care are referred to services that can meet assessed mental health needs within 4 weeks of the health assessment being completed by 2024.	Baseline to be established as part of the project.	City wide; Looked After Children leaving care; Early Intervention	NHSG
	Increasing children's knowledge and understanding of their own physical and mental wellbeing and take an early intervention and prevention approach.	4.4 Increase by 5% the number of S1-S6 pupils who report that they feel confident by 2025.		City wide; S1-S6 pupils; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council (Education)
		4.5 Increase by 10% the % of children living in areas of deprivation who feel safe in their communities by 2025.		Priority Neighbourhoods; Children; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council (Community Safety)

Responsible Outcome Improvement Group:
Children's Services Board

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
5. By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Children's Services Board	Improving education and health outcomes for care experienced children and young people.	5.1 Reduce by 5% the number of children entering the care system by 2024.		City wide; Children and Young People at risk and entering care; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		5.2 100% of children and young people leaving care are offered a health assessment to identify gaps in their health provision and needs by 2024.		City wide; Looked After Children and young people leaving care; Response	NHSG
		5.3 Increase the number of care experienced young people by 10% receiving multiagency throughcare/aftercare support by 2024.		City wide; Care experienced children and young people; Response	Aberdeen City Council
	Supporting attainment of balance of care where children are able to remain more often at home and or with kin.	5.4 80% of care experienced parents will report that they believed they were sufficiently prepared for parenthood by 2026.	Baseline to be established as part of the project.	City wide; Care experienced parents; Response	NHSG
	Supporting children and young people to understand and access multiagency throughcare and aftercare services.	5.5 80% of the identified multi-agency workforce successfully complete Corporate Parenting training aligned to the Promise by 2025.		City wide; Multi-agency staff; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
6. 95% of all our children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2), will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026  80% of Children in priority neighbourhoods sustaining a positive destination upon leaving school Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Children's Services Board	Improving pathways to education, employment and training for all our children	6.1 75% of identified multi-agency staff reporting confidence in identifying and taking action on harm by 2026.	Baseline to be established as part of the project.	City wide; Multi-agency staff; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council
		6.2 Increase to 3 the delivery of co-located and delivered services by health and education by 2024.		City wide; Young people in school; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		6.3 Increase by 10% the rate of completion of NPA/FA/HNC courses available to young people across the city by June 2024.		City wide; Young people; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council
		6.4 Increase the % of learners entering a positive and sustained destination to be ahead of the Virtual Comparator for all groups by 2025.		Each SIMD quintile; Young people; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		6.5 Increase by 20% the number of young people completing courses aligned to support the digital and tech sector by 2026.		City wide; Young people; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council
		6.6 Increase to 50 the no. of people completing more integrated health and care courses by 2025.		City wide; Children and young people; Prevention	NESCOL

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
7. 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Children's Services Board 54	Young people receive the right help at the right time to improve outcomes for young people at risk of becoming involved in the Justice System.	7.1 Reduce by 20% the number of care experienced young people charged with an offence by 2025.		City wide; Care Experienced Young People; City wide; Early Intervention	Police Scotland
		7.2 Reduce by 15% the number of care experienced young people reported missing from Children's homes to Police Scotland by 2024.		City wide; Care experienced young people in Children's homes; Early Intervention	Police Scotland
	More people appropriately diverted from Justice System to effective interventions aimed at reducing the likelihood of reoffending, where appropriate.	7.3 90% of 16/17 year olds appearing at Sherriff Court in relation to Lord Advocate's guidance will have had an assessment of their community support needs by 2025.		City wide; 16 and 17 year olds appearing at Sherriff Court; Response	Aberdeen City Council (Children's Social Work)
		7.4 Increase by 5% the no. of 16/17 year olds who are diverted from prosecution by 2025.		City wide; 16 and 17 year olds in conflict with the law; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council (Children's Social Work)
	Tackling antisocial behaviour in problem areas with appropriate and effective interventions.	7.5 Reduce by 15% the number of instances of youth anti-social behaviour calls to Police Scotland by 2025.		City wide; Under 18s; Early Intervention	Police Scotland

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
8. 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/ Disabilities will experience a positive destination by 2026.  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Children's Services Board	Improving pathways to education, employment and training for our children with ASN/disabilities.	8.1 Increase by 10%, the percentage of children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) and/or a disability accessing full time education by 2026.		City wide; YP with additional support needs/disability; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		8.2 Increase by 5%, the percentage of young people with additional support needs/disability entering a positive destination by 2025.		City wide; Young people with additional support needs/disability; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
	Ensuring young carers receive the support they need.	8.3 Increase by 20% the number of registered young carers accessing support from the Young Carers service by 2025.		City wide; Young carers; Early Intervention	Barnardos
	Ensuring our children with ASN/disabilities and their families receive the support they need	8.4 By 2025, 90% of families with children with an additional support need or disability will indicate that they have access to peer and community support that meets their needs.	Baseline to be established as part of the project.	City wide; Families with children with an additional support need/disability; Early Intervention	NHSG
		8.5 90% of identified multi-agency staff working with children and young people with disabilities will report confidence in identifying and taking action on how harm presents in children with additional support needs/disabilities by 2026.	Baseline to be established as part of the project.	City wide; Multi-agency staff working with children and young people with disabilities; Early Intervention	NHSG
	Improving timely access to support.	8.6 Increase by 20% the number of families of children with autism or awaiting diagnosis accessing support prior to diagnosis and reduce the	Baseline to be established as part of the project.	City wide; Families of children with autism or awaiting diagnosis; Early Intervention	NHSG

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim and Reference	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
		interval between referral and diagnosis by 2024.			

Local Supporting Strategies

- [Aberdeen City National Improvement Framework Action Plan](#)
[Aberdeen Playing Pitch Strategy](#)
[Aberdeen Aquatics Strategy](#)
[Aberdeen Sports Facilities Strategy](#)
[AHSCP Strategic Plan High Level Plan 2022-26](#)
[Children’s Services Plan](#)
[Child Poverty Plan](#)
Local [Autism](#) and [Carers](#) Strategies
[Strategy for Active Aberdeen](#)
- [Corporate Parenting Plan](#)
[Child Protection Improvement Plan](#)
[Community Learning & Development Plan](#)
[Children’s Rights Report](#)
Early Learning & Childcare [Delivery](#) and [Accessibility](#) Plan

PROSPEROUS PEOPLE (ADULTS)



We want Aberdeen to be a place where everyone can live long and healthy lives. The rising cost of living is a key risk to population health and is likely to increase the existing inequalities in healthy life expectancy, with people from areas with higher deprivation having shorter lives and being more likely to live with poorer health for longer. With people making difficult decisions between heat and food, evidence shows that general physical and mental health will be affected.

There will be long term consequences of the cost of living crisis, many of which are preventable. Mitigating the impacts on people, communities, as well as the inequalities currently experienced, can only be achieved by us working together in partnership and through targeting improvement activity for vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families, and groups. Food, water, clothing, sleep and shelter are the basic human needs for survival but for our most vulnerable people, each day consists of trying to meet these needs. Our improvement activity is focused on supporting the people most vulnerable to harm due to poverty, homelessness, mental health and drugs and alcohol in the short term as well as making changes to our systems to prevent these harms in the future.

POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT DATA:



As part of the city's ongoing efforts to enact change and reduce homelessness locally, Aberdeen is delighted to be one of the six flagship locations of Homewards, a five year locally led programme launched by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Through Homewards, Aberdeen is being supported over the next five years to create a coalition of committed people and organisations from private, public and voluntary sectors who will work together to create and deliver an action plan, as well as an Innovative Housing Project that aims to unlock homes at scale. The Homewards Aberdeen coalition will work in collaboration with existing programmes and working groups, and will enhance ongoing work rather than duplicate it. It will also be given the space, tools and expertise to focus on preventing homelessness in all its forms, and put Aberdeen on a trajectory to ending it, making it rare, brief and unrepeatable.

Whilst taking a targeted approach to support our most vulnerable communities, we are also ensuring our universal services create a culture in which healthy behaviours are the norm starting with the early years and persisting throughout our lives. We are taking a whole family approach to providing all individuals and communities with the social resources needed to make informed decisions about health and lifestyle. We recognise that information alone is not enough and we need to ensure the right environment is available to facilitate and support people to make the right behavioural choices. Our projects focus on access to affordable healthy food, reducing tobacco smoking and vaping. Evidence shows that there are factors that increase the likelihood of some people using alcohol and drugs and the harm caused to them and their family. Through our improvement activity, we are increasing access to alcohol and drug support for the whole family within their community, including early identification of children requiring preventative support to mitigate the risk of future harm in relation to drug and alcohol use. Each individual's recovery will be unique and their, and their families' voice will be critical to the success of our improvement activity and will be a key part of the shaping of the projects and ensuring a whole system approach.

Through our engagement, our communities have expressed the importance of access to improvements to community health services and support services, as well availability of activities within their communities to stay connected. We need to ensure that people have access, when needed, to the health and support services, at the earliest opportunity and in the setting that enables them to engage. To support this, we have projects focused on increasing uptake of cancer screening of people in our priority neighbourhoods, support for chronic pain management, as well as access to drug and alcohol education and support across a range of settings. We are committed to providing and raising awareness of accessible opportunities to stay well and connected in your community through a range of activities and access to interventions to identify, at an early point, when behaviours could turn to harm.

LEAD PARTNERS:

- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
- Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)
- Alcohol and Drugs Action
- NHS Grampian
- Police Scotland
- Homewards Aberdeen Coalition
- Sport Aberdeen
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Quarriers
- Violence Against Women Partnership

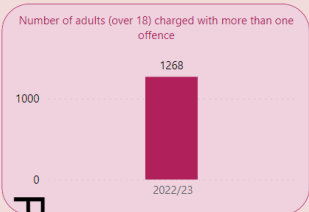
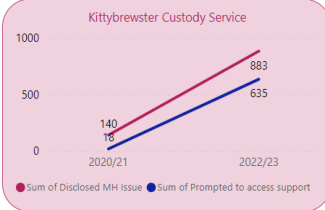


All people in Aberdeen are entitled to live within our community in a manner in which they feel empowered, resilient and safe. People sometimes need others to support their achievement of a full, active, safe citizenship. Through our partnership working, we are seeing increases in diversion out of the justice system, and we are committed to continue to reduce the number of people and communities affected or harmed by crime through an early intervention approach to offending through preventative aims. We recognise that we need to support people who have offended, to turn their behaviour around and become contributors to society. Research shows that maintaining and building upon protective factors such as access to housing, healthcare, employability, financial stability and professional support, such as intervention and access to drug and alcohol support, assists in reducing repeat offending and a return to custody, with all of the associated financial and human costs. We are focussed on identifying all need and developing a whole system approach enabling people to access the support they require at the earliest opportunity and creating opportunities for engagement on the issues which are contributing to reoffending behaviour. Our plans take targeted interventions to reduce the impact of crime on communities, such as hate crimes through improving awareness and expanding Third-Party Reporting Centres. We are taking a whole population approach to changing attitudes and recognising domestic abuse, because we are acutely aware of the unseen and unreported abuse and we are committed to working with partners and communities in making all people feel safe.

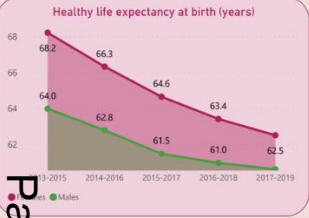
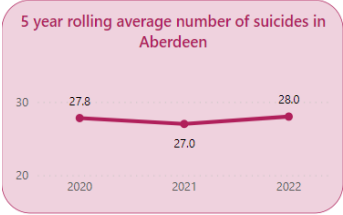
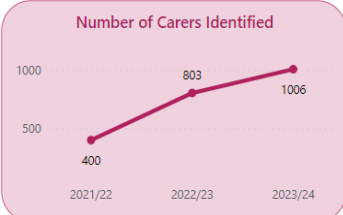
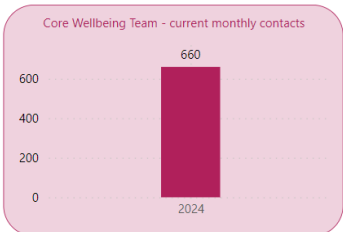
STRETCH OUTCOMES

9. 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026
10. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
11. Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026
12. Reduce overall homeless presentations by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026

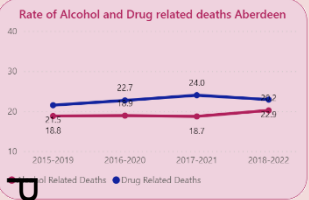
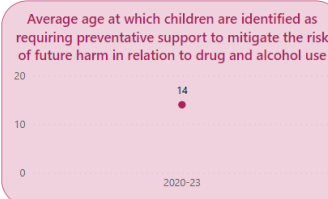
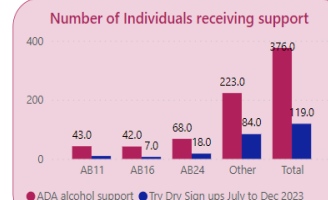


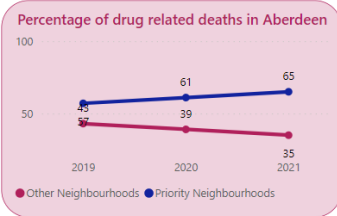
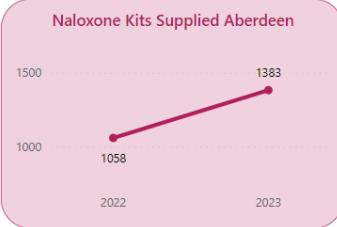
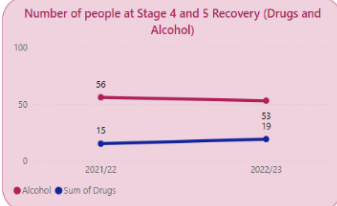
Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
9. 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Community Justice Group	Those who are convicted are supported to engage with relevant services and reduce re-offending.	9.1 Increase by 50% number of work able people on orders and leaving prison engaging with employability support by 2026.		City Wide; people on orders and leaving prison; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council /Scottish Prison Service
		9.2 Reduce by 90% the number of people released from prison in to Aberdeen City without suitable accommodation by 2026.		City Wide; people released from prison; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council (Housing)
		9.3 Reduce by 10% the number of people entering police custody by 2026.		Kittybrewster Custody Suite; people in police custody; Early Intervention	Police Scotland
		9.4 Increase to 80% the number of community justice clients completing exit questionnaires with 90% of those showing an improvement by 2026.		City Wide; Community Justice clients Prevention	ACHSCP, Justice Social Work
		9.5 80% of individuals in the Justice system that identify to have concerns with their substance use are offered or accessing support by 2026.	To be established as part of the project.	City Wide; people in the justice system requiring substance use support; Response	ACHSCP, Justice Social Work

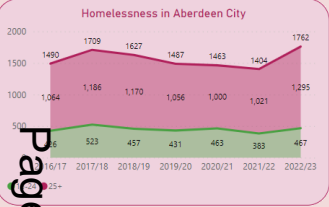
Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner									
Page 61	Taking targeted interventions to reduce the impact of crime on communities.	9.6 80% of multi-agency staff report awareness and understanding of the links between gender equality and gender based violence by 2026.	% of multi-agency staff report awareness and understanding of the links between gender equality and gender based violence <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>% of multi-agency staff report awareness and understanding of the links between gender equality and gender based violence</th></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	Year	% of multi-agency staff report awareness and understanding of the links between gender equality and gender based violence	2023	0	City Wide; multi-agency staff Prevention	Aberdeen City Council /VAWP					
		Year	% of multi-agency staff report awareness and understanding of the links between gender equality and gender based violence											
		2023	0											
		9.7 85% of people report they have confidence in Community Justice by 2025.	To be established as part of the project.	City Wide; Prevention	Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)									
	9.8 Increase by 10% community confidence to report hate crimes by 2026.	Hate crimes reported to police <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Hate crimes reported to police</th></tr><tr><td>2018/19</td><td>231</td></tr><tr><td>2019/20</td><td>305</td></tr><tr><td>2021/22</td><td>336</td></tr><tr><td>2022/23</td><td>344</td></tr></table>	Year	Hate crimes reported to police	2018/19	231	2019/20	305	2021/22	336	2022/23	344	City Wide; Early Intervention	GREC
Year	Hate crimes reported to police													
2018/19	231													
2019/20	305													
2021/22	336													
2022/23	344													
9.9 Reduce by 10% the number of adult anti social behaviour calls to Police Scotland by 2026.	Number of adult anti social behaviour calls to Police Scotland <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Number of adult anti social behaviour calls to Police Scotland</th></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>11809</td></tr></table>	Year	Number of adult anti social behaviour calls to Police Scotland	2023	11809	City Wide; Early Intervention	Police Scotland							
Year	Number of adult anti social behaviour calls to Police Scotland													
2023	11809													
Changing attitudes about domestic abuse in all its forms and ensuring victims receive access to the right support.	9.10 Increase by 15% the reports of domestic abuse to Police Scotland by 2026.	Reports of domestic abuse to Police Scotland <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Reports of domestic abuse to Police Scotland</th></tr><tr><td>2018/19</td><td>2495</td></tr><tr><td>2019/20</td><td>2566</td></tr><tr><td>2020/21</td><td>2610</td></tr><tr><td>2021/22</td><td>2597</td></tr></table>	Year	Reports of domestic abuse to Police Scotland	2018/19	2495	2019/20	2566	2020/21	2610	2021/22	2597	City Wide; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council /VAWP
Year	Reports of domestic abuse to Police Scotland													
2018/19	2495													
2019/20	2566													
2020/21	2610													
2021/22	2597													

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
10. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026 	Supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families and groups.	10.1 Reduce the 5 year rolling average number of suicides in Aberdeen by at least 5% by 2026.		City Wide; Adults; Prevention	ACHSCP
		10.2 Increase the number of carers identified by 20% by 2025.		City Wide; Unpaid carers; Early Intervention	Quarriers
	Provide individuals and communities with the social resources needed to reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation.	10.3 Increase by 50% the number of people engaged with Stay Well Stay Connected initiatives by 2025.		City Wide; Over 45s; Prevention	ACHSCP
	Encouraging adoption of healthier lifestyles through a whole family approach.	10.4 To support 50 low-income families in priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight by 2026.		Priority neighbourhoods; Low income families; Prevention	ACHSCP
		10.5 Increase by 5% the number of people living in identified priority neighbourhoods who accept the invitation of cancer screening on the basis of informed consent by 2026.	To be confirmed.	Priority neighbourhoods; Prevention	NHSG

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
Page 63		10.6 Decrease the number of women who are smoking in pregnancy in the 40% most deprived SIMD by 5% by 2026.	 Number of women who are smoking in pregnancy in the 40% most deprived SIMD 2019/20 - 2021/22: 23.9%	SIMD1; Women in pregnancy; Early Intervention	NHSG
		10.7 Increase by 20% the number of individuals living with Chronic Pain into self-management and other pathways initiatives to support their conditions by 2026.	To be confirmed.	City Wide; People living with chronic pain; Early Intervention	Sport Aberdeen
		10.8 Reduce to 4% the number of 13-18 year olds in regular use of Vaping products by 2026.	 Number of 13-18 year olds in regular use of Vaping products 2022/23: 5.6% 2023/24: 5.6%	City Wide; 13-18 year olds; Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council (Education)

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
11. Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.  The line graph shows two trends: Alcohol Related Deaths (blue line) and Drug Related Deaths (red line). The Y-axis ranges from 10 to 40. The X-axis shows four periods: 2015-2019, 2016-2020, 2017-2021, and 2018-2022. Data points are: 2015-2019 (Alcohol: 22.7, Drug: 18.8), 2016-2020 (Alcohol: 22.7, Drug: 18.8), 2017-2021 (Alcohol: 24.0, Drug: 18.7), 2018-2022 (Alcohol: 23.2, Drug: 19.0).	Whole family approach to prevention of young people developing alcohol and drug problems	11.1 Reduce the average age from 14 to 12 at which children are identified as requiring preventative support to mitigate the risk of future harm in relation to drug and alcohol use by 2026. 11.2 Reduce the % of 13-15 year olds reported as using each sub group of drug by 50% and cannabis by 20% by 2026.	 Average age at which children are identified as requiring preventative support to mitigate the risk of future harm in relation to drug and alcohol use 2020-23: 14  % of 13-15 year olds reported as using each sub group of drug	City Wide; Children at risk of future harm in relation to drug and alcohol use; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council (Social Work)
	Reducing harm, morbidity and mortality caused by alcohol and drugs.	11.3 Decrease the number of women who are drinking in pregnancy in the 40% most deprived SIMD areas by 5% by 2026.	 Number of women drinking during pregnancy in most deprived SIMD areas 2019-23: 21	Priority neighbourhoods; Women in pregnancy; Early Intervention	NHSG
		11.4 Increase by 10% the number of individuals who are screened for alcohol consumption and by 10%, year on year, the number of individuals in our priority neighbourhoods receiving alcohol support by 2026.	 Number of Alcohol Brief Interventions Total: 2703.0  Number of Individuals receiving support ADA alcohol support (red bars), Try Dry Sign ups July to Dec 2023 (blue bars) AB11: 43.0 vs 7.0, AB16: 42.0 vs 7.0, AB24: 68.0 vs 18.0, Other: 223.0 vs 84.0, Total: 376.0 vs 119.0	Priority neighbourhoods; Moderate to hazardous drinkers; Early Intervention	Alcohol and Drugs Action

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner																		
Page 65		11.5 Reduce by 20% the number of drug related deaths in our priority neighbourhoods by increasing the distribution of naloxone by 25% year on year by 2026.	Percentage of drug related deaths in Aberdeen <table border="1"><caption>Percentage of drug related deaths in Aberdeen</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Other Neighbourhoods</th><th>Priority Neighbourhoods</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2019</td><td>45</td><td>57</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>39</td><td>61</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>35</td><td>65</td></tr></tbody></table> Naloxone Kits Supplied Aberdeen <table border="1"><caption>Naloxone Kits Supplied Aberdeen</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Kits Supplied</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2022</td><td>1058</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>1383</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Other Neighbourhoods	Priority Neighbourhoods	2019	45	57	2020	39	61	2021	35	65	Year	Kits Supplied	2022	1058	2023	1383	Priority neighbourhoods and people at risk of drug overdose that are not in treatment; Response	ACHSCP
	Year	Other Neighbourhoods	Priority Neighbourhoods																				
	2019	45	57																				
2020	39	61																					
2021	35	65																					
Year	Kits Supplied																						
2022	1058																						
2023	1383																						
	11.6 80% of people closed from Assertive Outreach as no longer considered at risk by 2026.	Percentage of people closed from Assertive Outreach as no longer considered at risk <table border="1"><caption>Percentage of people closed from Assertive Outreach as no longer considered at risk</caption><thead><tr><th>Period</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1/11/23 - 23/01/24</td><td>49</td></tr></tbody></table>	Period	Percentage	1/11/23 - 23/01/24	49	City Wide; People with multiple complex needs; Response	ACHSCP															
Period	Percentage																						
1/11/23 - 23/01/24	49																						
Supporting Recovery from alcohol and drug issues.	11.7 Increase by 10% the number of people in active recovery from drug and alcohol by 2025.	Number of people at Stage 4 and 5 Recovery (Drugs and Alcohol) <table border="1"><caption>Number of people at Stage 4 and 5 Recovery (Drugs and Alcohol)</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Alcohol</th><th>Sum of Drugs</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2021/22</td><td>56</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>2022/23</td><td>53</td><td>19</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Alcohol	Sum of Drugs	2021/22	56	15	2022/23	53	19	Priority neighbourhoods; Early Intervention	ACHSCP										
Year	Alcohol	Sum of Drugs																					
2021/22	56	15																					
2022/23	53	19																					

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
12. Reduce overall homeless presentations by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Homelessness Outcome Improvement Group	Reframing perceptions of homelessness.	12.1 Increase % of people who feel more informed about preventing homelessness and housing options in the city.	To be established as part of the project	City Wide	Homewards Aberdeen Coalition
		12.2 Increase number of public, private, third and faith sector organisations contributing to preventing homelessness in Aberdeen.	To be confirmed	City Wide	Homewards Aberdeen Coalition
		12.3 Increase % of decisions which impact on preventing homelessness are informed by people with lived experience.	To be established as part of the project	People with lived experienced of homeless	Homewards Aberdeen Coalition
	Universal prevention of homelessness and addressing root-causes	12.4 Increase the number of pathways available for young people to support prevention of homelessness.	To be confirmed	Young people at risk of homelessness	Homewards Aberdeen Coalition
		12.5 Increase percentage of people supported to sustain their tenancy across private and social landlords.	To be confirmed	Social and private tenants	Homewards Aberdeen Coalition
		12.6 Increase number of families accessing mediation support	To be established as part of the project	Families at risk of homelessness	Homewards Aberdeen Coalition
		12.7 Increase education and skills relating to tenancy management and housing rights for young people	To be confirmed	Young people	Homewards Aberdeen Coalition
	Ensuring adequate supply of housing across all tenures and homes are the right size, type and location	12.8 Increase accessibility to a wider range of housing options to people at risk of homelessness	To be confirmed	Social and private tenants	Homewards Aberdeen Coalition

LOCAL SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

[Aberdeen Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Drugs Strategy](#)

[Aberdeen Playing Pitch Strategy](#)

[Aberdeen Aquatics Strategy](#)

[Aberdeen Sports Facilities Strategy](#)

[AHSCP Strategic Plan High Level Plan 2022-26](#)

[Community Learning & Development Plan](#)

[Children's Services Plan](#)

Local [Autism](#) and [Carers](#) Strategies

[Aberdeen City Local Policing Plan 2023-26](#)

[Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2022-23- Aberdeen City](#)

[Local Housing Strategy](#)

[Strategy for Active Aberdeen](#)

[NHS Grampian's Strategy 2022-2028](#)



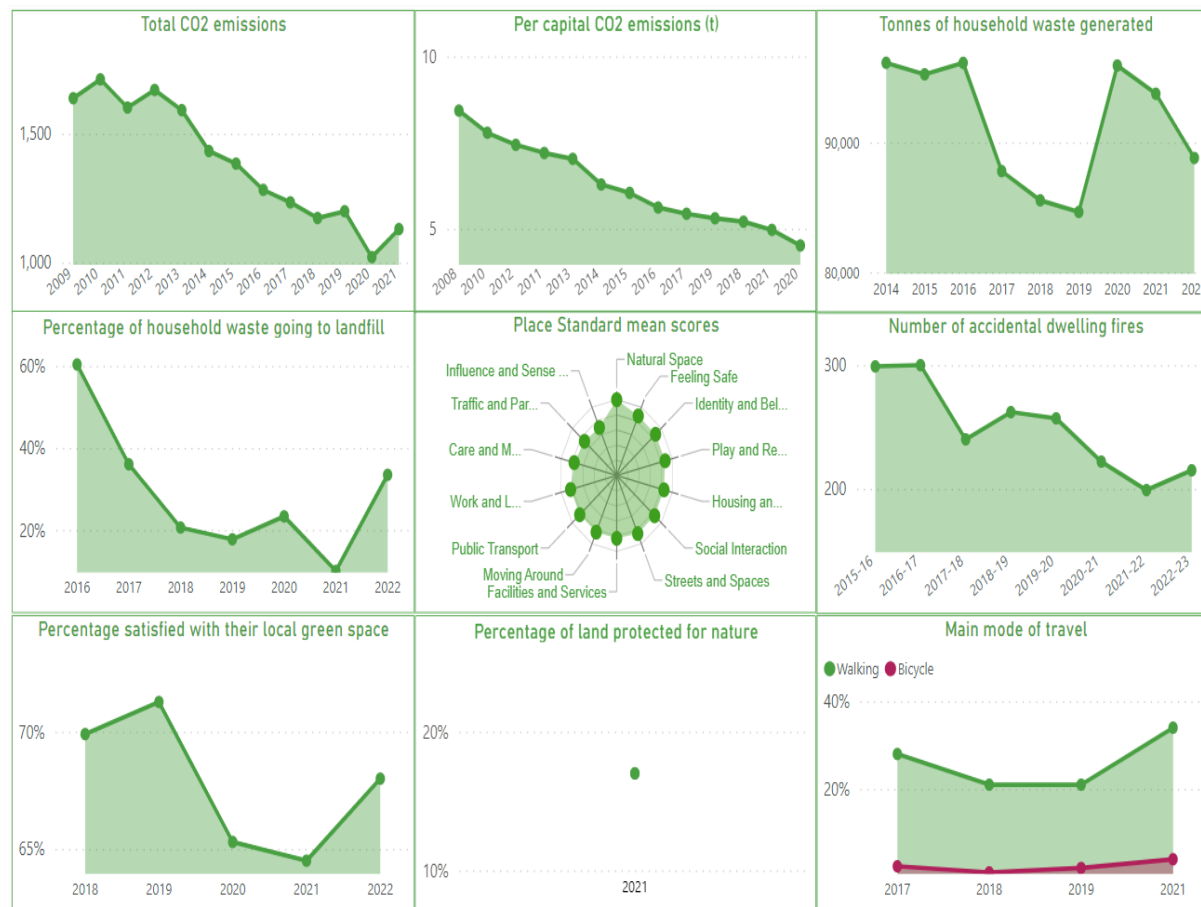
PROSPEROUS PLACE



The pandemic led to an increased appreciation of nature and the important role it plays in supporting individuals and communities to live in healthy, sustainable ways. The place where we live, both the natural and built environment, plays an integral role in determining the quality of life of people and is vital to improving health; reducing inequality and enabling all people to prosper regardless of where they live in the city. Therefore, while framing our response to these challenges, we continue to have three overarching areas of focus, reducing carbon emissions, increasing sustainable travel and protecting our natural environment.

Research shows that people can benefit from spending time outdoor and the appearance and maintenance of neighbourhoods is a key theme from our public engagement. We are committed to sustaining the increased appreciation for nature and supporting our communities live and have access to sustainable, good quality green and blue space, as well as a well maintained built environment. Our projects are focused on empowering our communities and ensuring good quality natural and built spaces are accessible for all. Through our social prescribing project, where appropriate, people will be prescribed outdoor activities to alleviate their

POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT DATA:



symptoms. This also supports increased use of community spaces, social contact and community cohesion, all of which were key themes arising from our public engagement.

We have made progress with organisations and individuals already committed to our Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge launched in 2022, however we know we need to go further and we will continue to work in partnership with all landowners to achieve a balance of more nature friendly and natural spaces with green space that is safe and accessible for people to enjoy. Our communities and businesses must be engaged and empowered to co-design and deliver the innovative changes required to enable people to lead healthy lives and achieving our national and local environmental targets, such as Net Zero Emissions by 2045.

To reduce carbon emissions and increase climate resilience, our projects will focus on testing innovative ways to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. Whilst we have a focus on reducing emissions from our public sector buildings, we recognise the importance of our communities, and the impact that our personal decisions can have on the environment. Therefore, we are committed to empowering our communities to take forward and test initiatives unique to their setting across all our projects. We have supported community resilience, from development of resilience plans through to volunteering opportunities, but we know that there is more to be done.

Increasing sustainable travel continues to be a key priority. Active travel is increasing with nearly 1 in 4 people using bicycle or walking to work or school, and we are committed to sustaining the increase in walking and wheeling. Through our engagement, our communities have expressed the challenges faced with the cost and availability of public transport, in response we have added a new project focused on looking at ways to support people to reduce their use of a car.

STRETCH OUTCOMES

13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate.

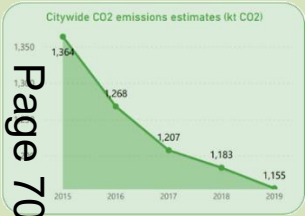
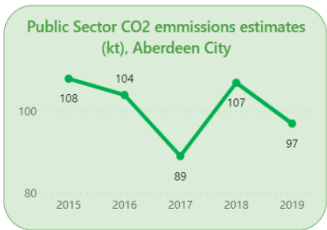
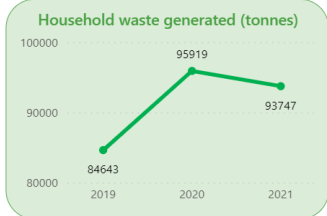
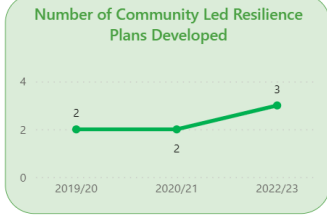
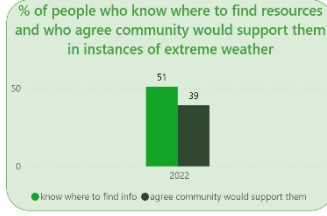
14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling and wheeling as main mode of travel and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026.

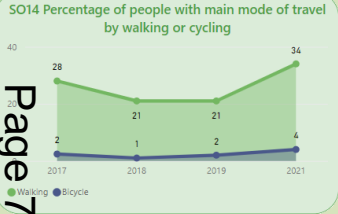
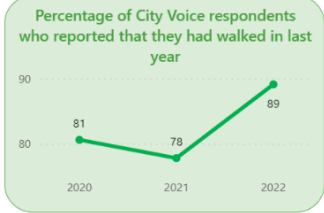
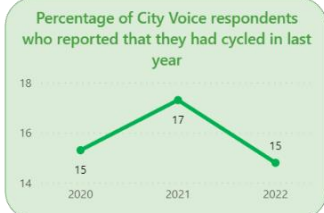
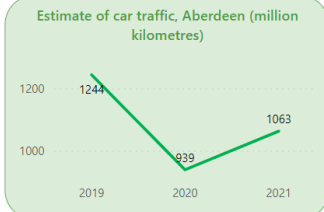
15. 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.

LEAD PARTNERS:

- Aberdeen City Council
- CFINE
- NESCAN
- NESTRANS
- NHS Grampian
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Sustainable City Group	Reducing emissions across the city through delivery of Aberdeen's Net Zero Vision & Route-map.	13.1 Reduce public sector carbon emissions by at least 7% by 2026.		Public Sector; City Wide; Response	Aberdeen City Council
		13.2 Reduce the generation of waste in Aberdeen by 8% by 2026.		City Wide; Response	NHSG/CFine
	Contributing to the delivery of Aberdeen Adapts by developing a bottom up approach to community resilience to encourage greater ownership and independent action towards understanding communities' risks from climate change and adapting to them.	13.3 To have Community led resilience plans in place for the most vulnerable areas (6) in the City by 2025 and increase by 10% the % of people who know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events by 2025.	 	Areas vulnerable to flooding (Deeside – Culter; Bridge of Don and Denmore; Grandhome; The Green and Merchant Quarter; Riverside Drive and Holburn Street and FootDee); Early Intervention	Aberdeen City Council
		13.4 Increase by 20 the number of teams and/or volunteers ready to mobilise in icy weather by 2025.	To be confirmed as part of the project.	Priority Neighbourhoods; Response	NHSG

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking; 5% of people cycling and wheeling as main mode of travel and a 5% reduction in car miles by 2026.  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Sustainable City Group	Supporting different ways for active travel in everyday journeys, using partners and volunteers to address safety, infrastructure, fitness, well-being and confidence.	14.1 Increase % of people who walk and wheel as one mode of travel by 5% by 2026.		City Wide; Prevention	NHSG
		14.2 Increase % of people who cycle and wheel as one mode of travel by 2% by 2026.		City Wide; Prevention	Nestrans
		14.3 Reduce car kms by 5% by 2026		City Wide; Response	Nestrans

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
15. 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026. Percentage of land protected for nature Page 72 % City Voice Respondents who report they feel that buildings and open spaces are well cared for Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Sustainable City Group	Increasing the diversity, quality and use of the Aberdeen's green spaces by facilitating community participation in them to restore nature and increase people's satisfaction, health, and wellbeing.	15.1 Increase to 65% the proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space by 2026.	Proportion of citizens who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space 51 2022	Priority neighbourhoods; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council
		15.2 100 people to be socially prescribed nature by 2026 to support positive outcomes in relation to their health and wellbeing.	Number of people who have been socially prescribed nature 0 2023	Priority neighbourhoods; Early Intervention	NHSG
		15.3 25% of people report that they understand the importance of nature on both their neighbourhood and individual wellbeing by 2026.	To be established as part of the project.	City Wide; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council
	Increasing the area of public, private and community land managed for nature, in recognition of the nature crisis and in alignment with global and national ambitions to protect 30% of land and 30% of water by 2030 (30-30-30).	15.4 At least 23 organisations across all sectors in Aberdeen pledging to manage at least 10% of their land for nature by 2024 and at least 26% by 2026.	Number of Organisations in Aberdeen pledging to manage at least 10% of their land for nature" 6 2023	City wide organisations; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council
		15.5 Increase by 50% the number of community groups delivering local environmental improvements in their neighbourhoods by 2026.	Number of community groups delivering local environmental improvements 24 2023	City Wide; Prevention	NESCAN

LOCAL SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

[Aberdeen City Waste Strategy 2014-25](#)

[Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2022](#)

[A Climate-Positive City at the Heart of the Global Energy Transition](#)

[Aberdeen Adapts – Aberdeen’s Climate Adaptation Framework](#)

[Core Paths Plan](#)

[Destination Tourism Strategy 2022-2030](#)

[Granite City Growing; a food growing strategy for Aberdeen 2019-24](#)

[Granite City Good Food Plan - Plan of the Sustainable Food City Partnership](#)

[Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy 2013-35](#)

[Net Zero Aberdeen Building and Heating Strategy](#)

[Net Zero Aberdeen Circular Economy Strategy](#)

[Net Zero Aberdeen Energy Supply Strategy](#)

[Local Transport Strategy 2023-30](#)

[Net Zero Aberdeen Mobility Strategy](#)

[Net Zero Aberdeen Natural Environment Strategy](#)

[Net Zero Routemap for the City](#)

[North East Flood Risk Management Strategy](#)

[Open Space Strategy](#)

[Regional Hydrogen Strategy](#)

[Regional Spatial Strategy](#)

[Tree and Woodland Strategy](#)



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT DATA:

Community empowerment places a focus on enabling and building strong personal and community resilience, where people have as much control over their lives as possible. It creates the conditions for individuals to come together and work together as a local community to influence and action improvements to their local environment.

Our ambition is for all communities to become equal community planning partners. As a partnership we appreciate, understand and value the vital role that communities must play in improving outcomes for Aberdeen and we want to build on our existing community relationships and to engage all people and community groups.

We know that power inequalities have and continue to exist. Historically, some groups have faced discrimination and disadvantage, and this continues to have an impact today. We want to encourage all individuals, regardless of their background and circumstances, who have available time, resources and capacity to be active in their community. To ensure that all people can participate, and are treated equally, we must consider and address these inequalities.



