Meeting on WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025 at 2.00 pm

** Virtual - Remote Meeting, Aberdeen **

B U S I N E S S

APOLOGIES

MINUTES

1.1 Minute of Previous Meeting of 26 February 2025 - for approval (Pages 3 - 26)

1.2 Draft Minute of the CPA Board Meeting of 27 March 2025 - for information (Pages 27 - 32)

COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024-26

2.1 Draft Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 (Pages 33 - 132)

2.2 Draft Locality Plan Annual Reports 2024-25 for North, South and Central Localities (Pages 133 - 244)

2.3 Improvement Programme New Charters (Pages 245 - 248)

2.4 Project End Report Improvement Aim 5.1 Reduce by 5% the number of children entering the care system by 2024. (Pages 249 - 256)

LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2026-36

3.1 Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 Next Steps for Outcome Improvement Groups

3.2 Draft Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2025 (Pages 257 - 386)

3.3 Embedded Researcher/Aberdeen Health Research Determinants Collaboration Update (Pages 387 - 392)

3.4 Financial Incentives for Health Behaviour Changes (Pages 393 - 404)

GENERAL BUSINESS/FOR INFORMATION

4.1 Community Planning Budget 2024/2025 – Q4 Budget Monitoring Report (Pages 405 - 406)

4.2 Draft Community Planning Budget 2025/26 (Pages 407 - 410)

FORWARD BUSINESS PLANNER AND FUNDING TRACKER

5.1 CPA Management Group Forward Planner (Pages 411 - 412)

5.2 Funding Tracker (Pages 413 - 422)

5.3 Date of Next Meeting - 13 August 2025

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

COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN MANAGEMENT GROUP
26 FEBRUARY 2025

Present:- Angela Scott (Aberdeen City Council) (Chair), Jamie Bell (Scottish Enterprise), Jason Carrigan (Police Scotland), Allison Carrington (Aberdeen Prospers), Heather Crabb (University of Aberdeen), Michelle Crombie (Community Empowerment), Rab Dickson (Nestrans), Sinclair Laing, as a substitute for Jillian Evans (Sustainable City), Nicola Graham (Skills Development Scotland), Maggie Hepburn (Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations), Robert Laird (NESCOL), Phil Mackie (NHS Grampian) (Vice Chair), Mike Rumgay (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Martin Murchie (Health Research Determinants Collaboration), Chris Parker as a substitute for Claire Wilson (Community Justice Group), Simon Rayner (Alcohol and Drugs Partnership) as a substitute for Fiona Mitchellhill, Graeme Simpson and Eleanor Sheppard (Children's Services Board) and Campbell Thomson (Homewards Aberdeen Steering Group).

Also Present:- Martin Barry (Scottish Enterprise) (item 8 only), Pete Matthews and Elaine McConnachie (NHS Grampian) (item 14 only), Margaret Stewart and Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)

Apologies:- William Hardie (Robert Gordon University), Ross Mackay (GREC Co-General Manager), Alison MacLeod (Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and Resilient, Included and Supported Group), Fiona Mitchelhill (Alcohol and Drugs Partnership) and Claire Wilson (Community Justice Group).

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
1. Welcome	The Chair welcomed Campbell Thomson to his first meeting.	
2. Minute of Previous Meeting of 30 October 2024	The Management Group had before it the minute of its meeting of 30 October 2024, for approval. The Management Group went through the actions and noted that these were either completed, ongoing or on today's agenda as detailed below. **The Management Group resolved:** to agree the minute as a correct record and note that all actions were completed, ongoing or would be considered later on today's agenda.	
3. Draft Minute of Meeting of the Community Planning Aberdeen Board	The Management Group had before it the draft minute of the Community Planning Aberdeen Board meeting of 27 November 2024, for information. **The Management Group resolved:** to note the minute	

DRAFT

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
of 27 November 2024		
4. Draft Final Report on Review of Community Planning Aberdeen's Approach to Improving Outcomes:	The Management Group had before it a report which presented the Final Report on the Review of Community Planning Aberdeen's approach to improving outcomes; and draft Masterplan setting out the key milestones for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and underpinning plans and strategies during 2025/26. **The report recommended:-** that Management Group - **Outcome Management and Evaluation** (See section 3) (a) agree to continue the practice of setting defined Stretch Outcomes and Improvement Aims, against which progress and impact made by Community Planning Aberdeen in delivering the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036 can be evaluated; (b) agree to enhance our approach to evaluation, and our ability to predict likely outcomes, through the development of outcomes modelling in partnership with Public Health Scotland. **2.2 Strategic Planning** (See section 4) (c) agree to move to a rolling ten year Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans which are reviewed annually as part of the annual reporting process and fully refreshed every 5 years, to ensure Community Planning Aberdeen is always taking a longer term ten year view. (d) agree to the setting of more strategic level improvement aims which encourage testing system level changes that have the potential to achieve more through service integration and transformation than current narrow scope projects (e) inclusion of system level changes to be tested within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to communicate a fully comprehensive theory of change for the achievement of priority stretch outcomes. (f) approve the new format for presenting Stretch Outcomes within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 as a logic model. See figure 2 at paragraph 4.2.3 and Appendix 6. (g) agree to continue to use the three tiers of prevention, with guidance and support being provided by Public Health Grampian on how to maximise prevention as part of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan development process.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	(h) agree that Partners align to, or reference within their single system strategic plans, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans and that all partners take their strategic plans through the Community Planning Aberdeen Board for endorsement. **Do & Deliver** (See section 5) (i) agree to update Community Planning Aberdeen's capacity building programme to support the delivery of the revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and higher level improvement aims. Training and development opportunities to cover tools and techniques to illicit more impactful changes; human learning systems and how to use person centred tools, such as people journey mapping; master classes on key components of quality improvement, supplementary to core training provided for improvement leaders. (j) agree that a researcher from the Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen will be assigned to support each Outcome Improvement Group from 2025. (k) agree to foster more collaborative budgeting across the Community Planning Aberdeen partners to enhance and strengthen local decision making about preventative spend to support improvement of outcomes within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. (l) agree that Outcome Improvement Groups continue to use the funding tracker to identify opportunities to access external funding, with support available from the community planning team and Heath Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen to make applications. (m) agree the use of PANEL principles to embed a human rights based approach to engaging and empowering communities within our Community Planning system. Utilising a range of methods and strategies proven to be effective in engaging people with lived experience. (n) agree to the incorporation of tools and techniques on engaging people with lived experience within the newly launched online Community Empowerment Toolkit, including a new 'human library' of stories told by people from Aberdeen with lived experience.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	(o) agree that Community Planning Aberdeen adopt NHSG's Putting People First brand as the City's brand for community empowerment and person centred approaches. **Review & Analyse** (See section 6) (p) agree that quarterly and annual performance reporting formats will be revised to align to the revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan format and streamline public performance reporting. See figure 3 at paragraph 6.1.4 and Appendix 6. This will be developed further in consultation with the Community Planning Aberdeen Board. (q) agree that when an improvement aim is achieved, an end evaluation and case study will be produced to agree next steps. (r) agree that Public Health Grampian/ Heath Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen will review the data sets within the current Population Needs Assessment framework and provide commentary on the data and what it is telling us to support the deeper analysis of population need. (s) agree to support Public Health Grampian in the development of an overarching Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Grampian that will complement the Population Needs Assessment. (t) agree to confirm the priorities identified for inclusion in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan within the Population Needs Assessment document to conclude the assessment process. **2.5 Governance & Accountability** (See section 7) (u) agree that engagement with Community Planning Aberdeen Board members will take place to consider 'The Intelligent Board' principles and what improvement can be made to the structure of board agendas and information provided. (v) agree to trial suggestions already made by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board in terms of taking a thematic approach to agenda setting and use of videos at meetings over the course of 2025. (w) agree that the Community Planning Aberdeen structure is revised in 2026 to ensure it is fit for the purpose of delivering the new priorities identified within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36. (x) agree that consideration is given to the relationship between Community Planning Aberdeen and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Chief Officers Group (COG) and how this can be made explicit in the structure diagram.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	(y) agree that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Chief Officers Group (COG) will be directly engaged in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 development process to ensure its efficacy in preventing the harms that our public protection structures are being challenged with downstream; and (z) approve the master plan setting out proposed key steps in the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36 included within Appendix 1. The Management Group noted that the report had been shared with Outcome Improvement Groups and that comments overall had been supportive with comments received in relation to recommendations (k) and (o) and anything raised to be worked through as part of the development process. The Management Group welcomed the report and discussed recommendations (h), (k), and (o). With regards recommendation (h) (Agree that Partners align to, or reference within their single system strategic plans, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans and that all partners take their strategic plans through the Community Planning Aberdeen Board for endorsement.), it was agreed that this recommendation be updated to reflect that statutory, rather than non statutory partners take their strategic plans through the Community Planning Aberdeen Board. Specifically in relation to recommendation (k) (Agree to foster more collaborative budgeting across the Community Planning Aberdeen partners to enhance and strengthen local decision making about preventative spend to support improvement of outcomes within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan), all agreed with the intent in principle, but agreed it was not straight forward to implement and would need further discussion as to how implemented. Eleanor Sheppard highlighted that this was a requirement for the Children's Services Plan. With regards recommendation (o), (Agree that Community Planning Aberdeen adopt NHSG's Putting People First brand as the City's brand for community empowerment and person centred approaches), it was agreed that more thinking around this was	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	required to ensure that all partners had clarity as to how it would be implemented and what it meant for the partnership. Therefore, it was agreed that the recommendation be revised prior to submission to the Board to reflect this position. **The Management Group resolved:** (i) to approve the recommendations, subject to recommendations (h), (k) and (o) being updated as above and that the report then be submitted to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board in March for consideration; and (ii) in relation to recommendation (y) ensure that Campbell Thomson, Chair of the Child and Adult Protection Committee be directly engaged on this.	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)
5. Establishing Aberdeen's Whole System Approach to Unhealthy Weight	The Management Group had before it a report which provided an update on the development of Healthy Weight Aberdeen (HWA) the Whole System Approach to unhealthy weight in the city. **The report recommended:-** that Management Group note the current progress in developing the Healthy Weight Aberdeen initiative as a Whole System Approach. Phil Mackie spoke to the report and advised that he would combine the two reports (2.2 and 2.3) into a single paper for the Community Planning Aberdeen Board ensuring current status and proposed governance arrangements were aligned. Narrative in the report would also be updated to reflect both aspects of healthy weight (under and over). The Management Group discussed the membership of the Strategic Network Group and agreed that Phil Mackie make contact with the following individuals/Groups to explore representation on the Strategic Network Group: • Margaret Stewart - libraries – health improvement • Employer/Economic perspective – Federation of Small Businesses and Business in the Community Place Programme • NESCol – sports department and/or student services	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	The Management Group resolved: (i) to approve the recommendation (ii) to agree that Phil Mackie combine reports for item 2.2 and 2.3 and update the narrative to reflect both aspect of healthy weight prior to submission to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board and that the report be shared with Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group in advance; (iii) to agree that Margaret Stewart, libraries, be added to the Strategic Network Group; (iv) to agree that Allison Carrington and Michelle Crombie connect Phil Mackie to the Federation of Small Businesses and the Business in the Community Place programme for discussion on employer representation on the Group; and (v) to agree that Robert Laird connect Phil Mackie with to identify a NESCol representative for the Network Group.	Phil Mackie (NHS Grampian) Phil Mackie (NHSG) Allison Carrington (Skills Development Scotland)/Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council) Robert Laird (NESCol)
6. Governance for Healthy Weight Aberdeen	The Management Group had before it a report which sought approval for the proposed governance arrangements for the delivery of the Healthy Weight Aberdeen (HWA). **The report recommended:-** that Management Group agree the proposed governance arrangements for Healthy Weight Aberdeen. **The Management Group resolved:** to approve the recommendation.	
7. Community Planning Aberdeen Improvement Programme 2024-2026	The Management Group had before it a report which provided an update the progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes and 98 improvement projects within Local Outcome Improvement Plan (Local Outcome Improvement Plan). The report also presented 6 new charters and 8 project end reports. **The report recommended:-** that Management Group – (a) note and consider the overview of progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes and 98 improvement projects as contained at Appendix 1, with a focus on those projects with a red ragged status and determine any mitigating actions required prior to submission to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board;	