There is a common belief that the current way of planning and delivering public services is too top down, with not enough control and power sitting with communities. Our aim is to build the capacity of communities and staff to come together and work together to make changes for the better. Communities have expressed that they want more opportunities to get involved in decision making and they want to be consulted more. How and when we are engaging our communities, as well as the outcome of the engagements were also raised as key areas for improvement.

We are committed to addressing the issues raised by increasing awareness of the opportunities that there are for participating in local planning and decision making and through creating the conditions for individuals to come together and work together as a local community to influence and action improvements to their local environment. By increasing our people's ability and freedom to choose to participate in decisions that help change things for the better, as well as increasing their empowerment and supporting better decision making, it benefits the individual and the community because it creates strong social relationships and builds collective power.

The metaphor of a ladder is used to represent the interactions between Community Planning partners and all people. The top rung of the ladder represents self determination, where activities and decisions are made independently by people in their communities. The further down the ladder, the less influence the community has over decisions. Whilst the aim is to climb the ladder, it is important to recognise that all rungs can be appropriate depending on the context. The ladder rungs represent levels of engagement, not steps.

STRETCH OUTCOME

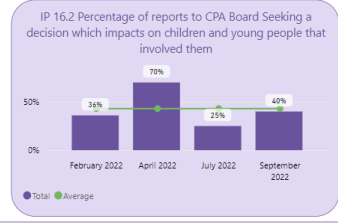
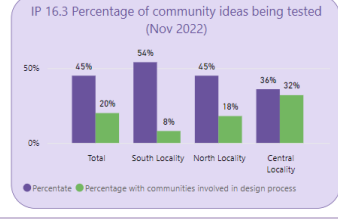
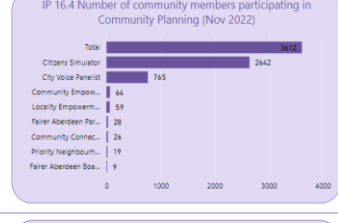
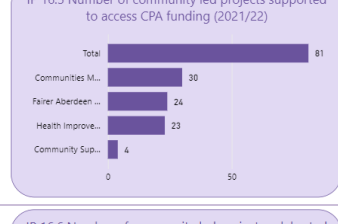
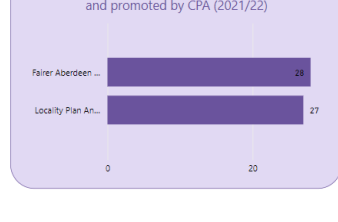
50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.



LEAD PARTNERS:

- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
- Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)
- NHS Grampian
- Station House Media Unit (SHMU)
- Grampian Regional Equality Council
- Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaborative



Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner
16. 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026  Responsible Outcome Improvement Group: Community Empowerment Group	Conditions for collaboration enable delivery of shared objectives and a focus on action rather than hierarchy	16.1 100% of decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them by 2026.		Children and Young People; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council
		16.2 Increase the number of community ideas identified within locality plans being tested by CPA and partners where communities are involved in the design process to at least 50% by 2026.		City Wide; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council
		16.3 Increase the number and diversity of community members participating in community planning at a meaningful level (Rung 5 and above) by 100% by 2025.		City Wide; Prevention	Aberdeen City Council / Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership
	Social connections and networks working together is supported and encouraged.	16.4 10% increase in amount of funding distributed by local funders across Aberdeen City using non-traditional methods by 2026.		City Wide; Prevention	Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)
		16.5 increase the number of community led projects promoted and celebrated across the City, and increase by 20% the proportion of policy and decision makers who feel they have a good awareness of community-led initiatives in the City by 2025.		City Wide; Prevention	Station House Media Unit (SHMU)

Stretch Outcome	Key Drivers	Improvement Project Aim	Baseline Trend Data	Target Population/ Intervention Tier	Lead Partner								
	Capacity building to support people and communities to work together.	16.6 Increase the number of people (staff and communities) who state that they have the skills, tools and support they need to work together to make improvements in the community to 50% by 2025.	IP 16.7 Percentage of respondents to locality planning survey agreeing that an empowerment toolkit should be co-produced with communities (Nov 2020) <table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Yes</td><td>84%</td></tr><tr><td>Don't know</td><td>8%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>8%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	84%	Don't know	8%	No	8%	City Wide; Prevention	NHS Grampian/ Grampian Engagement Network
Response	Percentage												
Yes	84%												
Don't know	8%												
No	8%												

LOCAL SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

- [Community Empowerment Strategy 2023-26](#)
- [Net Zero Aberdeen Empowerment Strategy](#)
- [North Locality Plan 2021-26](#)
- [South Locality Plan 2021-26](#)
- [Central Locality Plan 2021-26](#)



HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR OUTCOMES?



By Working Together

Demand for our services are increasing throughout the city, this continues to stretch the public sector, meaning that much provision is diverted to crisis response. It is difficult therefore as individual organisation to provide **early intervention and prevention**.

This is an issue that we all share and the LOIP represents an opportunity for greater joint effort, in order to work towards **early intervention and prevention**; working in partnership we can better help each other to improve outcomes for people. For example, we can develop shared, whole and targeted population campaigns on issues within the LOIP to bolster our improvement efforts. This **whole systems** and **whole family approach** to our **shared leadership** and increasingly closer delivery means that we can capitalise on the knowledge, skills and tools used across the workforce and communities to meet the needs of changing circumstances.

We already have a shared approach to Quality Improvement which is being used by our multi-agency Outcome Improvement Groups to take forward the LOIP improvement projects. We will encourage further **learning and working together** to continue to build a shared approach to delivering real improvement.

We will work across the CPA, with the Health Research Determinants Collaborative to build on our shared intelligence and research, bringing together our understanding of the needs and data across partners. This will involve sharing our data, understanding the full picture of our population, analysing and understanding demand more fully. Through regular review and scrutiny we will be able to quickly determine and adapt our services and solutions as we progress to meet changing need.

It is essential to the future of the city that our workforce and people have the skills to thrive, can **exploit digital technologies** and can interact using modern tools and platforms in order to ensure that we can more effectively redirect our resources. Our data will become an enabler, supporting and driving the re-design of customer focused services responding to evolving needs and the growing opportunities of digital technologies.

Achieving the ambition of our LOIP is going to require a movement to embed the LOIP across all partners. This will mean the LOIP running through individual partners planning and into individual team and staff objectives. This will be the judgement of real time and skills being deployed to deliver our shared strategy.

Community Planning Aberdeen is the only strategic forum where partners in Aberdeen are able to jointly plan how to deploy **collective resources** to achieve the agreed priorities set out in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). CPA continues to develop its approach to joint resourcing to ensure the LOIP is the focal point for the planning and deployment of resources

To fulfil the LOIP ambition we are going to need to marshal our forces and work together to focus on the right improvement projects. This is going to require a different approach to resource management and a greater sharing of **capability and capacity**.

By Working With Our Communities

Effective engagement with people and communities about how local services are planned and delivered will be integral to how we deliver our plan. Our **Community Empowerment, Engagement and Participation** Strategy ensures we are united in our approach to work with people to help them achieve their aspiration for their communities.

We are committed to becoming a **City of Learning** means capitalising on the vast opportunities, resources and potential for enabling people to learn and develop themselves in ways that meet their needs, interests and ambitions. In this way they can participate more fully in their own lives and in the life of the City to help their families and communities prosper.

It is by focussing on geographies and communities of interest most in need to build **community resilience** that we will achieve better outcomes across our whole city. Our improvement work will be targeted to support these communities initially so we can learn what works for our most vulnerable people before we scale up and spread across the City.

We already have made significant progress through our three priority neighbourhoods. The focus on these areas will continue to be vital because of their levels of need as demonstrated in our **Population Needs Assessment**. What will be different is the way we wrap services around these areas and build even stronger and more resilient communities.

People can also face barriers because of their race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. In delivering this plan, the Partnership will seek to tackle inequality in the city and within individual communities in whatever form it manifests itself, through clear and coordinated approaches. This includes **tackling stigma** in all its forms by working in partnership to take forward behavioural campaigns and explore other ways of promoting positive change in people's attitudes. We need to do this in partnership with local media outlets.

By Working With the Private Sector

Greater opportunities for **Private Sector involvement** in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan will allow perspectives and experiences from this sector to be more widely utilised than they have perhaps previously. Whatever methods used to involve the private sector, the objectives for their involvement in Community Planning Partnerships should be mutually supporting - to ensure that businesses fully contribute to the well-being of local communities and, in turn, that the conditions exist for business to thrive and develop in that community thus benefiting the whole community.

OUR GOLDEN PYRAMID



Our golden pyramid depicts our determination to ensure that Community Planning Aberdeen works together as a whole to enable and empower local people, communities and partnerships to be the makers of their own improved outcomes.

Of topmost importance is the realisation of local partnerships forged by local people and local communities. We are committed to working with people in their 'places' – their homes, their streets and their neighbourhoods to support them to plan, resource and deliver community led approaches which will deliver improved local outcomes at a community and city-wide level.

Each of the Community Planning Partners plan the delivery of their services in a range of ways. For example, by Police division, Council function, NHS Boards and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service hubs. As partners we accept these differences in delivery structures, but are united in our commitment to working together and with local people to achieve improved outcomes.

This Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) represents our ambitions city wide, but is very much grounded in the needs of our most disadvantaged communities. It is by working with these communities to take forward our improvement activity that we will learn how we can change, how we can improve and how we can scale up and spread what works. That is how we will make the difference in Aberdeen and achieve our vision of a Place where all people can indeed prosper.



ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE



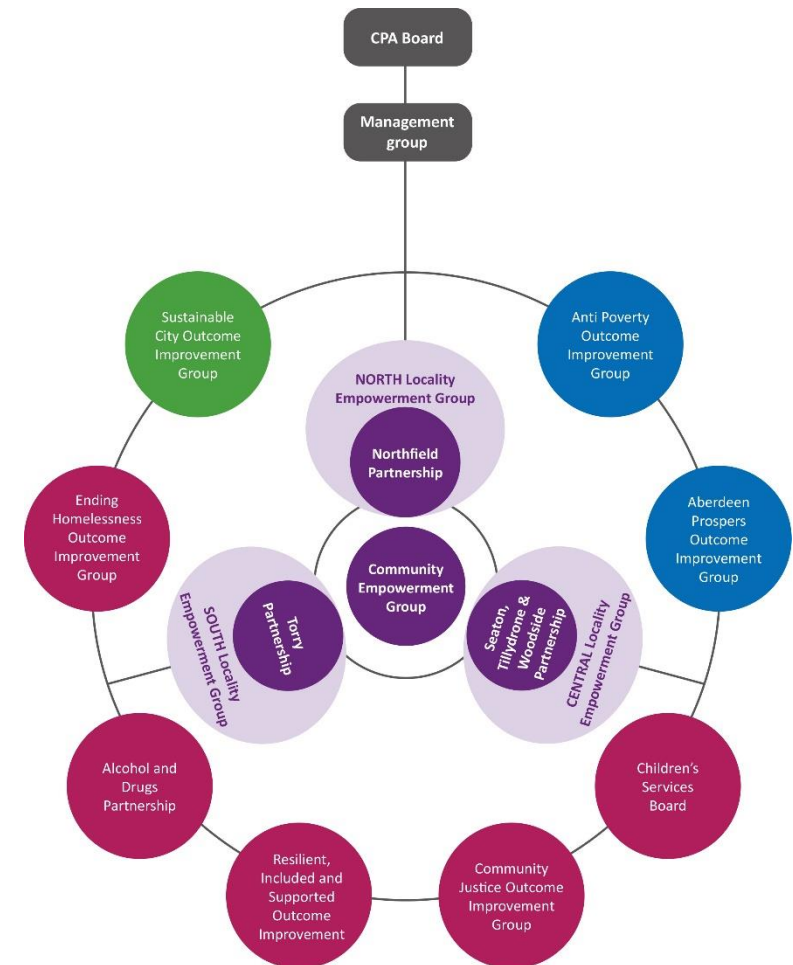
Community Planning Aberdeen Accountability Structure

The CPA Board provides strategic leadership and direction for Community Planning across Aberdeen. It will scrutinise overall delivery of progress against this Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the underpinning Locality Plans to ensure improved outcomes across all areas of Aberdeen.

The CPA Management Group is accountable to the CPA Board and oversees the delivery of progress by our seven themed Outcome Improvement Groups (OIG). The Anti-Poverty Group is a new addition to the structure, ensuring that the Partnership takes action to alleviate the consequences of poverty in the short term as well as prevent future poverty through the work of all of the OIGs together.

The Outcome Improvement Groups facilitate effective joint working across Community Planning partners and with communities to ensure delivery of the LOIP and locality plans remain on track, and to advise the CPA Board of any additional action required to overcome barriers.

The Community Empowerment Group works with the Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships oversee the delivery of Locality Plans with communities to ensure equality of outcomes being achieved across the City.



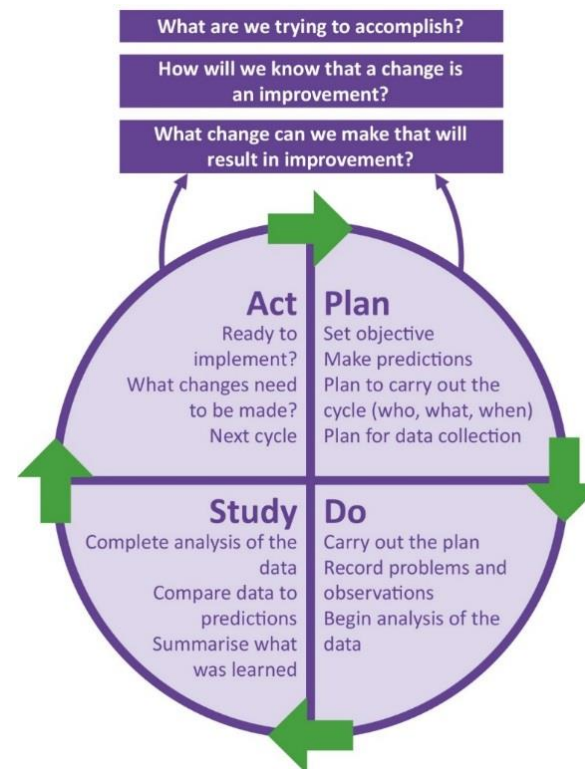
Improvement and Innovation

CPA will use Quality Improvement (QI) and the Model for Improvement framework for driving improvement activity across the Partnership. This provides us with a systematic approach to improvement which focuses on doing things better at the system level. It can be used for any area of business and is designed to break down change into manageable chunks. Each change idea is tested to make sure that actions taken are leading to improvement. Designed by the Institute of Health Improvement (IHI), this approach is used widely across Scotland as part of the

[3 Step Improvement Framework for Scotland's Public Services.](#)

In line with the methodology, initiation of every improvement project listed in this LOIP commence on approval of a project charter. The project charter sets out specifically what we are trying to achieve, by how much and by when. It includes the business case for undertaking the improvement project, drawing on national research to evidence how it supports prevention and early intervention to maximise the use of future resources. Using data is an essential component of the methodology and charters outline the range of process, output and outcome indicators which will be used to assess performance improvement.

To support staff to use the improvement methodology we have developed a comprehensive 'Innovate and Improve' programme to build capacity and capability in QI and the Model for Improvement across our Partnership and Communities. The programme is led by an Improvement Faculty consisting of members from across the Partnership who are committed to sharing their knowledge and expertise in Quality Improvement.



Evaluation and performance management

Ultimately, improving outcomes will be the test of our success. We have included a carefully chosen list of improvement measures and aims within this document. However, in some areas, for example the early years work, the results may take up to five years to demonstrate success in achieving longer term significant outcomes. It is therefore critical that we use evidence based self-evaluation to ensure we are measuring the impact and outcomes we are having in taking forward this plan. As part of our performance management arrangements we will produce an annual performance report detailing progress against this plan.

CHANGE LOG



This change log provides record of all approved changes made to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan following approval of the original document by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 22 August 2016. Significant changes to the LOIP require approval by the CPA Board prior to incorporating into the document. The latest versions of the LOIP is available online at <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/aberdeen-city-local-outcome-improvement-plan-2016-26/>.

Version	Changes	Page Number	Approved By	Date
1	Local Outcome Improvement Plan.	1-34 and 42-61	CPA Board	22 August 2016
2	People are resilient, included and supported when in need section added.	35-41	CPA Board	12 December 2016
	Updated governance and accountability structure following approval of the Final Report for the Review of CPA Infrastructure.	59	CPA Board	12 December 2016
3	Priority community justice drivers incorporated into People are resilient, included and supported when in need section.	35-41	CPA Board	24 April 2017
4	Amendments as proposed in 2016/17 Annual Outcome Improvement Report pages 81-82.	16-59	CPA Board	4 December 2017
5	Refresh of Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 following revised Population Needs Assessment 2018. The refresh introduces 15 new Stretch Outcomes which clearly quantify the scale of Partnership's ambition to address key issues. The refresh also includes the specific improvement project aims that Outcome Improvement Groups will be working towards in an effort to achieve our stretch outcomes. The Board was asked to approve these projects based on their confidence that these are the projects that will yield improved outcomes and scalable results.	1-55	CPA Board	26 February 2019
6	Removal of Improvement Project Aim 'Increase the number of 27-30 month reviews completed for eligible children by 5.2% by 2021' further to the decision of the CPA Board that this is a single system improvement project.	20	CPA Board	2 December 2019
	Improvement Project Aim 'Increase the number of people with autism who are supported to be in education, employment or training by 2021' amended to 'Increase the number of autistic people aged 16 to 25 who are supported into employment by 2021.'	38	CPA Board	2 December 2019
7	Improvement Project Aim 'Increase the number of Digital and ICT SVQ level 4 qualifications achieved by 10% by 2021.' amended to 'Increase the number of people within Aberdeen City qualified with ICT and Digital skills at SCQF Levels 7 and 8 by 10% by 2024.'	15	CPA Board	26 February 2020
	Improvement Project Aim 'Increase the number of distress brief intervention opportunities for people with mental health issues by 10% by 2021' amended to 'Increase the number of Distress Brief	38	CPA Board	26 February 2020

Version	Changes	Page Number	Approved By	Date
	Interventions opportunities for people presenting to frontline services in distress by 10% by 2021.'			
8	Removal of Improvement Project Aim "Increase in the MMR vaccine uptake for children at 24 months by 3.9% by 2020. "	19	CPA Board	16 September 2020
9	Refresh of Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 following revised Population Needs Assessment 2021 . The refresh takes place within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Key changes include: an increased focus on poverty through new Stretch Outcome 1, new stretch outcome 15 to enhance the natural environment, contraction of improvement projects from 120 to 75 to sharpen focus and inclusion of lead partner, baseline data and target population.	1-49	CPA Board	7 July 2021
10	Improvement Project Aim 'Improve the overall impact of partnership wide community benefits by increasing the number of projects which involve community co-design activities from 0 to 5 by December 2023.' Amended to 'Increase the number of responsible businesses working with Community Planning Aberdeen through Community Benefits and CSR activity by 200% by 2023.'	15	CPA Board	15 September 2021
11	Removal of Improvement Project Aim "The number of children and young people with an eating disorder who are identified within 3 months of onset is increased by 50% by 2023."	20	CPA Board	15 February 2023
12	Replacement of Stretch Outcome 4-9 with Stretch outcome 4-9 as contained in the revised Children's Services Strategic Plan 2023-26 approved by the CPA Board on 19 April 2023	18-25	CPA Board	19 April 2023



ENDORSEMENTS



This document is endorsed by the following Community Planning Partners:



Page 85



Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership
A caring partnership



Scottish Enterprise



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland



Skills
Development
Scotland



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Community Planning Team

 communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

 communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk

 @CPAberdeenCity

 @CPAberdeen



Community Planning
Aberdeen

Appendix 2 – Public Health Grampian Quality Assessment of refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)

- Very welcome to see the refreshed LOIP – following QA focuses on:
 - the contribution this makes to population health
 - the ability to make activities set out in the LOIP to be scaled up to a population level; and
 - the importance of this area of work to be progressed in future.

Introductory Sections

- Welcome that this is grounded in a population need assessment (PNA). This is an area of real strength and one which can be continue to be enhanced over time.
- Use of the Place Tool for community engagement is an innovative approach that clearly can enhance the PNA. What is notable is that 4 of the 5 of the five highest ranking themes link to aspects of health and wellbeing amongst the population. The wider use of the Place Standard tool is something that can be usefully explored across the community planning arrangements.
- Taking a life course approach to public health is well recognised, so the emphasis on a whole life (life course) approach to improvement, closely aligned to a preventative and early-interventional approach, is very welcome. That this is explicitly underpinning all aspects of the LOIP has the potential to help deliver population health benefits both directly and indirectly.
- Careful consideration of the 16 stretch outcomes highlights the degree to which delivering the LOIP has for improving the health of the population in Aberdeen City. It is clear that all of the outcomes have the potential to deliver health improvements either directly or indirectly. It is – of course – arguable how achievable some of the headline Stretch Outcomes (SO) are likely to be by 2026; however, that does not undermine the ambition – which remains as a spur to being ambitious in the LOIPs improvement projects.

The contribution of the LOIP to Public Health

- Within the Prosperous Economy area:
 - SO1: 5 projects addressing aspects of poverty though cost of living issues;
 - SO2: 7 projects seeking improvements in the employment rate;
 - Population health benefits are all likely to be indirect though reduction in economic inequalities not translating into health inequalities, clearly this is always based on individuals and families being able to access support as an “opportunity to benefit”;
- Within the Prosperous People (Children and Young People):
 - SO3: 5 projects associated with children’s development;
 - SO4: 5 projects addressing aspects of health and emotional needs of children with care experience;
 - SO6: 6 projects associated with maintaining positive outcomes after leaving school;
 - SO7: 5 projects relating to reducing offending behaviour;
 - SO8: 6 projects looking to improve outcomes for children/young people with additional support needs/disability.
 - There are two SO (3 & 4) and specific projects in the other three SO which have a clear set of outcomes which, if delivered, will improve health. For the remaining SOs,

what is important is that these aim to improve outcomes which address underlying determinants of future health or – in the case of SO8 – address areas where there are known inequalities associated with learning needs or disabilities. These are therefore of particular interest from a population health standpoint.

- Within the Prosperous People (Adults):
 - SO9: 9 projects relating to reducing offending behaviour;
 - SO10: 8 projects designed to increase healthy life expectancy;
 - SO11: 7 projects seeking to minimise harms associated with alcohol and drug use;
 - SO12: 8 projects aimed at alleviating homelessness, including youth homelessness;
 - As with the SOs for children and young people two of the SOs in the adults sections(10 & 11) are absolutely focussed on improving health and wellbeing. Though, given the current situation where healthy life expectancy has fallen in Scotland during the years from 2010 to 2021, with Aberdeen City comparable with the national levels of health life expectancy for 2019-2021, meeting an increase of 5 years of living life in good health by 2026 (SO11) is very unlikely to be met. (see: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/healthy-life-expectancy/19-21/healthy-life-expectancy-19-21-info.pdf>). For SO10, progress towards the outcomes identified in the projects relating to alcohol and drug harms is encouraging. The effects these have of the overall SO to reduce deaths remains to be seen. For SO9 and SO12, as for children, these areas which have the potential to impact on factors which create health inequalities so successful delivery could be important in delivering improved population health.
- Within Prosperous Place:
 - SO13: 3 outcomes addressing aspects of climate change mitigation;
 - SO14: 3 outcomes looking to promote active travel;
 - SO15: 6 outcomes seeking to promote greenspaces and places are care for well cared;
 - All of these outcomes have direct and indirect impacts on the health and wellbeing of people and places and projects are showing some positive progress, notably in relation to aspects of active travel (SO14). The work around SO13 are particularly important to current health and wellbeing as climate change impacts are already leading to an increase in extreme weather events. Future impacts of climate change are also of concern as failure to adapt to climate changes will add to the inequalities people experience, including health inequalities.
- Within Community Empowerment:
 - SO16: 6 outcomes addressing improved population collaboration in services, social connectedness, and building community capacity.
 - Social connectedness and social capital – all of which relate to this SO – have an indirect impact on health and wellbeing. Ensuring that these projects do give due consideration to the population health benefits that they can bring is important. This should be considered in the evaluation of these projects and not simply presumed.

From Projects to Population Health

- It may seem unnecessary to say that there will be a need to ensure the learning gained through the 95 improvement projects being undertaken under the refreshed LOIP is used to support the scaling up of change across the whole of Aberdeen City. In some cases this may involve embedding small scale service changes into providing the

chance across the whole of the service to make it part of “business as usual”. In other cases, there may be challenges in turning a targeted response to improve health on some areas of the city into a scaled-up service available to all. For others, the test of change learning may be that a wholly different approach is needed.

- Consolidating the learning achieved, and considering how we can develop the “follow on” from the test of change project into part of our everyday delivery is essential to the LOIP’s approach. In doing this, Public Health is keen to help with this transition from LOIP projects to bringing population health benefits.
- Ensuring that the LOIP can deliver sustained improvements that deliver population health benefit is important, especially where these benefits are indirectly related to the SO. This is particularly true in relation to those projects that are addressing elements that relate to modifying the social and economic determinants of health. These considerations point to a need to enhance the LOIPs approach to evaluating tests of change to ensure that they consider both the project itself and the potential for longer term health benefit arising from the project working at the population level. In delivering this, it would be useful to draw on the expertise within the Aberdeen City HDRC to advise on the development of evaluation within the LOIP.

The Importance of the LOIP to Population Health

- As already noted, the approach to the development and the refresh of the Aberdeen City LOIP has a clear relationship to public health approaches and has the potential to deliver population health benefits.
- However, ensuring that what has worked will need to be maintained to bring a lasting, positive health benefit.
- As we move forward towards the development of the LOIP for 2027 and beyond, this ethos towards prevention and early intervention as key elements within the LOIP needs to be maintained and further enhanced.
- Learning from what has worked well in the current LOIP approach needs to be collated and assessed as it can help frame the future LOIP from 2027 onwards.

Phil Mackie
March 2024

This page is intentionally left blank



Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Draft Refreshed Locality Plans 2021-26: North, South and Central.
Lead Officer	Angela Scott, Chair of CPA Management Group Fiona Mitchelhill, Chief Officer of ACHSCP
Report Author	Jade Leyden, Community Development Manager, ACC Iain Robertson, Transformation Programme Manager, ACHSCP
Date of Report	19 March 2024
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 27 March 2024

Purpose of the Report

This report presents the draft refreshed North, South and Central Locality Plans. The plans underpin the refreshed Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan, as well as individual partner plans, to ensure a joint and coordinated approach between public services and local communities to improve outcomes city wide and at a locality level.

Summary of Key Information

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since 2021, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership has been working together to facilitate and deliver an integrated locality planning model on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen. The approach ensures that Community Planning partners are meeting their locality planning duties in respect of both the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This joint approach enables more efficient and effective working between partner staff and communities to secure better outcomes for the economy, people and place. Integrated locality planning is an innovative approach with only one other such arrangement in place in Scotland.
- 1.2 In July 2021, Community Planning Aberdeen published Locality Plans for the North, South and Central [Localities of the City](#). This approach sees every neighbourhood in Aberdeen covered by a Locality Plan. The plans incorporate improvement activity for the whole locality and/or targeted at specific neighbourhoods – in most cases priority neighbourhoods. Priority neighbourhoods are those areas within the North, South and Central localities which experience poorer outcomes as a result of their socio-economic status, as identified by SIMD data. These include: for the North, Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park and Mastrick; for the South, Torry and Kincorth; and for Central, Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Ashgrove, Stockethill and George Street.
- 1.3 We have taken an asset based approach to the development of the Locality Plans by working with community based Locality Empowerment Groups (LEGs) and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships (PNPs). The groups have brought together individuals, community groups and organisations with a shared passion for making things better for their area. This has helped connect community assets,

knowledge, skills and ideas for improvement to the work of the Community Planning Partnership.

- 1.4 Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships have been operating since 2017 and are well established in priority neighbourhoods. Locality Empowerment Groups restarted in April 23 after a period of inactivity due to the pandemic. Over the last year, people involved in the Locality Empowerment Groups have committed their time to learning more about Community Planning Aberdeen, the shared ambitions of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the role of partners in working together to achieve these. They have considered data to understand inequalities which exist between neighbourhoods within their locality and across the City. And they have agreed local priorities for making better use of local people's skills and assets to help improve outcomes for people. This, along with the results of the public place standard engagement exercise during October-November 23, has culminated in the production of the draft Locality Plans presented at Appendix 1, 2 and 3 of this report.

2 REFRESHED LOCALITY PLANS

- 2.1 Through the Locality Empowerment Groups (LEGs) and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships we have heard from communities what is important to them and what their priorities for improvement are. In all cases, there is a link between the aspirations of communities to the stretch outcomes and improvement aims within the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The locality plans identify these connects with the city wide LOIP. This is essential to ensure that professionals and communities are listening to each other, taking on board each other's ideas and, essentially, are working together to test and implement change.

- 2.2 The Locality Plans help facilitate and encourage a two-way dialogue between partners on the city wide Outcome Improvement Groups delivering the LOIP and members of the Locality Empowerment Groups/ Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships delivering the Locality Plans. They cement a joint and coordinated approach between professionals and local communities to improve outcomes city wide and at a locality level.



E.g. North Locality Plan

Priority 4:

Early intervention approach targeted at those who are involved in, or at risk in offending

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Who we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Provide activities for children and young people				
• More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together • Diversionary Activities for young people such as AMPED - men's shed model • Develop a pump track in the Northfield Area • Develop and promote community safety initiatives.	Locality Wide Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park & Mastrick	AMPED ACC Youth Work Team Sport Aberdeen	No. of activities available for young people in the North Locality	Stretch Outcome 4: Children's Mental Wellbeing Improvement projects 4.4 and 4.5 Stretch Outcome 7: Youth Justice Improvement project 7.5

2.3 The Locality Plans make the link between the ideas for improvement which have been identified by communities to the improvement projects within the LOIP, where relevant. See extract of the North Locality Plan above. Across the three localities there was no instance where a community idea for improvement did not link in some way to a LOIP stretch outcome and improvement project aim. Acknowledging this link within the locality plans has the following benefits:

- Removes the risk of silo working, confusion and duplication of effort between the city wide Outcome Improvement Groups (OIG) and Locality Empowerment Groups (LEG)/ Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships (PNP)
- Raises awareness of the OIGs and LEGs/PNPs of what is going on city wide and locally and encourages greater collaboration
- Communities are empowered to test their change ideas on their own locally and/ or work with professionals involved in OIGs
- Communities can focus on setting up tests of change and monitoring results rather than having to create project charters which are being developed by OIGs
- Capacity building for communities can be tailored appropriately and focussed on using the Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle to test ideas and gather evidence for scaling up and spreading proven initiatives
- Provides a mechanism for communities to share results and seek support from partners for support with scale up and spread

3 ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3.1 The Aberdeen City Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan sets out how communities are supported to express their voice, identify their capacities, learning and skills, enhance them and apply them to their issues. There is an obvious link between the work of CLD services and the support being provided by the joint Locality Planning Team to build the capacity of communities to engage in locality planning. The CLD plan sets out shared plans for asset based community development, including capacity building in quality improvement through training on using the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycle to test ideas for improvement. This will help further build community confidence to participate in improvement projects and feel empowered to test their own change ideas.

4 EVOLUTION OF LOCALITY PLANS

- 4.1 The current Locality Plans are a starting point for unifying and strengthening community collaboration in improving outcomes. They will continue to evolve over time as the Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships develop and mature and communities become more confident to drive the development process themselves.
- 4.2 Part of the evolution of the Locality Plans will be developing the place themes within the plans to incorporate 'Local Place Plans'. The Scottish Government's regulations on Local Place Plans make clear the opportunity to link LPPs with wider Locality Plans that are in place as a result of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. It recognises how this would create efficiencies, reduce duplication and prioritise resources to areas where there could be particularly significant benefits for communities and inclusive growth. These are the same benefits the Community Planning Aberdeen and IJB aiming to achieve through locality planning. Post approval of the Locality Plans in April, collaboration between the Community Planning Team, Locality Planning Team and Place Planning Team will continue to ensure congruence between the LOIP, Locality Plans and emerging Local Place Plans.

5 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The CPA Management Group is asked to note next steps.

CPA Board Meeting to approve refreshed Locality Plans	29 April 2024
Communication Plan to launch the Refreshed Plans – (See Appendix 6 of Item 2.1)	<u>May 2024</u>

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the CPA Management Group:

- Endorse the draft refreshed North, South and Central Locality Plans presented at Appendix 1 for submission to the CPA Board on 29 April 2024;
- Subject to approval by the Board agree that Partners be asked to update their strategic plans to align to the refreshed Locality Plans and cascade across their organisations and community networks to raise awareness;
- Consider the Locality Plans in conjunction with the city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan (Item 2.1).

Opportunities and Risks

The outcomes of poor health and wellbeing are inextricably linked to the wider determinants of public health that the Community Planning Partnership is seeking to improve through its stretch outcomes 1-16. The locality plans help direct resources to the people and communities in greatest need of support across a range of outcomes. They underpin the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Strategy, as well as other Partner strategies. Most importantly, they enable stronger collaboration between community groups and public services to pull resources, assets and skills to achieve shared priority outcomes.

Consultation

Michelle Crombie, Community Planning Manager, ACC
Alison Macleod, Strategy & Transformation Lead, ACHSCP
Allison Swanson, Improvement Programme Manager, ACC
ACC Strategy Board
ACHSCP Strategic Planning Group
Locality Planning Team
North, South and Central Locality Empowerment Groups
North, South and Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships
Key Stakeholders and members of the public

Background Papers

The following papers were used in the preparation of this report.

[Integration of Locality Planning and Community Empowerment Models for Community Planning Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership – CPA Board, 3 December 2020](#)

[Final Draft Integrated Locality Plans 2021-26 – North, South and Central](#)

Contact details:

Name	Jade Leyden	Iain Robertson
Title	Community Development Manager	Transformation Programme Manager (Communities), ACHSCP
Email Address	JLeyden@aberdeencity.gov.uk	la Robertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Central Locality Plan

2021-2026

(Updated April 2024)



Central Locality Neighbourhoods:

Ashgrove, City Centre, Froghall, George St, Hanover, Hilton, Midstocket, Old Aberdeen, Powis, Rosemount, Tillydrone, Seaton, Stockethill, Sunnybank, West End and Woodside



Community Planning
Aberdeen

Page 97

Welcome



Welcome to the Central Locality Plan which sets out the priority outcomes we want to achieve by 2026. We will work together with people living and working in the Central Locality to deliver the plan. The plan was first published in July 2021 and has been refreshed in 2024 to ensure it remains relevant and focussed on Central Locality priorities. Moving out of the pandemic, some priorities have changed but many remain the same. As part of the refresh process, we considered feedback gathered through our 'what matters to you' community engagement exercise and considered local level data, including progress we have made and areas for improvement reported as part of the Central Locality Annual Report 2022-23. Most importantly, we listened to people living and working across the Central Locality to hear what they think and understand what would make the greatest difference to them. The refreshed plan has been developed by Community Planning Aberdeen, working with members of the Central Locality Empowerment Group and Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership. The plan supports delivery of the citywide Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).



Vision and Priorities

Our collective vision is to ensure that Aberdeen is a place where all can prosper. To achieve this in the North Locality, we have identified six priorities to be achieved under the four key themes of Economy, People, Place and Community.

ECONOMY	PEOPLE	PLACE	COMMUNITY
1.Reduce the number of People living in poverty (Page 3)	2. Improve Mental Health and Wellbeing of the population. (Page 5)	5. Maximise use of spaces in communities to create opportunities for people to connect and increase physical activity (Page 8)	6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community (Page 10)
	3. Ensure people can access services timely through a person-centred approach (Page 6)		
	4. Create Safe and resilient communities (Page 7)		

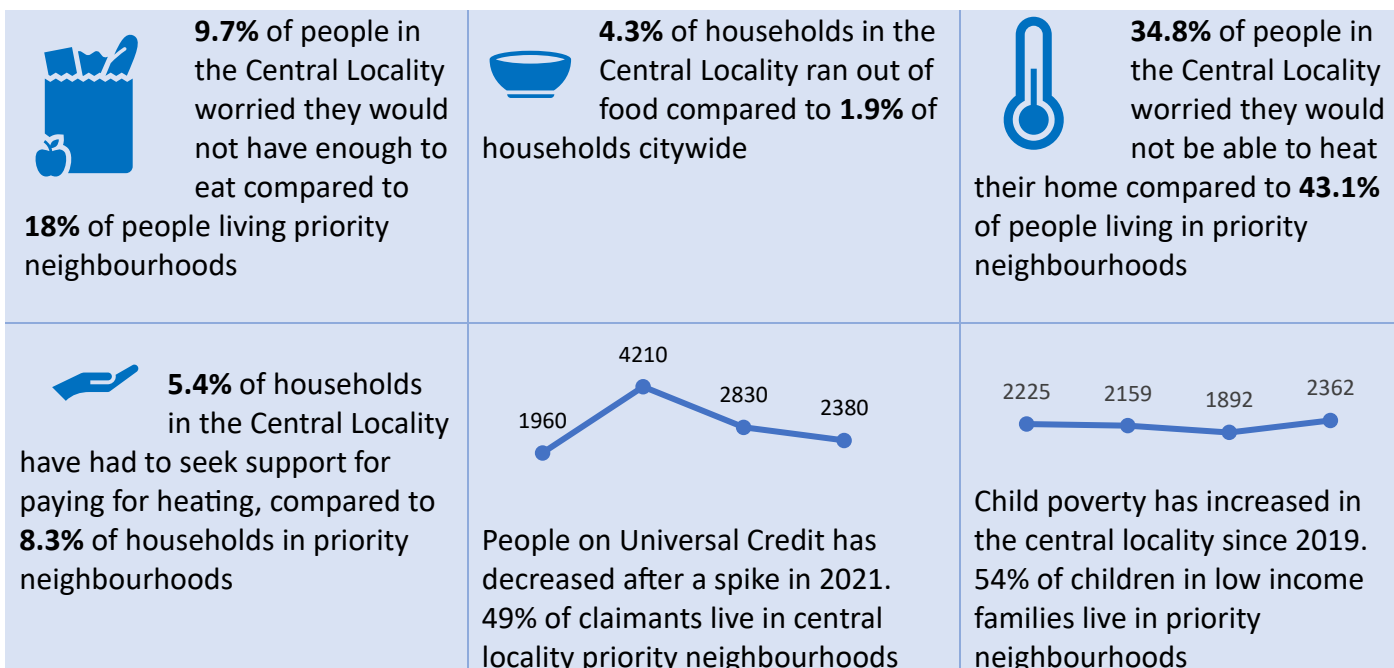
These priorities are relevant to all neighbourhoods within the locality, but we recognise that some neighbourhoods will need more support to achieve improved outcomes. Priority neighbourhoods which experience disadvantage have been identified using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). These neighbourhoods may need additional support to benefit from the same opportunities to thrive and succeed as other neighbourhoods within the locality.