<table>
<tr><th>Topic</th><th>Discussion/Decision</th><th>Action By</th></tr>
<tr><td>Page 10</td><td>
(b) approve the 6 new project charters in Appendix 2 and that they be reported for information to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board with the recommendation that the refined aim as proposed within the charter under Stretch Outcome 12, be approved and that the Local Outcome Improvement Plan be updated accordingly;
(c) approve the proposed rescheduling of the 4 new charters, as detailed at Appendices 1 and 2, which were due for consideration today;
(d) approve the 8 project end reports in Appendix 3 and that they be reported to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board and note that the remaining 3 project ends reports for 2024 aims would be presented to the next meeting; and
(e) approve the appointment of Graeme Simpson as Chair of the Children's Services Board.

The Management Group firstly discussed the following improvement aims which had red ragged status: 12 red 6 impacted by change of Lead or engagement with the Lead
<table>
<tr><th>Ref</th><th>Aim</th><th>PM</th><th>Comments/Action</th></tr>
<tr><td>2.8</td><td>Support 25 individuals to gain employability skills via volunteering opportunities by 2026</td><td>Culture Aberdeen, Colin Farquhar</td><td>Note that despite discussions a charter had not received and that another Project Manager was being explored by Aberdeen Prospers.

The Management Group suggested that Allison Carrington discuss with Station House Media Unit if they could lead with the Local Employers Training Partnership Forum and if not make contact with Aberdeen Performing Arts.</td></tr>
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</td><td>Allison Carrington (Skills Development Scotland)</td></tr>
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Topic	Discussion/Decision				Action By
	4.1	Reduce demand on Tier 3 services by 5% by 2026.	TBC	The Management Group noted that Phil Mackie, Chair of Stretch Outcome 4 Sub Group, was in conversation with Graeme Simpson in relation to both aims and a report would be submitted to the next Children's Services Board on proposed next steps.	Phil Mackie (NHSG)
	4.2	Reduce waiting time for interventions starting, by each tier 2/3 service by 5% by 2026.	TBC		
	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.	NHSG, Pete Matthews	The Management Group noted that a Project Manager was in place and taking forward both aims as both were aligned. At present 100% of assessments were being completed, however the system for the onward referral process was being explored. Phil Mackie was confident that positive progress would be reported for the next meeting.	Phil Mackie (NHSG)
	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.	NHSG, Pete Matthews		
	7.1	Reduce by 20% the number of care experienced young people charged with an offence by 2025.	Police Scotland, Callum Spence	The Management Group noted that a Project Manager was in place and had held conversations with Social Work regarding focus of the aim. Following which it had been agreed to focus on care experienced young people who were looked after at home with an update to go to the next meeting of the Children's	

Topic	Discussion/Decision				Action By
				Services Board. It was also noted that Chief Officers Group had discussed the next self evaluation and that it was also likely to focus on this group of children and young people.	Graeme Simpson (Aberdeen City Council)
	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.	TBC	The Management Group noted that there had been difficulty getting a Project Manager as there had been no lead for the SO8 Sub Group. However a new lead of the Sub Group had been identified and therefore it was hoped that a project Manager for this aim would be confirmed asap.	Graeme Simpson (Aberdeen City Council)
	9.6	80% of multi-agency staff report awareness and understanding of the links between gender equality and gender based violence by 2026.	Aberdeen City Council new Project Manager TBC	The Management Gorup noted that the Violence Against Women Partnership lead officer post remained vacant and once recruited to would take on the role of Project Manager.	Claire Wilson/Chris Parker (Health and Social Care Partnership/Aberdeen City Council)
	12.5	Increase by 10% number of trauma-informed, single, shared housing assessments undertaken using an integrated, multi-agency, person centred approach.	Salvation Army, Fi Grimmond	The Management Group noted that work was ongoing to clarify the changes and aims with the updated charters to be submitted to the Homewards Steering Group by 31 March 2025 to ensure on track for submission to the next meeting.	Campbell Thomson (Homewards)
	12.7	Increase no. of families accessing mediation support.	Aberdeen Cyrenians, Karen Alexander		

Topic	Discussion/Decision				Action By
	12.9	Increase accessibility to a wider range of housing options to people at risk of homelessness.	Aberdeen City Council, Mel Booth	The Management Group noted that a workshop had been arranged which would identify the changes for this aim. Therefore the charter would be submitted to the next meeting.	Campbell Thomson (Homewards)
	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	Aberdeen City Council, Sinclair Laing	The Management Group noted that the number of signatories had remained at 7 throughout 2024. At present organisations must sign up to the wider 'Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge' before being able to select the 'Land for Nature' subpledge. The existing system did not allow for pledges to change/add to their sub-pledge selection. Project had been seeking a solution to this prior to contacting existing pledges to ensure those who want to change/or add additional sub-pledges were able to do so. However, a solution had not been identified and this remained a risk and Sinclair was not confident that this would be resolved.	Sinclair Laing (Aberdeen City Council)

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<tr><th>Topic</th><th>Discussion/Decision</th><th>Action By</th></tr>
<tr><td>Page 14</td><td>The Management Group then discussed the 6 new charters contained in Appendix 2.
<table>
<tr><th>Ref</th><th>Improvement Aim</th><th>Project Manager</th><th>Management Group Decision/Action</th></tr>
<tr><td>1.3</td><td>Increase the number of people referred from food banks to cash first initiatives by 10% by 2026.</td><td>Graeme Robbie, CFINE</td><td>Approve the charter and that Martin Murchie connect with the Project Manager to support evaluation of the impact of the changes to ensure clear whether the concept being tested was impactful and also to compare the various supports to determine which was most impactful e.g. cash first, food pantries.</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.8</td><td>Support 25 individuals to gain employability skills via volunteering opportunities by 2026</td><td>Culture Aberdeen, Colin Farquhar</td><td>As per decision above</td></tr>
<tr><td>9.3</td><td>Reduce by 10% the number of people entering police custody with additional support needs by 2026.</td><td>Police Scotland, Kevin Ritchie</td><td>Approve the charter subject to Jason Carrigan, Kevin Ritchie and Simon Rayner discussing the aim with a view to amending to “Reducing by 10% the number of people who are leaving without support rather than number of people entering police custody” or “Reduce by 10% the number of people re-entering police custody with additional support needs by 2026, and making any further changes to the charter in light of the revised aim.</td></tr>
</table></td><td>Martin Murchie (Aberdeen City Council)