Our priority neighbourhoods within the Central Locality include Tillydrone, Woodside, Seaton, George Street, Stockethill and Ashgrove.

Our Economy



What we know now



Priority 1:

Reduce the number of people living in poverty through the creation of opportunities for employment and skills and create solutions to tackle food and fuel poverty.

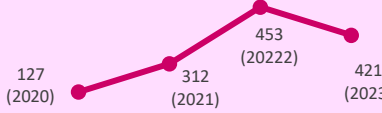
Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support our communities who experience poverty				
- Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries. - Support communities with financial inclusion. - Support English as Second Language (ESOL) families to access services. - Insulation and retrofitting of housing to reduce fuel bills	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Ashgrove, Stockethill & George Street Locality Wide	CFINE Fersands and Sandilands SCIO Seaton Management Committee NESCAN STAR Flat	No. people accessing foodbanks referred to cash first initiatives (IP1.3) Uptake in unclaimed benefits (IP1.4) No. of socially rented households in fuel poverty (IP 1.2)	Stretch Outcome 1: Poverty Improvement projects 1.1-1.4

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Strengthen opportunities for Business Growth				
- Support development of Social Enterprises and small businesses. - Utilise empty premises to encourage new businesses. - Grow the number of job opportunities in the locality - Strengthen relationships with local businesses. - Visually improve the area to encourage use/business	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Ashgrove, Stockethill & George Street	SHMU Business Gateway	No. of people supported to start up a social enterprise/ business (IP 2.5)	Stretch Outcome 2: Employability Improvement projects 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 Stretch Outcome 15: Open Space and Built Environment Improvement project 15.5
Support development of employment opportunities.				
- Making childcare more affordable and accessible to increase parental employment - Support and develop employment opportunities for adults and young people. - Encourage employers in the locality to sign up to the Real Living Wage. - More access to apprenticeships and training - Support with digital skills for work (not just beginners)	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Ashgrove, Stockethill & George Street Locality Wide	Pathways STAR Flat SHMU, Printfield Project Fersands and Sandilands SCIO Tilly Flat	No. of young parents supported into training or employment (IP 2.6) No. of people supported with digital skills to apply for employment (IP2.7) No. of people supported into good quality employment (IP 2.1)	Stretch Outcome 2: Employability. All improvement projects. Stretch Outcome 6: Positive Destinations. Improvement projects 6.3-6.6 Stretch Outcome 9: Community Justice. Improvement project 9.1

Our People



What we know now

 96.2% of school leavers from the Central Locality achieved an initial positive destination in 2021-22, this is similar to the 2020-21 figure of 96.5%, and higher than the Aberdeen City average of 93.8%.	 No. of referrals each month to NHSG's children and adolescent mental health services have increased since 2020	 The rate of death from suicide in the Central Locality is 10.5 per 100,000, this is below the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population. This is an improvement from 2021 where the suicide rate for Central Locality stood at 13 per 100,000 of the population.															
 30.8% of people in the Central Locality said they didn't know how many units are in the alcoholic drinks they consume. 42.9% of people living in the Central Locality said they didn't think about units at all	 The rate of drug related hospital stays for the Central Locality in 2022 was 249.6 per 100,000. This is a slight increase from 244.3 per 100,000 of the population in 2021.	<table><tr><td></td><td>80.2</td><td>80.3</td><td>80.1</td><td>80.0</td></tr><tr><td>F</td><td>75.1</td><td>75.5</td><td>75.5</td><td>75.5</td></tr><tr><td>M</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> Life Expectancy has stayed stable in the Central Locality since 2018 for males and females. But it is lower in priority neighbourhoods at 78.1 (F) and 72.8 (M)		80.2	80.3	80.1	80.0	F	75.1	75.5	75.5	75.5	M				
	80.2	80.3	80.1	80.0													
F	75.1	75.5	75.5	75.5													
M																	

Priority 2:

Improve Mental Wellbeing of the Population

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Create opportunities to upskill knowledge and understanding				
- Use digital tools to support Mental Health and Wellbeing for young people. - Upskilling communities and partners knowledge of Suicide Prevention. - Support Community groups to understand community Health and Wellbeing. - Creating opportunities for those who identify as isolated to take part in activities.	Locality Wide	Sport Aberdeen STAR FLAT The Bridge Fersands and Sandilands SCIO Aberdeen FC Community Trust	% of S1-S6 pupils who report they feel confident (IP 4.4) No. of people engaged in Stay Well, Stay Connected initiatives (IP10.3)	Stretch Outcome 4: Children's Mental Wellbeing Improvement projects 4.4 & 4.5 Stretch Outcome 10: Healthy Life Expectancy Improvement project 10.1 & 10.3

Priority 3:

Ensure People can access services timely through a person-centred approach where the needs of the whole population are considered.

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Increase knowledge and understanding of health provision in locality				
- Awareness of services and signposting. - Upskilling communities and partners knowledge of Healthy Weight Management. - Develop programmes of activities to informally support mental wellbeing	Locality wide	Fersands and Fountain SCIO Printfield Project STAR Flat Tilly Flat The Bridge	% the number of people engaged with Stay Well Stay Connected initiatives (IP 10.3) No. of low-income families supported with healthy eating behaviours and maintaining weight (IP 10.4)	Stretch Outcome 10: Healthy Life Expectancy Improvement project 10.3 & 10.4
Innovative approaches to addressing health issues				
- Test use of nicotine training - Developing assets and activities to encourage outdoor activity - Improve physical place to encourage people to use outdoor space - Identify and promote opportunities to communities to volunteer	Locality wide	Sport Aberdeen STAR Flat Fersands and Sandilands SCIO	%. of women smoking in pregnancy (IP10.6) % of young people regularly vaping (IP10.8) % of people cycling and walking (IP14) % of citizens who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space (IP15.1) No. of community groups making environmental improvements (IP15.1)	Stretch Outcome 10: Healthy Life Expectancy Improvement Projects 10.6 and 10.8 Stretch Outcome 14: Walking and Cycling Improvement Projects 14.1 & 14.2 Stretch Outcome 15: Open Space and Built Environment Improvement project 15.1 and 15.2, 15.5 and 15.6

Priority 4:

Create safe and resilient communities

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Create local safe spaces to support outside activities				
- Develop and promote community safety initiatives. - Create indoor and outdoor opportunities for activities (young people). - Encourage the use of green spaces for healthy activities. - Road Safety	Locality wide Woodside - Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Ashgrove, Stockethill & George Street	Fersands and Sandilands SCIO SHMU Sport Aberdeen Off the Rails Community Garden (Woodside) Sport Aberdeen	% of children who feel safe in their community (IP4.5) No. of community activities available for young people No. of youth and adult anti-social behaviour calls to Police Scotland (IP7.5/9.9) % of people who feel safe using various modes of travel at night (City Voice)	Stretch Outcome 4: Children's Mental Wellbeing Improvement project 4.5 Stretch Outcome 7 and 9: Youth and Community Justice Improvement projects 7.5 & 9.9 Stretch Outcome 15: Open and Built Environment Improvement project 15.1 & 15.2 Stretch Outcome 14: Sustainable Travel All improvement projects
Support those affected by alcohol and substance use				
- Development of activities to promote recovery. - Raise awareness of substance use service and provision.	Locality Wide Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Ashgrove, Stockethill & George Street	Aberdeen in Recovery Alcohol and Drugs Action Woodside Network The Bridge	No. of women drinking in pregnancy (IP 11.3) No. of people in priority neighbourhoods receiving alcohol support (IP11.4) No. of people at stage 5 recovery from drug and alcohol (IP11.7)	Stretch Outcome 11: Alcohol and Drugs Improvement projects 11.3-11.5 and 11.7



What we know now

 66.5% of Central Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to 70.2% of people living in priority neighbourhoods. (City Voice 46, 2022)	 16.8% of people in the Central Locality cycled in the last year compared to the citywide average of 14.8%. 91.6% of people in the Central Locality walked in the last year compared to 89.1% citywide (City Voice 46, 2022)	 62.5% of people in the Central Locality are worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather and 6.1% agreed that the community has taken steps to prepare against this. (City Voice 46, 2022)
--	--	--

Priority 5

Maximise the spaces in communities to create opportunities for people and nature to connect and increase physical activity.

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Tackle waste in our communities				
- Increase uptake of recycling options and reduce fly tipping. - Increase community litter picks - Encourage responsible dog ownership	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Ashgrove, Stockethill & George Street Locality Wide	Sport Aberdeen	Reduce generation of household waste (IP 13.2) No of community groups delivering environmental improvements in their area (IP15.4)	Stretch Outcome 13: Climate Change Improvement Project 13.2 Stretch Outcome 15: Open Space and Built Environment Improvement project 15.4
Develop resilience plans				
Develop flood and community resilience plans.	The Green, Merchant Quarter, Holburn Street, Footdee Locality Wide	Community Councils in the Central Locality	No. of resilience plans in place across the locality (13.3)	Stretch Outcome 13: Climate Change Improvement project 13.3

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support Greenspace Development				
• Encourage walking and cycling • Grow more wildflowers • Create space for community growing space and allotments • Create food growing initiatives	Locality Wide	Sport Aberdeen NESCOAN, Earth and Worms, Fersands and Sandilands SCIO STAR Flat	No. of people who walk/cycle as one mode of travel (IP 14.1 & 14.2) No. of people experiencing good quality natural space (IP15.1) No of community groups delivering environmental improvements in their area (IP15.4)	Stretch Outcome: Sustainable Travel Improvement projects 14.1-14.2 Stretch Outcome 15: Open Space and Built Environment Improvement project 15.1, 15.3, 15.4 and 15.5

Our Community



What we know now

 32% of people in the Central Locality scored highly* for overall identity and belonging compared to 21.6% of people in central priority neighbourhoods and 38.5% city wide.	 45.8% of people in the Central Locality scored highly* for how welcoming the place is compared to 29.7% of people in priority neighbourhoods and 46.6% city wide.	 16.9% of people in the Central Locality scored highly* for overall influence and sense of control compared to 16.7% of people in priority neighbourhoods and 16.7% city wide.
 43.8% of people in the Central Locality feel part of the community compared to only 54% in priority neighbourhoods and 46% city wide	 27.6% of people in the Central Locality belong to community groups compared to 32.4% in priority neighbourhoods and 24.9% city wide	 In the Central Locality, 11.4% are aware of Locality Plans, 7.6% are aware of Locality Empowerment Groups and 7.6% of Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships.

*Scored 5 and above out of a possible 7

Note of caution in considering priority neighbourhood data as sample size is smaller.

Priority 6:

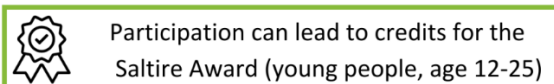
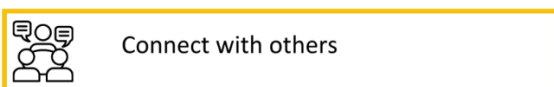
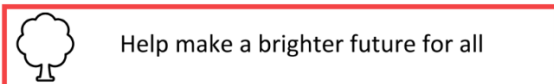
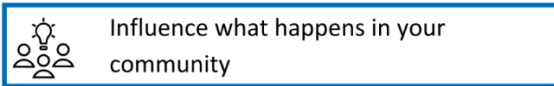
Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support people to get involved				
• Increase no. and diversity of community members participating in community planning • Support community led organisations to access funding for community led initiatives • Celebrate and increase awareness of community led projects • Ensure information, meetings and events are accessible and easy to understand	Locality Wide	All community groups and organisations	No of community ideas being tested (IP16.2) No. of people participating in community planning (IP16.3) No. of community led initiatives being supported to access funding (IP16.4) No. of people who feel they can access meetings and events	Stretch Outcome 16: Community Empowerment All improvement projects

How to get involved

The [Central Locality Empowerment Group](#) and the [Woodside, Tillydrone and Seaton Priority Neighbourhood Partnership](#) are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the Central Locality. As a member of a LEG and Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

What's in it for you?



Following a recent training session provided by SCDC in partnership with ACC/AHSCP, the community had this to say about community engagement:

"Talk to us and talk to us early. Don't make decisions and then get it approved by us. Communities have knowledge and skills to know what's best for us. We're the local experts about our places"

"Community Engagement is where people grow"

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more: [Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#) or email localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.



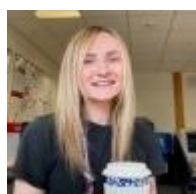
Meet your Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated locality planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive and action oriented. Community input is extremely valuable to this work.

The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the Central Locality your locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, Graham and Chris.



Iain Robertson,
Transformation
Programme Manager,
Aberdeen City Health and
Social Care Partnership



Jade Leyden,
Community Development
Manager, Aberdeen City
Council



Graham Donald,
Community Development
Officer, Aberdeen City
Council



Chris Smillie, Public
Health Coordinator,
ACHSCP

Please take a moment to complete this [survey](#) and let us know how we can enhance our service delivery and collaboration with you. Together we can make a positive impact and create a place where all people can prosper

This page is intentionally left blank

North Locality Plan

2021-2026

(Updated April 2024)



North Locality Neighbourhoods:

Dyce, Danestone, Oldmachar, Denmore, Balgownie & Donmouth, Bucksburn, Heathryfold, Middlefield, Kingswells, Northfield, Cummings Park, Sheddocksley, Mastrick, Summerhill



Community Planning
Aberdeen

Page 109

Welcome



Welcome to the North Locality Plan which sets out the priority outcomes we want to achieve by 2026. We will work together with people living and working in the North Locality to deliver the plan. The plan was first published in July 2021 and has been refreshed in 2024 to ensure it remains relevant and focussed on North Locality priorities. Moving out of the pandemic, some priorities have changed but many remain the same. As part of the refresh process, we considered feedback gathered through our 'what matters to you' community engagement exercise and considered local level data, including progress we have made and areas for improvement reported as part of the North Locality Annual Report 2022-23. Most importantly, we listened to people living and working across the North Locality to hear what they think and understand what would make the greatest difference to them. The refreshed plan has been developed by Community Planning Aberdeen, working with members of the North Locality Empowerment Group and North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership. The plan supports delivery of the citywide Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).



Vision and Priorities

Our collective vision is to ensure that Aberdeen is a place where all can prosper. To achieve this in the North Locality, we have identified six priorities to be achieved under the four key themes of Economy, People, Place and Community.

ECONOMY	PEOPLE	PLACE	COMMUNITY
1.Reduce the number of people living in poverty (Page 3)	2.Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people (Page 5)	5.Maximise use of disused outdoor space (Page 8)	6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community (Page 9)
	3. Support local volunteering (Page 6)		
	4.Early intervention approach (Page 7)		

These priorities are relevant to all neighbourhoods within the locality, but we recognise that some neighbourhoods will need more support to achieve improved outcomes. Priority neighbourhoods which experience disadvantage have been identified using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). These neighbourhoods may need additional support to benefit from the same opportunities to thrive and succeed as other neighbourhoods within the locality.

Our priority neighbourhoods within the North Locality include Northfield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Middlefield and Heathryfold.

Our Economy



What we know now

 8.3% of people in the North Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to 29.4% of people living priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 46, 2022)	 6.3% of households in the North Locality ran out of food compared to 18.8% of households in Middlefield, Mastrick, Cummings Park, Heathryfold and Northfield (City Voice 46, 2022)	 33.6% of people in the North Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 62.5% of people living in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 46, 2022)
 2.8% of households in the North Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to 12.5% of households in priority neighbourhoods. (City Voice 46, 2022)	 People on universal credit has increased in the North Locality since 2020. 43% of UC claimants live in Priority Neighbourhoods	 Child poverty has increased in the North Locality since 2019. 51% of children in low income families live in Priority Neighbourhoods

Priority 1:

Reduce the number of people living in poverty through the creation of local employment, training and apprenticeship opportunities, and create solutions to tackle food poverty

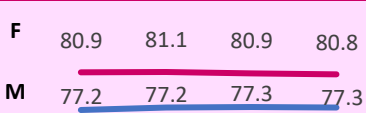
Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Create opportunities for fair work				
- Encourage employers in the area to sign up to the Real Living Wage. - Strengthen relationships with local businesses. - Support development of social enterprises and small businesses - Support and develop employment opportunities and routes to employment for young people. - More access to apprenticeships and training	Locality Wide Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park & Mastrick	SHMU Business Gateway	No. of people supported to start up a social enterprise/ business (IP 2.5) No. of young parents supported into training or employment (IP 2.6) No. of people supported with	Stretch Outcome 2: Employability. All improvement projects. In particular, 2.4-2.7 Stretch Outcome 6: Positive Destinations. Improvement projects 6.3-6.6 Stretch Outcome 9: Community Justice.

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
- Develop a dedicated Northfield job fair - Develop locally available employability support. - Make childcare affordable and accessible to increase parental employment.			digital skills to apply for employment (IP2.7) No. of people supported into good quality employment (IP 2.1)	Improvement project 9.1
Support our most vulnerable families				
- Support communities with benefit uptake and affordable heating - Sustain and develop community food provision - Insulation and retrofitting of housing - Buying debt/ debt management - Support families with English as a second language to access services	Locality Wide Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield & Mastrick	CFINE Middlefield Community project Cummings Park Community Association Northfield Community Centre NESCAN Mastrick Community Centre	No. people accessing foodbanks referred to cash first initiatives (IP1.3) Uptake in unclaimed benefits (IP1.4) No. of socially rented households in fuel poverty (IP 1.2)	Stretch Outcome 1: Anti-Poverty All Improvement projects Stretch Outcome 2: Employability Improvement projects 2.1 and 2.7

Our People



What we know now

 92.6% of North Locality school leavers achieved a positive destination. The citywide average was 93.8%.	 No. of referrals each month to NHS's children and adolescent mental health services increasing	 The rates of death from suicide in the North Locality is 12.6 per 100,000, this is above the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population.
 20.3% of people in the North Locality said they didn't know how many units are in the alcoholic drinks they consume. 48.4% of people living in the North said they didn't think about units at all. (City Voice 46, 2022)	 The rate of drug related hospital stays for the North Locality in 2022 was 175.2 per 100,000. This has improved from 193 per 100,000 of the population in 2021.	 Life expectancy has stayed stable in the North Locality but is lower in priority neighbourhoods at 78.3 (F) and 75.4 (M)

Priority 2:

Improve the physical health and wellbeing of people

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Upskill knowledge and understanding to improve health and wellbeing				
- Support Community groups to know about Health and Wellbeing and Health and Social Care Services in the Community - Use of noticeboards and social media to inform. - Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities. - Upskilling communities and partners knowledge of Suicide Prevention, services and training. - Improve physical place to encourage people to use outdoor space	Locality Wide Middlefield Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park & Mastrick Strikers	Northfield Community Centre Fit Like Hub SHMU Middlefield Community Project Mastrick Community Centre Cummings Park Community Association Cummings Park Flat	% the number of people engaged with Stay Well Stay Connected initiatives (IP 10.3) % of citizens who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space (IP15.1) No. of community groups making environmental improvements (IP15.4)	Stretch Outcome 10: Healthy Life Expectancy Improvement project 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4 Stretch Outcome 15: Open Space and Built Environment Improvement project 15.1, 15.2, 15.4 and 15.5

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Encourage healthy outdoor activities				
- Promote and improve accessible, active travel, including more and safer walking and cycling routes - Develop programmes to encourage outdoor activity	Locality Wide	Middlefield Community Project. Sport Aberdeen Cummings Park Flat	% of people cycling and walking (IP14.1&2)) No. of organised physical/wellbeing activity opportunities in the area	Stretch Outcome 14: Sustainable Travel All improvement projects

Priority 3:

Support local volunteering opportunities

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support local volunteering				
- Increase volunteering opportunities in the area and the communication of them - Develop opportunities for 'micro volunteering' such as one-off litter picks - Develop package of support for volunteers - Create community heritage centres to celebrate local identity	Locality Wide	SHMU Middlefield Community Project Northfield Community Centre Cummings Park Community Association Cummings Park Flat Sport Aberdeen	No. of volunteering opportunities available	All Stretch Outcomes and Community Learning & Development Plan

Priority 4:

Early intervention approach targeted at those who are involved in, or at risk in offending

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Provide activities for children and young people				
- More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together - Diversions Activities for young people - Develop a pump track in the Northfield Area - Develop and promote community safety initiatives.	Locality Wide Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park & Mastrick	AMPED Sport Aberdeen Mastrick Community Centre	% of S1-S6 pupils who report they feel confident (IP 4.4) % of children who feel safe in their community (IP4.5) Develop a pump track in the Northfield Area instances of youth anti-social behaviour calls to Police Scotland (IP7.5)	Stretch Outcome 4: Children's Mental Wellbeing Improvement projects 4.4 and 4.5 Stretch Outcome 7: Youth Justice Improvement project 7.5
Support those affected by alcohol and substance use				
- Encourage alcohol free social options. - Development of activities to promote recovery - Raise awareness of Substance use service and provision	Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park & Mastrick	Alcohol and Drugs Action Aberdeen in Recovery Cummings Park Community Association	No. of women drinking in pregnancy (IP11.3) No. of people in priority neighbourhoods receiving alcohol support (IP11.4) No. of people at stage 5 recovery from drug and alcohol (IP11.7)	Stretch Outcome 11: Alcohol and Drugs Improvement projects 11.3-11.5 and 11.7



What we know now

 66.5% of North Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to 64.7% of people living in priority neighbourhoods. (City Voice 46, 2022)	 11.8% of people in the North Locality cycled in the last year compared to the citywide average of 14.8%. 87.5% of people in the North Locality walked in the last year compared to 89.1% citywide (City Voice 46, 2022)	 59.1% of people in the North Locality are worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather and 5% agreed that the community has taken steps to prepare against this. (City Voice 46, 2022)
---	--	--

Priority 5:

Maximise use of disused outdoor space to increase food growing opportunities

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support greenspace use and development of area				
- Encourage community growing spaces, such as Council allotments - Encourage the use of green spaces for healthy benefits. - Encourage responsible dog ownership - Support outdoor activities by having benches placed in specific locations - Grow more wildflowers - Improve traffic management - Develop opportunities/spaces for more physical activity in the area	Heathryfold, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park & Mastrick Locality wide	Danestone Community Centre Dyce Community Garden and Orchard Sport Aberdeen Cummings Park Community Association Cummings Park Flat	No. of people experiencing good quality natural space (IP15.1) No. of people reporting positive outcomes in relation to their health and wellbeing (IP15.2) No of community groups delivering environmental improvements in their area (IP15.4)	Stretch Outcome: Sustainable Travel Improvement projects 14.1 Stretch Outcome 15: Open Space and Built Environment Improvement projects 15.1, 15.2, 15.4
Develop Local Resilience Plans				
Community led resilience plans in place, particularly for areas most vulnerable to flooding.	Bridge of Don, Denmore and Grandholm	Community Councils in the North Locality	No. of resilience plans in place across the locality (13.3)	Stretch Outcome 13: Climate Change Improvement project 13.3

Our Community



What we know now

 37.9% of people in the North Locality scored highly* for overall identity and belonging compared to 20% of people in north priority neighbourhoods and 38.5% city wide. (City Voice 46, 2022)	 43.7% of people in the North Locality scored highly* for how welcoming the place is compared to 33.4% of people in priority neighbourhoods and 46.6% city wide. (City Voice 46, 2022)	 9.2% of people in the North Locality scored highly* for overall influence and sense of control compared to 6.7% of people in priority neighbourhoods and 16.7% city wide. (City Voice 46, 2022)
 37.5% of people in the North Locality feel part of the community compared to only 26.7% in priority neighbourhoods and 46% city wide	 18.3% of people in the North Locality belong to community groups compared to 6.7% in priority neighbourhoods and 24.9% city wide	 In the North Locality, 17.5% are aware of Locality Plans, 5.8% are aware of Locality Empowerment Groups and 5% of Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships.

*Scored 5 and above out of a possible 7

Note of caution in considering priority neighbourhood data as sample size is smaller.

Priority 6:

Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support people to get involved				
• Increase no. and diversity of community members participating in community planning • Support community led organisations to access funding for community led initiatives • Celebrate and increase awareness of community led projects • Explore how community assets can be used as community resources	Locality Wide	All community groups and organisations	No of community ideas being tested (IP16.2) No. of people participating in community planning (IP16.3) No. of community led initiatives being supported to access funding (IP16.4)	Stretch Outcome 16: Community Empowerment All improvement projects

How to get involved

The [North Locality Empowerment Group](#) and the [Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership](#) are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the North Locality. As a member of a LEG and a Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

What's in it for you?



Influence what happens in your community



Help make a brighter future for all



Connect with others



Participation can lead to credits for the Saltire Award (young people, age 12-25)

Following a recent training session provided by SCDC in partnership with ACC/AHSCP, the community had this to say about community engagement:

"Talk to us and talk to us early. Don't make decisions and then get it approved by us. Communities have knowledge and skills to know what's best for us. We're the local experts about our places"

"Community Engagement is where people grow"

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more: [Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#) or email localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.



Meet your Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated locality planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive and action oriented. Community input is extremely valuable to this work.

The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the North Locality your locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, Katie, and Kev.



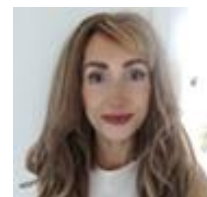
Iain Robertson,
Transformation Programme
Manager, Aberdeen City
Health and Social Care
Partnership



Jade Leyden,
Community Development
Manager, Aberdeen City
Council



Kev Donald, Community
Development Officer,
Aberdeen City Council



Katie Cunningham,
Public Health Coordinator,
ACHSCP

South Locality Plan

2021-2026

(Updated April 2024)



South Locality Neighbourhoods:

Culter; Cults, Bieldside, Milltimber & Countesswells; Hazlehead; Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill, Seafield; Garthdee; Ferryhill; Torry; Cove; Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg



Community Planning
Aberdeen

Welcome



Welcome to the South Locality Plan which sets out the priority outcomes we want to achieve by 2026. We will work together with people living and working in the South Locality to deliver the plan. The plan was first published in July 2021 and has been refreshed in 2024 to ensure it remains relevant and focussed on South Locality priorities. Moving out of the pandemic, some priorities have changed but many remain the same. As part of the refresh process, we considered feedback gathered through our ‘what matters to you’ community engagement exercise and considered local level data, including progress we have made and areas for improvement reported as part of the South Locality Annual Report 2022-23. Most importantly, we listened to people living and working across the South Locality to hear what they think and understand what would make the greatest difference to them. The refreshed plan has been developed by Community Planning Aberdeen, working with members of the South Locality Empowerment Group and South Priority Neighbourhood Partnership. The plan supports delivery of the citywide Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).



Vision and Priorities

Our collective vision is to ensure that Aberdeen is a place where all can prosper. To achieve this in the South Locality, we have identified six priorities to be achieved under the four key themes of Economy, People, Place and Community.

ECONOMY	PEOPLE	PLACE	COMMUNITY
1.Reduce number of people living in poverty. (Page 3)	3.Support children and young people (Page 5)	5. Identify and maximise use of green space (Page 7)	6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community (Page 9)
2.Improve and create employment opportunities (Page 4)	4. Focus on early intervention, prevention, and re-enablement actions (Page 6)		

These priorities are relevant to all neighbourhoods within the locality, but we recognise that some neighbourhoods will need more support to achieve improved outcomes. Priority neighbourhoods which experience disadvantage have been identified using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). These neighbourhoods may need additional support to benefit from the same opportunities to thrive and succeed as other neighbourhoods within the locality.

Our priority neighbourhoods within the South Locality include Torry and Kincorth.

Our Economy



What we know now

 7.2% of people in the South Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to 22.2% of people living in priority neighbourhoods.	 1.7% of households in the South Locality ran out of food compared to 11.1% of households in priority neighbourhoods.	 28.3% of people in the South Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 55.6% of people living in priority neighbourhoods.
 5.6% of households in the South Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to 11.1% of households in priority neighbourhoods.	 People on universal credit has increased in the South Locality since 2020. 50% of UC claimants live in Priority Neighbourhoods	 Child poverty has increased in the South Locality since 2019. 55% of children in low income families live in Priority Neighbourhoods

Priority 1:

Reduce number of people living in poverty. Address food and fuel poverty by identifying and using local assets (for example community cafés and community kitchens).

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support our most vulnerable families				
- Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries - Support communities with financial inclusion such as benefit uptake and affordable heating - Insulation and retrofitting of housing to reduce fuel bills - Improve affordability and accessibility of public transport - Create a local trusted tradesperson scheme to ensure fairness and best value	Torry & Kincorth Locality Wide	CFINE Torry People's Assembly NESCAN	No. people accessing foodbanks referred to cash first initiatives (IP1.3) Uptake in unclaimed benefits (IP1.4) No. of socially rented households in fuel poverty (IP 1.2)	Stretch Outcome 1: Anti-Poverty All Improvement projects Stretch Outcome 14: Sustainable Travel 14.3

Priority 2:

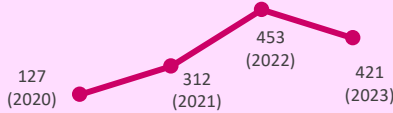
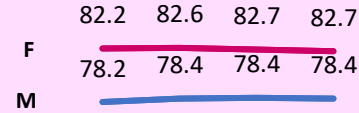
Improve and create employment opportunities; Develop skills, training and support for young people and businesses

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support businesses and young people into employment				
- Support development of Social Enterprises and small business start-ups – fill empty shops - Grow the number of local job opportunities - Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility - Explore alternative routes to apprenticeships - Develop locally available employability support and training	Torry & Kincorth Locality Wide	Business Gateway SHMU	No. of people supported to start up a social enterprise/ business (IP 2.5) No. of people supported into good quality employment (IP 2.1)	Stretch Outcome 2: Employability. All improvement projects. Stretch Outcome 6: Positive Destinations. Improvement projects 6.3-6.6. Stretch Outcome 9: Community Justice. Improvement project 9.1

Our People



What we know now

 90.5% of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. The citywide average was 93.8%.	 No. of referrals each month to NHS's children and adolescent mental health services increasing	 The rate of death from suicide in the South Locality is 10.4 per 100,000, this is below the citywide average of 11.1 per 100,000 of the population.
 22.9% of people in the South Locality said they did not know how many units are in the alcoholic drinks they consume, 32.4% of people living in the South said they did not think about units at all. Compared to 30% and 43.3% in priority neighbourhoods	 The rate of drug related hospital stays for the South Locality was 135.7 per 100,000 of the population. This was an improvement from 147.2 per 100,000 in 2021.	 Life expectancy has stayed stable in the South Locality since 2018 for males and females. But it is lower in priority neighbourhoods at 79.6 (F) and 73.9 (M)

Priority 3:

Support children and young people to achieve their maximum potential

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Provide activities and support for Children and Young people				
- More freely available/low-cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities - Develop a pump track in Torry - Identify and develop actions to address the mental wellbeing of young people - Increase the number of care experienced young people going onto positive destinations	Torry and Kincorth Locality Wide	Streetsport Balnagask CC Torry Dancers VicTorry Jesus House Sport Aberdeen The Bridge Friends of St Fittick's Park	% of S1-S6 pupils who report they feel confident (IP 4.4) % of children who feel safe in their community (IP4.5) Develop pump track in Torry instances of youth anti-social behaviour calls to Police Scotland (IP7.5)	Stretch Outcome 4: Children's Mental Wellbeing Improvement projects 4.4 and 4.5 Stretch Outcome 5 and 6: Positive Destination All Improvement projects Stretch Outcome 7: Youth Justice Improvement project 7.5

Priority 4:

Focus on early intervention, prevention, and re-enablement actions to reduce inequalities and improve physical and mental wellbeing outcomes.

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support people to make healthy choices				
- Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training. - Awareness of services and signposting such as use of community noticeboards and accessible social media - Upskilling communities and partners knowledge of suicide prevention services and training - Raise awareness of substance service provision	Locality Wide Torry and Kincorth	Aberdeen in Recovery Alcohol and Drugs Action Friends of St Fittick's Park The Bridge	% the number of people engaged with Stay Well Stay Connected initiatives (IP 10.3) No. of low-income families supported with healthy eating behaviours and maintaining weight (IP 10.4) No. of people in priority neighbourhoods receiving alcohol support (IP11.4) No. of people at stage 5 recovery from drug and alcohol (IP11.7)	Stretch Outcome 10: Healthy Life Expectancy Improvement project 10.1, 10.3 and 10.4 Stretch Outcome 11: Alcohol and Drugs Improvement projects 11.1 and 11.2



What we know now

 71.6% of South Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to 50.1% of people living in priority neighbourhoods. (City Voice 46, 2022)	 15.6% of people in the South Locality cycled in the last year compared to the citywide average of 14.8%. 88.3% of people in the South Locality walked in the last year compared to 89.1% citywide (City Voice 46, 2022)	 58.4% of people in the South Locality are worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather and 7.7% agreed that the community has taken steps to prepare against this. (City Voice 46, 2022)
--	--	--

Priority 5:

Identify and maximise use of green space: community food growing and community garden access (inter-generational community gardens)

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support people to make healthy choices				
- Encourage community growing spaces - Encourage the use of green spaces for healthy benefits - Increase and improve cycle and walking routes, particularly in Torry - Remove high speed cyclists from Deeside line - Develop opportunities/spaces for more physical activity in the area- Torry 10k.	Locality Wide Torry & Kincorth	Tullos Wildlife Garden Friends of St Fittick's Park Sport Aberdeen	No. of people who walk/cycle as one mode of travel (IP 14.1 & 14.2) No. of people reporting positive outcomes in relation to their health and wellbeing (IP15.2) No of community groups delivering environmental improvements in their area (IP15.4)	Stretch Outcome 14: Sustainable Travel All Improvement projects Stretch Outcome 15: Open Space and Built Environment Improvement projects 15.1, 15.2, and 15.4

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Safe and welcoming environment				
• Increase litter bins • Encourage responsible dog ownership • promote use of greenspace and improve access to greenspace • Improved traffic management	Locality Wide	South Locality Empowerment Group and South Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	No of community groups delivering environmental improvements in their area (IP15.4)	Stretch Outcome 13: Climate Change Improvement Project 13.2 Stretch Outcome 15: Open Space and Built Environment Improvement projects 15.1, 15.3 and 15.4

Our Community



What we know now

 44.5% of people in the South Locality scored highly* for overall identity and belonging compared to 30.4% of people in south priority neighbourhoods and 38.5% city wide.	 49.7% of people in the South Locality scored highly* for how welcoming the place is compared to 40.9% of people in south priority neighbourhoods and 46.6% city wide.	 22.5% of people in the South Locality scored highly* for overall influence and sense of control compared to 22.7% of people in priority neighbourhoods and 16.7% city wide.
 54.7% of people in the South Locality feel part of the community compared to only 34.8% in priority neighbourhoods and 46% city wide	 27.9% of people in the South Locality belong to community groups compared to 26.1% in priority neighbourhoods and 24.9% city wide	 In the South Locality, 17.7% are aware of Locality Plans, 8.8% are aware of Locality Empowerment Group and 4.7% of Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships.

*Scored 4 and above out of a possible 7

Note of caution in considering priority neighbourhood data as sample size is smaller.

Priority 6:

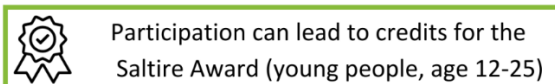
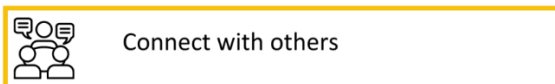
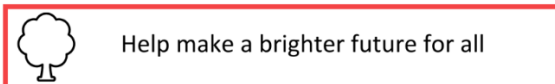
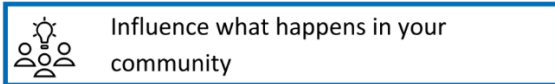
Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their community

Our ideas about how we will achieve this together	Where we will test our ideas	Community Partners we will work with	Data that will tell us if we are improving	Link to city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Support people to get involved				
• Increase no. and diversity of community members participating in community planning • Support community led organisations to access funding for community led initiatives • Celebrate and increase awareness of community led projects • More public consultations on a regular basis	Locality Wide	All community groups and organisations	No of community ideas being tested (IP16.2) No. of people participating in community planning (IP16.3) No. of community led initiatives being supported to access funding (IP16.4)	Stretch Outcome 16: Community Empowerment All improvement projects

How to get involved

The [South Locality Empowerment Group](#) and the [Torry Partnership](#) are two of the main ways we connect with our local communities in the South Locality. As a member of a LEG and Torry Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

What is in it for you?



Following a recent training session provided by SCDC in partnership with ACC/AHSCP, the community had this to say about community engagement:

"Talk to us and talk to us early. Don't make decisions and then get it approved by us. Communities have knowledge and skills to know what is best for us. We're the local experts about our places"

"Community Engagement is where people grow"

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more: [Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen](#) or email localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

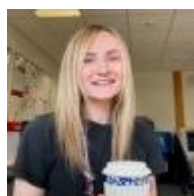
Meet your Locality Planning Team

We understand the importance of working with communities to build a thriving environment for everyone. By engaging with local communities through our dedicated locality planning team, we aim to become more receptive, supportive, and action orientated. Community input is extremely valuable to this work.

The Locality Planning Team includes staff from Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership working together to support improved outcome across all our localities and neighbourhoods. In the South Locality your locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, and Teresa.



Iain Robertson,
Transformation Programme
Manager, Aberdeen City Health
and Social Care Partnership



Jade Leyden,
Community Development
Manager,
Aberdeen City Council



Teresa Dufficy, Community
Development Officer,
Aberdeen City Council

Please take a moment to complete this [survey](#) and let us know how we can enhance our service delivery and collaboration with you. Together we can make a positive impact and create a place where all people can prosper.



Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Children's Services Board Annual Report April 2023 – March 2024.
Lead Officer	Eleanor Sheppard, Children's Services Board Chair, Interim Director Children and Families
Report Author	Eleanor Sheppard
Date of Report	7 March 2024
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 27 March 2024

Purpose of the Report

This Annual Report outlines work undertaken by the Children's Services Board over 2023/24. The report also proposes changes to the agreed Aberdeen City Children's Services Plan to support Community Planning Partners to positively respond to changes in published data and changed national policy intent.