Jason Carrigan, Kevin Ritchie and Simon Rayner (Police Scotland/Health and Social Care Partnership)</td></tr>
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Topic	Discussion/Decision				Action By
	9.4	Increase to 80% the number of community justice clients completing exit questionnaires with 90% of those showing an improvement by 2026.	Health and Social Care Partnership, Justice Social Work, Hazel Flett	Charter not approved. Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group agreed that this was currently single system activity and for that to actioned within the Justice Social Work Delivery Plan and that the Community Justice Group report back at point multi-agency activity was ready to progressed. It was agreed that there was multi agency activity in relation to showing improvement in the various areas recorded within the exit questionnaire. It was also agreed that Chris Parker liaise with Eleanor Sheppard in relation to whether the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) could support pilot a new way of gathering the information on the exit questionnaires.	Claire Wilson/Chris Parker (Health and Social Care Partnership/Aberdeen City Council)
	12.4	Integrate housing, employment, employability and mental health support pathways for young people to support prevention of homelessness. Refined to: Reduce number of young people aged 16/17 years	Aberdeen Foyer, Leona McDermid	Approve the charter and suggest that Leona McDermid consider the size of project team when they start to test.	Campbell Thomson (Homewards)

Topic	Discussion/Decision				Action By
		presenting as homeless by 10% and 18-24 years presenting as homeless by 4% by 2026			
	12.5	Increase % of housing option assessments undertaken using an integrated, multi-agency, person centred approach.	Salvation Army, Fi Grimmond	As per decision above, all three charters delayed to the next meeting.	Campbell Thomson (Homewards)
	12.7	Increase no. of families accessing mediation support.	Aberdeen Cyrenians, Karen Alexander		
	12.9	Increase accessibility to a wider range of housing options to people at risk of homelessness.	Aberdeen City Council, Mel Booth		
	14.3	Reduce car kms by 5% by 2026	NESTRANS, Caroline Hood	Approve the charter subject to it being updated to reflect the following aspects and submitted for the Community Planning Aberdeen Board meeting: (1) that Transport Scotland had yet to set out detail regarding achieving the target set nationally and that need to be agile to respond as required; (2) the importance of behavioural change and evaluating the health impacts of the changes, as well as the reduction in car kms, was emphasised and it was	Sinclair Laing (Aberdeen City Council)/ Rab Dickson (Nestrans)

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<tr><th>Topic</th><th colspan="4">Discussion/Decision</th><th>Action By</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Page 17</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>agreed that Phil Mackie discuss with the PM to have this reflected within the charter; and
(3) it was agreed that connection be made with NESCol and both universities to discuss the charter and whether anything specifically could be tested with students to reduce use of car.</td><td rowspan="2">Sinclair Laing (Aberdeen City Council)</td></tr>
<tr><td>15.1</td><td>Increase to 65% the proportion of people who feel they can regularly experience good quality natural space by 2026</td><td>Aberdeen City Council, Steven Shaw</td><td>Charter approved, however Steven Shaw to (1) seek children and young people representation on the project team, for example Climate Change Youth Group and (2) consider ways to capture the impact of the changes for the young people through their voice and promotion of this to support other groups to engage with green space.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">The Management Group then discussed project reports for improvement aims with a 2024 date based on the calendar year, as well as 8.4 which had been achieved.</td></tr>
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<tr><th>Topic</th><th>Discussion/Decision</th><th>Action By</th></tr>
<tr><td>Page 18</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Ref</th><th>Improvement Aim</th><th>Project Manager</th><th></th></tr>
<tr><td>3.3</td><td>100% of urgent requests for first stage infant formula and nutritional support for pre-school children are met by 2024.</td><td>NHSG, Emma Williams</td><td rowspan="9">The Management Group welcomed the project end reports and commended the Project Managers and their teams for the achievements. In line with the review report the next meeting of the Community Planning Aberdeen Board would be a thematic session on children and young people.

On considering the reports, it was agreed that the Partnership needed to be robust in evidencing that the changes tested and improvement achieved were sustained. It was agreed that Outcome Improvement Groups would continue to monitor the data and consider whether</td></tr>
<tr><td>3.4</td><td>Increase by 10% the no. of parents with children under 5 who are completing a full benefits check by 2024.</td><td>NHSG, Emma Williams</td></tr>
<tr><td>5.3</td><td>Increase the number of care experienced young people by 10% receiving multiagency throughcare/aftercare support by 2024.</td><td>Aberdeen City Council, Isabel McDonnell</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.2</td><td>Increase to 3 the delivery of co-located and delivered services by health and education by 2024.</td><td>Aberdeen City Council, Alison Horne</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.3</td><td>Increase by 10% the rate of completion of NPA/FA/HNC courses available to young people across the city by 2024.</td><td>Aberdeen City Council, Mark Jones</td></tr>
<tr><td>7.2</td><td>Reduce by 15% the number of care experienced young people reported missing from Children's homes to Police Scotland by 2024.</td><td>Police Scotland, Callum Spence</td></tr>
<tr><td>8.3</td><td>Increase by 20% the number of registered young carers accessing support from the Young Carers service by 2025.</td><td>Barnardos, Nicola Williams</td></tr>
<tr><td>8.6</td><td>Increase by 20% the number of families of children with autism or awaiting diagnosis accessing support prior to diagnosis and reduce the</td><td>NHSG, Sara Duncan</td></tr>
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</td><td>Graeme Simpson (Aberdeen City Council)</td></tr>
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Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	<table><tr><td></td><td>interval between referral and diagnosis by 2024.</td><td></td><td>improvement had been sustained in six months' time.</td></tr></table> **The Management Group resolved:** to approve the recommendations and actions as detailed above.	
8. Making Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire a Living Wage Place – 2025-28 Action Plan	The Management Group had before it a report which sought the endorsement of Community Planning Aberdeen for the updated 3-year Real Living Wage action plan, which would now operate at a regional level for both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. **The report recommended:-** that Management Group – (a) agree to recommend that the Community Planning Aberdeen Board endorse the "Making Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire a Living Wage Place" action plan; (b) subject to approval by the Community Planning Aberdeen Board, agree to support the delivery and promotion of the action plan via Community Planning Aberdeen communication channels. The Management Group welcomed the report and sought clarity as to how the timescales and targets in the action plan aligned with the existing improvement aim to be achieved by 2026. Partners asked that the report be updated to clarify the timescales in advance of submission to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board. The challenges to achieving the targets in the action plan were discussed, for example operating environment for employers. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the Action Plan to include a section to highlight some of those potential challenges that could impact on delivery over the next three years. **The Management Group resolved:** to approve the recommendation, subject to the report and action plan being updated to (a) clarify how the timescales and targets in the action plan aligned with the existing improvement aim; and (b) to include a section to highlight some of the potential challenges that could impact on delivery over the next three years.	Martin Barry (Scottish Enterprise)

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
9. Implications of the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development	The Management Group had before it a report that shared the recommendations from The Independent Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) and the Education Scotland HM Inspectorate Evaluation of Community Learning and Development in Scotland, and asked the Group to consider the implications of the recommendations on Aberdeen City Council and Community Planning Aberdeen. **The report recommended:-** that Management Group – (a) note the contents of the report and the recommendations of the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development and Education Scotland's HM Inspectorate evaluation of Community Learning and Development in Scotland (b) request Community Planning Aberdeen partners work with the developing Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership as required to take the report recommendations forward (c) request a report on the Community Learning and Development Plan 2025-27 be brought to the September 2025 Community Planning Aberdeen meeting. The Management Group noted that consultation on the Community Learning and Development Plan 2025-27, would commence in March and all partners were encouraged to feed into that process. In addition partners were requested to support the developing Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership as required to take the report recommendations forward. In this regard it was agreed that it would be beneficial for a list of existing partners engaged with the Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership to ensure that all partners were contributing and clear on responsibility and representative. **<u>The Management Group resolved:</u>** (i) to approve the recommendations; and (ii) to request that a list of existing partners engaged with the Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership be circulated to ensure that all partners were contributing and clear on responsibility and representative; and (iii) note that engagement on the Community Learning and Development plan would commence in March and encourage all partners to contribute to the engagement	Margaret Stewart (Aberdeen City Council) All partners