Summary of Key Information

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Part 3 (Children's Services Planning) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires every local authority and its relevant health board to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan in respect of a three-year period. The current Children's Services Plan was approved by the Education and Children's Services Committee in March 2023.
- 1.2 The legislation also requires every local authority and its relevant health board to jointly prepare a report on the impact of plans on an annual basis, and to submit these Annual Reports to the Scottish Government for review.
- 1.3 The agreed Children's Services Plan is one of a suite of Statutory Plans which support delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. In preparing the Plan in March 2023, considerable work was undertaken to align reporting arrangements in order to better integrate the full range of statutory Plans. Better integration of Plans is supporting delivery of more integrated services by helping make the best use of time and resources and providing a clearer insight into the needs of children and families
- 1.4 As a result of this integration, this Annual Report includes the annual Child Poverty Plan Action Report (LCPAR) which is required to comply with the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017
- 1.5 In addition, this Annual Report responds to the Committee's request (formerly Public Protection Committee) for an annual report on the progress of our Corporate Parenting responsibilities outlined in Part 9 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. It also helps deliver our duty to report to Scottish Government Ministers every three years on how the Local Authority is meeting its corporate parenting responsibilities as detailed in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

- 1.6 More integrated evaluation and reporting is helping Officers identify the issues to be addressed more clearly than is possible when looking at policies in an isolated way.

2. APPROACH TAKEN TO DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL REPORT

- 2.1 In preparing this annual report we have reviewed data published since March 2023 to identify any emerging changes from the data reviewed comprehensively a year ago. The Board has also reviewed the current Community Planning Population Needs Assessment and benefited from reviewing the themes emerging from the extensive engagement undertaken to inform the refresh of our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Reviewing both data and insights has helped us draw firmer conclusions on the activity most likely to realise improved outcomes over the final two years of the Plan and therefore assess the adequacy of the current Plan.
- 2.2 Although undertaking the annual review has broadly confirmed the appropriateness of the current plan, some new risks are evident which will require additional action to be taken.

3. INTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE WORK OF THE BOARD

- 3.1 In addition to our planned improvement work and work supporting delivery of national policy, the Children's Services Board has continued to keep abreast of impending legislative changes to ensure readiness for what lies ahead. This has seen the Children's Services Board participate in planning for The National Care Service (NCS) through our local Programme Board, be selected as a Bairns Hoose Pathfinder to help us build on the existing co-located Police Scotland and Children's Social work SCIM team and monitor the progress of the anticipated Children's Care and Justice Bill. The Board has extensively engaged in education reform consultations and continues to prepare for the incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This work will continue and consideration will now require to be given to the findings of the Secure Care Review to ensure our readiness for delivery.
- 3.2 The Children's Services Board has invested time in considering how best to track progress against our ambitious plan. This has led to the implementation of an agreed tracker to help improve transparent tracking of progress and is helping to highlight emerging risks and issues. This greater visibility is enabling the Board to take swifter action when required. These changes are helping to build a culture of collective responsibility and candour amongst Board members. The current approach will be maintained.
- 3.3 In addition to providing leadership to our Sub Groups, the Children's Services Board has collaborated to evaluate progress on a number of key policies. This has included our evaluation of progress towards delivery of Plan 21-24 in October 2023. Our discipline of on-going evaluation on key policies is helping improve our collective understanding of the challenges facing our children and families and helping us take a more holistic and agile approach. As we move forward, more annual reports will be built into this Children's Services Plan Annual Report so that the connections across different policies are fully aligned. This approach reflects the best practice described in recent national non statutory guidance issued to support delivery of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

- 3.4 The Board has benefited from closer working with the Child Protection Committee (CPC) this year and now works in collaboration to deliver shared audits and quality assurance activity. This has seen the Board review the effectiveness of arrangements to support children and young people who have experienced harmful sexual behaviour and to review the circumstances which trigger a referral to services under the category of physical abuse. The Board also collaborated with the CPC to plan delivery of our Bairns Hoose as part of a national pathfinder. We look forward to working with the national Bairns Hoose team over the coming year as the capital works get underway and the team starts to be established. This alignment will be maintained and likely develop further over the next reporting cycle.
- 3.5 A refreshed Request for Assistance (RfA) process has been developed and will soon be delivered to help us monitor demand and the impact of services in real time. This second version of the system will enable us to look at how effectively different interventions support the mitigation of risk and help inform our future commissioning, data from this second version will inform the next Annual Report.
- 3.6 The quality of our evaluation is improving. Further development of a robust evaluation framework which helps assess the strength of all three tiers of our Tiered Intervention Framework (Family Support Model) as outlined in the Annual Report will help us decommission services which are not aligned to The Promise and facilitate the shift of resources towards preventative and early intervention. We continue to benefit from close collaboration with our local Health Determinates Research Collaborative (HDRC). The HDRC have also committed to working in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh to help us evaluate the impact of our local Bairns Hoose.
- 3.7 Those represented on the Board continue to support a high proportion of displaced children and young people including those fleeing conflict and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. After Glasgow, the city welcomes the highest proportion of displaced people. Services continue to respond with agility although this has placed considerable pressure on local services.
- 3.8 The Board successfully implemented updated GIRFEC Operational Guidance over the reporting period. Unfortunately there was no appetite to develop a more regional approach to support colleagues working across the Health Board. Work is ongoing to secure greater alignment between GIRFEC and GIRFE for those who have a disability. Revisions have been proposed to our agreed Child's Planning format based on feedback from children and young people and this feedback will be retained as we await an updated national position.
- 3.9 Over the course of the year, the impact of poverty on children and families has become even more evident. The Children's Services Board has agreed content for a child poverty training course. SHMU has been commissioned to help develop the training course to ensure consistent messaging and understanding of the issues facing our families.
- 4. INTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE WORK OF THE CSB SUBGROUPS**
- 4.1 Considerable time has been invested in the development of Improvement Project Charters. This has supported new groups of staff from across the Community Planning Partnership to join forces to work on shared projects aligned with our Plan, the progress of each charter is routinely reported to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board. A total of 34 Improvement Projects have been agreed and all are now making good progress, we expect to see the benefits of this collaboration clearly over the next 12 months.

- 4.2 With the exception of one Sub Group, all Groups have benefited from a consistent Chair who has overseen work within agreed timescales and ensured delivery of the agreed Plan. Discussions are on-going with NHS Grampian to identify a replacement Chair for Stretch Outcome 9 with short term additional capacity being provided by Aberdeen City Council.

5. LEARNING FROM DATA REVIEW

- 5.1 There are considerable differences in trend data at ward level. It is therefore important to consider how to better utilise locality based staff to ensure that our approaches reflect the unique context of each community and of the complexity of individual families rather than presume the centrally designed supports will meet needs.
- 5.2 It is proposed that a new approach to support families with complex and multi-faceted challenges be designed and tested across a small number of communities to establish how best to address the considerable variation in outcomes.
- 5.3 Given the clear disparity in outcomes for those living in SIMD 1 evident from the data review, it is proposed that resource from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund be used to secure a data analyst to better support our identification and tracking of outcomes for those in SIMD 1. This will help inform our evaluation of new approaches outlined in para 3.20 and 3.21. It is suggested that a clear proposal be presented to Committee for approval within 2 committee cycles.
- 5.4 There is also a need to consider how best to address obesity given that obesity impacts on long term health outcomes. Concerning trends are becoming apparent in both children and expectant mothers and it is important to address these timeously. Discussions with partners, including Public Health, will be important in shaping a strategic approach to addressing childhood obesity. It is suggested that a clear proposal of how to address obesity be presented to Committee for approval within 2 committee cycles.

6. LEARNING AND FUTURE PLANNING

- 6.1 There is a need to consider how we could better align the work of the Children's Services Board with Locality Plans to maximise all integration opportunities as we move forward. This will help fully utilise the knowledge of community assets who help shape Locality plans. This should be progress as far as possible this session and in future planning cycles

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The Plan put in place a year ago continues to be relevant. A number of key areas have been identified for further work. They are to:
- Re-design how we support families with complex and multi-faceted challenges in a family centric way and continue to develop our use of data (with a particular focus on SIMD 1)
 - To work with Community Planning Partners to develop a whole system approach to addressing obesity.
 - Continue to plan for the incorporation of the UNCRC
 - Implement the recommendations of the Secure Care Review.

7.2 The Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services high level plan has been amended to take account of these additions (changes shown in red).

Strategic Stretch Outcomes					
Increase the number of 0-5s who meet developmental milestones by 2026	Improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and families by 2026	Improve the attainment, health and wellbeing and positive destinations of our care experienced by 2026	Improve the attainment and positive destinations of our children and young people by 2026	Reduce the number of young people charged with an SCRA by 2026	Increase the number of children with ASN or disability who secure a positive destination by 2026
Strategic Priorities					
➤ Improve the health outcomes of expectant and new mothers ➤ Improve uptake of benefits ➤ Improve access to emergency formula and food for infants ➤ Address early speech and language needs ➤ Increase the uptake of immunisations ➤ Improve the quality of ELC provision and maintain uptake	➤ Focus on prevention and early intervention ➤ Provide access to joined up services and bereavement support • Respond quickly in a stigma free, needs and rights led way • Increase levels of physical activity • Increase the provision of child friendly environments within local communities	• Deliver a Baines Hoose • Delivery The Promise • Increase the provision of health assessments for the care experienced • Continue to close the gap between those who have care experience and their peers • Increase the no. of foster carers available locally • Keep brothers and sisters together • Ensure adequate provision of legal advice and advocacy • Implement the recommendations of the Secure Care Review	➤ Implement refreshed guidance on the use of restraint ➤ Better track those who are in or on the edge of the care system ➤ Improve learning transitions from P7 to S1 ➤ Deliver ABZ Campus to widen the range of courses ➤ Deliver Aberdeen Computing Collaborative to ensure long term employability ➤ Delivery of Tier 2 services to close the gap through SAC funding ➤ Continue to address the cost of the school day and child poverty in schools	➤ Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour ➤ Deliver Mentors in Violence Prevention across all secondary schools	➤ Delivery of neurodevelopmental pathway ➤ Establish better assurance systems ➤ Increase the number of Young Carers receiving support ➤ Improve transition planning from child to adult services ➤ Ensure that the voices of children (including those who use alternative communication systems) are central to processes and Plans ➤ Decrease the number of children not accessing full time education
Enabling Priorities					
Access to services	Increase integration	Reduce risks	Commissioning	Data	Workforce
➤ Implement a single Request for Assistance process ➤ reduce the number of access points to information and services	➤ Build on the integration models including that at ELC Links ➤ Establish an assurance system to test the strength of the system ➤ Improve alignment between children and adult services ➤ Develop a Target Operating Model for children	➤ Better understand why children are placed OOA ➤ Understand the long term impact of ELC on outcomes for families ➤ Agree and implement a whole system approach to addressing obesity	➤ Aligned to the 10 principles of family support ➤ Jointly respond to the needs of those displaced ➤ Evaluate readiness for implementation of the UNCRC	➤ Improve knowledge of the 6 groups by co-designing with service users and children ➤ Improve data matching ➤ Improve the tracking of the outcomes of those most vulnerable	➤ Increase knowledge poverty agenda and of benefits ➤ Increase knowledge of trauma and risk ➤ Develop ways of working (SIMD1) to better support the provision of rights

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the Management Group:

- i) Note the progress made in delivering the Aberdeen City Children's Services Plan from April 2023 to date;
- ii) Note that the Annual Report has been approved at the Education and Children's Services Committee on behalf of the Local Authority; and for the Health Board at NHS Grampian Children's Board;
- iii) Ratify the Children's Services Plan Annual Report; and its onward submission to CPA Board for final approval;
- iv) Note that subject to final approval, the Children's Services Plan Annual report will be submitted by the Interim Director of Children's and Family Services to the Scottish Government on the 30th of April 2024
- v) Note that the Interim Director Children's and Family Services has agreed to report back to the Education and Children's Services Committee within 2 cycles on a proposed approach to progressing:
 - more family centric approaches to support families facing complex challenges living in SIMD 1; and
 - a whole system approach to addressing obesity.

Opportunities and Risks

The publication and submission to Scottish Government of this Children's Services Plan Annual Report satisfies the statutory requirements under Part 3 of the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act 2014, for Children's Services Planning Partnerships to report on the progress of actions and outcomes against their current Children's Services Plan. Further, the next steps outlined in the report (and noted above) satisfy the requirements of the Act to keep a Children's Services Plan under review.

The report aligns a number of other statutory planning responsibilities in relation to children and young people such as UNCRC; Corporate Parenting; the Promise; Child Poverty; and Whole Family Wellbeing Funding.

The content provides multiple examples of the positive work and ongoing opportunities for CPA partners to support improvements to services for children young people and their families, particularly in light of the refreshed LOIP.

Risks to achieving the outcomes outlined in the report will be mitigated through the ongoing Children's Services Board monitoring and tracking processes, including the Children's Services Board action tracker; regular Quality Assurance Framework Audits; and the wider LOIP Improvement Programme reporting cycle. With recommendations escalated through CPA governance where applicable.

Consultation

The following people were consulted in the preparation of this report:

Chair of the Children's Services Board; Children's Services Board Subgroup Leads; Outcome Improvement Group Chairs; Children's Services Board LOIP Project Managers

Background Papers
Aberdeen City Children's Services Plan 2023-26 Aberdeen City Child Poverty Action Report 2022/23 Aberdeen City Corporate Parenting Plan

Contact details:

Eleanor Sheppard

Interim Director, Children and Families; Chair of the Childrens Services Board

Aberdeen City Council

Email: esheppard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



Community Planning
Aberdeen



Aberdeen City's **CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN**

Page 137

2023 - 2026

Annual Report 2023

INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR



Our published Plan for children, young people and families 2023-26 articulates the outcomes Community Planning Partners are currently working to realise for children, young people and families across Aberdeen. As we reflect on progress made in the first year of the Plan, we continue to be thoughtful of how the needs of our families continues to change. This yearly review of progress therefore presents an opportunity to check that our planned improvement projects are prioritising the right things and help determine if we need to make amendments to our agreed Plan.

In preparing this annual report we have reviewed data published since March 2023 to identify any changes in data trends at different life stages. We have also benefited from reviewing the themes emerging from the extensive engagement undertaken to inform the refresh of our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). Reviewing both data and insights has helped us draw firm conclusions on the activity most likely to realise improved outcomes over the final two years of the Plan and therefore the adequacy of the current Plan.

In developing Aberdeen City's Children's Services Strategic Plan for 2023-26, we worked to integrate the full range of statutory Plans and reports in an attempt to better align reporting, reduce duplication and free up time for direct work. As a result, this Annual Report covering 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, details the progress the Community Planning Partnership has made in delivering against several key national policies including:

- addressing child poverty;
- delivering The Promise; and our
- Corporate Parenting Plan

In addition to our planned improvement work and work supporting delivery of national policy, the Children's Services Board has continued to keep abreast of impending legislative changes to ensure our readiness for what lies ahead. This has seen the Children's Services Board participate in planning for The National Care Service (NCS) through our local Programme Board, be selected as a Bairns Hoose Pathfinder to help us build on the existing co-located Police Scotland and Children's Social Work Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) team and monitor the progress of the anticipated Children's Care and Justice Bill. The Board has extensively engaged in education reform consultations and continues to actively consider the implications of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024.

This report provides a flavour of how partners are working together to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Aberdeen City. I continue to be humbled by the collaboration and increasing sense of shared accountability demonstrated by members of the Children's Services Board.

Eleanor Sheppard

Interim Director Children and Family Services (Chair of the Children's Services Board)

ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD



34 multi-agency Improvement Projects have been initiated and testing is now well underway.

Some other key achievements over the reporting period are listed below.

- Securing pathfinder status for our Bairns Hoose
- Improving outcomes for those living in some communities (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2 and 3)
- Realising a 50% increase in the number of eligible 2s placed in ELC provision
- Increasing the uptake of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) from 91.22% in 2021/22 to 94.74% in 2022/23
- Increased the % of funded ELC settings achieving good or better during inspection from 82.4% in 2021/22 to 86.4% in 2022/23.
- Realising an improvement in the annual participation measure from 91.2% in 2022 to 92.8% in 2023.
- Realising a reduction in the attainment gap (literacy and numeracy) between those living in areas of deprivation and their peers
- 82% of our communities are now performing better than could be expected in child poverty compared to only 78% a year ago
- No One Left Behind (NOLB) funding of £1,344,000 has helped deliver all-age, all-stage employability support (up from £675,202.58 last year) and 308 young people aged 16-24 benefiting
- Seed funding of £11,218.89 has been invested so far to support the creation of seven businesses (up from £3,995.79 supporting the start-up of one business last year)
- 75 young people aged 16 and 17 have engaged in at least 10 hours of employability activity weekly, each receiving a training allowance of up to £55 per week, totaling £38,931 to date this year.
- A Parental Employability Support Fund of £1,202,000 (up from £263,197.73 last year) has supported eligible parents with dependent children who are unemployed and experiencing poverty or who are experiencing in-work poverty. Seed funding of £35,756.80 has been invested so far this year, helping support the creation of ten businesses by eligible parents (up from £6,418.39 supporting the start-up of three businesses last year).
- Since the Scottish Attainment Challenge funding for youth work was made available in August 2021, a total of 893 activities have been delivered to 2,246 participants, a total of 22,626 learner hours.

We are proud of our achievements, but there is clearly more to be done.

CONTENTS



What does the data published since March 2023 tell us about:

Our Babies?	6
Our Under 5s?	8
Our Primary School Pupils?	10
Our Secondary Pupils?	13

What does the data published since March 2023 tell us about child poverty and the needs of different communities? 16

Best Start Bright Futures	27
Cost of living	36
Income from social security and benefits in kind	42

How effectively is our shared work helping us deliver on The Promise?

Priority 1: A good childhood	46
Priority 2: Whole Family Support	50
Priority 3: Supporting the workforce	52
Priority 4: Planning	52
Priority 5: Building Capacity	53

Whole Family Wellbeing Funding 53

How is the Improvement work coordinated through the Children's Services Board improving outcomes for children, young people and families and what are our next steps?

The Childrens Services Board	55
Best Start in Life	56
Mental Health and Wellbeing Collaborative	57
Corporate Parenting	57
Attainment and Transitions	58
Youth Justice	58
Supporting Those with Additional Support Needs and Disabilities	59

Appendices

Improvement Project Case Studies	61
Improvement Project Index	67
Our Plan on a Page	69

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR PRE AND POST-NATAL SERVICES?

What does the data published since March 2023 tell us?



Between 2002 and 2022, the 0 to 19 age group has seen the largest percentage decrease in births (-86.0%). The 40 and over age group has seen the largest percentage increase in births (+115.0%).

What is getting better?

There has been a notable reduction in premature births across SIMD 2 and 3. Levels in SIMD 1 remain highest and levels across SIMD 5 have risen.



Smoking during pregnancy has reduced from 13.01% (2018/19) to 12.06% (2020/2021) and is broadly in line with national averages. Poverty continues to be a factor although reductions are evident at SIMD 2 and 3.



Babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks has increased from 39.9% in 2020 to 40.87% in 2021. Levels are above the national average but continue to be impacted by poverty with variation at community level.



It is encouraging to see early reductions in premature births and in smoking during pregnancy across SIMD 2 and 3. There is now a need to look at how we can better support improvements in the smaller number of families most impacted by poverty (SIMD 1).

What has stayed the same?

In 2022, the most common age group of mothers in Aberdeen City was 30 to 34 (698 births), the same as in 2002. The least common age group of mothers in Aberdeen City was 0 to 19 (25 births), which is a change from the 40 and over age group in 2002.



The number of pre-birth children subject to child protection planning meetings remains consistent. This suggests that we are not yet providing adequate levels of community support to prevent risk.



The number of children (pre-birth and 0-4) on the child protection register remains consistent. This suggests that we are not yet fully mitigating risk for our youngest citizens.



There is clear evidence of a reduction in the number of younger mothers in the city. The number of pre-birth children subject to child protection planning meetings and the number of those aged 0-4 and on the child protection register remains consistent. This indicates that we don't have the level of support required to support some families at community level and that our approaches to offering support may require to be more adaptive within our model of Family Support.

What is worsening?

Exposure to second hand smoke at 6-8 weeks has increased from 7.3% in the 3 years ending 2021 to 7.56% in the 3 years ending 2022.



Maternal obesity increased from 21.04% in the three years ending 2021 to 22.55% in the three years ending 2022. Poverty continues to heavily impact levels of maternal obesity with those living in SIMD 1&2 having higher than average levels.



There has been a rise in the % of premature births from 8.07% in 2021 to 8.31 in 2022. Levels are in keeping with the national average. Reductions in the % are evident across SIMD 2 and 3.



The total fertility rate in Aberdeen City decreased from 1.11 % in 2021 to 1.04% in 2022.



There has been a slight drop in the % of babies born at a healthy birth weight from 85.5% in 2021 to 85.1% in 2022. This is slightly better than the national average.



In Aberdeen City, the standardised birth rate decreased from 7.2 per 1,000 population in 2021 to 7.0 per 1,000 population in 2022. In comparison, the rate in Scotland overall decreased from 8.7 to 8.6.



The reduction in fertility and associated decrease in birth rate is thought to be attributable to both environmental and social factors. Addressing environmental factors and focussing on the determinates of good health alongside Community Planning Partners will continue to be important. There may also be a need to think more explicitly about how the built environment can influence behaviours by continuing to focus on prevention, particularly around obesity levels which can dramatically impact longer term health outcomes for children and families. There are clear signs that action on obesity should be added to our Plan.

Recent improvements are evident across Quintiles 2 and 3. Although these gains are welcomed and thought partially attributable to the work of the Children's Services Board, there is a need to work differently to address the needs of families across SIMD 1. It could be reasonably concluded that the established 2023-26 Plan has had a limited impact on families living in Quintile 1 and that these families are proving harder to support within our current system. There is a need for partners to collectively identify those families so that we can more rigorously track progress, better understand the issues they face and work with them to support positive outcomes in a person centred and family led way.

So, what next?

The improvement projects outlined in the current Plan are still thought to be appropriate. In addition, it is proposed that the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund be used to secure a data analyst to support our identification and tracking of outcomes for those in SIMD 1 and consider how we could better support families to maximise outcomes.

There is also a need to consider how best to address obesity given how obesity impacts on long term health outcomes and add this work to our Plan.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR UNDER 5s?

What does the data published since March 2023 tell us?



The ethnicity of our under 5s is more diverse now than in March 2023. The number of under 5s accessing health and education services has risen over the last year with considerable pressure being felt across health and education services.

What is getting better?

The percentage of funded ELC settings achieving good or better during inspection has risen from 82.4% in 2021/22 to 86.4% in 2022/23. Despite the improvement trend, local results remain 4% lower than the national average.



There has also been a 50% increase in the number of eligible 2s placed in ELC provision. Work with the DWP to align data sets is positively impacting uptake.



There has been an encouraging increase in the uptake of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in the city with 94.74% of our eligible population placed in 2022/23 compared to 91.22% in 2021/22.



The increase in uptake of ELC placements and gradual improvement in quality is welcomed. There is a need to continue with current approaches to address the variation in quality still seen across the city.

What has stayed the same?

Coverage of 27-30 month assessment and uptake of immunisations.



Children aged 0-4 remain the largest group on the child protection register.



School records suggest there has been a 1% rise in the % of P1 children recorded as having a speech disorder from 3.22% to 4.22%. However, a reduction in those recorded as having communication support needs from 2.62% to 1.75% in 2023.

Uptake of immunisations in some communities is significantly lower than the city average and there is a need to target those communities better. Health Visitors have worked hard to undertake assessments of children at 27-30 months and coverage is improving across the city. This fuller coverage is now highlighting the number of children who are not meeting developmental milestones. There is a need to look at how we could work together to support childhood development of the under 5s more fully at community level.

What is worsening?

Deaths in children (1-15 years) have risen from 12.2 per 100,000 in 2020 to 13.3 per 100,000 in 2021. This is lower than the national average



Recruiting Health Visitors is even more challenging now than a year ago. 6 less (41) Health Visitors are now in post compared to last year, this is 30 below complement.



Uptake of the 6 in 1 immunisation at 24 months is lowest in Tillydrone and George Street at 90%. Uptake in Ashgrove and Cummings Park is reducing. Similar patterns are evident with the MMR



There has been a drop in the percentage of children identified as meeting developmental milestones at the 27-30 month review from 97.1% in 2021 to 87.3% in 2022. However, this is a better than the national average of 82.1% and will have been impacted by more widespread assessments.



The current shortage of Health Visitors is impacting on work for this age group. Despite the considerable challenges, there is evidence of improvement in some key measures due to resources being used flexibly to address the recruitment challenge.

So, what next?

The improvement projects outlined in the current Plan are still thought to be appropriate, but the need to reflect on the needs of families living in different communities is again evident in this age group. There is therefore a need to consider how best to utilise community based staff to ensure that our approaches reflect the unique context of each community and take account of the increasingly complex and unpredictable circumstances our families face. Planned work to base Health Visitors within ELC provisions should progress as a first step to encouraging closer locality working.

There is a need to consider how we could better align the work of the Children's Services Board with Locality Plans in future planning cycles to ensure that the Children's Services Board benefits from the insights of community assets.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR PRIMARY PUPILS?

What does the data published since March 2023 tell us?



There has been a rise in primary pupil numbers from 14,573 in September 2022 to 15,210 in September 2023 with far greater diversity now evident. In 2019/20, 503 learners within our schools were recorded as being disabled, this has now risen by 34% to 676. 3.76% of school pupils are recorded as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder, compared to 3.53% last year.

What is getting better?

School attendance in term 1 of 2023/24 is sitting at 94.8% (primary) compared to 94.33 in 2020/21. This is slightly better than national levels.



There has been a rise in the % of adults who are satisfied with local schools from 70.1% (2018-21) to 71.3% (19-22). Levels now look positive compared to other urban Local Authorities



The attainment gap between those living in areas of deprivation and their peers in literacy and numeracy has reduced. The position is now better than the family group average and in line with national average.



There has been a rise in the % of P1, 4 and 7 pupils achieving expected levels in literacy and numeracy. However there is variation with Tullos and Sunnybank having the lowest ACEL levels in the city. There is evidence however, that variation is reducing

The % of schools achieving good or better during inspection at the end of 22/23 was 78.1% compared to the baseline data of 68.75% in 19/20.



The proportion of LAC with more than one placement has reduced from 21.2% in 2021 to 18.8% in 2022. This is however above the family group and national average.



There has been a reduction in the % of children identified with communication and support needs from 4.39% in 2022 to 2.42% in 2023. The number of children with a speech and language disorder remains consistent however (4.44% in 2022 and 4.63% in 2023)



There is early evidence of some recovery from the pandemic with 82% of pupils in P6 and 7 reporting excellent or good health which is 2% higher than last year and better than the national average. However, levels of dysregulation remain high and are thought attributable to poorer levels of parental mental health resulting in part from the various societal shocks experienced over the last few years. The situation locally is similar to the situation reported through national research. The Children's Services Board will take a keen interest in the local arrangements being put in place to address the Cabinet Secretary's 5 point plan. Progress is being made in addressing the attainment gap, but this needs continued focus.

What has stayed the same?

Active travel to school has reduced from 60.7% in 2022 to 58.3% in 2023. Levels of active travel remain very high compared to other Health Board areas.



The percentage of primary 1 children with poor dental health remains largely unchanged. Around 30% of children continue to have poor dental health at the Primary 1 stage.



38% of children in our primary schools have an additional support need compared to 36.8% a year ago. This is thought to be largely consistent.



The drop in active travel, albeit disappointing, is thought to have more or less stayed the same as before the pandemic. Levels of active travel remain high compared to other Local Authorities.

This age group again highlights the considerable variation in patterns of behaviour and outcomes across communities which can be masked by looking at city wide data sets.

What is worsening?

There has been a drop in the proportion of Primary 1 children being of healthy weight from 83.19% in 2020 to just under 70% in 2021. This is slightly above the national average.



There has been a 2.2% increase in the number of children living in poverty (after housing costs) from 2021 to 2022. 1 in 5 children now live in poverty. The Local Authority sits above the family group average but below the national average.



The % of children with a Coordinated Support Plans and Child's Plan remains consistent. The percentage of those with Individual Education Plans has dropped from 9.88% to 8.21%.



There has been a slight drop in the number of children being cared for within their community from 88.9% in 2021 to 88.5% in 2022. This is above the family group average but below the national average.



The number of children aged 5 – 9 admitted to hospital with an unintentional injury has more than doubled since 2018/19.



The percentage of children entering Primary 1 with at least one developmental concern has increased from 2.5% in 2019/20 to 3.1% in 2021/22.



World events continue to impact children and families with more families experiencing poverty than before. 1 in 5 children across Aberdeen City are now experiencing poverty. The impact of the cost of living crisis is evident in the mental health of parents and carers and this is impacting on children and young people. Our continued focus on these areas, already outlined in the current Plan, will be important.

So, what next?

Planned work to increase alignment with adult services should be accelerated and a more adaptive approach to supporting children at community level should be considered. Obesity levels appear to be increasing and if not addressed, could impact negatively on health outcomes in the longer term. As outlined previously, there is a need to consider how best to address this.

There is a need to finalise and implement the planned evaluation framework detailed in the current Plan to help monitor the impact of the Tiered Intervention Framework as there continues to be evidence of rapid escalation from Tier 1 to 3. Consideration should be given to building community level data into this work given the variation in outcomes at community level.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR SECONDARY AGED PUPILS?

What does the data published since March 2023 tell us?



There has been a rise in secondary pupils numbers from 10,430 in September 2022 to 10,977 in 2023. The pupil population has become increasingly diverse. Recent Scottish Census data identified that our city population has grown by 0.5% since 2011.

What is getting better?

Drug related hospital admissions (young people) have reduced from 115 per 100,000 in 2021 to 100 per 100,000 in 2022.



The employment rate for young people has increased from 42% in 2021 to nearer 51% in 2022.



The annual participation measure has increased from 91.2% in 2022 to 92.8% in 2023. This is still below the Family Group and National average.



There has been a drop in alcohol related hospital admissions for those aged 11-25 from 270 per 100,000 in 2021 to 255 per 100,000 in 2022. This is below the national average



There has been a rise in the % of all pupils gaining 5+ awards at Level 6 from 36% in 2021 to 39% in 2022. This bucked the reducing national trend. 4 schools sit above their VC, but 7 sit below.



There has been a rise in the % of all pupils gaining 5+ awards at Level 5 from 63% in 2021 to 70% in 2022. The improvement rate is faster than the national rate. 5 schools now sit above their VC, but 6 sit below.



There has been a rise in the overall average total tariff score from 866 in 2021 to 957 in 2022. This is slightly below national and well below the family group average.



There has been a rise in the % of pupils from the most deprived areas achieving 5+ awards at Level 5 from 43% in 2021 to 48% in 2022.



Although seeing a reduction in those who have reported self-harming, 4:10 young people who did not disclose their gender had reported self-harming at least once and the variation between the number of boys and girls reporting this, showed a greater number of girls.



There are encouraging signs in some health and education outcomes with a 4% increase in those who felt positive about their body image and nearly 11% more reporting good levels of physical activity compared to six months ago. 5% less children now report loneliness than 6 months ago.

Despite the gains, some groups of children continue to do less well than others with clear signs of less positive movement in those living in SIMD 1. This again, guides us to look at those living in SIMD 1 at a more granular level and maintain our focus on more vulnerable groups.

What has stayed the same?

42% of children in our secondary schools have an additional support need compared to 44% a year ago



A consistent % of referrals to SCRA are made as a result of care and protection concerns. This continues to be lower than the national average.



The overall average total tariff score for those living in SIMD 1 remains largely unchanged (566 to 2020/21 compared with 567 to 2021/22). Gains are evident in all other quintiles.



The % of young people with communication and language needs (1.26% in 2022 and 1.55% in 2023) and speech and communication disorder (2.41% in 2022 and 1.55% in 2023) remains consistent.



Requests for support as a result of poor emotional regulation, support for parents and mental health concerns remain highest within our request for assistance process.



We are still some way from the virtual comparator in terms of education outcomes and must maintain our focus in this area and work to address the variation from school to school. The number of children who are dysregulated and in need of additional support remains higher than pre-pandemic levels, this is in keeping with national research. Reported levels of sleep in young people continues to be an area of concern.

What has worsened?

There has been an increase in the % of referrals to SCRA due to offences (5.7% in 2021 to 7.6% in 2022. This is higher than the national average.



There has been a rise in 5 year death by suicide in 11-25 year olds rates from 6.68 per 100,000 in 2020 to 7.86 per 100,000 in 2021.



School leaver destinations have dropped slightly from 95.59% in 2021 to 93.82% in 2022. This is below both the family group and national average



Drop in the % of pupil from the most deprived areas achieving 5+ awards at Level 6 from 17% in 2021 to 13% in 2022.



School attendance for term 1 of 2023/24 sat at 90.5% This is better than national levels however still of concern.



Pupils from P6 to S6 who did not disclose their gender were 6 times more likely to be negative about life as a whole and 5 times more likely to report poor health.



Those in the low family affluence group and those young people who did not disclose their gender, were more likely to report a range of negative outcomes across nearly all measures within the survey which is similar to the national picture.



205 learners reported self harming more than 10 times. More children report feeling lonely locally than nationally Loneliness Nationally 15.6% -12.1% & ACC 29%-17%



The proportion of all S1-S6 pupils who express that they always or often feel confident has risen, with a current average of 53.7% for boys and 27.3% for girls, these gender based averaged measures represent an increase of just over six percentage points for boys and five percentage points for girls. Although there isn't a directly comparable national measure, national data suggests that our gender difference is more marked than the national average. Locally, the gap between boys and girls sits at 29% with the national sitting at 17%.

There is a need to consider the health led National Self Harm Plan when published to ensure that the Plan is implemented timeously.

The disparity in outcomes across communities is considerable. There is a need to rethink how we support some communities to better address the variation in outcomes.

So, what next?

There is a need to maintain our Plans around the senior phase curriculum and also continue to give close attention to personal and social education programmes to ensure that our young people know how to keep themselves safe, programmes may be influenced by the local plans to implement the National Self Harm Plan. Work to improve school attendance should continue.

The impact of family affluence on our young people is more marked than the national average. There is a need for us to think carefully about how best to support those living in SIMD 1 in order to address this.

The disparity in outcomes suggests that the wider family supports currently in place are not making a difference to some groups, triggering a need to think quite differently about how we work with and for families in need of our help and support.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT CHILD POVERTY IN THE CITY?

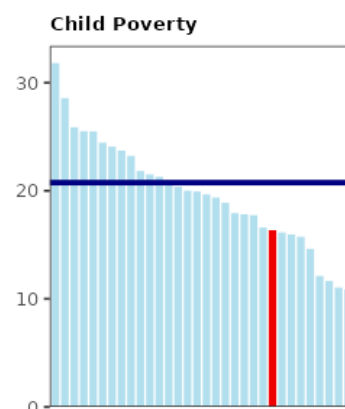
What does the data published since March 2023 tell us?



The cost of living crisis continues to impact on the resilience and mental health of families. Families are facing exceptionally difficult decisions on a daily basis and the impact of these challenging circumstances is evident in all datasets published over the last year. This clearly highlights how poverty is an overarching factor in outcomes for children and families.

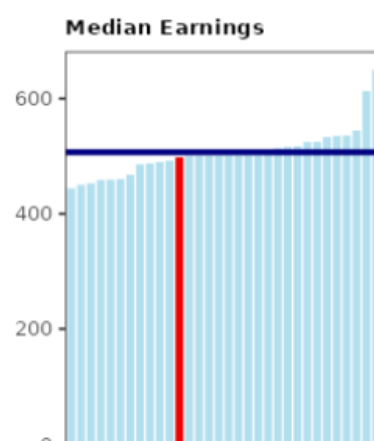
The number of children living in poverty

Official statistics detailing the exact number of children living in poverty across the city varies according to the methodology used. However, it is thought that there are 7,000 children living in households where the household income is below 60% of median income after housing costs (1 in every 5 children). This number has risen over recent years. Almost two thirds of children in low-income families are in working households. The Improvement Service Community Planning Tool shows that the Local Authority area currently sits 23 out of 32 Local Authorities for levels of child poverty which is below the national average.



The working age population

In the year from April 2022-March 2023, 24% of Aberdeen's working age population (over the age of 16) were economically inactive, up from 19% in the previous year. Of those who were economically inactive, 39.4% were students, 23.9 % were long-term sick, 15.6% were looking after home/family and 8.1% were retired (prior to national retirement age). Of those who were of working age and not working, 24.7% wanted to be working and were actively seeking employment.



In the 2022 calendar year, there were an estimated 15,200 workless households in Aberdeen, a rise of 4,500 on 2021, to levels similar to the Scotland level of 18%. The Improvement Service Community Planning Tool shows that the Local Authority area currently sits 12 out of 32 Local Authorities for levels of Median Earnings which is in line with the national average.

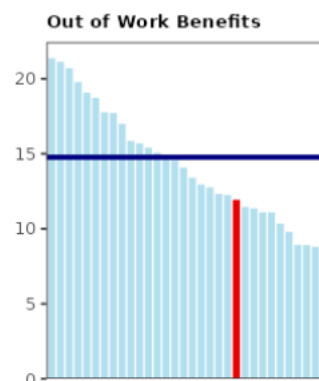
Rise in homelessness

In 2022-23, there were 1,762 homelessness presentations to the council, an increase of 25% on the previous year. In March 2023, 399 households were in temporary accommodation (up from 264 in March 2022), 45 of these households had either pregnant women or children in them. It will be important for the Children's Services Board to remain closely aligned to work being undertaken to address homelessness.

Claimant count

Despite the rise in number in those thought to be living in poverty, the city level claimant count fell by 3.6% over the 6 months between March 2023 to November 2023 (from 5,020 to 4,840) 2023, this is 5% lower than in November 2022. This is the lowest number of claimants recorded in the past 3 years. However, the claimant count for young people aged 16-17 and 18-21 at November 2023 had both risen slightly from March 2023 (combined 460 to 480 claimants).

In November 2023, there were 1,530 Claimants in our priority localities, around the same as in March 2023 (1,510). This represents 31.7% of all claimants in the city, a marginal increase on the position at both March 2023 and November 2022.



The claimant count rate varies across the city by zone, from a low rate of 0.3% seen in West End North to a high of 6.5% seen in Tillydrone.

The Improvement Service Community Planning Tool shows that the Local Authority area currently sits 21 out of 32 Local Authorities for levels of Out of Work Benefits which is below the national average.

Spread of poverty across the city

Poverty is not spread equally across our city. The number of children living in relative low-income families, based on the End Child Poverty research, varies across the city by ward zones.

There is a high of 1,050 in Northfield/Mastrick, (30.4%), 719 in Torry/Ferryhill (24.0%) with Hilton/Woodside/Stockethill (25.5%) and Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen sitting at around 650 children living in relative low-income families. Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen has the city's highest proportion of children living in relative low-income families at 31.8%.

The George Street/Harbour ward has a relatively lower number of children in this category than these zones at 399 children but, despite falling out with the priority locality structure, levels closely match the % figure for Torry/Ferryhill. The proportion of all city claimants in George Street/Harbour is second only to Tillydrone at 5.3%.

The impact of this is seen across a range of outcome measures as shown in the following grid based on 2021/22 data from the Community Planning Outcome Tool. This disparity has been evidenced through the review of data by life stage outlined earlier in this Annual Report.

		Average Highest Deprivation 2005/06	Child Poverty (%) 2005/06	Crime Rate, per 10,000 2005/06	Population Index 2005/06	Early Mortality, per 100,000 2001/03	Emergency Admissions, per 100,000 2001/03	Out of Work Benefits (%) 2005/06	Participation Rate 2001/03
Aberdeen City	Least Deprived	0.1	0.8	715.8	91.6	100.3	2008.6	3.8	96.3
Aberdeen City	Most Deprived	5.0	35.0	3007.2	133.0	187.2	2815.0	25.8	83.8
Scotland	Least Deprived	0.1	0.8	525.3	98.2	105.6	2000.8	4.3	96.0
Scotland	Most Deprived	5.1	37.0	1981.0	146.1	196.7	3212.8	21.8	80.2

Grant applications and Advice Services

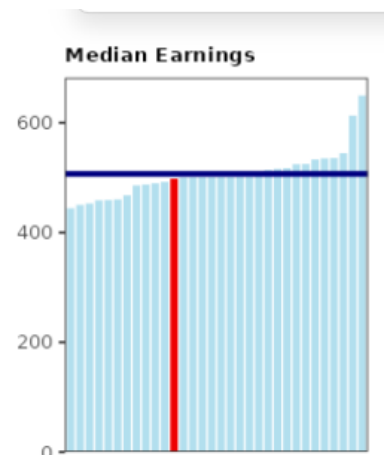
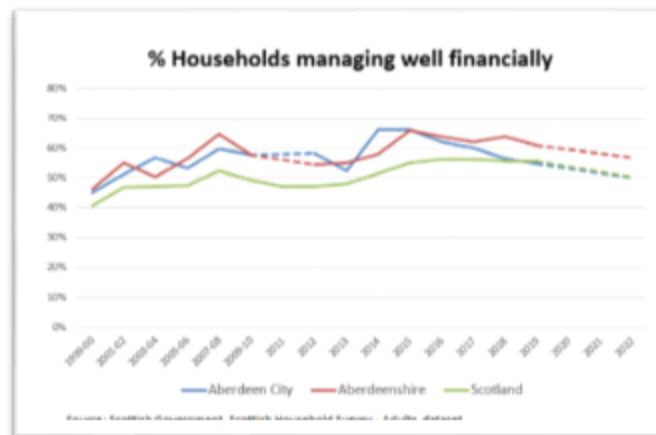
The number of Best Start and Best Start Foods grant applications received from city residents as at September 2023 was 3,145, compared to 2,735 in the same period the prior year. This represents an increase in the proportion of all applications from 3% to 4% of Scotland level awards and could partially indicate that families are now better aware of supports available.

Over 2022/23, the city's Council funded Common Advice services offered client financial advice and support to 547 Young People, (0-24 years) representing 8.6% of all clients. This number is higher than in each of the three prior years but a smaller proportion of all clients as result of a pattern of growth in clients across all age groups.

Of those households, where information around compositions were provided, 1,247 comprised households with children (23.3% of all clients compared to 20% in the previous year) with 62.9% of these households consisting of lone parent households, a rise of over 3% on the previous year. This latter cohort represents 14.6% of all households recorded as clients of the Common Advice services and has risen by 3% since 2021/22.

Overall, in 2022/23 the number and proportions of clients in a household with children showed an increasing trend on the 2019/20 baseline with the growth in single parent family clients being the more significant influence. Source: Common Advice Performance Management Reporting Framework submissions.

The Improvement Service Community Planning Tool shows that the Local Authority area currently sits 12 out of 32 Local Authorities for Median Earnings, more or less in line with the national average.

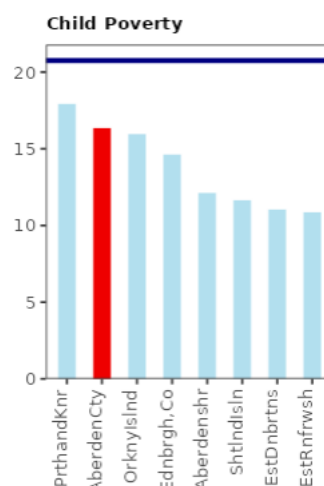


Benchmarking performance

Levels of child poverty in the city are slightly below the national average.

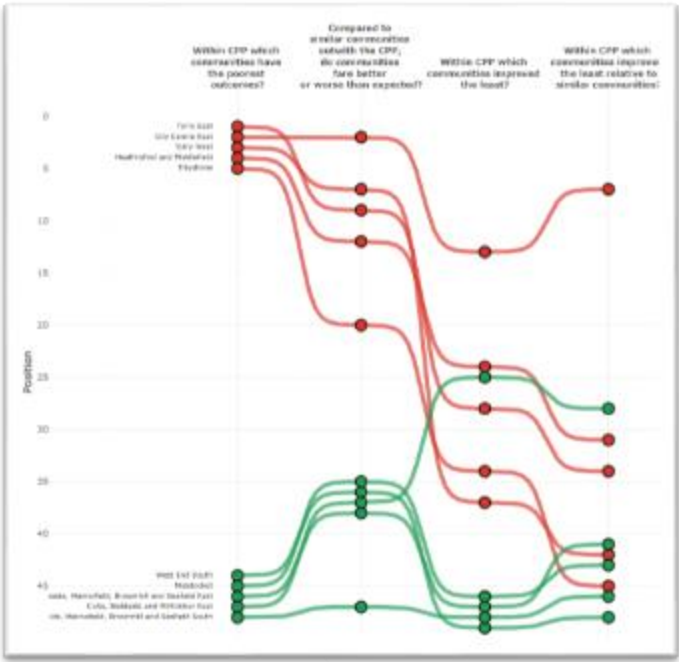
However, levels are relatively high when compared with our SIMD based comparators although progress has been made in closing the gap over the last year with our performance moving up one place compared to our family group.

A review of the Improvement Service Community Planning Outcomes Tool shows that 82% of our communities were performing better than expected as of 2021/22 which is 4% higher than the prior year.



Projections from the same Tool indicates that child poverty (before housing costs) will rise over the next 3 years to around 19%, (from the 2021/22 baseline of 16%) but this this will likely be at a rate below that of most comparators and the national pattern, which will retain the City's performance ranking in the upper third of Scottish Local Authorities.

The visual from the Improvement Service Community Planning Tool below shows how communities performed against their virtual comparators.



A detailed review of the Tool clearly evidences the disparity in outcomes from ward to ward.

Variation in circumstances and concerns by adult group

This disparity is equally clear from the responses to our recent Local Outcome Improvement Plan engagement which used a Place Standard tool to explore 14 themes about the physical and social elements of life in Aberdeen City in order to shape the refresh of our Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The Children's Services Board has a key role in delivering against the People Outcomes relating to children and their families.

Economy		Care and maintenance	Housing and community	Work and local economy	
People	Facilities and services	Feeling safe	Identity and belonging	Social interaction	Play and recreation
Place	Moving around	Public transport	Traffic and parking	Streets and spaces	Natural space
Community Empowerment			Influence and sense of control		

It's really important that the Children's Services Board understand the needs of families given the influence of parental wellbeing on children and young people. As a result, the Board needs to consider the needs of families holistically as we develop our model of Family Support.

The whole population responses provide a clear picture of what matters to our residents. At first glance this would guide the Children's Services Board to conclude that there is a role only to continue to capture the lived experience of service users in the design of changed services.

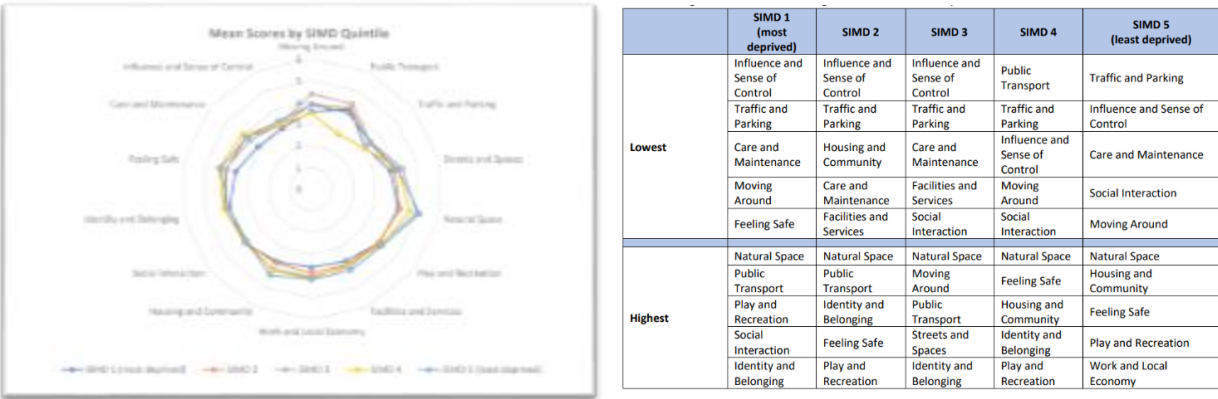
However, the responses to the engagement have been broken down in different ways to allow us to gain further insight into the needs of distinct groups.

The five highest ranking themes were: 1. Natural space (4.7) 2. Identity and belonging (4.1) 3. Feeling safe (4.1) 4. Play and recreation (4.1) 5. Housing and community (4.0)	The five lowest ranking themes were: 1. Influence and sense of control (3.3) 2. Traffic and parking (3.4) 3. Care and maintenance (3.6) 4. Facilities and services (3.9) 5. Work and Local Economy (3.9)
--	--

A review of the data by locality (North, South and Central) shows that there are differences being reported by our citizens depending upon which part of the city they reside in. As a result, there is variation in the themes ranked highest and lowest.



A review of the data by SIMD Quintile, highlights variation quite differently.



It is of particular concern that those living in SIMD 1 raise concerns about their sense of influence and control and also express concerns about feeling unsafe.

	SIMD 1 (n=49)		SIMD 2 (n=70)		SIMD 3 (n=47)		SIMD 4 (n=30)		SIMD 5 (n=65)		All (n=364)		
Column1	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Base
Influence and Sense of Control	3.12	1	3.25	1	3.32	1	3.3	3	3.49	2	3.27	1	266

Scores around identify & belonging and social interaction in particular at SIMD 1, provide an insight into the sense of community evident across some communities with a higher proportion of citizens living in SIMD 1. The Children’s Services Board needs to consider how to better capitalise on community to help support improving outcomes.

When responses from those living in Priority Areas is compared with the Locality data, we benefit from further insight. Scores from those living in Priority Areas were generally lower.

	Central		North		South	
	Theme	Mean	Theme	Mean	Theme	Mean
Lowest	Traffic and Parking	3.1	Influence and Sense of Control	3.3	Influence and Sense of Control	3.4
	Influence and Sense of Control	3.1	Traffic and Parking	3.6	Traffic and Parking	3.5
	Care and Maintenance	3.4	Facilities and Services	3.7	Care and Maintenance	3.6
	Work and Local Economy	3.7	Moving Around	3.8	Public Transport	3.9
	Moving Around	3.8	Public Transport	3.9	Streets and Spaces	4.0
Highest	Natural Space	4.6	Natural Space	4.9	Natural Space	4.7
	Play and Recreation	4.2	Identity and Belonging	4.2	Feeling Safe	4.3
	Identity and Belonging	4.1	Streets and Spaces	4.2	Work and Local Economy	4.2
	Social Interaction	4.1	Housing and Community	4.2	Moving Around	4.1
	Public Transport	4.0	Feeling Safe	4.1	Identity and Belonging	4.0

	Central PNs		North PNs		South PNs	
	Theme	Mean	Theme	Mean	Theme	Mean
Lowest	Care and Maintenance	2.9	Influence and Sense of Control	3.0	Influence and Sense of Control	3.1
	Traffic and Parking	3.1	Traffic and Parking	3.3	Traffic and Parking	3.2
	Influence and Sense of Control	3.1	Facilities and Services	3.4	Housing and Community	3.2
	Work and Local Economy	3.4	Housing and Community	3.4	Care and Maintenance	3.4
	Facilities and Services	3.6	Feeling Safe	3.5	Streets and Spaces	3.7
Highest	Natural Space	4.4	Natural Space	4.1	Natural Space	4.3
	Public Transport	4.3	Public Transport	4.0	Work and Local Economy	4.1
	Play and Recreation	4.1	Play and Recreation	4.0	Public Transport	4.0
	Social Interaction	4.0	Identity and Belonging	3.9	Play and Recreation	4.0
	Moving Around	3.9	Social Interaction	3.9	Feeling Safe	4.0

We can see that the feelings of being unsafe are most keenly felt in the North Priority Area.

A review of the data by age and ethnicity, shows considerable further variation.

	0-24 (n=18)		25-34 (n=33)		35-44 (n=46)		45-54 (n=41)		55-64 (n=44)		65+ (n=74)		All (n=364)		Base
Column1	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	
Influence and Sense of Control	3.3	1	3.1	2	3.2	2	3.0	1	3.2	1	3.6	2	3.3	1	226
Housing and Community	3.4	2	3.7	5	3.6	5	4.0	12	4.1	13	4.5	13	4.0	10	225
Traffic and Parking	3.5	3	3.1	1	3.1	1	3.3	2	3.3	2	3.5	1	3.4	2	236
Identity and Belonging	3.8	4	3.9	9	3.8	10	3.7	6	4.1	12	4.4	12	4.1	13	233
Care and Maintenance	3.8	5	3.5	3	3.4	3	3.4	3	3.4	4	4.1	5	3.6	3	231
Feeling Safe	3.8	6	3.9	11	4.0	13	3.7	7	3.7	7	4.4	11	4.1	12	237
Social Interaction	3.9	7	4.0	12	3.6	7	3.8	9	3.8	9	4.2	8	4.0	8	230
Play and Recreation	3.9	8	3.9	8	3.6	6	4.1	13	3.9	11	4.2	9	4.1	11	232
Streets and Spaces	4.2	9	4.1	13	3.9	11	3.9	11	3.8	10	4.0	4	4.0	9	236
Facilities and Services	4.3	10	3.8	7	3.7	8	3.8	10	3.3	3	4.2	7	3.9	4	235
Work and Local Economy	4.4	11	3.7	6	3.9	12	3.8	8	3.8	8	4.1	6	3.9	6	218
Moving Around	4.5	12	3.7	4	3.7	9	3.6	5	3.6	6	4.0	3	3.9	5	249
Natural Space	4.5	13	4.7	14	4.2	14	4.9	14	4.5	14	4.7	14	4.7	14	243
Public Transport	4.8	14	3.9	10	3.5	4	3.6	4	3.6	5	4.2	10	3.9	7	244



It's interesting that those under 24 also have concerns about their influence and control but have greater concerns about housing and community than other age groups. Influence and control is also flagged by looking at the mean scores by ethnicity. This highlights the critical importance of working with communities to empower and enable.

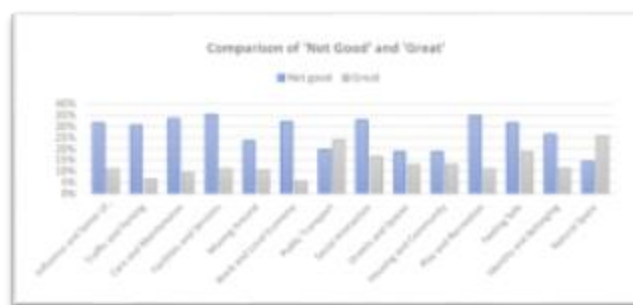
Having access to data that enables more granular analysis by group is invaluable and will enable the improved targeting of our work.

What do our young people tell us?

A similar survey for children and young asked about the same 14 themes. The 106 children and young people who responded were asked if things were, 'Not Good and needs to be improved', were 'Okay' or 'Great, as good as it could be'.

The most common response for all themes was 'Okay' with at least half of all respondents choosing this option for all of the themes. Comparing other responses, for almost all of the themes a higher proportion of respondents choose 'Not Good' for each themes. The exceptions to this were Natural Space and Public Transport – these also had the highest proportion of respondents (25.7% and 23.9% respectively) who chose 'Great'.

The themes with the highest proportion of 'Not Good' responses were Facilities and Services (35.2%), Play and Recreation (34.7%) and Care and Maintenance (33.7%) which each had over a third of respondents choosing this option.



The summarised output of what children and young people said on the People themes is outlined below.

Theme	What is good now?	What would make it better?
Facilities and services 	• Good shops (22.6%) • School (22.6%) • Doctors (12.3%)	• Clubs (22.6%) • Doctors (20.8%) • School (16%)
Feeling safe 	• Feeling safe during the day (38.7%) • Lighting (16%) • Play spaces (15.1%)	• Less anti-social behaviour (34%) • Feeling safe at night (32.1%) • Brighter/more lighting (22.6%)
Identity and belonging 	• Food (18.9%) • The people (17.9%) • Local museums (14.2%)	• Festivals (29.3%) • Music (16%) • Culture (15.1%)
Social interaction 	• There are child friendly spaces (30.2%) • Meeting friends (19.8%) • Cafes (17%)	• Places to hang out (29.3%) • Child friendly spaces (24.5%) • Places to meet friends (23.6%)
Play and recreation 	• Play parks (29.3%) • Easy to find spaces (19.8%) • Making your own fun (19.8%)	• Mix of activities (32.1%) • Sports areas (30.2%) • Organised fun stuff (27.4%)

It is thought that this feedback reinforces the legitimacy of the actions already outlined in the Children's Services Plan.

The feedback on work, the local economy and influence and control are also important as we continue to work with other LOIP Outcome Groups and consider how we ensure that children and young people have voice and influence.

What do datasets tell us about those most likely to experience poverty?

Data on child poverty sits across a number of organisations and isn't currently coordinated into one single data set to allow real time monitoring of child poverty, however work is underway to improve this. Additional funding has been secured from the national Child Poverty Fund to start aligning data across the Council and DWP and this should help provide a more holistic picture of the situation in future. The funding will allow improved development of baseline information across the actions under the three drivers of poverty described below, along with improved baselines and understanding of requirements to tackle poverty among those with protected characteristics, the six priority family groups and care experienced young people. NHS Grampian is also working on a Child Health dataset that includes specific indicators for child poverty aligned to the drivers and priority families.

The groups identified as being most at risk of poverty continue to face particular challenges locally:

Half of all children living in **single parent families** are experiencing poverty. In 2022/23 there were 646 (+46 on 2021/22) applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund managed by Aberdeen City Council, which were from single parent families. This was 13% of all applications, up by one percentage point on the previous year. These families, by far, represent the single largest group of applicants in the Child Poverty Priority category. In August 2023, the number of single parent family claimants aged under 25 in receipt of Housing Benefit has remained stable in comparison with March 2023, comprising 14 applicants, down from 22 in August 2022

Minority Ethnic Families: 63% of those who are in ethnic minority families are employed compared to 72% of those who are white in Aberdeen City. There is presently no consistently reliable data around the influences behind this differential at national or local levels.

Disability: As of 30th September 2023, Aberdeen City Council had received 1,260 applications against the Child Disability Payment funding stream, in comparison with 610 applications at the same point in 2022. The number of payments made to families through the Child Winter Heating Assistance grants in 2022/23 was 670, a rise of 155 (+30%) on the previous year. This represented 5.2% of all Winter Heating awards.

Youngest child less than one year old: In August 2023, there were 492 households in Aberdeen City on Universal Credit with a child under 1, with more than half being lone parent families. Around a third (34%) of families with a child under the age of 1 experience relative poverty (individuals living in households where equalised income is below 60% of the UK median income in the same year) compared to just less than a quarter (24%) of children overall.

Larger families (3+ children): There were 132 households with 3 or more children who were in receipt of Housing Benefit in August 2023. This is a 28% increase from 103 in March 2023, and 102 in August 2022. There were 1,769 households with 3 or more children who were in receipt of Universal Credit in August 2023, substantially above the positions in both March 2023 and August 2022.

Younger mother: The number of first time mothers under 25 has dropped slightly.

There is a need to continue to think about how we collect and align data to ensure that we continue to build an understanding of the challenges facing our residents.



What is getting better?

According to Improvement Service data, 82% of our communities are performing better than could be expected compared to only 78% a year ago.



Levels of child poverty compared to other similar Council areas have improved by one place when comparing our performance to our family group.



In November 2023, the city level claimant count had fallen from 5,020 in March 2023 to 4,840 (- 3.6%) -5% lower than in November 2022. This is amongst the lowest number of claimants recorded in the past 3 years.



The number of Best Start and Best Start Foods grant applications received from city residents (as at September 2023) was 3,145, compared to 2,735 in the same period the prior year. This represents an increase in the proportion of all applications to this stream from 3% to 4% of Scotland level awards.



The new 'Infant Feeding in a Crisis' pathway is being delivered in full. All referrals have resulted in a voucher for feeding supplies, a full benefits check and a food pantry application if applicable.



It is really encouraging that 82% of our communities are performing better than could be expected based on outcomes in other similar communities across the country and that the percentage of those doing better than expected is increasing. However, this also means that 18% are not doing as well as they could be. This provides further evidence of the need to look at community data in a far more granular way.

Although the city has improved its relative Local Authority position against child poverty measures by one place, there is more to do.

What has stayed the same?

Young single parent families in receipt of housing benefits was unchanged between March and August 2023.



Levels of child poverty in the city are slightly below the national average but relatively high when compared with our SIMD based comparators. Progress has been made in closing the gap over the last year.



In November 2023, there were 1,530 Claimants in our priority localities, around the same as in March 2023 (1,510). This represents 31.7% of all claimants in the city.



63% of those who are in ethnic minority families are employed compared to 72% of those who are white in Aberdeen City. There is presently no consistently reliable data around the influences behind this differential at national or local levels.

Although our overall breastfeeding figures are increasing, by the time of first health visitor visit 20% less mothers living in SIMD1 are continuing to breastfeed compared to mothers living in SIMD 5.

Page 160

In August 2023, there were 492 households in Aberdeen City on Universal Credit with a child under 1, with more than half being lone parent families.



The lack of real time data makes determining changes over relatively short time periods challenging. It is hoped that a recent award of resource as part of the Child Poverty Fund will help improve the quality of real time data and that this will help the Children's Services Board to identify live trends to support agile improvement work.

What is getting worse?

The trend data and projections around increasing relative child poverty for the city are negative



In the year from April 2022- March 2023, 24% of Aberdeen's working age population (over the age of 16) were economically inactive, up from 19% in the previous year.



There has been a significant rise in the numbers of families with 3 or more children claiming Universal Credit



The claimant counts for young people aged 16-17 and 18-21 at November 2023 had both risen since March 2023, from a combined 460 to 480 claimants.



In 2022/23 there were 646 (+46 on 2021/22) applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund managed by Aberdeen City Council, which were from single parent families. This was 13% of all applications, up by one percentage point on the previous year.



As of 30th September 2023, Aberdeen City Council had received 1,260 applications against the Child Disability Payment funding stream, in comparison with 610 applications at the same point in 2022



Lengthy waiting lists for some child health services are negatively impacting on the health and wellbeing of children and families, and in some situations, the ability of parent's to take up employment.



The data shows that poverty continues to impact on our families and that this is likely to continue. There is emerging evidence that families are increasingly accessing their entitlements and this is encouraging, but does highlight the number of those who need our help at this challenging time. There is a need to continue to carefully target those groups most likely to be impacted by poverty wherever possible and continue to increase our knowledge and support of them.

The recent engagement to inform the development of the LOIP has suggested that there is better awareness of, and access to Council Officers and elected Officials now. Citizens seek more opportunities to get involved in decision making and ways of knowing "where to raise my voice for my community". Participation continues to be important.

The disparity in outcomes, largely determined by SIMD quintile is of concern. Despite some evidence of progress across SIMD 2 and 3, outcomes for those in SIMD 1 are by far the poorest as evident in this heat map showing the number of developmental concerns for children at aged

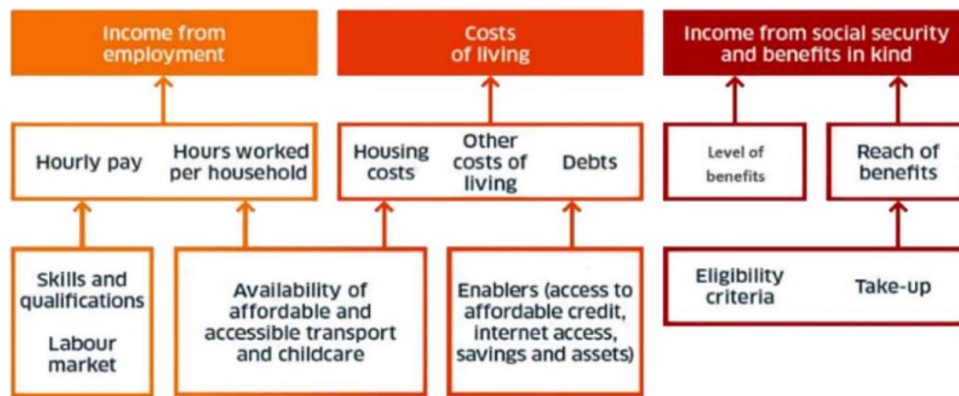
4/5 (the darker the colour the greater the level of concern). There is a risk that the gap between those living in SIMD 1 and their neighbours increases.

The direct link with poverty and mental health outcomes is clear as shown by the medication prescriptions by SIMD quintile and referrals for children and young people. There is a need for targeted work to address the needs of those living in SIMD 1, We have to accept that current arrangements are not realising improvement.



Best Start, Bright Futures

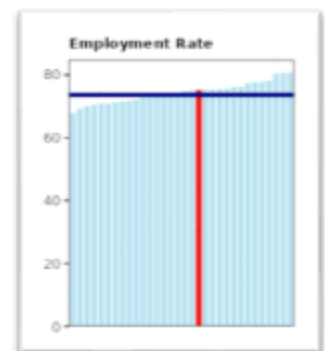
Best Start, Bright Futures tells us that the three drivers of poverty are income from employment, cost of living, and income from social security and benefits in kind. We know that impacting these drivers will positively impact levels of child poverty and so have structured our report under these three headings whilst recognising how interrelated they are.



Income from employment

Ensuring that our young people and families gain the skills required to secure employment is central to our work. All of the actions outlined in the last Child Poverty Action Plan Report are well progressed with progress outlined below.

The employment rate across Aberdeen City rate currently sits slightly above the national average. Less citizens are employed in lower paid occupations compared to the national average.



Employment in 'lower paid' occupations (% of all in employment)		
Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	Scotland
23%	19%	27%

Source : ONS Annual Population Survey, year to Jun 2023

ABZ Campus update

Work has continued to progress Phase 2 of ABZ Campus in order to ensure our young people have the skills required to secure employment in the longer term. Discussions have continued with delivery partners of Foundation Apprenticeships and existing courses to ensure the delivery of a wider range of courses.

An exciting partnership has commenced alongside Aberdeenshire Council for a series of *anytime* courses for young people outwith the confines of the column structure and school week. Delivery partners for a range of *anytime* courses are SRUC, University of Aberdeen, RGU and RGC Online.



Plans for a pilot employability experience for young people with additional support needs is also included in Phase 2 plans.

We remain ready to evaluate the impact of the 37 courses being offered as part of Phase 1 of ABZ Campus 23-24 to determine the impact of the approach on the young people registered.

Aberdeen Computing Collaborative

A digital event was held for 1000 teaching and support staff which included workshops from RGU and representation from Aberdeen University. The event had computing science inputs for Early Stages and Upper Stages Primary staff focused on growing interest in the subject. Esports has now been established at St Machar Academy and discussions are progressing to add Bucksburn Academy as a second Esports hub.



Discussions continue with ABZ Works team to review the Computing Science offer. RGC Online is being explored as a means to supporting more young people to secure Higher Computing within the ABZ Campus offer. Developing communications for parents/carers/young people to promote the opportunities in the sector and the range of pathways available will now be progressed.

National and local extra-curricular opportunities, with a Computing Science or Digital focus, continue to be shared with schools. A young person survey of uptake and attitudes to Computing Science more widely is in draft. A city-wide meeting of Computing Science staff is planned for February to identify opportunities for further collaboration on resource development and the identification of training needs to allow staff to support a broader curriculum.

ABZ Works update

Significant strides have been made by the Council's ABZWorks employability service, which continues to see rising numbers of referrals for employability support from a steadily widening pool of referral routes. We are increasingly receiving referrals for people with significant barriers to employment. The appointment of a Child Poverty Coordinator, designed to focus on employability, is currently in the recruitment process, with the successful candidate anticipated to be in post in early Spring.

A series of pilot projects has been developed by the ABZWorks keyworkers, delivering activities in regeneration areas for target groups identified by the Local Employability Partnership. Some of these pilots have now been mainstreamed and contracted out, while others continue to be delivered in-house with support from industry partners and training providers – this includes a project designed with and for care experienced young people, and Fit Next, which was created at short notice for school leavers without a positive destination when funding delays meant there was no contracted provision available.



The service ran Scotland's first jobs fair for refugees, displaced people, and asylum seekers, in

partnership with the Refugee Employer Network, attracting more than 500 job seekers. A [report](#) detailing the work undertaken to support the community, and detailing their broad skill sets and barriers to employment was published.

The inaugural ABZWorks Conference took place, paving the way for closer partnership working with agencies across the city, services gap analysis, areas of emerging need, and co-design of services.

A dynamic purchasing system for the procurement of employability services was co-designed with providers, launched and is now being well-used. All employability provision is being procured via the framework, which has attracted more providers to engage with us and provide a broader range of services to city residents at all stages of the pipeline. Our approach is being used as an example of best practice by the Scottish Government's Improvement Service.

We continue to see the impacts of the cost of living crisis on employability programme participants and provide funding to remove the financial barriers to participation in services and employment. More detail on individual projects is included below.

The ABZWorks team has secured several local and national awards in recognition of the quality of their work.

Employability Programmes

Aberdeen City Council receives funding annually from Scottish Government to deliver a range of employability interventions through both the No One Left Behind and Parental Employability Support Fund streams. The main purpose of employability funds is to pay for employability interventions and the vast majority of these monies goes towards covering training and engagement costs, delivered either in-house or via contracted provision. Referrals for employability support continue to rise.

Thirty-nine employability services contracts have been awarded in 2023/24, worth more than £650,000, providing a broad range of support and training opportunities across the city, and we anticipate offering more tendering opportunities when we receive grant funding for 2024/25. This is in addition to grant-funded activities such as Employer Recruitment Incentives and paid work experience schemes.

ABZWorks Development Grant

An ABZWorks Development Grant has been launched to support grass roots organisations, particularly those in the priority areas, to build their capacity to develop and deliver employability activities and build links with hard-to-reach groups. Up to £10,000 is available per organisation. Fourteen applications have been received in the first round.

The service is in the process of commissioning research into local barriers to parental employment/engagement with employability activities, with a particular focus on single parents, minority ethnic parents, and parents with a disability and/or a disabled child. Recommendations on how to address those barriers at an Aberdeen and community level will be provided as part of this work.

Work experience programmes

Paid work experience programmes with guaranteed interviews for those who complete have been established and aligned to sectors where we know there are skills shortages (we have one underway currently for care experienced young people, and another for eligible city residents of all working ages in the health and social care sector).

Two newly launched schemes got underway in November 2023 – one with third sector employers for unemployed parents of dependent children, and another scheme in early learning and childcare settings, with a primary focus on parents. 23 paid work experience placements have been provided to date.

The team has also supported the creation of a training kitchen in HMP Grampian to support people to learn industry skills, gain accredited qualifications and secure employment on release with hospitality industry partner Greene King.

ABZWorks has created the Fit Next programme for school leavers without a positive destination, removing barriers to employability participation, building confidence, social circles, employability skills, introductions to training providers and employers, and work experience.

The education team, with support from the Wood Excelerate Programme and NHS Grampian, has supported the establishment of an in-school healthcare classroom at St Machar Academy. A year of collaborative planning has resulted in an inspirational space with industry standard equipment to empower young people and teachers to learn and teach through the lens of health, social and community care.

Employer Engagement

The Employer Recruitment Incentive scheme, which provides up to £6,000 to employers to offset the costs of taking on new members of staff, has been diversified to incentivise the recruitment of not only young people, but also eligible parents, refugees and displaced people. We anticipate an increase in the funding amount in the next financial year in line with the rise in the Real Living Wage.

A series of employer engagement sessions to promote inclusive employment in the city for key groups is underway. These aim to increase employer confidence and increase the number of opportunities for groups including parents, young people, displaced people and refugees, disabled people, and people with convictions.

Supporting residents into Fair Work

Increasing training and reskilling opportunities as well as business creation is key to both developing new fair work employment opportunities; reducing the number of people in receipt of Universal Credit and to diversifying the economy. We are taking forward a number of initiatives to support people who will be coming off (or significantly reducing) their benefits. In the past year, 730 people have received employability support via ABZWorks and the number continues to rise.

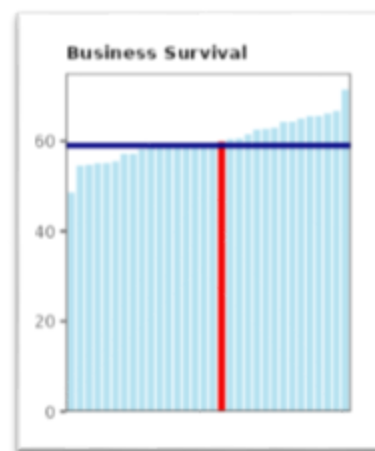
We continue to provide Aberdeen Gift Cards to employability programme participants to remove some of the financial barriers to employment. This money is spent locally, boosting the economy and supporting jobs, while equipping individuals with essentials for interviews and starting work, such as interview clothes, transport costs, hair cuts, etc. To date, £1,395 has been distributed via Aberdeen Gift Cards.

Employability Transition Grant

An employability transition grant, provided through the Council's Cost of Living Funding in 2022/23, providing £1,000 paid over three months to lone parents who meet eligibility criteria, is helping them transition into employment by removing the financial barriers to work. It is hoped that we will be able to continue to provide this through the Parental Employability Support Funds. To date, £50,000 has been committed to parents via this grant, which continues to be paid. The Local Employability Partnership has identified parents and young people as key target groups for employability support. United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Funds (UKSPF) are being leveraged to provide a range of employability support to eligible individuals, including those who are economically inactive, this includes a series of test and learn pilots for a broad range of people, including parents with dependent children, young people, disabled people, people with long-term health conditions, and minority ethnic people aged 16+.

Supporting citizens to start a business and reduce their universal credits

In order to take advantage of all policy levers, work has been undertaken to increase the number of people starting a business. The ABZWorks seed fund, set up in November 2021 to support all those meeting the funding eligibility criteria to start a business by providing start-up monies, has supported 34 people to start their own business to date, with growing interest in the funding. ABZWorks has partnered with Business Gateway to deliver this activity, with business adviser and employability keyworker support in place for all entrepreneurs accessing the fund. We now have a dedicated Business Gateway Adviser to help increase the number of direct referrals. As a result of these improvements, there have been 104 referrals of individuals in receipt of universal credits who are considering starting a business since the start of the programme, with 39 individuals starting a business which either takes them off universal credits or significantly reduces their universal credits.



ABZWorks has introduced a salary payment for eligible parents setting up their own business, paid at Real Living Wage rate for hours worked on their business, to support their progression and mitigate the risk of financial hardship as individuals build up their business.

We have partnered with the Scottish Childminding Association to provide seed funding to eligible city residents who wish to become registered childminders, removing the financial barriers which often prevent people from taking up this career opportunity.

Supporting care experienced young people into sustained employment.

Many care experienced young people face significant barriers to employment and the majority will need additional support to help them achieve and sustain employment. The range of barriers faced is broad and can seem overwhelming. Positive and early work experience or employment helps with a smoother transition to life beyond care and minimises the risk of homelessness and offending.

Through our employability support for care experienced young people project we've put in place a range of initiatives to help remove those barriers and provide support and opportunities to help them feel confident and ready for employment. Initiatives have included guaranteed interview scheme, RiteWorks and Kickstart to name a few. Latest data available for 2023/24 shows that our tailored employability support programmes have supported 59 care experienced young people this year alone, compared to 63 over the past three years combined. The programmes have been very

successful to date across a number of outcomes, including: sustained engagement; achieving qualifications; engaging in work experience; progressing into a positive destination; sustaining that destination.

Aberdeen City Council's ABZWorks employability service secured the national SURF Removing Barriers to Employability Award in December for its work to support care experienced young people.

Focus on Growth and Volume Sectors

We are working closely with partner agencies and have developed a working group with the Health and Social Care partnership to support parents and other employability participants into roles where the Partnership has gaps, and which suit the needs and aspirations of participants. In-work support is provided for up to 26 weeks to ensure as far as possible that employment outcomes are sustained. It is standard procedure to refer employability participants, and particularly parents, to the Financial Inclusion Team for support, a benefits check, and advice.

A paid work experience scheme has been created to support employability participants, particularly parents, into early learning and childcare roles within the authority, with a guaranteed interview on completion.

The ABZ Pipeline will see the Council work with employers in the energy sector to strengthen educational links and help pupils learn about the industry, careers, and the various routes into them. It will create a programme of linked opportunities with multiple employers to establish a planned and targeted pipeline of activities across the secondary school phase.

This will introduce young people to a range of insider insights into the industry, support their understanding and career aspirations, link to the curriculum, and support education staff. This work, led by staff from the City Growth and Education services, will be replicated for other key sectors and will support pathway planning by increasing young people's understanding of the sectors, opportunities within them, and the routes in, including qualification and skills needs.

Sector specific training courses have been, and at the time of writing, are being commissioned to ensure Aberdeen has a skilled workforce. Commissioning activities are linked to a number of sectors including construction, renewables, early learning and childcare, health and social care, and digital.

Planning for the future

Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's No One Left Behind strategy will come into effect on 1 April 2024, placing an increasing focus on employability support for people with disabilities and long term health challenges, alongside those currently supported and parents experiencing poverty. This will result in a significant increase in the amount of employability support provided by the Council and contracted providers. Planning for that is ongoing, and a series of test and learn pilot projects are being commissioned meantime for delivery in the final quarter of 2023/24 ahead of the introduction of phase 3.