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	and that the draft Plan would then come to the September meeting for consideration.	
10. Children's Services Board Annual Report 2024/25	The Management Group had before it a report which presented the Children's Services Board Annual Report 2024/25 which outlined the work undertaken by the Children's Services Board over 2024/25 and incorporated the Local Child Poverty Action Report (Community Planning Aberdeen) for 2024/25. The report outlined proposed changes to be made to the agreed Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Strategic Plan to support Community Planning Partners positively respond to changes in published data and changed national policy intent. **The report recommended:-** that Management Group – (a) note the progress made in delivering the Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Strategic Plan and associated work to address child poverty from April 2024 to date; and (b) comment on the report in advance of it being presented to the Community Planning Board for formal approval. Speaking in furtherance of the report, the Management Group noted that (a) the Children's Services Plan would be refreshed in alignment with the timeline for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36; and (b) a workforce and children and young people version of the Annual Report was being developed and would be shared in due course. **<u>The Management Group resolved:</u>** to approve the recommendations.	
11. Aberdeen City - Keeping the Promise Year 3 Evaluation Report	The Management Group had before it a report which presented The Promise Year 3 Evaluation provides details on our Partnership's implementation of the Scottish Government's Plan 21-24 to Keep the Promise. **The report recommended:-** that Management Group – (a) notes the local progress made in Year Three of Plan 21-24 as outlined in the appendix report (Appendix 1);	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	(b) notes that the Chief Officer of Children and Family Services would provide a report to the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group/Board on the delivery plan for Plan 24-30 when it is published and on the proposed reporting arrangements for delivery of this plan; and (c) notes that the Chief Officer of Children and Family Services would provide a report to Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group/Board updating the partnership's Corporate Parenting Plan to take account of the delivery plan for Plan 24-30 and for this to include the voice and views of Aberdeen City's care experienced children and young people. Graeme Simpson advised The Promise Oversight Board had intimated that at a local and national level there was an inconsistency as to how Scotland was evidencing its commitment to deliver The Promise. To address this it was proposed that a more standard reporting approach be adopted in relation to Plan 24-30. The draft format and dataset for this report had been accepted by the Children's Services Board and was presented in the Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2024/25. Ongoing tracking and monitoring of this dataset would be undertaken by the Children's Services Board via a data dashboard currently in development. The first promise progress report would be published in November 2025 and reported thereafter to the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group. **<u>The Management Group resolved:</u>** to approve the recommendations.	Graeme Simpson (Aberdeen City Council)
12. Community Justice Annual Report 2023/34	The Management Group had before it a report which presented the Community Justice Annual Report 2023/34 as required under Section 23 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016. The report provided an overview of the activities and achievements of the Community Justice Partnership (CJP) in Aberdeen for the year 2023-24. **The report recommended:-** that Management Group – (a) note the progress made by the Community Justice Partnership in 2023-24; (b) support the publication of the report on the website to fulfill the local duty under Section 23 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016; and	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	(c) encourage continued collaboration between statutory and third sector partners to achieve the partnership's goals. **The Management Group resolved:** (i) to approve the recommendations; and (ii) to agree that a link to the Community Justice national report be linked into the report before submission to the Board to show that good practice towards improvement within Community Justice in Aberdeen was referenced.	
13. Aberdeen Health Research Determinants Collaboration	The Management Group had before it a report on the activity of the Aberdeen Health Research Determinants Collaboration (AHRDC). **The report recommended:-** that Management Group note the progress report and consider what further collaboration might be prioritised between Community Planning Aberdeen and the Aberdeen Health Research Determinants Collaboration. Martin Murchie spoke to the report, highlighting a number of areas of progress. In relation to funding opportunities, he advised that despite number of areas of success, Collaboration for Health Equity , Fairer Futures pathway etc, there remained opportunities for potential funding that we had missed and that the Aberdeen Health Research Determinants Collaboration was engaging with both universities to ensure all connected in. In this regard, Heather Crabb offered to make relevant introductions at the university of Aberdeen to academic colleagues or those involved in our Grants Academy which supported the development of funding bids. Martin also highlighted that the National Institute for Health and Care Research were coming up in May and that they were starting the recommissioning of the 1st wave of Collaborations, which included Aberdeen. Therefore, later this year they would be thinking about making a bid for being recommissioned and keen for that to be a wider cohort/views on what if we get some funding again second time around, what we might do differently. It was agreed that Martin consider how to involve wider partners in the recommissioning process to ensure a broader range of views gathered on what we would do if we were applying, which we will. Martin to consider exploring with partners in a future meeting or arranging a separate time outwith the meeting.	Heather Crabb, University of Aberdeen Martin Murchie (Aberdeen City Council)

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	Simon Rayner asked whether there was opportunity for the Aberdeen Health Research Determinants Collaboration to have any research capacity on the themes and commonalities from all the learning reviews that are undertaken as at the moment they're all siloed. Martin, Simon, Campbell and Graeme to meet to discuss. **The Management Group resolved:** to approve the recommendations.	Martin Murchie, Simon Rayner, Campbell Thomson, Graeme Simpson
14. Community Empowerment Toolkit Demo	The Management Group received a demo of the new community empowerment toolkit which was now live and would be launched tomorrow (27 February 2025). The Management Group welcomed the toolkit and the commended the team for the work on the development of this alongside our communities. Partners agreed that it was important that they each individually promote and cascade the toolkit and the training with their respective organisations. Thereafter the Management Group heard from Michelle Crombie who advised that the Community Empowerment Group had been looking at different examples of how Partners engaged people with lived experience with a view to developing some guidelines that we could follow as a Community Planning Partnership. The toolkit would reflect what we're doing already locally and some just guidelines on how to do it well. **The Management Group resolved:** (i) to commend Elaine McConnachie and Pete Matthews and their project team on the development of the toolkit and the engagement with communities on this; (ii) to welcome the community empowerment training for staff and that this would also be offered to align with the launch of the toolkit and to agree encourage staff to sign up; (iii) to agree that it was important that the toolkit be promoted and used by all partners and to agree that all partners share the comms on the launch across their staff and community groups; and (iv) to agree the approach proposed in relation to lived experience examples and guidelines being added to the toolkit.	All partners All partners Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
15. Community Planning Budget 2024/2025 – Q3 Budget Monitoring Report	The Management Group had before it a report which provided an update on the 2024/25 Community Planning Budget's financial performance for the period 1 October 2024 to 31 January 2025. **The report recommended:-** that the Management Group note Community Planning Aberdeen Budget's performance during quarter 3 of 2024/25. Michelle Crombie advised that the report doesn't reflect the spend on the Community toolkit, however that would be reflected in quarter four budget report **The Management Group resolved:** to approve the recommendation.	
16. Community Planning Aberdeen Forward Planner	The Management Group had before it the Community Planning Aberdeen Forward Planner. **The Management Group resolved:** to note the Community Planning Aberdeen Forward Planner and that further items approved today be added.	Allison Swanson, Aberdeen City Council
17. Community Planning Aberdeen Funding Tracker	The Management Group had before it the Community Planning Aberdeen Funding tracker. Partners discussed the use of the tracker, noting that funding applications required time and resource. However, projects should continue to be encouraged to use the tracker to apply for funding for supporting testing of change ideas. **The Management Group resolved:** to note the Community Planning Aberdeen Funding tracker and agree that projects continue to be encouraged to utilise the tracker and apply for funding to support testing of the change ideas.	All OIG Chairs
18. Chair of Aberdeen Prospers	Allison Carrington advised the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group that there had recently been restructure within Skills Development Scotland and having been Chair of Aberdeen prospers for nearly 7 years she was standing down as Chair after the April 2025 meeting.	

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
	She advised that Duncan Abernethy, NESCol, the current Vice Chair had agreed to take on the Chair role after April 2025, and sought approval from the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group for that appointment. **The Management Group resolved:** to agree that Duncan Abernethy be appointed as Chair of Aberdeen Prospers from April 2025 and that Allison Carrington email to confirm the dates.	Allison Carrington, Skills Development Scotland
19. Date of Next Meeting	The Management Group noted that its next meeting would be held on 21 May 2025 at 2pm	

COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN BOARD
27 MARCH 2025

Present: Councillor Christian Allard (Aberdeen City Council), Chairperson, Councillor Kate Blake (Aberdeen City Council), Sarah Chew (ACVO), Councillor John Cooke (Aberdeen City Council and IJB Chair), Pete Edwards (University of Aberdeen), Nick Fyfe (Robert Gordon University), Councillor Martin Greig (Aberdeen City Council, for item 2.1), Shantini Paranjothy (NHS Grampian, as a substitute for Susan Webb), Councillor Miranda Radley (Aberdeen City Council), Michael Rumgay (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, as a substitute for Andy Wright), Angela Scott (Aberdeen City Council).

Also Present: Michelle Crombie; Eleanor Sheppard; Graeme Simpson; Allison Swanson (all Aberdeen City Council); and Phil Mackie (NHS Grampian)

Apologies: Susan Elston (NESCOL); Richard McCallum (Scottish Government); Kate Stephen (Police Scotland); Susan Webb (NHS Grampian); and Andy Wright (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
1	Welcome and Apologies	The Chair welcomed the Board members to the meeting.	
2	Community Planning Aberdeen Board Minute of Previous Meeting of 27 November 2024	The Board had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 27 November 2024 for approval. **The Board resolved: -** to approve the minute as a correct record.	
3	Draft Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group Minute of 26 February 2025	The Board had before it the draft minute of the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group meeting of 26 February 2025 for information. **The Board resolved: -** to note the draft minute.	
4	Community Planning Aberdeen Board Forward Planner	The Board had before it the Community Planning Aberdeen Board Forward Planner. **The Board resolved: -** to agree the Forward Planner.	

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
5	Draft Final Report on Review of Community Planning Aberdeen's Approach to Improving Outcomes	The Board had before it a report which represented the Final Report on the Review of Community Planning Aberdeen's approach to improving outcomes; and draft masterplan setting out the key milestones for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and underpinning plans and strategies during 2025/26. **The report recommended**: - that the Board: - (a) approve the final report on the review of Community Planning and 24 recommendations as summarised in section 2; and (b) approve the master plan setting out proposed key steps in the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36 included within Appendix 1. The Board received a presentation from Michelle Crombie – Community Planning Manager - Aberdeen City Council and Shantini Paranjothy – Deputy Director – NHS Grampian. Mrs Crombie highlighted that the report concentrated on the areas that needed some improvement. She noted that report evaluated the outcomes of what had been achieved since the Local Outcome Improvement Plan was published in 2016. She advised that the report was aimed at the economy, people, place as well as the economic performance and environmental impact. It was noted that child poverty and healthy life expectancy targets had not been achieved. Mrs Crombie spoke to the following improved models that would enhance the outcomes – (i) Strategic Planning comprised the 10 year plan, strategic level aims, system level changes and logic model approach; (ii) Do and Deliver - was set out in terms of the human learning system, research and evidence, rights based approach, and sustainable funding; (iii) Analyse – there would be a need for streamlined reporting; (iv) in relation to the review – there would be an enhanced approach to evaluation and enhanced population needs assessment; and (v) Governance and Accountability - by ensuring that the improvements would be delivered effectively. The Board also heard from Shantini Paranjothy who provided an overview of the Intelligent Board Principles within the NHS Grampian governance. She advised that the principle aimed at differentiating the information needed for strategic discussion contrary to discussion about performance. Furthermore, Ms Paranjothy informed the Board that Intelligent Board Principle had successfully supported the NHS Board on the use of information in an intelligent way in terms of constructive criticism in conversations and in decision making. The Board was also advised that within NHS Grampian, business as a structure was laid out to focus on Strategy, Operational and Regulatory. In terms of Ethos and Approach, Ms Paranjothy highlighted how information challenge had been managed while making the most of the systematic cycle of	