Of the 121 parents registered for support with ABZWorks since April 2023:

- 24 have secured employment, 13 of whom we know are being paid Real Living Wage, though we believe the actual number to be higher;
- Six have accessed seed funds to set up their own business and are now self-employed, with a further six in the business development stage.

The recent engagement work to help shape the refresh of the LOIP showed us that our citizens acknowledge that training opportunities, volunteering opportunities and availability of jobs was good. Suggestions for improvement included improving the type and range of job opportunities available, in particular through having “more jobs around the area [as] usually have to travel far just for a part time job” and by having “more decent jobs” and “less reliance on service industries such as nail bars, and betting shops.”

Improving employment support, especially locally, was stated, so too was increasing opportunities for those with a criminal record, or by providing “more help for people with disabilities” or providing “job clubs for young school leavers [with] help to do CV’s and apply for jobs.”

Increasing volunteering opportunities and also communication around volunteering opportunities were stated as other main suggestions of improvement. These suggestions will be considered as part of the LOIP refresh.

Scottish Attainment Challenge funding supporting pupil and family wellbeing.

For 2023-24, Strategic Equity funding of £638,079 has allowed the continued provision of youth workers, family learning workers and Financial Inclusion Team support to schools across the city.

With a clear remit for early intervention and targeting those children, young people and families most at risk of disengaging from education, this resource is helping to prevent escalation of need. Collaborating with school staff in a multi-agency approach, focus areas include; improving attendance, reducing exclusions, increasing engagement and raising attainment and achievement. Transition has been a significant focus and there are many examples of effective transition programmes to support primary-secondary transition, providing young people opportunities for social development through meeting up with peers from different schools while developing their skills in various activities and building confidence in working with new people.

The Family Learning Team works in partnership with schools, local community groups and other agencies. The primary focus is to engage with parents, carers and their children to deliver learning activities that positively impact the whole family, such as outdoor learning, cooking classes, parenting workshops and to foster and nurture positive attitudes to lifelong learning. Individual and targeted support can also be provided for support with behaviour, school attendance or additional support needs. The team has developed strong relationships with a wide variety of partner agencies with the goal of ensuring that families access the right support at the right time.

Families are signposted to the Financial Inclusion Team who can provide a range of confidential services including benefit checks, help to claim benefits or challenge decisions; provide debt management advice and speak to creditors on behalf of clients. Next steps around Scottish Attainment Challenge funding will be detailed in the Education National Improvement Framework Plan for 2024/25.

Youth Work achievements

Since the Scottish Attainment Challenge funding for youth work was made available in August 2021, a total of 893 activities have been delivered to 2,246 participants, a total of 22,626 learner hours. Most of the referrals are for one to one or small group work with a focus on improving confidence and resilience. Bespoke support for children in P7 making the transition to S1 is also part of the youth work team’s offer.

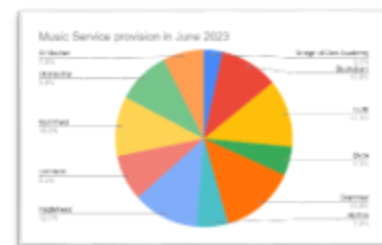
There has been an increase in the number of wider achievement awards being offered to children and young people, in particular the Hi5 award. Awareness raising of these awards has led some partners such as Children 1st and Craigelea also offering them to the young people they work with.

The CLD Youth Work team continues to change its approach to Youth Participation, moving away from more formal structures to a more inclusive and young people-friendly way of engagement. Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM) has been invited to take part in a number of local and national events to offer a young person's perspective on issues that affect them and a schedule of meetings with Partnership Leaders is now underway.

AYM also acts as the Youth Activities Funding group and since 2022 they have assessed and approved over £91,000 of funding for activities that help young people develop skills, improve their confidence and access opportunities that can be life changing. Over financial year 2023/24, 1409 young people have benefitted from a Youth Activities Grant.

Removal of the costs of the school day

Schools have removed all curriculum costs to families. There is clear evidence that this has resulted in children taking decisions on courses which are not influenced by the associated costs. There is evidence that increasing numbers of young people from areas of deprivation are now accessing free instrumental music instruction from The Aberdeen City Music Service. Uptake across Associated Schools Groups in 2020 varied from 1% (in areas of deprivation) to 25% (in more affluent areas). The range currently sits at between 5.3% and 13.8% and is more balanced across areas.



Data will continue to be closely monitored as we continue to address the equity agenda.

Request for Assistance

Work to develop a Family Support Model Following analysis of the effectiveness of Additional Support Need (ASN) and Outreach services, the education service began transforming the management and delivery models around 3 years ago. A generic request for assistance form was developed to function as a single access point for all services including the School Nursing Service, Children's Social Work, Autism Outreach, and the virtual school. The data is used at three levels; at whole system level to help us determine the success of our current approaches, at category of need level to help shape approaches and at individual pupil level to help inform individual planning for children and young people. This approach is proving helpful in identifying emerging risks. This live data helps us target groups more easily to help mitigate risk.

The system has helped transform working practices, resource allocation and our commissioning of internal services and is now being extended to include all services for children as we design our model of Family Support. Version 2 of the Request for Assistance system will be launched soon.

Wider achievement in schools

Since the end of COVID-19 related restrictions in 2022, schools have very quickly reintroduced all aspects of wider achievement awards.

Day visits, which include all curricular and outdoor activities have returned to pre-pandemic levels, however there is now less reliance on privately booked coach travel due to increased costs. P7 residential continue to have to be planned and booked well in advance due to increased demand and the closure of some outdoor centres.

The numbers of pupils participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's award programme has seen an increase in numbers compared to pre pandemic levels, this is due to delayed completions still being undertaken along with increased interest from new groups including Orchard Brae, the Virtual School and Oldmachar Academy. The Aberdeen Open Award Centre which offers DofE opportunities to any young people in the City is now based at Northfield Academy. There are currently 1040 young people active in DofE across the city, this is nearly 50 more than last year..

Aberdeen City has the 3rd highest level of pupils in Scotland achieving a John Muir Award with 443 young people achieving the award with 83 of these being inclusion awards. Other awards being undertaken in the city are: Saltire awards, Dynamic youth awards, Hi5 awards and Youth achievement awards. An Automotive project based at Northfield Academy is now delivering Automotive courses to Northfield Academy pupils and their peers from across the city.

The Evolve system for the approval and management of educational visits, sports fixtures, and extracurricular activities is now established and has been running for 1 year. It has been praised by staff who prefer the web based digital system. Training and familiarisation sessions are regularly offered to new teachers along with the Youth Work Team who have also been introduced to the platform.

Within the first year of using Evolve there was:

- 2287 active users
- 3505 Visits recorded
- 57,367 participant days recorded.

Access to Health Services

Tackling child poverty is a priority within NHS Grampian Health Inequalities Action Plan. In addition to the integrated pathways described above, health services are mitigating the cost of attending appointments or hospital stays by designing a cash first approach to food and travel subsidies for patients and parents or carers. Families have told us that they have missed appointments because they cannot afford the cost of travel and being able to claim costs back after the effect is not a solution. There is a new work stream underway to poverty proof discharge processes. This will include routine financial enquiry and onward referral where appropriate.

So, what next?

Considerable work continues to increase income from employment with our ABZWorks team achieving national recognition for their work. This work will continue. The ABZWorks team will take account of the Regional Economic Strategy and associated Skills Plan when published and reflect next steps within the refreshed LOIP.

Costs of living

The wider challenges created by the current Cost of Living crisis around fuel costs and high levels of inflation create a greater risk of families falling into poverty. Levels of fuel poverty in the city are currently far higher than the national average and 10 out of 32 for fuel poverty which places the Local Authority area in the top third of all Local Authority areas.

Free period products

Access to Free period products has continued to improve with a focus on the promotion and availability of reusable products, as we begin to see the impact of the refreshed marketing campaign: *Free products for all. Period.*

This has included the pilot introduction of period pants of which 276 units have been provided, requested mainly by primary schools. In our academies, workshops by Unicorn Cup took place in November to develop understanding of menstruation and the use of reusable cups. Staff reported that 'The feedback from young people has been incredibly positive. They have really enjoyed taking home the products to try and very much enjoyed the delivery of the workshop.'

215 boxes of menstrual cups have also been provided since April 2023. When combined with reusable pads and disposable products 1291 boxes have been provided to schools between April 2023 and November 2023.

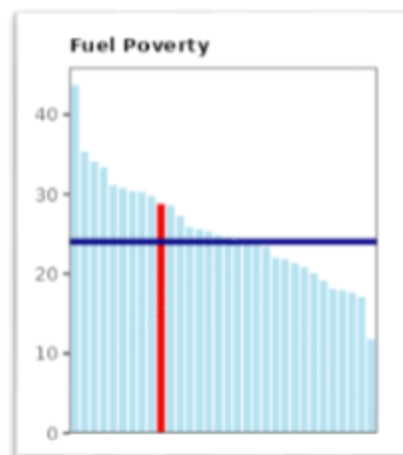
Aberdeen Gift Card

Households entitled to Council Tax Reduction (CTR) as of 21 June 2022, were awarded Scotland Loves Local Aberdeen Gift Card by the Council with £125 of credit on each card. Between 07/12/22 and 15/09/2023 total Aberdeen Gift Card spend was £1,385,492.39 (out of £1,788,250 of activated card) and 14,306 cards had been issued. Over 50,000 transactions have been made. After March 2024, any unspent funds from activated cards and inactivated ones will come back to ACC to be re-purposed.

Addressing food insecurity

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund supported the distribution of 554 tonnes of free food (the equivalent of 1.3M meals), and 1306 food bank users were referred to other support services. 3 Community Pantries and 21 Community Food Outlets were supported as a more dignified and sustainable alternative to emergency food provision. Updated data will be available from June 2024.

4651 people received money and income maximisation advice, with 1230 of them receiving a total financial gain of £2,323,811 the equivalent of £1,889 per person.



Community support

Community Flats are supported in Cummings Park, Tillydrone and Seaton, to support people with a range of issues. Over the last year they supported people with welfare reform issues and have helped to address isolation.

The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supported 444 parents and families with complex needs and 203 young people accessed 2,033 counselling sessions.

There were 590 contacts with older people to develop digital skills to help them keep in touch with their families and to access online services.

5,099 people saved with a credit union which provided £1.9m affordable loans, helping people avoid pay day loans and doorstep lenders.

369 households of older people and people with disabilities were supported with income maximisation and sourcing charitable funding, achieving a financial gain of over £440,000 and 489 households in priority areas received assistance with repairs, adaptations, and handyman services.

Access to free Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)

Increased access to ELC is positively impacting parents and carers. The expansion of ELC focused in part on making provision more accessible. The accessibility of services and broader range of delivery models has helped realise a significant increase in uptake and this increase has been sustained. Over 95% parents and carers who responded to the last Parent and Carer Consultation (June 2023) identified ELC as having a positive impact on their child's development. We asked parents and carers what impact the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (from 600 hours to 1140 hours) has had on them and their family:

- 39.8% of respondents stated that they had more time for other responsibilities as a result of the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare.
- 29.2% of respondents indicated that they had more money/disposable income as a positive impact on their family.
- 24.1% stated improved wellbeing /respite as a positive impact from the expansion of ELC, with 18.9% of respondents finding they now have more time to themselves.
- 24.1% are now considering a return to work or study. 73% of parents and carers are aware that Aberdeen City Council offers Eligible 2's ELC placements.

The service continues to review demand for provision on an annual basis to ensure that the delivery models are designed around the needs of children and families.

The Scottish Government are currently undertaking some pilots to determine how best to further roll out School Age Childcare. The Authority has recently reported to Education and Children's Services Committee on the National Delivery Framework for School Age Childcare and remains well positioned to react positively to when more detailed delivery plans are developed in 2025/26. This will set out what a targeted School Age Childcare offer will look like for families within communities and providing a clear timescale for delivery.

In preparation for this, the Local Authority has managed to secure additional funding from Scottish Government to support preparations for the expansion.

The purpose of the Inspiring School Age Childcare Spaces (ISACS) Fund is to improve indoor and outdoor spaces in school estates for the purposes of supporting provision of School Age Childcare. Aberdeen City Council submitted four project funding proposals to Scottish Government / Scottish Futures Fund in May 2023, in relation to this Programme. We are delighted to confirm the projects listed below were considered to have met all the qualifying criteria at the time the assessment workshop took place and have been identified by Ministers to be included as part of ISACS Programme.

Project Name:	Maximum award approved:
Cornhill School Community Wing	£100,000
Orchard Brae School	£56,420
Kirkhill Primary School	£59,431
Muirfield Primary School	£93,610
Total Funding Awarded	£309,461

Fairer Aberdeen

Over 2022/23 the Fairer Aberdeen Programme funded 36 initiatives designed to tackle poverty and a total of 44,228 people have benefitted. The reach of the funding is wide with projects funded to support the development of pathways into work, family support, money advice and affordable loans and early intervention programmes designed to address gender based violence.

The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supported 739 volunteers, providing 144,869 hours of volunteering time, with a value of £2.2m. 5 Community Projects or Flats were funded in priority neighbourhoods to support community capacity building as well as providing a range of services and support.

There is now a need to ensure that the totality of offers available to families is more clearly mapped and aligned to ensure that we maximise the impact of all available resource.

Provision of free breakfast clubs

There are an increasing range of breakfast clubs/wrap around supports for families. We have a mixed model of Breakfast Provision in the city which can broadly be divided into the following three categories:

1. Registered provision – A Breakfast Club registered as childcare with Care Inspectorate and for which a fee is paid by parents / carers. (23 primary schools)
2. Unregistered provision – A free Breakfast service provided directly by the school. Often funded via Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to give children and young people a nutritional start to the day. (7 primary schools & 2 secondary schools)
3. ACC Catering service – A Breakfast service provided directly by Aberdeen City Council Catering Service at no or low cost to families, again to ensure children and young people start the day with some breakfast. (7 primary & 7 secondary schools)

Nationally, there are planned developments to extend wrap around care for school age children and to deliver this free for low-income families. Breakfast Club provision will be considered as part of this programme. We await further guidance and look forward to working with partners across the city to deliver this. Meantime we have a good supply of Breakfast Provision to meet the different needs of families in the city.

Provision of IT

Children have access to IT provision, through the investments made during lock-down and subsequently, and we are now entering a new phase of transformation. Partnering with Microsoft to deploy services and devices for children across the city, investing in connectivity infrastructure for schools and supporting parents to gain greater insight into their child's learning. This deployment of devices and services has begun with two test of change schools, Woodside Primary School and St Machar Academy, with additional schools being on-boarded from August 2024 to September 2025.

This investment will ensure that almost all children and young people from P4 – S6 continue to have access to a digital device. The Scottish Government commitment to a device for every child will help increase the number of children and young people who have access to a suitable device from the 41% of the school population to 100%. 86% of young people recently reported that they are supported to know how to feel safe online with 10% stating that they didn't know.

Improvement Service data shows that 97.8% of all city properties can now access superfast broadband, up from 95.6% in 2022/23.

Warm Spaces

Warm Spaces have continued across the city, with a mix of Council premises and community and third sector organisations providing support.

There are 41 venues across community centres, libraries, churches, and public spaces. Support provided through Warm Spaces includes a range of activities and opportunities, from offering a welcoming warm space, signposting to information, access to internet, a hot drink, hot meal, access to participate in centre programmes or specific warm space activities such as reading newspapers, sustainable crafting, yoga, reading corners and board games. From a community perspective each Warm Space developed its own unique offer. Examples of this have been free warm drinks, spaces to read newspapers, enjoy games or participate in community centre programmes.



Provision of free bus passes

The provision of free buses passes for children and young people has been promoted since the launch of the Under 22 Free Bus Travel Scheme. All 5-21 year olds resident in Scotland are eligible for Young Persons' Free Bus Travel, using a National Entitlement Card with the free bus travel product on it. The scheme has been promoted through multiple channels nationally and locally including through schools in order to increase awareness and to maximise uptake. As of January 2023, over 22,500 young people have applied for and obtained a National Entitlement Card with free bus travel and are benefiting from this service, by early November this figure has increased to 29,621.

Emergency formula

The Best Start in Life Group has led work to ensure that appropriate infant formula is available for new mothers. This saw the Group work in collaboration with CFINE and Abernecessities to develop a formula/'cash first' approach.

The Infant Feeding in a Crisis pathway is currently being tested, and has already begun to see referrals to CFine through the Family Nurse Partnership, full support being given to those who have been referred. The project continues to work with providers and families to raise better awareness of the offer.

The project enhances the already established Early Years Financial Inclusion pathway. Both pathways have been well received by Midwives, Health Visitors, the Family Nurse Partnership and Allied Health Professionals. The Financial Inclusion pathway is a universal pathway that asks and offers all women and families if they require financial support

Food vouchers for holiday periods

Vouchers have been distributed to families who are eligible due to low income during holiday periods. The voucher, with a value of £25 for each two week period, continues to be welcomed.

Summer Holidays, 2023 – 4925 learners

Autumn Holiday, 2023 – 5154 learners

Winter Holiday, 2023 – 5153 learners

Best Start Food Grant

The number of Best Start and Best Start Foods grant applications received from city residents as at September 2023 was 3,145, compared to 2,735 in the same period the prior year. This represents an increase in the proportion of all applications from 3% to 4% of Scotland level awards and could partially indicate that families are now better aware of supports available.

School Clothing Grants

As of November 2023, 4500 free school clothing grants have been approved over the year. This equates to grants for 3008 Primary pupils and 1,498 secondary pupils and constitutes an increase of over 1100 grants being awarded compared to the last reporting period.

Access to Out of School Care (SAC)

549 parents and carers responded to the 2023 consultation on School Age Childcare in the city. Responses were gleaned from all 11 of the Aberdeen City's ASGs from parents and carers accessing School Age Childcare through all available services. Local Authority and private providers, both registered and unregistered.

The consultation findings demonstrate that 43% of all respondents who currently access School Age Childcare do so to support the working day with only 3% to enable them to attend College or University. 10% of all respondents use School Age Childcare to enable their children to play and/or socialise with other children, with only 1 (0.18%) respondent sighting respite as reason to access childcare.

The majority, 36% of all respondents currently require the services of an After School Club, with 22.8% requiring a Breakfast Club term time. Of those respondents accessing term time care, 16% required both a Breakfast and After School provision. There was also an increase from 2021 of 8% to our 2021 of service users accessing childcare for In-service days during 2023.

Various registered and unregistered holiday childcare services are currently available across the city during the Spring, Summer and Autumn school holidays with 37.89% of respondents requiring care during all three holiday periods. Interestingly there was 10% more respondent's children attended an unregistered Sports/Activity Camp compared to those accessing a

registered Holiday Club. A fifth of respondents of all respondents (20.03%) accessed both registered Holiday Clubs and unregistered Sports/Activity Camps. 10.93% of respondents accessed the Spring/Summer/Autumn 'In the City' programme 2023 with 25% of those respondents accessing a mix of registered, unregistered and In The City programme services. Evidence suggests that many parents and carers are currently accessing a mixed model of child care during the holidays to meet their needs.

While we have good coverage of SAC in Aberdeen there is still a demand for more places. Therefore it is important that we work with our partners to continually assess supply and demand across the city, and when and where possible either expand on existing provisions and/or create new services. As SAC is a paid for service, it is important that any new services are viable and sustainable. Expansion also has to take account of space available and the maximum number of registered places according to Care Inspectorate registration.

With almost a quarter of respondents (24%) saying they will require School Age Childcare for their preschool children currently attending an ELC nursery and/or childminder it is important that we also look ahead and consider future coverage. Therefore we must continue to facilitate communication between parents, carers currently accessing ELC Nursery provisions and childminders and all SAC providers regarding future supply and demand.

Affordability continues to be a concern for many families with almost 17% saying they do not access SAC due to cost. We are also increasingly aware that cost can be an ongoing concern for many families who are currently in work but facing cost of living challenges. 46% of families saying they were not aware of any available financial support and only 28% of respondents currently receiving support it is essential that this information is made more readily available. We will work with the Financial Inclusion Team and all SAC providers to ensure that all parents and carers are made aware of what financial support is potentially available to assist with the costs of SAC. We will also link with the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) to ensure that all information shared is current and in line with their of their existing drive to promote potentially available childcare financial support and benefits.

In order to respond positively to the findings of this survey, the Early Years team will now:

- establish a focus group with our School Age Childcare partners to help develop and inform the refresh of the Aberdeen City School Age Childcare Policy;
- engage and communicate with parents, and carers whose children are currently attending ELC nursery and childminder settings to monitor future projections of potential supply and demand. At this time we will also communicate the importance of planning ahead with regards to wrap around care once children transition to primary school;
- continue to promote the availability of potential financial support and benefits available to assist in the cost of childcare; and
- develop a more detailed understanding of our own SAC services we will continue to consult and engage with Aberdeen City Council service users directly to ensure that we are continuing to meet their needs within our services.

So, what next?

There is considerable work being undertaken in this area and this will continue in line with current plans. The education service remains ready to progress an expansion of out of school care in line with national policy when known.

Income from social security and benefits in kind

Money Advisors in schools

The Council has attached Money Advisors to schools to help support families within their own communities through Scottish Attainment Challenge funding.

As the Advisors have become established they have become more familiar with the scenarios facing families and as awareness of the service has grown the added value has increased. The reduction in gains made as a result of attaching Money Advisors to schools suggests that more families are now making use of the On-line calculator or accessing the Financial Inclusion Service through alternative routes. This should be considered carefully as the use of Scottish Attainment Challenge funding is considered for 2024/25.

Over the last year the 2 Money Advisors who are attached to the Financial Inclusion Services have helped families achieve:

- Financial Gains of £273,159.16
- Assisted/Assisting 56 households with debt issues.
- Helping with total debts of £256,688.75
- 108 households were given full benefit checks.
- Assisted 39 households to claim benefits.
- Assisting 8 households to challenge being turned down for benefits.

Families who have accessed the Financial Inclusion Service independently of the school Money Advisors have been helped to achieve further:

- Financial Gains - £360,894.71
- Assisted/assisting 120 household with debt issues
- Helping with debts of £908,660.99
- 207 households given full benefit checks.
- Assisted 38 households to claim benefits.
- Assisted 6 households to challenge being turned down for benefits.

Data from the online benefits calculator shows that 894 families have used the online benefit calculator. Of the completed calculation, 679 families had £194,046.60** per week of new benefits identified.

**This does not confirm if they went onto claim the benefit as this is anonymised and could be people doing several calculations.

Maximising the update of benefits

We continue to work on maximising the uptake of benefits. There has been a proactive promotion of new benefit entitlements including promotion of the increased child payment through the universal services and through social media channels. We have been distributing the Support for Families booklet which gives information on entitlement at different life stages of children (Early Years, Primary School, Secondary School and staying on at School) which commenced in 2021 and is updated each year. We continue to monitor to help determine the effectiveness of approaches. Targeted communications to those in priority groups have been tested over the last year. Cost of Living support continues to support household costs with additional funding for Scottish Welfare Fund to support medium priority applications. This also includes provision of benefit and financial advice, as well as further support to ensure the provision of adequate

emergency food.

In addition, support is being provided through the Lone Parent support fund to help lone parents with the costs of transitioning to employment. There has been an increase in the number of discretionary housing payments awarded and effective systems are in place to allocate community care and crisis grants to those who need them.

Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Child Payment was fully rolled out to all children aged under 16 from the 14 Nov 2022. Data up to 30 September 2023 shows that since its introduction in February 2021, there have been 11,885 applications made, with 9,510 applications approved.

This new benefit has provided an additional £14,745,270 of new money into Aberdeen City for families.



Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund

The Council applied for funding from Scottish Government and was successful in a bid to work with a preferred partner organisation to create a dashboard which will allow Aberdeen City Council to identify families who would benefit financially from targeted pro-active engagement, for vulnerable families in crisis, or those at risk of falling into crisis. This would enable the Council to do targeted prevention work rather than reacting to people who contact us. The dashboard is created by bringing together indicators of poverty from data held by Aberdeen City Council, The Department for Works Pension and other publicly available data.

By combining data sources, we will be able to identify levels of financial exclusion and risk at an individual and household level, allowing us to follow up on those experiencing childhood poverty of the following priority families.

- Minority ethnic families
- Lone parent families
- Families with a disabled person
- Families with three or more children
- Families with children under one
- Families with mothers aged 25 or under

Family Wellbeing Fund

The Family Wellbeing Fund approach was developed by the Financial Inclusion Team (FIT) to support families affected by the DWP two child limit, through the development of a support plan linked to topics such as money advice, fuel payments and employability. The plan was to provide an initial payment of £100 to the household, with a second payment of £150 as an incentive to engage with services to maximise their income, with the aim being to support 100 families by March 2023 with a cost of £25,000.

While the overall number of families affected in Aberdeen is known to be around 1200, engaging with them has proved to be very difficult. Work has been undertaken with key agencies supporting families to try and increase referrals, with a session with providers taking place on 20 June 2023 involving Citizen's Advice, Homestart, Children 1st, CFINE advice team and ACC Children's and Families service. While there was recognition of the value of the approach due to low level of uptake it was agreed that this funding would change to provide fuel vouchers to continue the provision due to likely demand due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Based on data up to 31 Dec 2023, 979 households have received fuel vouchers to the value of £9953.

Free school meals

Free school meal registrations have increased but uptake is too low. When looking at the number of children (including those who are now automatically entitled in P1-P5), the number of children registered for free school meals is 3617 based on low income and 9569 based on P1-5 entitlement. The increase in entitlement makes annual comparison difficult and entitlement is expected to be extended to P6 and P7, within the lifetime of the current parliament.

While there have been increases at schools in priority neighbourhoods, increases have been seen across schools in the city, including those in areas outwith priority neighbourhoods.

Uptake of free school meals varies considerably from school to school and the school catering service are working with local schools to better understand the factors guiding children and young people to not take up their entitlement. According to the most recent data from the Healthy Living Survey, the percentage uptake in Primary schools currently sits at 72.3% and 56.5% in secondary schools. Work is in progress to establish a food hub at St Machar Academy to test an alternative approach. The food hub will be outwith the main school building and provide 'grab and go' food provision, allowing pupils to be outwith school to meet their friends but still uptake their free school meal entitlement. The installation of the pod is expected in early 2024, coinciding with other works taking place in the school playground including external dining facilities. Learning from this trial will be used to determine next steps.

Data taken from the annual Healthy Living Survey saw free school meal uptake in Primary Schools rise from 69.6% in 2022 to 72.3% in 2023. Uptake in Secondary Schools also rose from 47.7% in 2022, to 56.5% in 2023.

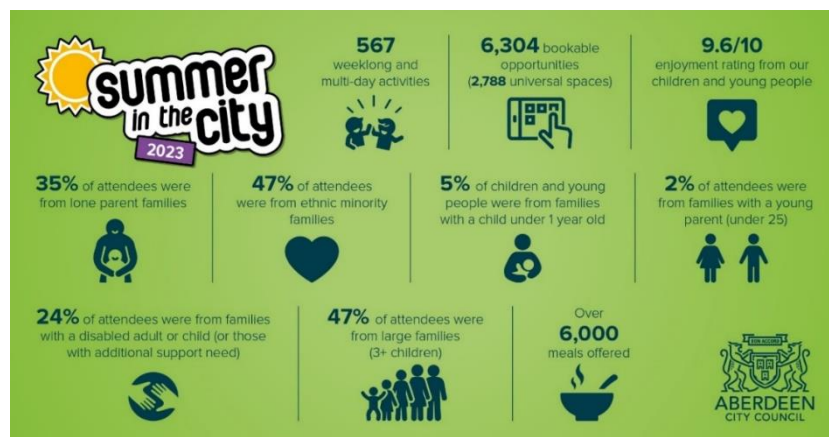
Update of Early Learning and Childcare for Eligible 2s

183 Eligible 2 year old children were placed in ELC in 2022/23, representing approximately 31.66% of the eligible population. The introduction of a new Data Pipeline Project with the DWP will help increase this percentage through better targeting of those who are eligible for school session 2023/24. The team continue to work to increase uptake further.

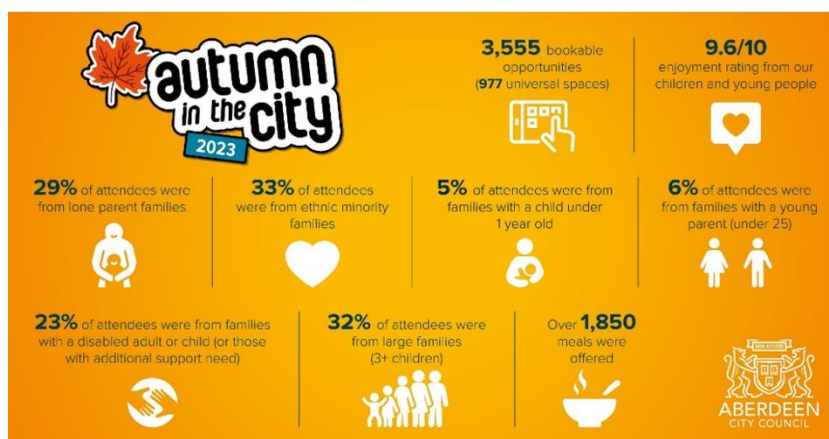
In the City Programmes

In line with the aims of the previous 'In the City' holiday programmes, the main focus remains to encourage participation and to maximise the positive opportunities available to young people and their families with a particular focus on those within the Tackling Child Poverty Plan priority groupings.

The programme continues to engage with the widest demographics, providing free opportunities for both priority families and those who do not identify as part of a priority group to take part. The programme targets the 5-14 years age group with some activities still being made available for those not in this age range. Bookable opportunities for priority families have taken the form of short, family, half-day and full-day sessions.



Since summer 2021, the programmes have provided more than 49,000 bookable opportunities, including weeklong/ multiday camps and childcare camps, day long and short activities being offered, as well as numerous drop-in activities in parks, museums, galleries and local communities and bespoke programmes for those with complex additional support needs.



The enjoyability rating as provided by children and young people for the Summer 2023 programme was 9.6 out of 10. This rating was consistent with the previous programme.

On-going funding of the programme will be considered as part of the Council budget setting process.

So, what next?

In addition to the work already in place and being progressed through the Children's Services Plan, the Council and its Community Planning Partners remain committed to using all available tools to enable young people and families to access financial support and the benefits for which they are eligible. This includes the development of intelligence led insights from the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund project detailed above. The Childrens Services Board will collaborate with Community Planning Aberdeen's Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group to prioritise use cases from this insight.

Having delivered significant improvement in benefits uptake, Community Planning Aberdeen have reset targets for the city to increase this by a further 10% by 2025.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROMISE



Central to the work of the Children's Services Board is delivery of The Promise.

The Children's Services Board reviewed progress in delivering Plan 21-24 in October 2023. The [evaluation](#) highlighted that good progress is being made in a number of areas but that the partnership is not on track to fully deliver on all areas of Plan 21-24. This position is reflected nationally.

This draft evaluation framework has been developed to help us measure our progress towards delivery of an effective Family Support model aligned to the Promise. It is anticipated that this framework will have to be revisited when the next Promise Plan and associated evaluation framework is published in June 2024. The final evaluation framework will be used to monitor the impact of our Family Support Model on a yearly basis and over time. Readers should note that in looking at trend data, quite different groups of children and young people are often being compared and these differences need to be taken into consideration.

5 year trend data (where available) has been aligned to the actions in Plan 21-24 that can be measured locally, the RAG rating reflects the evaluated position outlined in our October evaluation.

Plan 21-24 action	RAG rating	5 year trend
Priority 1 – A Good Childhood		
Support		Increasing trend in the no. of Care Experienced Young People (CEYP) engaging in Active Schools activity. Increasing trend in the no. of CEYP accessing free leisure from 294 in 2019 to 647 in 2024 (the number includes adult members who enable engagement) Decreasing trend in the percentage of young people who started treatment in CAMHS within 18 weeks of referral from 93% in 2018 to 46% in 2023 Increasing trend in the no. of families accessing financial support from 295 in 2018 to 1040 in 2022/23 Stable trend in the no. of children and young people supported universally by the Educational Psychology (EP) Service (407 over 2022/23)

		Increasing trend in the no. of children and young people who were supported through specialist Educational Psychology involvement or assessment throughout the year (206 in 2022/23). Stable trend in the no. children and young people looked after in residential care from 10% (51) in 2018/19 to 12% (67) in 2022/23.
A right to education		Improving trend in reducing levels of unauthorised school absence from 6.93% in 2017/18 to 4.35% in 2021/2022 for all Looked After Children and Young People. Stable trend in the attendance rates of Looked After Children and Young People from 86.91% in 2017/2018 to 86.59% in 2021/22. Improving trend in reducing the exclusion rates of Looked After Children and Young People from 174 temporary exclusions in 2017/2018 to 55 in 2021/22. Stable trend in the attainment of Looked After Children and Young People in Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) (combined P1,4 and 7). Improving trend in the % of Looked After Children and Young People achieving Early Level Numeracy by the end of P1 from 61.54% in 2017/18 to 77.27% in 2021/22. Improving trend in the % of Looked After Children and Young People achieving First Level Numeracy by the end of P4 from 30% in 2017/18 to 50% in 2021/22. Stable trend in the % of Looked After Children and Young People achieving Second Level Numeracy by the end of P7 from 33.33% in 2017/18 to 33.33% in 2021/22. Stable trend in the % of Looked After Children and Young People achieving Third Level or better Numeracy by the end of S3 from 56.25% in 2017/18 to 52.63% in 2021/22. Improving trend in the % of Looked After Children with 1 or more qualification at SCQF Level 3 from 81.82% in 2018/2019 to 88.24% in 2021/2022. Stable trend in the % of Looked After Children with 1 or more qualification at SCQF level 4 from 72.73% in 2018/2019 to 70.59% in 2021/2022. Decreasing trend in the % of Looked After Children achieving a literacy qualification at Level 4 from 72.73% in 2018/2019 to 64.71% in 2021/2022.

Increasing gap between % of Looked After Children leavers and the local authority average attaining a Level 4 qualification in literacy from 19.4% in 2018/2019 and 29.44% in 2021/2022.

Increasing gap between % of Looked After Children leavers and the local authority average attaining a Level 4 qualification in numeracy from 20.26% in 2018/2019 to 36.75% in 2021/2022.

Decreasing trend in the % of Looked After Children achieving a literacy qualification at Level 5 from 36.36% in 2018/2019 to 17.65% in 2021/2022.

Decreasing trend in the % of Looked After Children with 1 or more qualification at SCQF Level 5 or better from 40.91% in 2018/2019 to 29.41% in 2021/2022.

Decreasing trend in the % of Percentage of Looked After Children with 1 or more qualification at SCQF Level 6 or better from 18.18% in 2018/2019 to 11.76% in 2021/2022.

Decreasing trend in the % of Looked After Children with 1 or more qualification at SCQF Level 7 or better from 4.55% in 2018/2019 to 0% in 2021/2022.

Decreasing trend in the average tariff points achieved by Looked After Children and **increasing gap** between those who have experienced care and their peers.

Stable trend in the % of school leavers who were Looked After away from home in positive initial destinations from 81.82% in 2018/2019 to 80% in 2021/22.

Decreasing trend in the % of school leavers who were Looked After at home in positive initial destinations from 63.64% in 2018/19 to 57.14% in 2021/2022.

Increasing trend in the % of Looked After Children and Young People considered for a Coordinated Support Plan from 3% in 2019 to 49% in 2023 in the city.

Increasing trend in the staying on rates of those who are cared for compared to their peers for S4, S5 and S6

S4/S5 Staying on Rates		
	2016/17	2022/23
All	83.34%	87.02%
All Looked After	44.8%	62.5%

		<table><tr><th colspan="3">S5/S6 Staying on Rates</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>2016/17</td><td>2022/23</td></tr><tr><td>All</td><td>65.54%</td><td>62.43%</td></tr><tr><td>All Looked After</td><td>14.3%</td><td>30%</td></tr></table>	S5/S6 Staying on Rates				2016/17	2022/23	All	65.54%	62.43%	All Looked After	14.3%	30%	
S5/S6 Staying on Rates															
	2016/17	2022/23													
All	65.54%	62.43%													
All Looked After	14.3%	30%													
Relationships		We will commence annual reporting of the no. of children who were not placed with their brothers and sisters at the point of placement start date Decreasing trend in the no. of children placed with ACC Foster Carers from 15% (81) in 2018/19, to 14% (73) in 2022/23.													
Brothers and sisters		87% (467) of looked after children and young people are placed with siblings (2023 new measure) 13% of looked after children and young people are separated from a sibling (2023 new measure) Stable trend in the no. of foster carers who take sibling placements Improving trend in the no. of Kinship Carers receiving multi-agency support													
Youth justice		Decreasing trend in the no. and % of young people in secure accommodation due to criminality (2023: 1/<1%) Increasing trend in the no. and % of complex young people in secure accommodation due to SCRA decisions Improving trend in the no. of offences linked to young people in local children's homes (nil over reporting period) Improving trend in the % of young people charged with an offence													
Advocacy		Increasing trend in the % of CEYP accessing independent advocacy Increasing trend in the no. of children and young people accessing Young Person's Rights Service who are: - Care experienced (Jun 2023: 14) - Involved in child protection processes (Jun 2023, Legal Status = Promotion of welfare of children in need: 4)													
Moving on		Improving trend in the no. of CEYP working with a mentor from 0 in 2019 to 52 meeting mentors (MCR) and 4 supported by the Pathways Co-Ordinator (MCR) in Jan 2024. Consistently high trend in the no. of care leavers with a pathway plan from 100% in 2018/19 to 100% in 2021/22. Increasing trend in the no. of young people in continuing care													

		placements from 16 in 2018/19 to 31 in 2022/23. Stable trend in the provision of pathway plans. 92% of all young people eligible for a pathway plan have one (2023) Decreasing trend in the no. of youth homelessness applications from care leavers (0 in 2023) Increasing trend in the no. of young people not paying Council Tax up to 26 years due to Council decisions
Physical intervention		Reducing trend in the no. of restraints used in local children's homes (1 in 2023) Reducing trend in the no. of restraints used in education CSW will implement guidance on recording of the use of restraint for all CEYP placed in out of authority placements and other community settings in 2024.
Priority 2 – Whole Family Support		
Family Support		Stable trend in the no. of care experienced 2–5-year-olds attending ELC: 2020/21 - 74 (31 – 3-5s and 49 Eligible 2's) 2021/22 - 70 (25 – 3-5s and 45 Eligible 2's) 2022/23 - 42 (19 – 3-5s and 29 Eligible 2's) 2023/24 - 26 (19 – 3-5s and 6 Eligible 2's to date – January 2024) Stable trend in the no. of care experienced parents applying for Eligible 2's ELC place for their child(ren): 2021/22 - 2 2022/23 - 4 2023/24 - 2 Stable trend in the no. of % of care experienced parents engaging with the Family Nurse Partnership Improving trend in the no. of CEYP living with Foster Carers on continuing care arrangement from 8 in 2018 to 24 in 2023. Stable trend in the no. of families accessing the Fit Like Family Wellbeing Service (585 referrals in 2022 of these 335 (57%) new families accessed support; 599 in 2023 of these 378 (63%) new families accessed support. Stable trend in the number of families who identified that their circumstances/risks had improved as a result of support provided by Includem - 15 in 2022, 12 in 2023.