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
		reporting strategic and operational business. It was mentioned that some development works had been undertaken on a whole system approach to prevention which had been embedded in Health and Care Services as a means of supporting board members. The Board also heard from Eleanor Sheppard – Chair of the Children's Services Board, in response to the query if there was sufficient resource based on Recommendation 10 under the Do and Deliver - "agree that a researcher from the Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen will be assigned to support each Outcome Improvement Group from 2025." Ms Sheppard assured the Board that there was a researcher from the Health Determinants Research Collaboration at the last meeting of the Children's Services Board and they would decide on the areas of expertise needed from the researcher. There was further discussions by the partners on the review outcomes and intelligent board principles. **The Board resolved: -** (i) to approve the recommendations; and (ii) to thank Mrs Crombie and Ms Paranjothy for the presentation	
6	Children and Young People	The Board received a presentation from Eleanor Sheppard – Chair, Children's Services Board and Graeme Simpson – Chief Officer – Children's Social Work and Family Support – Aberdeen City Council. Ms Sheppard summarised what had worked well and how improvements could be achieved. The presentation focused on the following – (a) Health Visitors – it was stated that there have been some improvement in terms of recruitment since the downturn in oil and gas and the pandemic, as there had been challenges in recruiting health visitors. Ms Sheppard advised that there had been some flexibility from the team in exploring the models to have vacancies covered; (b) Developmental Milestones – Ms Sheppard spoke about the impact of the pandemic on developmental milestones. She explained that people living in deprived communities had not been able to access some services. She advised that through the future libraries model, with the use community hub spaces as a means to deliver health services for people in deprived areas; (c) Early Learning and Childcare – it was mentioned that there was an increased uptake by 12% on the early learning and childcare for 2 year olds as the Children's Services Board worked in partnership with Social Security Scotland; (d) Primary School Attendance – The Board was advised on the increase in primary school attendance locally compared to national level. However, it was highlighted that the attendance for Primary 1 was poorer than others; (e) Free School Meals – Ms Sheppard highlighted that there had been some disparities from school to school, notwithstanding, there was an increased uptake and also	

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
Page 30		there would be the need to have it aligned with the healthy weight; (f) Dental Health – it was emphasised that there had been some improvements regarding dental care in deprived areas; (g) National 5 Presentation – it was highlighted that there had been an increase across education, in terms of increasing ambition; (h) ABZ Campus – Ms Sheppard advised the Board on the development of ABZ Campus and its tariff points; (i) Communities – Ms Sheppard advised that 92% of the communities had thrived but on a wider scope, the data had dropped to 78%. She suggested there was a need to have tested different approaches towards family support and it would be targeted through Fairer Futures Partnership Work; (j) Claiming Benefits – the Board was informed that more people were claiming benefits that they were entitled to. Ms Sheppard advised that apart from the Financial Inclusion Team of Aberdeen City Council, health visitors assisted in dissemination of information, as well as leaflet drops in schools about 3-4 times a year; (k) Homelessness – Ms Sheppard advised of works that were undertaken to tackle homelessness through Homewards. The Board sought clarification on ABZ Campus in terms of "the possibility to have linked directly with the tariff points to ABZ". Ms Sheppard assured the Board that it would be linked directly to the individuals, however, the Service had received yearly reports. In relation to the survey for parents on free school meals, Ms Sheppard advised that she would provide feedback on the survey when available. In terms of Dental Health, Ms Sheppard suggested she would confirm by email regarding the current position with dental appointments and whether this had changed from a 6 monthly to annual check-up for NHS Dental service. The Board had a discussion on benefits claims as well as its stigmatisation, and regarding the waiting time to get an appointment with Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) which can take up to 12 weeks and in terms of claiming Universal Credit (UC) which could take up to 18 weeks. It was mentioned that some schools were in receipt of the Scottish Attainment challenge funding. The funding was being used in schools to fund money advisors based in schools. In addition, Graeme Simpson – Chief Officer – Children's Social Work and Family Support, added that within the Fit like services in the city, a money advisor would accompany the claimants to their benefit appointments and assessments. Mr Simpson advised the Board that some people who had not been able to claim their benefits had little or no level of numeracy and literacy. The Board heard Ms Sheppard who spoke about the Improvement Projects through the Children's Services Board, Bairns Hoose, Re-organising Resources and prioritising those who were care experienced.	Eleanor Sheppard / ACC Eleanor Sheppard / ACC

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
		Graeme Simpson mentioned that the Bairns Hoose would be opened in the summer of 2025. He advised there would be interagency working and partnerships in place with the established Court link. Mr Simpson advised there had been developments in relation to trauma informed, domestic abuse arrangements through the court system. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the Bairns Hoose would be the safe space for vulnerable adults, who could walk in and be interviewed whilst providing their statement to the police. Ms Sheppard spoke on the various ways to achieve a strategic shift in outcomes, which were – (a) accessibility; (b) co-location; (c) shared data; (d) autonomy and agency; (e) public protection; (f) mental wellbeing and resilience; and (g) shifting resources as a result of successful tests of change. During the course of discussion, a question was asked on the disparity on leadership for improvement. Ms Sheppard advised the Board that the statutory duties should be undertaken by having to pull together the Child Services Plan, annual report and other reports. Phil Mackie – NHS Grampian – advised on the reports and shared responsibilities. The Board agreed that Ms Sheppard and Mr Mackie would further consider the matter and update the Board as required. Graeme Simpson – Chief Officer – Children's Social Work and Family Support, advised of progress towards Keeping the Promise. He spoke about the Independent Care Review published in February 2020 with cross party support, however, this had been re-emphasised in Scotland in December to keep the Promise by 2030. Furthermore, Mr Simpson spoke on Plan 21-24 which was published and laid out the route map for delivery of the Promise for 3 years. Plan 24-30 had been published in June 2024 and was set for the next 6 years. He noted that the Promise Oversight Board had published its 3rd annual in February 2025. It was mentioned that the Promise Oversight Board report had identified Whole Family Preventative Support and Supporting the Workforce as the 2 Key priorities. In terms of assessing Scotland's deliverability of the Promise, the Promise Progress Report was published in December 2024 as an annual national report. Mr Simpson provided an overview of the Models used by Promise Scotland in evaluating progress. He highlighted the use of Bright Spots Programme as a means of being engaged directly with care experienced children and young people which was delivered by CELCIS. Furthermore, he advised surveys were undertaken with feedback on areas that should be improved and could have done better. In relation to the above, Mr Simpson played a video with a care experienced young persons interpretation of the Bright Spots survey written and performed by a care experienced young person.	Eleanor Sheppard ACC / Phil Mackie / NHS Grampian

	Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
		The Board resolved: - (i) to thank Eleanor Sheppard and Graeme Simpson for the presentation; and (ii) that the video link and presentation slides be shared with the partners.	Graeme Simpson / ACC
7	Community Planning Aberdeen Information Report	The Board had before it an information report which presented the status, progress and the next steps in various areas which had been considered at the meeting of the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group in February 2025. **The Board resolved: -** to note the information provided.	
8	Date of Next Meeting – 18 June 2025	The Board noted that its next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 18 June 2025 at 2pm.	

Progress Report	Draft Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25
Lead Officer	Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead Prevention and Community Empowerment
Report Author	Allison Swanson, Community Planning and Improvement Manager
Date of Report	2 May 2025
Governance Group	Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group – 21 May 2025

Purpose of the Report

This report presents the draft Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25.

Summary of Key Information

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016-26 was first approved in 2016 and has been refreshed bi-annually since to ensure it remains relevant and focussed on priority outcomes. The refreshed Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) was approved by Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 29 April 2024. Within the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan there were 16 stretch outcomes to be delivered by 2026 and 98 shorter term improvement aims.

1.2 Over the last year the Partnership has been working towards the improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan with a view to improve outcomes for the people of Aberdeen.

1.3 The Community Empowerment Act (CEA) 2015 requires Community Planning Aberdeen to report progress against the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans annually for the period 1 April to 31 March.

2. ANNUAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2024/25

2.1 The draft Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 contained at Appendix 1 is the first progress report against the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) since it was refreshed in April 2024. It provides the Community Planning Partnership and members of the public with an overview of progress made during 2024/25 towards the achievement of the 16 stretch outcomes and 98 improvement project aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26.

2.2 A summary Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 is contained at Appendix 2. This provides a summary of our headline achievements during 2024/25 and an assessment of our overall progress across the themes of economy, people (children and young people and adults), place and community empowerment in a concise easy to understand format. The summary also highlights the different ways people can get involved and contribute to the Community Planning Partnership.

2.3 A children and young people's version is also available at Appendix 3.

2.4 Drawing on evidence from the latest data available within our outcomes framework, as well as improvement data captured from our improvement projects, the report demonstrates the achievements of the Community Planning Partnership and highlights priority areas for improvement for 2025/26. As of 31 March 2025, 2 of our Stretch Outcomes had been achieved (Stretch Outcomes 2 (employment) and 9 (adult offences)) with 8 projects ended, and 31% (30) improvement aims achieved. The remaining improvements aims were still in progress with a view to all concluding by 2026.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 The Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 allows the Community Planning Partnership to take stock of what has been achieved over the last year to progress the improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016- 26. The annual report, alongside the revised population needs assessment and Locality Plan annual Outcome Improvement reports, provides the foundation for the partnership developing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36. The Outcome Improvement Groups will use these documents to evaluate progress to date and, alongside community and stakeholder engagement, identify their proposals for 2026-36.

3.2 Outcome Improvement Groups will continue to progress the areas for improvement through their improvement aims as detailed in the report.

3.3 Subject to approval by the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group the annual report, will be submitted to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board in June and thereafter to Full Council in July 2025 and will be published and circulated to all partners.

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group:

i) Approve the final draft Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 as contained at Appendix 1; the summary and children and young people versions of the annual report contained at Appendices 2 and 3 for submission to the Board on 18 June 2025 for approval;

ii) Agree, subject to approval by the Board, the submission of the Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024/25 to Full Council in July 2025 and for its publication and circulation to all partners; and

iii) Consider the report in conjunction with the Locality Plan Annual Reports (Item 2.2) to understand the link with the priority issues being tackled via the three Locality Plans.

Opportunities and Risks

Successful delivery of the revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 requires a robust programme management approach to the delivery of the improvement projects and also requires clear process for alignment to the Locality Plans.

Clear governance arrangements with reporting each meeting cycle and annually, ensures that we have effective outcome management arrangements in place to deliver upon the aims in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in the timescale and supports projects to continue at pace. The annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on progress achieved towards the stretch outcome aims, but also the implementation of the improvement projects. Alongside the revised population needs assessment, provides a foundation for the partnership developing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan for 2026-2036 to ensure that the current priorities continue to respond to local need.

The Community Empowerment Act (CEA) 2015 requires Community Planning Aberdeen to report progress against the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans annually for the period 1 April to 31 March, submission of the report ensures compliance with our duties.

Consultation
Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead Prevention and Community Empowerment Community Planning Aberdeen Outcome Improvement Groups Community Planning Aberdeen Lead Contacts Group Integrated Locality Planning Team

Background Papers
Refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016- 26 Final Integrated Locality Plans 2021-26 – North, South and Central

Contact details:

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Annual Outcome Improvement Report

2024/2025

DRAFT 13 May 2025

Community Planning Aberdeen

FOREWORD

By Councillor Allard and Susan Webb

To follow

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

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

This is a summary of our headline acheivement during 2024/25 and an assessment of our overall progress towards the 16 Stretch Outcomes (SO) we have set out to achieve in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26. Our assessment is based on current performance compared to 2016 when we started our plan.

Key

Green Achieved/Performance higher than baseline.

Red Performance lower than baseline/Performance declining.

Amber Performance is steady/lower than baseline but improving since last reporting period

Economy		People				Place	
Stretch Outcome 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.		**Stretch Outcome 3** 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 9** 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 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.	
Stretch Outcome 2 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 4** 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 10** Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 14** 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026.	
		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.		**Stretch Outcome 11** Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 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.	

Economy	People				Place	
	Stretch Outcome 6 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 and 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.		**Stretch Outcome 12** Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.		**Stretch Outcome 16** 50% of people report they feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.	
	Stretch Outcome 7 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.					
	Stretch Outcome 8 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/ disabilities will experience a positive destination.					

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What our data is telling us?

How to make sense of the data in this report

Under each theme within this report there is a section called 'What impact have we had?' These sections include run charts which have been prepared using the data available for the improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26. The purpose of the run charts is to display data over time and help us assess visually whether the changes we are making are resulting in improvement.

The coloured line shows CPA performance to date.

The black line shows the improvement aim, where applicable set within the CPA Improvement Programme for 2024/26 so we can assess if we are on track to achieve our improvement aims set for the year. Where there is no black line the data does not relate to an improvement aim.

We have also used a traffic light system to help you see at a glance, where we think we are in terms of improvement. The significance of the variation in data over time will depend on the improvement measure **and** population size it relates to. For example, for some improvement measures a 0.5% increase may be very significant, whilst for others it may need to be a 5% increase to be considered significant.

In applying the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) we have taken a rounded view of performance, taking into account subject matter expertise, local context and consideration of progress towards our improvewment aims to answer the question:

Are our changes resulting in improvement?

- **Yes (Data shows improving trend and / or achievement of aim)**
- **Getting there (Data shows improving or varied trend and / or on track to achieve aim)**
- **Not yet (Data shows declining trend and not on track to achieve aim)**

Prosperous Economy

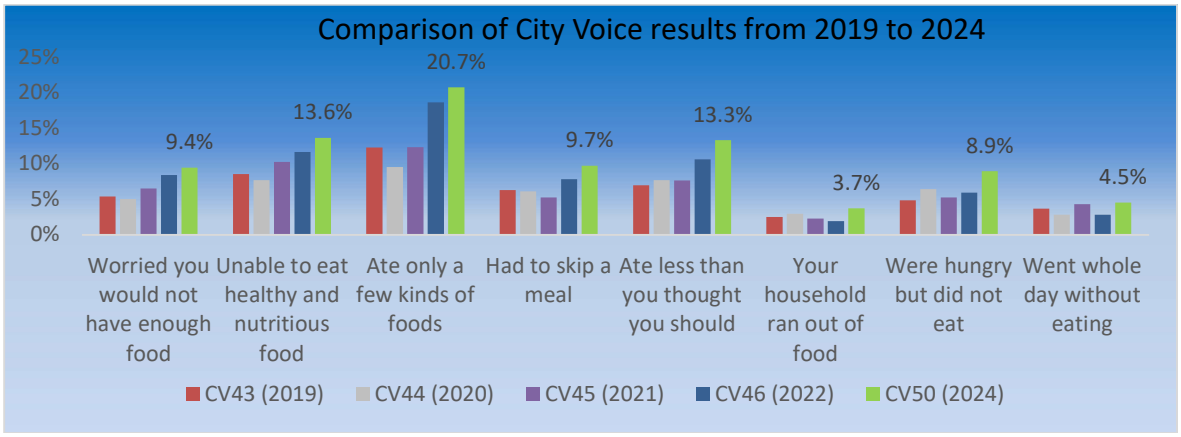
What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO1 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026.	9.4% of City Voice respondents reported in 2024 that during the last 12 months there was a time when they were worried they would not have enough food to eat – up from 8.4% in December 2022 and 5.4% in 2019. 24.6% of City Voice respondents reported in 2024 that they were worried they would not be able to heat their home – down from 32% in December 2022 and up from 10% in 2021.
SO2 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026.	**Stretch Outcome 2** achieved with a 74.7% employment rate for October 2023-September 2024.

Progress made during 2024/25

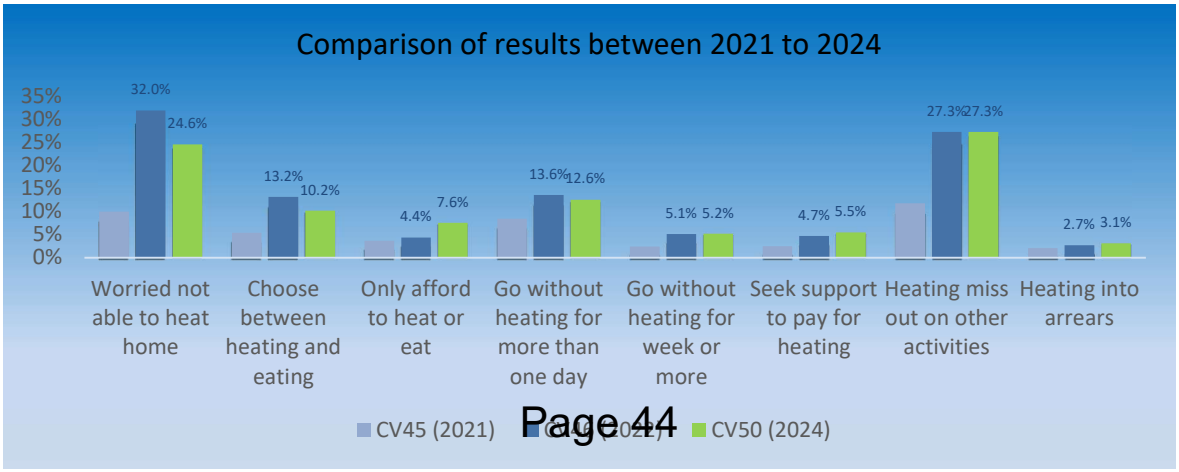
STRETCH OUTCOME 1
PROGRESSING with 7.4% fewer people worried they can't heat their home and **3%** reduction in people having to choose between heating and eating.

The cost of living crisis, combined with existing inequalities, continue to impact on our communities, with people experiencing increasing poverty and financial hardship. The impact continues to be borne unequally, with increasing costs making it more difficult for financially vulnerable households to make ends meet and we know that this has substantial implications. 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, with projects focused on 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.

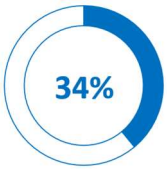
In the City Voice 2024, panellists were asked about their ability to access healthy or nutritious food. Data shows that since the questions were first asked in 2019 and in comparison to when asked in 2022, the proportion of respondents who answered 'yes' has increased in all categories. Since 2019, the largest increase was in the proportion who reported they ate only a few kinds of food (from 12.2% to 20.7%). Whilst, since 2022, the largest increase was in the proportion who reported they were hungry but did not eat (from 5.9% to 8.9%).



The City Voice also asked about respondents' ability to heat their homes. The responses when compared to when they were asked in 2022 were broadly similar, with the exception of worried not able to heat their home which has gone down 7.4% from 32% to 24.6%. The largest increase is in the proportion of respondents who reported being worried they could only afford to heat their home or feed themselves/their family (from 4.4% to 7.6%).