		Increasing trend in the number of kinship care breakdowns from 4 in 2018/19 to 8 in 2022/23 Increasing trend in the No. of kinship carers accessing multi-agency support. Stable trend in the recruitment of new foster carers with a steady average of around 10 per year (in 2023 12 new foster carers were approved from 6 households). Stable trend in the no. of kinship care assessments undertaken, the average for the preceding three years is 22 kinship assessments per year. Increasing trend in the no of families supported through the Links Hub. In Year 1 of Links Hub opening, 2022/23, 33 families were identified as in need of intensive support, and 45 families are currently being supported in Year 2, 2023/24. Issues include poverty, domestic violence and alcohol and drug misuse.
Peer and community support		Increasing trend in the no. of families being support by Community Learning Increasing trend in the no. of families the Family Learning Team are engaging with from 236 in 2017/19 to 621 in 2022/23. Increasing trend in the impact of Family Learning. In 2018/2019 88% of respondents reported an improvement in confidence and 90% improvement in skills & knowledge. In 2022/2023 91% of respondents reported an improvement in confidence and 98% an improvement in knowledge & skills. Stable trend in the no. of families being supported by Barnardo's young carers service. (2022 - 144 young people/123 families; 2023 152 young people/131 families). The average length of engagement with the Young Carers Service is stable at 2-3 years. 444 parents and families with complex needs were supported by organisations accessing grants from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. 70% of families agreed risk had been reduced and 4 families no longer required Social Work support.
Service integration		Evidence from multi-agency thematic audits undertaken highlight a positive and stable trend. In 2022 63% of cases audited were evaluated as good or better in 2023 this was 80%. (Not directly comparable due to audit sample, focus and questions.) Increasing trend in the no. of shared services delivered (7 on-going collaborations with Children's Social Work)

Family therapies		Stable trend in the length of engagement with the Fit Like Family Wellbeing Service: less than 6 months 24%; 6-12 months 28%; 12-18months 19% and 18+ months 18%. Stable trend in those moving on from the Fit Like Service. In 2023 of the 113 families who moved on from the Fit Like Wellbeing Service 76% were supported by universal services; 12% were supported by CSW and 11% were supported by CAMHS. Stable trend in the no. of families accessing support from Includem. In 2022 Includem engaged with 42 young people, in 2023 this was 45. Stable trend in the average length of engagement Includem had with young people. 49 weeks in 2022, 43 weeks in 2023.
Priority 3 – Supporting the Workforce		
Workforce values		Increasing trend in the % of the children's workforce, chief officers, elected members and all corporate parents who complete Corporate Parenting training aligned to The Promise
Trauma informed		Increasing trend in the % of children's workforce has undertaken trauma awareness training (100% for ACC), 80% of frontline children's social work practitioners have completed the 4 TURAS Trauma Skills modules
On-going relationships		There are no local policies which prevent on-going relationships
Workforce support		Increasing availability of staff wellbeing supports.
Priority 4 - Planning		
Planning		A reducing trend in the % of care experienced children with 3 or more placements from 6% in 2017/18 to 5% in 2021/22 A reducing trend in the % of care experienced children with more than 1 placement in the past year from 21.7% in 2017/18 to 18.8% in 2021/22.
Investment		An increasing trend in the number of households experiencing poverty (1 in 5 children now live in poverty) An increasing trend in the number of families supported to claim all benefit entitlements
Information sharing		A stable trend in the number of IRDs held from 417 in 2018/19 to 350 in 2021/22. A declining trend in the % of IRD leading to Child Protection Planning Meetings from 64% in 2018/19 to 24% in 2022/23

		Evidence from multi-agency thematic audits undertaken highlight a positive and stable trend in relation to information sharing to protect children from harm. In 2022 80% of cases audited were evaluated as good or better in 2023 this was 75%. (Not directly comparable due to audit sample and focus.)
Priority 5 – Building Capacity		
Legislation		
Children's Hearing System		
Inspection and regulation		
Policy coherence		Improved alignment of national policy (local arrangements)
Data mapping and collection		Improved access to data through D365
Governance structures		Sound local governance arrangements

The evaluation framework will be revisited when the second Promise Plan is published. Thereafter data trends will be reported annually through this Annual Report.

Whole Family Wellbeing Funding

[The Whole Family Wellbeing Funding \(WFWF\)](#) is a £500 million investment over the current Scottish Parliament (2022 to 2026). As part of Element 1, £32 million has been provided in each of the financial years 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024 to support Children's Services Planning Partnerships across Scotland to scale up and drive the delivery of whole family support services in their areas and build capacity for transformational change.

In Aberdeen City we have invested our WFWF in a variety of areas to support our children, young people and their families to improve our holistic whole family wellbeing offer, including:

Scaling up Youth and Family Support

Scaling up our investment in Youth Workers, Family Learning and Financial Inclusion attached to schools to ensure that children, young people and families can access support more readily.

Request for Assistance

Developing the second version of our Request for Assistance system in order to create a single pathway for families to access support services.

Co-Located Multidisciplinary Teams

Piloting co-located multidisciplinary teams in Northfield and Lochside Academies to ensure more effective and holistic planning for the children and families most in need of our support.

Supporting Kinship Carers

Building the capacity of kinship carers to enable them to feel better supported and have their own needs recognised more effectively.

Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM)

Rolling out SCIM in order to ensure that every child who has experienced abuse or neglect has access to a [Bairn's Hoose](#) model of support including access to a trauma recovery service.

Place2Be

Supporting the development the Place2Be project, focussing on the mental health of children under the age of 10.

Parent Support – Children with Disabilities

Improving the peer and community support available for children with disabilities within Aberdeen City.

This Annual report, and current discussions around the resourcing of our Bairn's Hoose, are helping to inform our use of the fund.

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOARD

What do we need to change in the second year of the Plan?



The working arrangements of the Children's Services Board

The Children's Services Board has invested time in considering how best to track progress against our ambitious plan. This has led to the implementation of an agreed tracker to help improve transparent tracking of progress. Taking this approach is helping to highlight emerging risks and issues. This greater visibility is enabling the Board to take swifter action when required. These changes are helping to build a culture of collective responsibility and candour amongst Board members.

In addition to providing leadership to our Sub Groups, the Children's Services Board has collaborated to evaluate progress on a number of key policies. This has included evaluating our approach to the development of our Plan to ensure that we are well prepared to undertake the next wholesale review in 2026, development of our [Child Poverty Action Report](#) in June 2023 and our evaluation of progress towards delivery of [Plan 21-24](#) in October 2023. Our discipline of on-going evaluation on key policies is helping improve our collective understanding of the challenges facing our children and families and helping us take a more holistic and agile approach. As we move forward, all of our annual reports will be built into the Children's Services Plan Annual Report so that the connections across different policies are fully taken into account.

The quality of our evaluation is improving. The finalisation of a robust evaluation framework aligned to The Promise will help us assess the strength of all three tiers of our Tiered Intervention Framework and help us facilitate the shift of resources towards preventative and early intervention. The framework will be finalised when the second national Promise Plan and associated evaluation framework are published in 2024. We continue to benefit from close collaboration with our local Health Determinates Research Collaborative (HDRC) and have commissioned a long term study on the impact of expanded ELC provision to inform next steps in our developing model of Family Support. The HDRC have also committed to working in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh to help us evaluate the impact of our local Bairn's Hoose.

The Board has benefited from closer working with the Child Protection Committee (CPC) this year and now works in collaboration to deliver shared audits and quality assurance activity. This has seen the Board review the effectiveness of arrangements to support children and young people who have experienced harmful sexual behaviour and to review the circumstances which trigger a referral to services under the category of physical abuse. The Board also collaborated with the CPC to plan delivery of our Bairns Hoose as part of a national pathfinder. We look forward to working with the national Bairns Hoose team over the coming year as the capital works get underway and the team starts to be established.

A refreshed Request for Assistance (RfA) process has been developed and will soon be delivered to help us monitor demand and the impact of services in real time. This second version of the system will enable us to look at how effectively different interventions support the mitigation of risk and help inform our future commissioning.

As well as commissioning Children 1st to deliver a Bairns Hoose Trauma Recovery Service aligned to our Fit Like Hubs, we have recommissioned Family Support Services that fully embed the 10 principles of Family Support outlined in The Promise. We hope that our Bairns Hoose will provide opportunities to work regionally and with the Island Local Authorities.

We recognise that there is more to do to improve the quality of data collection, matching and processing to enable more accurate and timely analysis of needs by group and at community level. A recent successful bid to the Child Poverty Action fund is helping us move this work forward further.

Those represented on the Board continue to support a high proportion of displaced children and young people including those fleeing conflict and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. After Glasgow, the city welcomes the highest proportion of displaced people and services continue to respond with agility although this has placed considerable pressure on local services. Mitigating the risk to service provision will require our on-going attention.

The Board successfully implemented updated GIRFEC Operational Guidance over the reporting period. Unfortunately there was no appetite to develop a more regional approach to support colleagues working across the health board. Work is ongoing to secure greater alignment between GIRFEC and GIRFE for those who have a disability but this work requires to be accelerated. Revisions have been proposed to our agreed Child's Planning format based on feedback from children and young people and this feedback will be retained as we await an updated national position.

Over the course of the year, the impact of poverty on children and families has become more evident. The Children's Services Board has agreed content for a child poverty training course. SHMU has been commissioned to develop the training film by using local voices and case studies. Taking this approach will ensure that our workforce access consistent messaging and understanding of the issues facing the families we collectively serve.

Considerable time has been invested by our Sub groups in the development of Improvement Project Charters with examples of on-going work shown in the appendices. Taking this approach has supported new groups of staff from across the Community Planning Partnership to join forces on shared projects aligned with our Plan. The progress of each charter is routinely reported to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board. A total of 34 Improvement Projects have been agreed and all are now making good progress.

Best Start in life Group Projects

The focus this year has been on supporting infants and their families in a number of key areas of early health, including working with staff throughout the partnership to help build their confidence in recognising early signs of neglect and poverty to ensure we can support the needs of those children and their families at the earliest possible opportunity. As a result, the Group has worked closely with partners such as Women's Aid and Alcohol and Drugs Action to offer opportunities to support families who may otherwise have been referred to Children's Social Work.

Over the course of the year we have been working to expand our Peep offer by establishing a number of new groups including at Tullos, Muirfield and Greyhope among others and have also worked with Childsmile, ELC settings and Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership to promote whole family dental health support at these sessions. Links with local dental practices have been strengthened to further promote dental health to children and families.

The Group has made significant progress in establishing a 'Cash First' approach to offering financial support to those who need it as well as improved emergency access to infant formula in collaboration with Cfine and Abernecceities. This is showing important signs of success to date with all those referred currently receiving full support. Further details of this work can be found in the case studies in the appendices

Mental Health and Wellbeing Group Projects

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Collaborative Subgroup have focused this year on developing a number of projects tackling various aspects of support for Children and Young People.

The Group is working to reduce demand on CAMHS by improving the way we refer to the service. This has involved raising awareness among staff across the partnership of the various tier 2 supports available as well as working to expand the Tier 2 offer of support. We now plan to refine the referral process to make sure that children and young people can be referred to the right service and so that once they have, they can receive that service as soon as possible.

The group continues to prioritise the mental health and health care needs of Care Experienced young people and are working to make sure that 100% of children who leave care receive mental health support within 4 weeks of being referred.

In our communities, particularly in our priority areas, we are working with our children and young people to make them feel safe in their communities and we are now seeing an increase in confidence reported by young people. This work is on-going.

Corporate Parenting Sub Group

The Corporate Parenting Subgroup continues to lead our focus on supporting our Care Experienced Children, Young People and their Families. Driven through our Aberdeen City Corporate Parenting Plan and providing a leading role in ensuring our Partnership Keeps the Promise. The improvement projects being led by the Group reflect this focus.

The Group are working to maximise the number of our eligible Care Experienced young people receiving multiagency/throughcare support, and linking to the related project from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Collaborative, ensuring that all Care Leavers are offered a comprehensive health needs assessment.

In to 2023 we have seen a 6% rise in the number of young people receiving multiagency/throughcare support with good indications that this has further increased into 2024. We have significant success in supporting our Kinship Carers. Our programme of support has expanded significantly, with a 900% increase in the number of partners offering supports and we have doubled the number of carers we now support. Further information can be found in the case studies below.

Working upstream we also have projects focussing on supporting Care Experienced young people to be confident parents and providing improved holistic whole family support to reduce the number of children entering the care system.

The Group are considering how best to implement the recommendations for Corporate Parents from the Secure Care Pathways report:

- A clear plan for the provision of consistent mental and emotional health support for young people in and on the edges of secure care
- Health boards should lead work with other corporate parents to ensure that young people receive consistent support to address emotional distress including self-harm and suicide risks
- Work with community-based services and secure care providers to ensure the suitable provision of substance misuse support for young people in and on the edges of secure care
- Ensure that young people who have left secure care don't experience a drop off in support and that all relevant multi-agency partners are involved in the planning and delivery of support at this stage

Attainment and Transitions to Adulthood Sub Group

This subgroup ensures that we take a partnership approach to supporting our children and young people to have the best possible educational experience and improve post school opportunities into further/higher education, employment and training.

This year we have worked to expand our curriculum offer through the delivery of ABZ Campus which made a further 37 courses available to our young people. We have responded positively to future growth sectors, such as digital, by increasing the number of pupils undertaking digital and technology courses. A similar approach has been taken to volume sectors, such as healthcare, with increased opportunities for young people to secure a qualification. On-going work on ABZ campus has increased the rate of those completing National Progression Awards/Foundation Apprenticeships and HNC courses. More information can be found in the appendices.

The group works closely with colleagues in the ASN/Disabilities and Corporate Parenting Subgroups to support our more vulnerable children and young people to achieve. For instance introducing and embedding a Pathways Advocate into each secondary school to support those who are care experienced and creating a consistent template for monitoring, tracking and supporting care experienced or vulnerable young people.

The Group are in the process of testing a training tool to support staff to recognise and feel confident when responding to signs of harm in our children, young people and their families.

Youth Justice Sub Group

The Youth Justice Subgroup supports those young people experiencing or at risk of entering the justice system. The Group are keenly aware that this cohort of young people will have a number of needs and may have been impacted upon by adverse childhood experiences. As a result, improvement projects take a trauma informed approach.

This year the group has been working closely with partners to provide comprehensive trauma training, with a view to destigmatising relationships between young people and key agencies such as Police and Children Social Work.

Another key focus has been early work to establish youth clubs and working in communities to reduce instances of Anti-Social behaviour. As of December 2023 there has been a 50% reduction in recorded instances of ASB.

The number of Looked After and Accommodated Children cautioned and charged with an offence has now reduced to 0. We are now seeking to expand this success to the wider care experienced cohort as well as other young people at risk of entering the justice system by supporting our police and community services to take a more trauma informed approach to cautioning and charging young people; expanding opportunity to divert them from prosecution and ensuring that their community support needs can be met.

Additional Support needs and disabilities Sub Group

The ASN & Disabilities Subgroup projects reflect our need to give the best possible opportunities for our young people with additional support needs and disabilities to achieve positive outcomes.

A number of partnership improvement projects have been progressed to provide community, peer and educational support for this cohort in order to help ensure that children and young people with ASN remain in full time education and are well supported when transitioning into post school education employment and training.

This year we have successfully piloted a Neurodevelopmental Pathway model aimed at increasing the number of families of children with a neurodevelopmental concern or awaiting diagnosis accessing support prior to diagnosis. The pilot has shown a promising increase in the number of families accessing support, and we are now looking to expand this offer.

We have also been successfully supporting our young carers, We have increased the total number of registered young carers accessing support by 14% since April 2023 from 116 -135, more information about this particular project can be found in our case studies section below.

This Group is currently without a formal Chair and work is on-going to address this.

What next for the Children's Services Board?

Reviewing our progress has confirmed the suitability of the Children's Services Plan 2023-2026. As a result, we propose to continue to deliver on our agreed Plan for 2023-26 but to also invest our time and energy in some additional areas:

- Develop further our use of data to be able to access more granular data at community/group level to enable a more bespoke response based on community need. There will be a need for this work to be closely aligned to Locality Plans as we move forwards. Time will also be invested in more fully understanding and tracking the outcomes for those living in SIMD1.

- Linked to the first, is the need to review how services engage with our most vulnerable in SIMD1 given the clear evidence that current arrangements are not realising improved outcomes. Taking an approach that promotes human rights and is family led will be important.
- There is a need to look at how to prevent childhood obesity through a coordinated preventative strategy that is not limited to children
- Respond positively to the Statutory Guidance on the UNCRC when published.
- Implement the recommendations for Corporate Parents from the Secure Care Pathways report:
 - A clear plan for the provision of consistent mental and emotional health support for young people in and on the edges of secure care
 - Health boards should lead work with other corporate parents to ensure that young people receive consistent support to address emotional distress including self-harm and suicide risks
 - Work with community-based services and secure care providers to ensure the suitable provision of substance misuse support for young people in and on the edges of secure care
 - Ensure that young people who have left secure care don't experience a drop off in support and that all relevant multi-agency partners are involved in the planning and delivery of support at this stage

Appendix 1. Financial Support to Families in Need: Infant Feeding in a Crisis

What are we trying to achieve?

To create a universal Early Years Financial Inclusion Pathway (EYFIP) to prevent pregnant women and families with children under 5 years falling into financial crisis

And to create a targeted Infant Feeding in a Crisis Pathway (IFCP) to ensure that mothers and families with children aged under 5 years at risk of food insecurity, have access to first stage formula and income maximisation support

How are we doing this?

We are testing the pathway with priority neighbourhoods health professionals and CFINE initially with the potential to expand throughout other charity food providers.

- Adapt the “Pathways to Support” live document to include an infant feeding early years section where urgent first stage formula support, nutritional support and early years income maximisation can be added
- Establish a pathway where health professionals & emergency food providers can access a cash first approach
- for urgent first stage formula for the baby, nutritional support for the whole family and income maximisation support
- Develop a reporting system that collates amount of referrals and repeat referrals for emergency first stage formula and nutritional support

What have we achieved?

Working in partnership with CFine & their SAFE team to support families, through our **Early Years Financial Inclusion Pathway we have:**

- Developed a universal pathway that asks all pregnant women and families if they require financial health checks.
- Ensured a feedback loop to the HCPs from the Service Provider are supporting the family

And for the **Infant Feeding in a Crisis Pathway we have:**

- Built on a pathway being tested in Aberdeenshire, developing an Aberdeen City specific IFC Pathway.
- We have created a multiagency team to work on the pathway and test the Cash-First Approach
- IFCP training has been provided to Aberdeen City based Family Nurses. Who began testing the pathway in November

What impact have we had?

The project is still in its early stages of development but our early testing has already begun to see referrals to CFine through our testing with the Family Nurse Partnership, **full support being given to those who have been referred**

What do we plan to do next?

- We will continue to meet regularly as a multi-agency working group to monitor both pathways, continuing to collect data and feedback on the referral process and number of families that have benefited
- We will continue to test the IFCP for four months with Family Nurse Partnership
- In early 2024 we will expand IFCP to Health Visitors
- We intend to further expand this to Midwifery services by Spring/summer 2024
- We will continue ongoing awareness raising/training on the pathways with relevant staff. To ensure both staff and families potentially in need of support are better aware of the offer

Appendix 2. Supporting Our Kinship Carers: Improving our Partnership Offer

What are we trying to achieve?

To ensure that we can provide holistic family support tailored to the needs of our are Kinship Carers we aim to increase the number of partners supporting kinship carers by 100% Conscious that their diversity of need cannot be provided by social work alone, this will help both expand the offer and number of Kinship Carers that can be supported

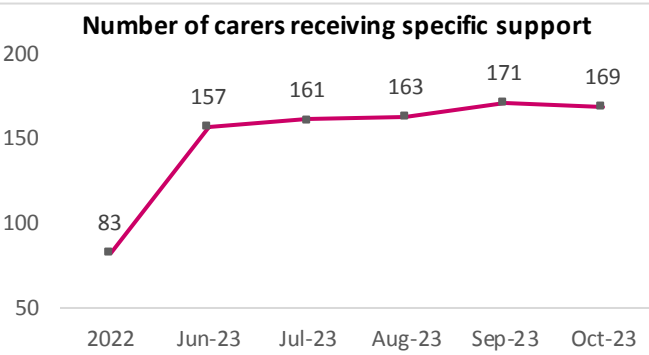
How are we doing this?

Through our multi agency project we have:

- Established a number of information events for Kinship Carers. Inviting carers and our Partners to connect and provide details of services and supports available to them.
- Developed a comprehensive directory of supports for those seeking to refer Kinship Carers. Our most current guidance can be found [here](#)
- Improved and expanded knowledge of our referral processes
- Employing a Community Development Worker to support and promote kinship support within Family Learning, Fit Like Hubs and wider agencies pertinent to kinship family support.

What have we achieved?

- To date the project has achieved a **900%** increase in the number of partners supporting Kinship Carers.
- We have **more than doubled** the number of Kinship Carers receiving specific support an 89% from **83- 169** supported



We have formalised links now made with a number of key support agencies including:

- CAHMS;
- Family Learning;
- Kinship Blether;
- Fit Like Hubs;
- Families Outside;
- Be-friend A Child;
- Grec;
- Financial Inclusion Team;
- Housing Team;
- Adoption Team.

What impact have we had?

Feedback from our Kinship Carers and Partners has been very positive. They have highlighted a number of areas where they feel the project has made a key difference including:

- The increased support and links with different agencies*
- The improved communication about changes affecting them*
- The opportunity to capture the positive momentum*
- The improved recognition of role of Kinship Carers among partners*
- Increased participation from partners in the provision of services and supports*



What do we plan to do next?

We will review our support directory to ensure that we have clear referral pathways highlighted

Continue to link with partners to extend our offer

Planning further engagement events for Kinship Carers

Appendix 3. Breadth of Courses: Expanding our Curricular Offer

What are we trying to achieve?

To increase by 10% the rate of completion of National Progression Awards (NPA)/Foundation Apprenticeships (FA)/Higher National Certificate (HNC) courses available to young people across the city by 2026, by increasing the breaths and quality of courses available to our Senior Phase Secondary pupils.

How are we doing this?

- By developing and introduce Phase 1 of ABZ Campus, increasing the number of collectively offered courses (including NPA, FA and HNC) compared to the City Campus offer in 2022-23 to young people in Aberdeen City.
- Creating a termly professional learning offer for staff in curriculum development to encourage a continuation in the broadening of pathway options for young people in Aberdeen City.
- Developing and offer programme of support (informed by young people) (including induction) for young people taking ABZ Campus courses that will enhance their experience and reduce withdrawals.

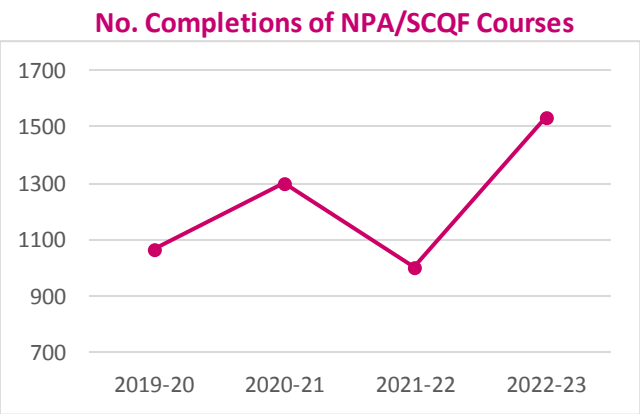
What have we achieved?

In Academic Year 2023/24 to date, there have been **65** participants in Curriculum Development Sessions

Between 2020/21 and 2023/24 the number of completions of Level 7 HNC courses has **increased from 0 -17**

The number of completion of foundation apprenticeships has **increased from 124 -208** between 2022/23 and 2023/24

The total number of completions of NPA/SCQF Courses is at its highest in the 4 years recorded with a **53% increase** from 2022 -2023



What impact have we had?

Training Sessions on Timetabling, Pathway and Curriculum Development have had very positive feedback with a significant proportion of participants indicating that the training had been ***‘invaluable in helping my thinking’***

What do we plan to do next?

- Attainment reviews have taken place in schools to identify where courses offered could be widened for session 24/25
- ABZ Campus will continue to be delivered across multiple sites and a range of different SCQF courses.
- Further training sessions will be undertaken
- Feedback from Focus Groups on views of the ABZ campus will be collected, analysed and used to inform changes to the curriculum offer

Appendix 4. Reducing Alcohol and Substance Use: Supporting our Curriculum

What are we trying to achieve?

We aim to decrease the number of 13 to 15 year olds who have reported using substances in Aberdeen to below the national average by 2023, through curriculum delivery and a whole population approach.

How are we doing this?

- Developing a new procedure for reporting substance use incidences in school, streamlining and improving the processes for accessing information, support and referral
- Development of a Programme of Substance Use Resources to ensure that all children and young people are offered consistent support and appropriate interventions in relation to their understanding of and use of substances
- Pilot test event and programme 2023 in conjunction with the Daniel Spargo Mabbs foundation on substance use prevention and harm reduction for pupils
- Deliver a Substance awareness workshop for parents/carers of P5-S6 pupils

What have we achieved?

There has been a **5% decrease** from 28% to 23% of 13-15year having had a drink and a **0.9% decrease** from 4.6% to 3.7% of 13-15year old who have tried drugs between academic years 21/22 and 22/23. When compared to the closest available national data, this shows that Aberdeen is 5.9% lower than the national average.

There was a **24% reduction** (31 to 25) in 2022 for requests for assistance for children and young people with factors relating to substance misuse.

Increased access to counselling for substance use has seen a **rise of 29%** in 2022 compared to 2021 and by 200% when comparing Jan-June 2023 and Jan-June.

Positive impact was also seen from the substance awareness workshop for parents/carers. 151 parents expressed interest in attending the workshop held in September 2023, although only **59 attended** in live time. In the feedback survey **88%** of attendees stated they were **somewhat or extremely confident in discussing substance use with their child** after attending the event

One Parent commented : '**Excellent workshop**. Even as a former youth worker I feel it was such a valuable workshop to refresh my memory and as a reminder to remain vigilant. We like to think it will never be our children but I think being informed can only be a good thing either way in case the worse happens'

What impact have we had?

Feedback on the new reporting procedure and resources has been very positive:

'We found the DUST tool really helpful in determining the threshold for referral and sourcing the right support...'

What do we plan to do next?

- The substances use guidance for schools will be revised every 3 years to ensure it is providing the best support for schools.
- Quality improvement visits by education officers will continue to monitor the impact of the curriculum.
- Data for the overall aim, as well as the requests for assistance will continue to be collected on annual basis and reported to the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.
- The ongoing test of the year-long education programme on substance use prevention and harm reduction in three schools will be reviewed at the end of the year and impact reported on accordingly.

Whilst we are comfortable that improvement will continue there is a proposal for more targeted improvement activity to reduce cannabis and polydrug use in 13-15 years olds within the LOIP being refreshed for 2024.

Appendix 5. Registered Young Carers: Providing Improved Support

What are we trying to achieve?

Young carers are one of the biggest single groups of children in need. Estimates suggest that in a city the size of Aberdeen, there may be up to 2,000 children and young people aged between 5 to 18 years who undertake caring responsibilities. We aim to increase by 20% the number of registered young carers accessing support from the Young Carers service by 2025

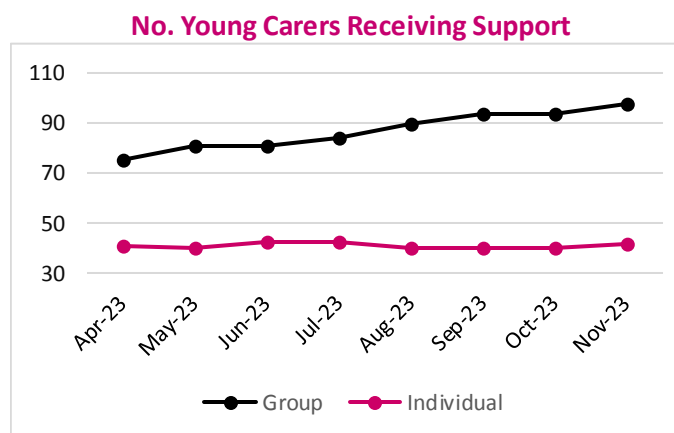
How are we doing this?

- Developing a direct referral route from key agencies such as CAMHS/ADA/Charles House/Roxburgh House, Fit Like Hub
- Co-design with young carers information provided at drop-in sessions, PSE classes and assemblies for young people to raise their awareness for young carers to self-refer
- Co-design/ co-deliver with young carers and communities/third and private sector groups a wider range of choice/opportunities that meet our young carers interests
- Developing a promotional campaign to raise awareness of the opportunity to volunteer/befriend young carers
- Developing a directory of partnership/ community-based groups/support (e.g. 1-1 sessions), to be promoted to young carers to increase the choice of support available

What have we achieved?

The total number of registered young carers accessing support has **increased by 14%** since April 2023 from 116 -135

The number of you carers receiving group based support has **increased from 75 – 98**



80 staff have now been trained and feel confident that they are fully aware of the young carers support referral process

We have seen a significant **increase of 7– 71** referrals from education

What impact have we had?

Feedback from young carers, families and staff:

"[They] had a fantastic time on the residential trip and it was good for her confidence. Barnardos are the best!"

"Her confidence within young carers has grown so much and she's really quite involved now and has made some really good friends. It's been so nice seeing her with the groups because outside of young carers she struggles so much."

"As a former young carer [I found the training] really beneficial for understanding what makes someone a young carer and the different areas that are affected (that I experienced and didn't even realise are likely due to being a former young carer), I will 100% be sharing this information with others AND the youths we work with. Thank you so much!"

What do we plan to do next?

Working in partnership with SHMU radio and our young carers to write, develop and deliver a short film to raise awareness of young carers/ their needs and challenges

Providing further multiagency training and awareness raising with staff, children and young people

What are we trying to achieve?

Aberdeen City Council Education team have partnered with a network of professionals to develop a Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS) team to increase opportunities for children and young people to engage in physical activity and sport. Representatives from Sport Aberdeen, Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT), Russel Anderson Development School (RADS), Grampian Disability Trust, Sport Scotland and Club Scotland were keen to support this area of development.

How are we doing this?

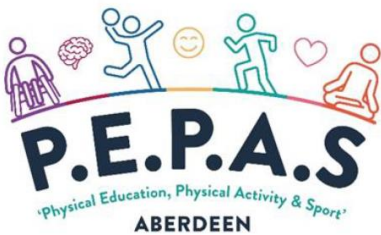
Through our multi agency project we have:

- Developed and supported priority areas for the city across PEPAS, such as positive mental health and outdoor activity
- Utilised city-wide Data to inform decisions, including full engagement with all stakeholders
- Inputted into discussions on future PE Delivery / Staffing Structure in Aberdeen (linking PE delivery across Primary and Secondary)
- Developed and supported stronger links between PE and community sport
- Engaged with partner organisations / National Governing Bodies to further the PEPAS agenda

What have we achieved?

All of our children and young people now have access to free physical activity increasing the number of schools offering this from 82% to 100%

All schools now have Active Schools Assistants one day per week increasing physical activity throughout break times, to work with staff, increasing confidence of engagement in physical activity and supporting targeted groups of children, using physical activity to improve outcomes, including mental health and wellbeing.



Our Extracurricular programme now has:

- 180 clubs city wide involved
- Over 250 volunteers delivering the activities
- Over 2,500 children participating

What do we plan to do next?

Increase the percentage of young people participating in physical activity outwith the curriculum from 22% in 2022 to 35% in 2026.

Increase the range of accessible options for children and young people with sensory and physical impairments.

Ensure a more equal distribution of gender participation in physical activity.

Ensure that priority is given to meeting the physical wellbeing needs of CEYP in a manner compliant with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill (as enacted).

Develop a culture of body positivity/ positive self-esteem through PEPAS opportunities

Develop an inclusive and strategic approach to Active Travel



Our LOIP Projects

Stretch Outcome 3: 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026

[Reduce by 5% the no. of children aged 0-4 who are referred to Children's Social Work as a result of neglect arising from parental mental health, addiction and domestic abuse 2026.](#)

[Increase by 40% the number of Peep programmes delivered by multi-agency partners by 2025.](#)

[100% of urgent requests for first stage infant formula and nutritional support for pre-school children are met by 2024.](#)

[Increase by 10% the no. of parents with children under 5 who are completing a full benefits check by 2024.](#)

[Improve dental health at primary 1 to the national average by reducing the levels of dental health in areas of deprivation to 50% by 2025.](#)

Stretch Outcome 4: 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026

[Reduce demand on Tier 3 services by 5% by 2026.](#)

[Reduce waiting time for interventions starting, by each tier 2/3 service by 5% by 2026.](#)

[100% of children leaving care are referred to services that can meet assessed mental health needs within 4 weeks of the health assessment being completed by 2024.](#)

[Increase by 5% the number of S1-S6 pupils who report that they feel confident by 2025.](#)

[Increase by 10% the % of children living in areas of deprivation who feel safe in their communities by 2025.](#)

Stretch Outcome 5: By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026

[Reduce by 5% the number of children entering the care system by 2024.](#)

[100% of children and young people leaving care are offered a health assessment to identify gaps in their health provision and needs by 2024.](#)

[Increase the number of care experienced young people by 10% receiving multiagency throughcare/aftercare support by 2024.](#)

[80% of care experienced parents will report that they believed they were sufficiently prepared for parenthood by 2026.](#)

[80% of the identified multi-agency workforce successfully complete Corporate Parenting training aligned to the Promise by 2025.](#)

Stretch Outcome 6: 95% of all our children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2), will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026

[75% of identified multi-agency staff reporting confidence in identifying and taking action on harm by 2026.](#)

[Increase to 3 the delivery of co-located and delivered services by health and education by 2024.](#)

[Increase by 10% the rate of completion of NPA/FA/HNC courses available to young people across the city by June 2024.](#)

[Increase the % of learners entering a positive and sustained destination to be ahead of the Virtual Comparator for all groups by 2025.](#)

[Increase by 20% the number of young people completing courses aligned to support the digital and tech sector by 2026.](#)

[Increase to 50 the no. of people completing more integrated health and care courses by 2025.](#)

Stretch Outcome 7: 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.

[Reduce by 20% the number of care experienced young people charged with an offence by 2025.](#)

Reduce by 15% the number of care experienced young people reported missing from Children's homes to Police Scotland by 2024.
90% of 16/17 year olds appearing at Sherriff Court in relation to Lord Advocate's guidance will have had an assessment of their community support needs by 2025.
Increase by 5% the no. of 16/17 year olds who are diverted from prosecution by 2025.
Reduce by 15% the number of instances of youth anti-social behaviour calls to Police Scotland by 2025.
Stretch Outcome 8: 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/ Disabilities will experience a positive destination by 2026.
Increase by 10%, the percentage of children and young people with additional support needs (ASN) and/or a disability accessing full time education by 2026.
Increase by 5%, the percentage of young people with additional support needs/disability entering a positive destination by 2025.
Increase by 20% the number of registered young carers accessing support from the Young Carers service by 2025.
By 2025, 90% of families with children with an additional support need or disability will indicate that they have access to peer and community support that meets their needs.
90% of identified multi-agency staff working with children and young people with disabilities will report confidence in identifying and taking action on how harm presents in children with additional support needs/disabilities by 2026.
Increase by 20% the number of families of children with autism or awaiting diagnosis accessing support prior to diagnosis and reduce the interval between referral and diagnosis by 2024.

Strategic Stretch Outcomes					
Increase the number of 0-5s who meet developmental milestones by 2026	Improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and families by 2026	Improve the attainment, health and wellbeing and positive destinations of our care experienced by 2026	Improve the attainment and positive destinations of our children and young people by 2026	Reduce the number of young people charged with an SCRA by 2026	Increase the number of children with ASN or disability who secure a positive destination by 2026
Strategic Priorities					
➤ Improve the health outcomes of expectant and new mothers ➤ Improve uptake of benefits ➤ Improve access to emergency formula and food for infants ➤ Address early speech and language needs ➤ Increase the uptake of immunisations ➤ Improve the quality of ELC provision and maintain uptake	➤ Focus on prevention and early intervention ➤ Provide access to joined up services and bereavement support • Respond quickly in a stigma free, needs and rights led way • Increase levels of physical activity • Increase the provision of child friendly environments within local communities	• Deliver a Bairns Hoose • Delivery The Promise • Increase the provision of health assessments for the care experienced • Continue to close the gap between those who have care experience and their peers • Increase the no. of foster carers available locally • Keep brothers and sisters together • Ensure adequate provision of legal advice and advocacy • Implement the recommendations of the Secure Care Review	➤ Implement refreshed guidance on the use of restraint ➤ Better track those who are in or on the edge of the care system ➤ Improve learning transitions from P7 to S1 ➤ Deliver ABZ Campus to widen the range of courses ➤ Deliver Aberdeen Computing Collaborative to ensure long term employability ➤ Delivery of Tier 2 services to close the gap through SAC funding ➤ Continue to address the cost of the school day and child poverty in schools	➤ Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour ➤ Deliver Mentors in Violence Prevention across all secondary schools	➤ Delivery of neurodevelopmental pathway ➤ Establish better assurance systems ➤ Increase the number of Young Carers receiving support ➤ Improve transition planning from child to adult services ➤ Ensure that the voices of children (including those who use alternative communication systems) are central to processes and Plans ➤ Decrease the number of children not accessing full time education
Enabling Priorities					
Access to services	Increase integration	Reduce risks	Commissioning	Data	Workforce
➤ Implement a single Request for Assistance process ➤ reduce the number of access points to information and services	➤ Build on the integration models including that at ELC Links ➤ Establish an assurance system to test the strength of the system ➤ Improve alignment between children and adult services ➤ Develop a Target Operating Model for children	➤ Better understand why children are placed OOA ➤ Understand the long term impact of ELC on outcomes for families ➤ Agree and implement a whole system approach to addressing obesity	➤ Aligned to the 10 principles of family support ➤ Jointly respond to the needs of those displaced ➤ Evaluate readiness for implementation of the UNCRC	➤ Improve knowledge of the 6 groups by co-designing with service users and children ➤ Improve data matching ➤ Improve the tracking of the outcomes of those most vulnerable	➤ Increase knowledge poverty agenda and of benefits ➤ Increase knowledge of trauma and risk ➤ Develop ways of working (SIMD1) to better support the provision of rights

This page is intentionally left blank



Community Planning Aberdeen

Information Report	AHDCRC Progress Report
Lead Officer	Martin Murchie, Aberdeen City Council
Report Author	Helen Cannings, Aberdeen City Council
Date of Report	6 February 2024
Governance Group	CPA Management Group 27 March 2024

Purpose of the Report

This paper summarises progress to date to establish the AHDCRC and outlines next steps.