Raising Awareness of Support for Fuel Poverty



Improvement Aim Exceeded

34% of people seeking support removed from fuel poverty.

24% over the project's original .

SCARF has been leading a campaign in partnership with other community planning partners to educate people and communities about available support and energy saving practices. The campaign has included social media and the first 'Empower Aberdeen' free drop in community fair held in October 2024. The fair featured 46 not-for-profit and third sector organisations and over 120 professionals offering a range of advice from energy efficiency, finances and housing to food banks, neurodiversity awareness and wellbeing.

The event, sponsored by Community Planning Aberdeen Responsible Business Partner Vital Energi, was an important extension of existing work to deliver impartial energy saving advice to help lower fuel bills and carbon emissions to householders, communities and businesses throughout Aberdeen. Such was the success of the inaugural showcase, that plans are now in place to repeat this year.

Through awareness raising and being in the heart of our communities, SCARF had 866 enquires for fuel support over the last year. Of the 866 enquiries received in 2024/25, 579 (67%) were in fuel poverty. As a result of the support provided, 197 (34%) were removed from fuel poverty and 28 (5%) removed from extreme fuel poverty.

Making homes more efficient can help lower energy bills, but the upfront cost of energy efficiency measures often puts people off because they can't afford it or would rather prioritise their money in other ways. Bringing properties up to an EPC band C or above can be an easy and inexpensive process, depending on the measures needed to improve the scoring of the property. Simple measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation, new heating controls or improved boilers can drastically improve the energy performance of a property for a relatively small investment. Latest data shows there has been a 1% increase in the % of homes (social housing) with an EPC rating of C or Better between 2023 and 2024, from 91% to 92%. However, we know there is more to do and therefore the project now aim to achieve 94%.

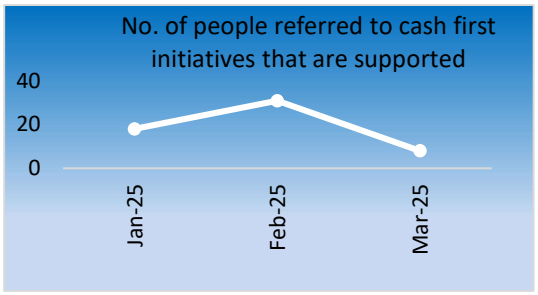
Improvement Aim Achieved

92% of homes (social housing) with an EPC rating of C or Better. **1%** over the project's original aim.

Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland

In Aberdeen there are many community food initiatives that provide access to affordable, nutritious and sustainable food. However, emergency food aid is not sustainable and food aid organisations across Aberdeen have reported they are struggling to meet the increase in demand.

Providing people with monetary support alongside income maximisation support instead of food aid gives people more choice and control as people have more agency and can buy what they need. Through various cash first and income maximisation projects across Aberdeen City, the aim is to reduce the stigma which can be associated with accessing food aid.

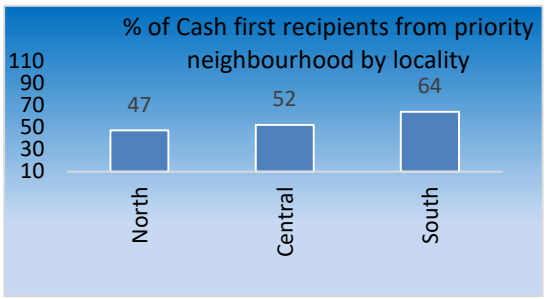


Our cash first project is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals, with £29,570.79 of financial support provided. Early data indicates a positive impact, with 81% of people who received cash payments, seeing a reduction in the need for a food bank. Though it is important to consider that many individuals who received cash payments also received wrap-around support, which may be a major contributing factor in reducing food bank use. One of the key learnings to date has been that many individuals accessing the Cash First funding are experiencing debt, highlighting the complex nature of financial emergencies and suggests that the need for emergency food is a symptom of wider issues associated with poverty. Demand for emergency food has spiked again in recent months and the project continues to explore opportunities for scalability."

Cash First Aberdeen

Additionally, the project captures wider Cash First interventions. CFINE's SAFE Team have generated significant financial gain for beneficiaries through welfare rights and benefit support, securing £131,634 in financial gain between January - March 2025. As stated, providing additional wrap-around support may be a major factor in reducing food bank use, including income maximisation. As part of this, the SAFE Team generated an additional £11,704 in financial gain for individuals referred to the Cash First Flexible Crisis Fund.

Out of 57 Cash First recipients between January and April 2025, 53% were from a priority neighbourhood:



- 26% of Cash First recipients were from North Locality, with 47% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods.
- 56% of Cash First recipients were from Central Locality, with 52% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods.
- 18% of Cash First recipients were from the South Locality, with 64% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods.

From January – March, the amount of Cash First Funding provided can be broken down by locality area as per below:

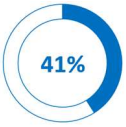
- £7,360.79 of Cash First Funding was distributed to 15 Cash First recipients in North Locality.
- £16,700.00 of Cash First Funding was distributed to 31 Cash First recipients in Central Locality.
- £5,510.00 of Cash First Funding was distributed to 11 Cash First recipients in South Locality.

People who received a Cash First payment and subsequently engaged with CFINE SAFE secured Total additional financial gain of: £11,704, with additional financial gain for priority neighbourhood of £10,088. North locality: £1,141, Central locality: £5,239 and South locality: £5,326.

Raising Awareness and Access to Support Through Challenge Poverty Week

During Challenge Poverty week, our Anti Poverty Outcome Improvement Group coordinated efforts between partners and communities providing both a united voice and action towards reducing stigma and improving the lives of people affected by poverty. A range of events were held and promoted, with our fuel poverty project taking a lead on holding "Empower Aberdeen", a community fair, providing direct access to support available across Aberdeen.

Reaching out to People to Maximise Their Income



Improvement Exceeded

41% increase in the uptake of benefits.

31% over the project's original aim.

Linked to a rise in poverty is growing financial insecurity. Ensuring that household income is maximised through the uptake of unclaimed benefits is a key aspect to supporting households to come out of poverty and improve their financial security. Through our benefit uptake project, we have continued to implement improvements to mitigate barriers known which stop people accessing benefits.

During 2024/25, with funding secured from the Scottish Government secured the development of a "Low Income Family Tracker". The tracker brings together indicators of poverty from multiple data sources held by the Council, the Department for Works Pension and other publicly available data. This has enabled us to identify and make direct contact with people eligible for specific benefits to raise their awareness and support them, where required, to apply.

As of February 2025, we identified an additional 96 households claiming Universal Credit who were affected by the benefit cap. We attempted to contact all 96 households, providing them with information about benefit cap exemptions and inviting them to apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP). Of these households, 45% (43) engaged with the Financial Inclusion Team, and of those who engaged, 74% (32) were supported to apply for DHP, with a further three applying independently after being encouraged to do so. Additionally, five households successfully increased their income to a level where the benefit cap no longer applies. So far, 29 of these households have received DHP awards totalling £63,485.77. In March 2025, we also identified 73 families experiencing both relative poverty and fuel poverty. These families were targeted for support through the Rent Assistance Fund, resulting in £69,125.28 being awarded to clear their rent arrears.

We know that one method of communication won't meet the needs of all individuals and communities. Since October 2024, the CFINE S.A.F.E Team have been working from the Middlefield Hub Cafe the first Friday of every month to support people to access the right benefits and with advice on budgeting.

As well as the direct contact, we have continued to test and run a number of different campaigns targeted on specific benefits or towards specific communities to raise awareness of the online benefit calculator. The calculator enables people to self-serve and checks the benefits they're entitled to with privacy and reduces stigma. Two campaign examples are our Pension Credit social media campaign and our family's booklet, and from both we've seen positive outcomes:

Phase one of the Pension Credit campaign: as of November 2024, over £141,993 in Pension Credit has been given to 23 pensioners.	**Support for Families Booklet** - emailed out to all parents on Group call along with a link to the benefit calculator. The week after the booklet was emailed out (10 July to 16 July) saw: •1268 calculations started (1293% increase on the previous week (91 calculations). •549 calculations completed (1730% increase from previous week (30). •£135,458.20 per week of new benefits (£3673.09 per week of new benefits) •98.5% of the completed calculations showed an entitlement to benefits.

Overall, we have continued to see the impact of our online benefit calculator. Between 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, 7670 people have used the calculator with £85,773.13 per week benefits identified. Of those who completed the calculator 90% had unclaimed benefits identified, with on average £205 per week of unclaimed benefits identified, compared to £171 per week from April to March 2024. This is a 20% increase since April to March 2024 and a 41% increase since 2023/24 in uptake of unclaimed benefits on average per week through the online benefit calculator.

In 2024 there were 1265 homeless presentations in Aberdeen City and through our financial assessments for people presenting as homeless project we are committed to ensuring that everyone presenting as homeless is accessing the benefits they're entitled to. To support this we have automated our processes so that everyone assessed as statutory homeless receives a link to the online benefit calculator. In 2024, 29.3% (371) people had a benefit check ensuring they were accessing the benefits they were entitled to. Of the 371 people with a benefit check 89.5% (332) had financial gains identified. Total financial gain for 2024 was £181008.03. However, 752 people were unable to be contacted and the project is focusing on changes to improve this and for all to have completed a check.

Fairer Aberdeen Fund 2024-25

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In 2024-25 £1.5m was made available to support this work and 36 initiatives were funded. Impact figures from 23-24 show that over 51,000 people were involved or benefitted from the funded initiatives within the programme and 827 volunteers contributed 139,495 hours of volunteering with a value of over £2m.