Summary of Key Information

1. Workstream 1 – Leadership and Capacity

- 1.1 The two main priorities of workstream one is currently the development of its Research Strategy and refreshed Prioritised Research Plan, together with its own internal governance structures to ensure that the HDRC has a robust framework within which to prioritise and manage its work to ensure alignment with the HDRC's funded vision, aims and objectives.
- 1.2 The HDRC's Research Strategy and Prioritised Research Plan are linked to the refresh of Community Planning Aberdeen's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), so, as outlined below, the HDRC has focussed on providing support throughout this process, as well as providing the opportunity for the new HDRC team, to become immersed into Community Planning processes and to build their knowledge and relationships. The HDRC's Research Team are, throughout this engagement, drawing together and analysing the emerging refreshed outcome improvement aims and make recommendations for areas of research focus for the HDRC's 2024 work programme to HDRC Co-Applicants and Community Planning, in consultation with wider stakeholders.
- 1.3 We have recruited three strong candidates to our co-designed PhD studentships; these studentships include one on social prescribing, and two on developing PPIE methodologies (one arts-based and the other non-arts-based) to better reach underrepresented groups. PhD studentships will start in February 2024. These PhD students will receive a full induction into the HDRC Team and to the Council to ensure that they have the organisational knowledge and relationships to carry out their studentships as embedded researchers whose work is aligned to the needs of the Council.
- 1.4 We have continued to induct our HDRC Team, recruited in the last reporting cycle, and have added to the team with a University of Aberdeen hosted Research Fellow. Each team member is undertaking a range of individually targeted development activity to ensure that the HDRC Team collectively has the knowledge and skills to support the HDRC to meet its objectives and aims.

1.5 We have continued to carry out foundational stakeholder engagement with the aim of ensuring that the AHDRC is working with, and integrated into, relevant networks and initiatives in the city and the region to maximise both the reach and sustainability of our work.

1.6 In alignment with the HDRC's embedded approach to evaluation, we are also carrying out an evaluation of the process and impact of undertaking the qualitative analysis of the LOIP Refresh public consultation.

2. Workstream 2 – Evidence

2.1 In this reporting period the HDRC has focussed on supporting Community Planning Aberdeen in its bi-annual exercise to refresh the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). In order to gain both maximum impact from the HDRC resource available, and learning for the HDRC about Community Planning Aberdeen processes, this support was designed deliberately to be both broad and targeted.

2.2 This year Community Planning Aberdeen carried out public consultation using the Place Standard tool for the first time. HDRC provided broad support with the extensive public consultation exercise carried out as part of the refresh of the LOIP, as follows:

- HDRC PIE Coordinator and PPIE Core Group supported the facilitation of face to face public engagement exercises.
- The HDRC Senior Research Fellow carried out the analysis of the qualitative feedback from the public consultation and produced a report drawing out key themes. This report is being used by all of Community Planning Aberdeen's Outcome Improvement Groups as part of their planning and decision making on their refreshed improvement outcome and aims.
- Capacity building support for project teams around outcome improvement, in relation to targeted public engagement with 'hard to reach' groups, qualitative research methods and designing evaluations for their improvement projects.

2.3 The HDRC provided more targeted support to the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group, as requested by the Chair of this group:

- Undertook a rapid evidence review in relation to local authority interventions to address food insecurity
- Is undertaking a rapid evidence review in relation to the measurement of food bank use
- Co-Applicants and members of the HDRC Research Team provided advice and consultancy at the Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group
- Engagement with relevant ACC Officers and third sector partners in Aberdeen to develop and shape proposals for research which are locally relevant and useful to policy makers.

2.4 HDRC are continuing stakeholder engagement around the shaping of a research proposal for a local study on the impact of the universal expansion of Early Learning & Childcare provision. We have drawn together a network of local practitioners, decision makers and academics, and we are facilitating ongoing engagement with Scottish Government and the Improvement Service who are conducting an evaluation of this policy nationally, with a view to avoiding duplication, exploiting synergies and ensuring that an Aberdeen focused study can yield evidence which impacts nationally.

2.5 In response to an emerging need, and due to its potential links to existing HDRC priority areas

of homelessness, child and adult mental health and early learning and childcare, the HDRC is currently undertaking an evidence review on the health and social care needs of asylum seekers in high income countries. The HDRC's research team are working in collaboration with the wider public health team at NHS Grampian who are conducting complimentary qualitative research work in this area.

2.6 We have begun to co-design the HDRC Lived Experience project with Community Planning Aberdeen.

3. Workstream 3 – Data Ecosystem

3.1 We have established a Grampian Data Analyst community and have a planned programme of peer sharing sessions for 2024.

3.2 It was agreed to align work of the HDRC with the objectives of the North-East Population Health Alliance, to maximise resources and avoid duplication. Following the NEPHA's consideration of a paper by the Co-Director of the HDRC in late 2023, colleagues are pursuing options for visualizing health inequalities across Grampian. A prototype report is in development and will be presented to the next NEPHA meeting.

3.3 Work is continuing in ACC to embed a central data platform and some HDRC resource, identified in our bid as data engineering, is being reprofiled to support this with the intention that datasets which relate to HDRC priorities are ingested, transformed and served for use in research and analytics.

3.4 Following the publication of a paper by the Network Data Lab team at NHS Grampian on the project to link CAMHS and Children at Risk datasets (from NHSG and ACC), HDRC colleagues are involved in national work to make use of CHI for local authority datasets. A draft Business Case was considered at the national Health and Social Care Data Board with 2 HDRC co-applicants in attendance. Whilst there are still many barriers to overcome, the direction of travel is positive.

3.5 The Co-Director authored a submission to the Scottish Government's Tackling Child Poverty Fund to explore and implement a system to bring together data from across LA systems as well as DWP. This funding bid was successful, and work has commenced on procurement and project planning. The aim is to produce a dashboard at a granular level identifying financial risks for households. The insight gained from this dashboard will inform multi-agency planning and interventions to prevent poverty and take learning from this.

4. Workstream 4 – Organisational Culture and Skills

4.1 We have baselined Aberdeen City Council's staff research culture and capacity and the results have been analysed by the HDRC's Research Team, together with specialist officers from the Council's PO&D function.

4.2 We have undertaken two LA Leadership Engagement events, with the Council's Aspiring Leaders and the wider Leadership Forum. Through these sessions we have: provided an introduction to health inequalities and the wider determinants of health; facilitated stakeholder engagement sessions around the wider determinants of health to establish links to relevant practitioners and carried out an initial exercise to gather the Leadership Forum's training priorities.

4.3 We are now participating in more targeted workshop sessions with P&OD and other relevant

ACC Officers to design the HDRC training programme in a way which aligns to and complements the corporate training programme for 2024.

4.4 We have offered a curated offering of taught postgraduate modules which were targeted at relevant ACC staff and have accepted a range of applications. These staff are beginning their courses this week. We are currently working with the University of Aberdeen to consider how we can increase the uptake of this offering with ACC staff, including options to 'micro-credentialling' relevant courses, and to offer non assessed courses which will allow longer timelines for completion and may offer a better work study balance to practitioners in full time roles. We will shortly be offering places to staff on the RGU Health Inequalities postgraduate module. These will be targeted through the Leadership Forum who will be asked to target key staff in their areas to apply.

4.5 We have carried out a training session in Qualitative Research for the HDRC and Community Planning Team. We have worked with Community Planning Aberdeen to agree capacity building sessions to support LOIP project teams; these will focus on Qualitative Research and engaging with people with lived experience and designing evaluations. These sessions will be accompanied by research and evaluation clinics to provide targeted advice and consultancy alongside the training sessions outlined above.

5. Workstream 5 – Stakeholder Engagement

5.1 As above, the HDRC team and public partners actively supported Community Planning Aberdeen in its community engagement sessions for the 2024 LOIP refresh. Additionally, HDRC staff, co-applicants, and public partners actively participated in stakeholder engagement sessions focused on the LOIP refresh.

5.2 Although a public launch event for the HDRC was initially planned for early November 2023, it was postponed. A strategic decision was instead made to allocate all HDRC resources for public-facing events to support and strengthen CPA community engagement events, recognised as ACC's primary mechanism for engaging and gathering community views.

5.3 In accordance with its sustainable approach, the HDRC is actively contributing to the Council's Community Learning & Development report and planning for 2024 to ensure alignment across ACC's publicly involved work.

5.4 A key goal for the HDRC is establish Aberdeen as a PPIE Centre of Excellence. Meetings with key stakeholders and public involvement professionals are underway to determine collaborative efforts toward achieving this goal. Organisations involved in shaping this initiative include ACHSCP, NHS Grampian, University of Aberdeen, ACC's Community Learning & Development team, Community Planning Aberdeen, SHMU, and Healthcare Improvement Scotland. More contacts are planned to gather intelligence on Aberdeen's current PPIE landscape. To demonstrate the impact of the PPIE Centre of Excellence work, the HDRC are currently baselining for public engagement activities in Community Planning Aberdeen and ACC's consultations.

5.5 Public partners have significantly contributed to the HDRC's public partner involvement and engagement strategy, prioritising "human" and social approaches over "corporate" and formal methods. Our PPIE Coordinator participated in a panel discussion on PPIE at NHS Grampian's Research and Development Conference, showcasing HDRC's work, learning to date and the philosophy that underpins this strategy.

5.6 Two PhD students (one from UoA and one from RGU) have been funded to conduct research

around PPIE. They will collaborate with the PPIE Core Group and CPA to shape their research and provide feedback for implementation.

5.7 Public partners have actively participated in and contributed to Community Engagement training sessions organised collaboratively between SCDC, CPA, HDRC, ACHSCP, and ACC's CLD team.

5.8 At Come and Network (CAN) Day 2023, the HDRC conducted a workshop to generate recommendations for researchers working with communities. These recommendations will inform PPIE in WS2 activities, research related PPIE training delivered through WS4, and will be shared with colleagues in partner organisations.

5.9 All 6 Public Advisory Group positions are filled, and efforts are underway to shape the PAG members' induction to the HDRC, with drafted Terms of Reference. Further opportunities to engage with the work of the HDRC have been promoted through articles in SHMU's community magazines.

6. Workstream 6 – Dissemination

6.1 We are currently planning for the HDRC's first conference in November 2024, which is designed to be an Aberdeen-focussed, inclusive, and interactive event, designed to engage policy makers and practitioners in our current work areas.

6.2 We have submitted abstracts to external conferences as follows:

- Interventions to tackle infant food insecurity in high-income countries: A scoping review - Society for Social Medicine and Population Health (SSM) Conference
- Title - Inspiring Change: Insights from the NIHR funded Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen – Public Health Scotland Conference
- Underserving/Underserving - working with young people. NHS Research Scotland (NRS) and Chief Scientist Office (CSO) Patient and Public Involvement Event

6.3 We have created a framework to ensure that all HDRC outputs align to the inclusive principles of the HDRC and are shared with appropriate input from public partners. We are testing our framework with the translation of an academic paper on the mental health of children and young people in the Aberdeen area; translating key messages for local decision makers in relation to children and young people and for regional and national audiences in relation to data standards, quality and matching.

6.4 We have continued to develop the AHDRC website with initial content about our work, as well as established dedicated AHDRC social media presence on Linked In, Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter). As part of our overall Sustainability Plan, we have started to explore opportunities to co-host the HDRC's web presence with that of Community Planning Aberdeen.

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that members of the CPA Management Group:

- i) Note the content of this report.

Opportunities and Risks

Recruitment of appropriately qualified staff to some AHDRC posts has remained our major challenge and has acted as a brake on faster progress toward our objectives in this reporting

period: three posts (Data Engineer, Information Governance Officer, Health Economics Research Fellow) are still vacant. These are high demand, specialist posts, and we have now been unable to recruit following three cycles.

We are currently considering options for the two vacant data posts including readvertising; redesigning the posts; or defining potential “project” tasks and engaging alternative external resource.

We are skilling up our existing research Fellows in Health Economics principles and practice to mitigate our inability to recruit to this post.

We will use the resources allocated to the Health Economics Research Fellow to:

- extend the contract of our existing University of Aberdeen hosted Research Fellow by one year
- seek to recruit an additional research fellow with evaluation experience for a fixed term, as this has emerged from stakeholder engagement as a key priority area for the Council and for Community Planning Aberdeen
- Make up the 40% FTE vacancy the HDRC has for a NHS Grampian hosted Public Health Researcher to 100% FTE

As outlined above in the challenges section, the recruitment challenges which have slowed progress toward some of our objectives. In addition to the proposed changes and mitigations outlined above, we are also:

- Creating of a full time Knowledge Management Officer role to support us deliver on our workstream 6 objectives, with a projected start date of June 2024, for a fixed term of 24 months.
- Supplementing the resources aligned to workstream 4 with the addition of a full time specialist in organisational development and culture to drive culture change with the Council, with a projected start date of June 2024, for a fixed term of 24 months.

Consultation

HDRC

Background Papers

Contact details:

Name	Helen Cannings
Title	HDRC Center Manager
Email Address	hcannings@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Community Planning Aberdeen

Report	Follow Up Report on Proposal for Community Planning Aberdeen to become a Volunteer Charter Champion
Lead Officer	Angela Scott, Chair of CPA Management Group and Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council
Report Author	Michelle Crombie, Community Planning Manager
Date of Report	11 March 2024
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 27 March 2024

Purpose of the Report
This is a follow up to the report presented to the CPA Management Group in January 2024 proposing that Community Planning Aberdeen becomes a Volunteer Charter Champion.

Summary of Key Information
1 BACKGROUND 1.1 The Volunteer Charter is a tool for policy makers, elected members and funders to use when making decisions about how volunteering is represented in decision making processes, policy development, and how volunteering is resourced and utilised. It sets out the ten key principles which help to underpin good relations within a volunteering environment and is open to any individual, group or organisation from any sector who either involve volunteers, or influence decisions on volunteering. 1.2 In January 2024, ACVO made a recommendation to the CPA Management Group that Community Planning Aberdeen becomes a Volunteer Charter Champion. Also, that a representative is authorised to sign the Charter on behalf of the partnership and make such arrangements as necessary for it to be integrated within appropriate Community Planning structures. 1.3 It was agreed that Community Planning Aberdeen could only sign the charter if partner organisations can collectively adhere to the principles. Therefore it was agreed that partner organisations would consider their ability to sign up to the ten principles of the Volunteer Charter and report back before the next meeting in March.

2 RESPONSES RECEIVED

Partner	Response
ACVO	Yes
Aberdeen City Council	Yes
Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	Yes as individual and CPA
Skills Development Scotland	Supportive of CPA signing up, but as SDS does not have volunteers engaged for them they would not sign up as an individual organisation.
NHS Grampian	
North East Scotland College	Yes as individual and CPA
NESTRANS	
Police Scotland	Yes
Robert Gordon University	
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	
Scottish Enterprise	Supportive of CPA signing up, but as SE does not apply volunteering as part of the organisation's strategy, project delivery and decision-making processes, they would not sign up as an individual organisation.
University of Aberdeen	

3 POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

PRINCIPLES	COMMENTS
1. Any volunteer activity is a freely made choice of the individual. If there is any compulsion, threat of sanctions or force, then any such activity is not volunteering.	Community Planning Aberdeen will not force volunteers to work for us. Volunteers are likely to sign up to volunteering through advertised opportunities and by contacting Community Planning Aberdeen or partners directly to arrange.
2. Volunteers should receive no financial reward for their time however out of pocket expenses should be covered. No one should be prevented from volunteering due to their income.	Any costs attributed to the volunteering role beyond commuting to and from work would be covered by Community Planning Aberdeen partners (e.g. costs of any pre-approved purchases or travel).
3. Effective structures should be put in place to support, train and develop volunteers and their collaboration with paid workers.	Volunteers would need to have a link person who is a paid employee of a partner organisation and would be offered relevant training and development, even if that is on-the-job training.
4. Volunteers and paid workers should be able to carry out their duties in safe, secure and	Individual partners will need to have employer liability insurance which covers volunteers and corporate standards on

healthy environments that are free from harassment, intimidation, bullying, violence and discrimination.	health and safety for all employees should also cover volunteers.
5. Volunteers should not carry out duties formerly carried out by paid workers, nor should they be used to disguise the effects of non-filled vacancies or cuts in services.	Partner organisations would need to be aware that giving volunteers duties which cover a paid role can risk the creation of an “employment contract”. Whilst volunteers can undertake tasks associated with different roles in the organisation, they should not be fulfilling the majority of duties of an established role at a partner organisation (even on a part-time basis). The volunteer can argue that they are doing the work of an existing post and should therefore be employed and remunerated as such.
6. Volunteers should not be used instead of paid workers or undercut their pay and conditions of service nor undertake the work of paid workers during industrial disputes.	As above.
7. Volunteers should not be used to reduce contract costs nor be a replacement for paid workers in competitive tenders or procurement processes.	As above. We should not be using unpaid volunteers to undertake or fulfil specific roles, including roles that would normally be filled using agency.
8. Volunteers should not be used to bypass minimum wage legislation nor generate profit for owners.	This is also similar to above. We would not exploit volunteers or interns instead of recruiting to a vacancy in order to avoid paying.
9. Volunteers and paid workers should be given the opportunity to contribute to the development and monitoring of volunteering policies and procedures, including the need for policies that resolve any issues or conflicts that may arise.	Aberdeen City Council is currently developing a Corporate Volunteer Strategy and will ensure there is volunteer input.
10. Volunteer roles should be designed and negotiated around the needs and interests of volunteers, involving organisations and wider stakeholders. Finding legitimacy and avoiding exploitation through consensus depends on mutual trust and respect.	This will be considered in developing the Aberdeen City Council Corporate Volunteer Strategy.

--

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that:

- Community Planning Aberdeen becomes a Volunteer Charter Champion on the basis of the feedback received from partner organisations.
- A CPA representative is authorised to sign the Charter on behalf of the partnership and make such arrangements as necessary for it to be integrated within appropriate Community Planning structures.

Opportunities and Risks

- There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.
- Approval of the report will contribute to the continuous improvement of Community Planning Aberdeen by providing a tool to consider the impact of decisions on the voluntary sector.
- Becoming a Charter Champion provides CPA with an opportunity to show civic leadership in this area.
- Declining to become a Charter Champion risks isolation from the voluntary and public sector as the Charter becomes commonplace throughout both sectors.

Consultation

The following people were consulted in the preparation of this report:

Maggie Hepburn, CEO, ACVO
 CPA Management Group
 Darren Buck, Aberdeen City Council
 Lesley Strachan, Aberdeen City Council

Background Papers

Volunteer Charter, CPA Management Group January 2024

Contact details:

Michelle Crombie

Community Planning Manager

mcrombie@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Community Planning Aberdeen FORWARD PLANNER

The reports scheduled within this document are accurate at this time but are subject to change.

Title of report	Contact Officer
CPA Management Group: 27 March 2024/Board: 29 April 2024	
Final Refreshed LOIP	Michelle Crombie (ACC)
Final Refreshed Locality Plans	Michelle Crombie(ACC) /Alison MacLeod (ACHSCP)
CPA 2024/25 Budget Setting Report	Michelle Crombie(ACC)
Children's Services Annual Report	Eleanor Sheppard (ACC)
Volunteer Charter	Michelle Crombie (ACC)
Health Research Determinants Collaboration Update	
Place Risk Register (Management Group only)	Michelle Crombie (ACC)
CPA Management Group: 5 June 2024/Board: 4 July 2024	
CPA Improvement Programme 2023-26	Allison Swanson (ACC)
UoACPA Synergies Presentation (<i>Board only – June 2024</i>)	Pete Edwards (UoA)
CPA Management Group: 28 August 2024/Board: 25 Sept 2024	
CPA Improvement Programme Quarterly Update	Allison Swanson (ACC)
CPA Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report (Management Group only)	Michelle Crombie (ACC)
Health Research Determinants Collaboration Update	Martin Murchie (ACC)
CPA Management Group: 30 Oct 2024/Board: 27 Nov 2024	
CPA Improvement Programme Quarterly Update	Allison Swanson (ACC)
CPA Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report (Management Group only)	Michelle Crombie (ACC)
TBC	
Scottish Enterprise Strategy	Jamie Bell (Scottish Enterprise)
New Tobacco Strategy	Susan Webb (Public Health)
YourSafetyMatters Pledge	Graeme Mackie (Police Scotland)

Acronyms:

ACC	Aberdeen City Council
ACVO	Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations
CPA	Community Planning Aberdeen
HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership
NHSG	National Health Service Grampian
PS	Police Scotland
SDS	Skills Development Scotland
SE	Scottish Enterprise
UoA	University of Aberdeen

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1 Community Planning Aberdeen Funding Tracker

The tracker below includes key funding opportunities available to the Partnership linked to the themes within the LOIP and Locality Plans.

Title	Description	Amount	Deadline for applications	Relevant CPA Group
Economy				
Place-Based Investment Fund – The Scottish Government https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/place-based-investment-programme-fund	The 2020-21 Programme for the Scottish Government announced the creation of a Place-Based Investment Programme Fund with £275million of capital funding to support community-led regeneration, town centre revitalisation, community wealth building and 20-minute neighbourhoods. In 2021/22 ACC received an allocation of £975,000; for 2022/2023 £847,000	Next financial year allocation will be approximately £590,000 (TBC shortly)	The application window will open shortly.	Any non-for profit organisation.
Aberdeen International Airport – ABZ Propeller Fund https://www.aberdeenairport.com/about-us/community-matters/abz-propeller-fund/	Grants are available for projects focused on education, sustainability, and economic regeneration. • Economic Regeneration Projects focused on skills and training, with a focus on young people. • Sustainability Projects with a focus on protecting and enhancing the natural environment and sustainability. • Education Social and educational projects with impact within local communities.	Up to £5000	Applications can be made at any time and are considered quarterly.	Charities and community groups in proximity to Aberdeen Airport
Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund	Grants are available for projects in Scotland that restore wildlife and habitats on land and sea and address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.	Helping Nature grants of between £25,000 and £250,000 are available for activities lasting up to 24	The deadlines to submit an Expression of Interest are as follows:	Applications will be accepted from public, private, and

https://www.nature.scot/funding-and-projects/scottish-government-nature-restoration-fund-nrf	The priorities for this round are: • Habitat and species restoration: Management for enhancement and connectivity • Freshwater restoration, including restoration of natural flows in rural catchments • Coastal and marine initiatives which promote restoration, recovery, enhancement or resilience • Control of invasive non-native species (INNS) impacting on nature. • Enhancing and connecting nature across, and between, towns and cities.	months from the start date of the project. All activity must be completed by the end of March 2026. Transforming Nature grants of £250,000 upwards for single or multi-year projects. All activity must be completed by the end of March 2026.	25 April 2024 (noon) for a decision in July 2024. 12 August 2024 (noon) for a decision in November 2024.	voluntary sector organisations as well as private individuals. Public Bodies cannot be the principal beneficiary of a grant from NRF but can be a coordinator of, or funding contributor to, a wider partnership bid.
People				
The Way Forward for Families Partnership – Corra Foundation https://www.corra.scot/grants/way-forward-families-partnership/	The focus of the programme is to: • Support and improve the well-being of children, young people and their families impacted by drugs and alcohol. • Develop and influence local and national policy and practice. Examples of potential projects include: Increasing capacity in the workforce to take a Whole Family Approach, working with internal and external partners. Participation, involvement and creating the conditions where people who use services are meaningfully engaged to bring about change. Practical work to support families to be safe and together.	A limited number of grants of up to £250,000 are available over three years. Funding can contribute up to a maximum of 50% towards the overall costs.	31/03/2024	Registered charities in Scotland that work with children, young people and families affected by drugs and alcohol for partnership projects with public sector organisations.

	Development of partnership approaches to address a specific challenge to delivering optimum support. Testing new ways of delivering services. The funding can be used for a range of project costs: • Staff costs. • Activity costs. • Volunteer costs. • Costs that support participation and engagement. • Research and evaluation. • Equipment costs can be supported where these are not the predominate focus of the project.			
Heart Research UK - Healthy Heart Grants https://heartresearch.org.uk/healthy-heart-grants/	Funding is for new projects that work with communities to prevent heart disease, particularly for vulnerable and isolated groups of individuals who are at an increased risk of developing heart problems in the future. Projects that are likely to have a big impact and have considered novel ways to encourage people to look after their hearts and promote positive lifestyle changes are also sought. Activities must have a primary focus on one or more of the following four risk factors for heart disease: • Nutrition and Healthy Eating. • Physical Activity. • Smoking. • Alcohol. • Projects should run for a minimum of three months and no longer than 12 months.	Up to £15,000	Scotland's window opens 17 July - closes 14 August 2024	Registered charities and community interest companies (CICs) in the UK with an annual income of less than £1 million are eligible to apply.

	The funding can support salaries, overhead expenses/on costs and equipment that is necessary for the successful delivery of the project.			
abrdn Financial Fairness Trust https://www.financialfairness.org.uk/home	The Trust funds a range of strategic projects that address specific inequalities, differences and vulnerabilities. Projects must benefit more than individuals and have the potential to benefit large numbers of people within the UK. Projects must aim to create a step change in policy, practice, attitudes and/or behaviour. Eligible projects include: • Policy work. • Campaigning. • Research. • Public attitudinal work. • Improving practice and design. • Evaluations of existing initiatives that have not been evaluated. • The grant can be used for project costs and for ongoing costs, including staff salaries and overheads.	There is no minimum or maximum size of grant, but typically grants range between £10,000 and £200,000, with most being between £50,000 and £120,000 in total. The funding may be spread over one, two or three years, and sometimes shorter periods, for example six months. The Foundation makes between 15 and 20 grants each year, awarding a total of over £2 million.	03/06/2024	Registered charities, voluntary organisations, think tanks, campaigning groups, research bodies and universities.
Shell – Community Grants https://www.shell.co.uk/about-us/sustainability/people-and-communities/supporting-local-communities.html	The Fund aims to support activities that will address issues specific to the communities around Shell's sites and positively impact on the surrounding area. Funding can support a range of community-centred activities, including: • Community development. • Education – STEM. • Enterprise development. • Environment. • Health and Welfare. • Safety.	£1000	Applications can be submitted any time.	Charities and community organisations operating near selected Shell sites in Aberdeen City

	Project costs and event sponsorship are eligible for funding.			
Cash for Kids – Grampian (Northsound) https://planetradio.co.uk/northsound/cashforkids/	The scheme supports local voluntary and community groups and organisations in Grampian that provide projects to benefit disabled and disadvantaged children and young people. In the past funding has been awarded to groups that provide respite care; special needs groups; local Downs Syndrome, autistic and deaf groups; sports and music clubs; family centres; nursery groups and after-school clubs. Grants have been awarded to support drugs awareness programmes; a healthy tuck shop; to convert former police boxes into youth cafes' and to help equip sensory rooms. Organisations can apply for essentials such as beds, clothes and school items, as well as specialist equipment for children with disabilities.	There is no set minimum or maximum amount awarded but awards are generally between £1,000 and £3,000.	Applications are now accepted.	Registered charities based in the Northsound broadcast area, which covers the Grampian region, may apply for funding.
Place				
Community Ownership Fund - Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fund-prospectus#full-publication-update-history	Grants to support taking ownership of local assets such as sporting and cultural venues, meeting spaces, community centres, pubs and shops that are at risk of closure. The Fund will support proposals to: - Take ownership of a physical community asset at risk, such as land and buildings, which benefit local people. - Renovate, repair or refurbish an asset to make it sustainable for the long term. - Set up or buy a community business. - Buy associated stock, collections or intellectual property.	The Community Ownership Fund has a total value of £150 million over a four year period to March 2025. The Fund will contribute up to 80% of the total capital required. Applicants can apply for a blend of capital and revenue funding.	The Government announced on 6 March 2024 that the Community Ownership Fund will shortly be publishing an updated prospectus and accompanying guidance for Round 4, the final round of the fund. In the meantime, all prospective applicants, including those that have previously submitted a successful Expression of	Charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). Scottish charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO). Co-operatives including Community Benefit Societies.

	• Move a community asset to a new, more appropriate location within the same community. This might be because a different location offers better value to continue the asset, or because the venue is in itself an asset of community value. • Develop new assets where these relate to saving, preserving or relocating a past or existing asset.		Interest (EOI) form, must submit a new EOI on the updated system if they have an interest in applying in the final round of the fund. Only applicants who submitted an EOI in the new system will be informed when a bidding window is about to open and will receive the link needed to apply to the fund.	Community Interest Company (CIC). Not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Parish, town or community council.
SUEZ Communities Fund Scotland https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/suez-communities-fund/suez-communities-fund-scotland-2/	The SUEZ supports community improvement projects that fall under the following categories: • Land Reclamation (Object A) - the reclamation, remediation, restoration or other operation on land to facilitate economic, social or environmental use. • Community Recycling (Object B) - community based recycling, re-use and waste prevention projects. • Public Amenities (Object C) - to provide, maintain or improve an amenity that is used primarily for leisure and recreation. The amenity must be open to all sections of the community for at least 104 days a year. • Biodiversity (Object D) - the conservation or promotion of biological diversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat. • Historic Buildings (Object E) - the maintenance, repair or restoration of a building, other structure or a site of archaeological interest which is a place of	Grants of between £3,000 and £25,000 are available. Projects must have an overall cost of no more than £250,000.	3 April 2024. Notification of decisions expected by the end of June 2024. 7 August 2024. Notification of decisions expected by the end of October 2024.	Community groups, parish councils, charities, community interest companies, social enterprises, sports clubs, community associations, local authorities and voluntary organisations.

	religious worship, or a site of historic or architectural or archaeological interest and is open to the public. Places of religious worship must be Grade A listed. Grants are available for capital improvement works to public amenity projects for community use. Examples may include: Village hall improvements; Nature reserves and conservation; Village greens; Community centres; Public playgrounds; Cycle paths; Sports fields and facilities; Country parks; Historic buildings, structures or sites			
7stars Foundation https://the7starsfoundation.co.uk/apply-for-funding	Grants are available to support young people challenged by abuse and addiction, those who are young carers, and those who are homeless or without a safe place to call home.	Project grants of up to £2,500 are available. Shine Bright grants of up to £1,500 are available. Social Impact grants of up to £1,500 are available.	1 March to 30 April for a June funding review. 1 July to 31 August for an October funding review	Applications will be considered from organisations who require funding in the areas of: Abuse; Addiction; Child carers; Homelessness. Organisations must have a turnover of under £1.5 million and be supporting young people aged 16 years and under.
BBC Children In Need – Core Cost	Core Costs funding can be spent on the organisation's central day-to-day operations. These might include, for example:	Up to £120,000 for 3 years; Applications for grants of £15,000 or less per year	No deadline, complete an Expression of Interest form.	Not-for-profit organisations working with

https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants/apply/core-costs/	• Management and administration • HR and payroll • General office expenses • Accountancy and audit • Communications and outreach • Monitoring, evaluation, and learning • Governance, regulatory, and compliance costs • Our Core Costs Funding Stream is for charities and not-for-profit organisations.	will receive a quicker decision		children and young people aged 18 or under
Learning through Landscapes – Local School Nature Grants – People’s Postcode Lottery https://naturegrants.ttl.org.uk/	The aim of this fund is to promote outdoor learning among young children by providing schools and early years providers with outdoor resources and training. Successful applicants will include children in their decision-making, whilst incorporating local communities. Eligible equipment includes but is not limited to: • Woodland activity kits. • Growing kits. • Seed packs. • Gardening kits. • Pollinator kits. • woodworking kits. • Seating planters • Fireboxes.	£500	The deadlines for 2024 are: 26 April for a decision by 10 May. 6 September for a decision by 20 September. 8 November for a decision by 22 November.	Nurseries and other early years providers. Pre-schools. Primary schools. Secondary schools.
Community Heritage Grants - Aberdeen City Heritage Trust https://www.aberdeenheritage.org.uk/grants/community-heritage-grants/	The Trust will consider making grants available to support the repair or interpretation of local heritage. Additionally, the Trust will consider supporting work where it will result in a Building At Risk (BAR) being removed from the national register. The Trust will consider applications directed towards three main types of projects that focus on Aberdeen’s heritage:	Up to £5000	31/01/2025	Not-for-profit organisations such as charities or trusts, community or voluntary groups, student groups, “friends of” groups,

	• Buildings at Risk • Repair of Community Heritage • Interpretation of Community Heritage			community councils, community interest companies and social enterprises.
Technology				
Pathways2Resilience – ERRIN – European Regions and Innovation Network https://errin.eu/news/pathways2resilience-first-call-regions-and-communities-deadline-extended-until-may	UK entities are now eligible to apply for the call! The programme provides a range of support services and capacity-building activities to support the formulation of local resilience pathways and innovation agendas. This first call aims to provide 40 regions/communities with financial support through subgrant agreements, up to a maximum of 210,000€, along with supporting services and capacity-building activities lasting up to 18 months. P2R has developed a framework to support regions in their work to adapt and build resilience to climate change, the Regional Resilience Journey (RRJ). The RRJ consists of multiple steps, each containing different expected activities and outcomes, as well as pointing to different methodologies and tools that can be used. The selection process will prioritise regions/communities with heightened vulnerability and low adaptive capacity to climate change impacts. This call aims to put together a diverse and inclusive portfolio of regions, ensuring a comprehensive validation of the P2R framework.	They will allocate €21 million across 100 regions and communities through two call cycles. Maximum 210,000€ for this round.	06/05/2024	EU member state; public bodies; SMEs; not-for-profit organisations

Social Enterprise Just Transition Fund - Social Investment Scotland (SIS) https://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/investment/social-enterprise-just-transition-fund/	Funding is intended to support social sector organisations in the North East with activities that can deliver against the Scottish Government's Just Transition Outcomes, which include moving to a more sustainable economy, diversifying the regional economy away from carbon-intensive industries, ensuring the creation of good, green jobs, and ensuring all communities directly benefit and contribute to the region's future prosperity. Priority will be given to applications that will deliver outcomes relating to Citizens, communities and place, Fair distribution of costs and benefits and Further equality and human rights.	Up to £400,000 – loan and grant funding is available	None specified. There is a two-stage application process: The first step is to submit a 'Get in Touch form' that can be found on the SIS website. The SIS team will then contact potential applicants.	Charities and social enterprises, businesses, and community groups working to transition to net-zero and meet the Scottish Government's Just Transition outcomes can apply.
--	---	---	--	--



Community Planning Aberdeen

Date awards are announced	Date award nomination closes	Award name	Website	No. of nominations submitted	Suggested projects for submission	Outcome
	15/12/2023	LGC Awards	LGC Awards 2024 - Enter (lgcplus.com)	5		1 shortlisted Food Growing/Green Spaces – meadow containers
March 2024 Page 229	Notifications due in by Friday 29 March 2024 Submissions due in by Friday 12 April 2024 Confirmation of entry sent out no later than Wednesday 31 May 2024 We aim to let successful applicants know if they have been shortlisted as finalists by Wednesday 31 July 2024	APSE – Annual Service Award	APSE is pleased to announce our Annual Service Awards 2024! - apse		<u>Best Health & Well-being initiative</u> 1.6 support for unpaid carers 11.8 COPD - PR physical activity delivered in community settings 12.7 Blood Borne Viruses testing and accessing treatment. 12.6 and 12.8 Sharp Response and Crisis Response services and naloxone <u>Best Collaborative Working initiative</u> 7.1 ABZ Campus 11.1 Employment support for people leaving prison 2.2 Supporting people to start a business <u>Best Community & Neighbourhood initiative</u> 15.1/15.2 - Community run green spaces/food growing <u>Best Climate Action or Decarbonisation initiative</u> 13.1 publicsector emissions	

March 2024	17 May 2024	Smarter Working Live	https://www.smarterworkinglive.com		<u>Building Collaborative Communities</u> • Integrated Locality Planning Team and Plans <u>Automation, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning</u> • 1.6 Increasing the uptake of unclaimed benefits <u>User Experience</u> • 12.7 Blood Borne Viruses testing and accessing treatment. • 12.6 and 12.8 Sharp Response and Crisis Response services and naloxone • 4.1 cash first approach to urgent requests for first stage infant formula <u>Harnessing the Value of Data</u> • Outcomes Framework, PNA <u>Putting People First</u> • 2.2 Supporting people to start a business <u>Digital Inclusion</u> • 3.2 Access to and use of digital <u>Championing Continuous Improvement</u> • Community Planning Team <u>Small-scale, Big Impact</u> • 10.6 Drug related deaths occurring within 6 months of liberation from custody • 15.1/15.2 - Community run green spaces/food growing <u>Future Focused and Sustainable Property</u> • 13.1 public sector emissions	
------------	-------------	----------------------	---	--	--	--

July 2024	TBC	PRCA	PRCA-PoliMonitor Public Affairs Awards 2024 (prcapublicaffairsawards.com)		<i>Categories yet to be announced –focus on campaigns</i>	
August 2024	TBC	No2H8 Crime Awards	No2H8 Crime Awards		<i>Categories yet to be announced –focus on submissions from Youth Justice and Community Justice Stretch Outcomes</i>	
October 2024	TBC	Future of Government	https://futureofgovernment.com/en#key-dates		<i>Categories yet to be announced</i>	
November 2024	TBC	I Network	I network Involve, Influence, Inspire (i-network.org.uk)		<i>Categories yet to be announced</i>	
TBC	TBC – conference on 9-10 October 2024	LARAC Conference and Celebration Award the only dedicated awards for waste and recycling officers	LARAC Conference and Celebration Awards October 2023		<i>Categories yet to be announced</i>	
TBC	TBC	MJ Awards	Enter The MJ Awards: Recognise Excellence in Your Authority - The MJ Achievement Awards 2024		<i>Categories yet to be announced</i>	
TBC	TBC	ACCSTAR Awards	Star Awards 2023 - new date Friday 13th October (sharepoint.com)		<i>Categories yet to be announced</i>	

This page is intentionally left blank