965 people took part in employability programmes and 249 people moved into work. 5,473 people received money and income maximisation advice, with 1,558 of them receiving a total financial gain of £2,3m the equivalent of £1,480 per person. 135 parents and families with complex needs were supported, and 751 people accessed mental health counselling provision provided locally.
A Community Support Fund was also available for community engagement and an Employment Support Fund addressed financial barriers for people getting back into work.

STRETCH OUTCOME 2 ACHIEVED 77.4% employment rate

We are delighted to report that Stretch Outcome 2 has been achieved with a 5.5% increase in our working age population who are employed (71.9% (Oct 2022-Sept 2023) to 77.4% in (Oct 2023-Sept 2024), and 3.4% higher than the rate for Scotland of 74.0%.

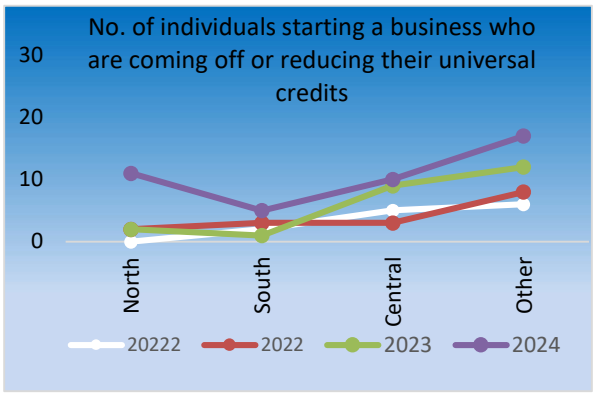
However, we know we have more to do to support employment with data showing an increase in claimants in Aberdeen (4,875 in Dec 2024, up from 4,610 in Dec 2023 and from 3,270 in March 2016). 48% (2,345) of claimants are from our priority neighbourhoods, as was the case in December 2023. A primary focus has been supporting people to 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.

Community Planning Aberdeen are particularly focused on supporting people, from our priority neighbourhoods, into employment opportunities through a variety of improvements such as business creation and providing targeted pathways to support those groups who experience the most disadvantage and inequality while also, increasing the number of accredited Real Living Wage employers within the city.

Supporting new businesses

Through our business start up project, a total of 98 individuals (45 in 2024/25) have started a business which has either taken them off universal credits or significantly reduced their reliance on universal credits. Of the 98 people who started a business, 54 were from priority neighbourhoods, 15 in North, 11 in South and 28 in Central. This success has been driven by several key changes, including the deployment of dedicated community business advisors within our priority neighbourhoods to provide personalised and accessible support to people on their self-employment journey, targeted funding from ABZWorks seed funding to help remove the financial barriers to setting up a business and a partnership referral pathway.

98 business start-ups



218 people were referred for support, with 45% (98) starting a business. 87 businesses have also been referred to the Seed Funds with ABZ Works for support.

For many participants, the transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life changing. Stories of individuals gaining financial independence and confidence show the importance of dedicated and localised support. The impact is reflected in the feedback below:

This is an extremely important service as some people can't travel, for me having business support on my doorstep is perfect, Donna my support advisor has helped me get my business up and running advising me of things I didn't know existed, helping me through my business plan and financial plan and without this support I would have never managed to get the place I am today .

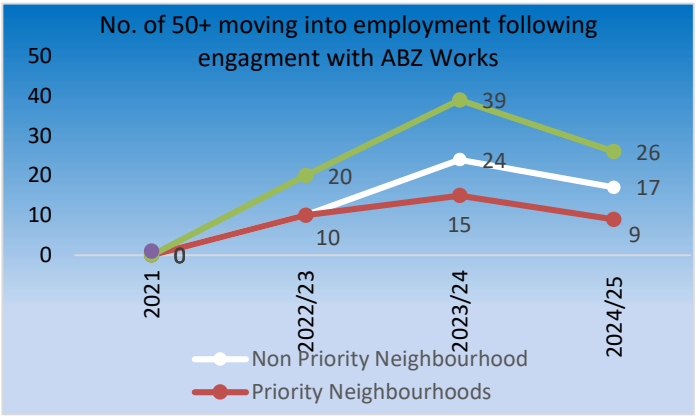
Supporting people from our priority neighbourhoods and over 50s into employment opportunities

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

672 individuals over 50 supported into employment.

572 over the original aim of 100.

Through our priority neighbourhood and over 50 employment project, we have supported over 600 people over 50 years of age into employment. We have tested a variety of initiatives to increase access to support and help people overcome some of the barriers to employment. This has included: dedicated 50+ Work Coaches. Aligning with the Department for Work and Pensions 50+ campaign, dedicated 50+ work coaches providing targeted support such as midlife MOTs were tested citywide. The support was promoted through three big campaigns (in September (Pension Awareness Week), October (Menopause Month) and November (National Older Workers Week). As a result, since October 2022, nearly **600** individuals over 50 have been supported into employment citywide.



We have also seen a positive impact from our other initiatives (information sessions to front-line staff to increase engagement with employability support, seed funding and an Employer Recruitment Incentive Scheme), with 503 people from priority neighbourhoods and aged over 50 have receiving employability support with ABZ Works between June 2023 and December 2024, from which 51 (10%) have moved into employment.

We know location of services is important and with the success of the dedicated community based business start up support, ABZ Works piloted an Older but Wiser Employability Group. This group was piloted in Torry and a second group was delivered by Pathways and Station House Media Unit. There are also Training Provider members (Pathways, TRE-Life and Aberdeen Foyer) working from different venues in Torry – the Skills Centre, Old Torry Community Centre and the GP practice. As a result, Pathways and TRE-Life have engaged with 61 residents of 50+ from priority neighbourhoods with 31 (51%) moving into employment.

Impact of our support

Person supported from Torry – Individual saw Pathways social media posts and popped into the Torry Skills Centre to arrange an appointment. She had been employed within the fish trade all her working life but redundancy and changes in personal circumstances led to a rethink of career direction. She took part in an 8-week over 50's course facilitated jointly by Pathways and Station House Media Unit. Alongside 1:1 support from Pathways, this course helped to build confidence and employability skills (e.g. Curriculum Vitae, applications and interviews) and was successful in securing a new job that fitted around caring responsibilities.

Person supported from Sheddocksley – Individual came to TRE-Life through a referral from her work coach to TRE-LIFE's drop-in sessions held at the Department for Work and Pensions centre. At that point she was employed part-time but had a strong interest in an alternative field of working with children/ young people. She joined TRE-LIFE's Employability Skills course to focus on the wide range of employment skills, including how to write effective Curriculum Vitaes, how to apply for jobs and how to prepare for an interview. During this time, the whole group grew in confidence and this individual used her new-found employability skills to successfully gain employment in an after-school club.

Increasing Real Living Wage Employment Opportunities

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

19% increase in Aberdeen employers accredited as paying the Real Living Wage since 2023

9% increase exceeded

We know that people in work are also experiencing poverty. Employers paying the real living wage can mean the difference between surviving and thriving. Since 2019 we have been working in partnership to increase the number of employers accredited as paying the real living wage and we are committed to sustaining and expanding this work. We are pleased to report that there are now 119 employers (March 2025) in the City who are real living wage accredited, with 19 joining in 2024, a 19% increase since 2023 and 190% since the project started (41 to 119). These accreditations have led to over 1,991 employees receiving a pay rise to the Real Living Wage rate to date.

Accreditations during 2024 have come from a range of employers and sectors including Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen Sports Village, First Bus, Katoni Engineering, Aberdeen Inspired, Aspect Communications, and Simeon Care.

Impact of our support

"I feel like I am breaking the cycle and creating opportunities for my children to reach their potential.

All because of a fair wage."

Latest data available showed that 90% of employees in the city were in living wage employment, a 1.6% decrease since 2023 but an 8% increase since 2016.

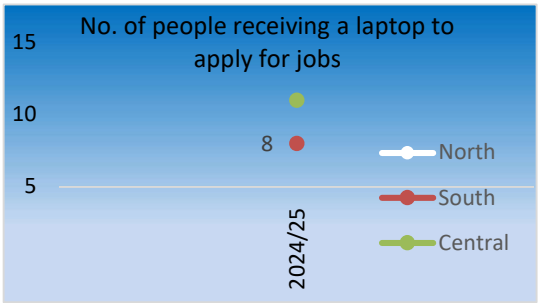
Improving digital skills and increasing access to digital employment opportunities

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

58 people experiencing digital barriers upskilled to apply for employment.

16% over the original aim.

Data shows that digital support and upskilling is required at both a basic digital skill level (e.g. being able to search and apply for jobs on online platforms) and more advanced digital skills required by the job role. Through our digital skills project we are aiming to upskill people who need for both basic and sector specific digital skills to enhance their employment opportunities.



As of 31 March 2025, **58** people have accessed digital support, with 20 now in positive destinations (6 in employment, 4 in education, 8 in further training and 2 volunteering). In addition, **27** people have received a laptop to apply for jobs, 8 from North, 8 from South and 11 from Central Locality. These laptops were issued by ABZWorks and funded via No One Left Behind. The laptops have provided participants with the suitable resources to help apply and interview for jobs from home, participate and complete online employability courses and support them to complete home tasks set out by employability training providers to help move them towards gaining employment.

Sector specific digital training programmes
We successfully piloted a programme in January 2024, where **7** participants engaged in digital and employability activities, resulting in 57% (4) participants moving into positive destinations.

Based on this success, two new programmes, a digital and media skills and specific IT training programme have been developed and launched in 2024 to offer an enhanced range of digital activities.20 people started digital and media skills. Of the 20, **13 completed** the course and **4** have since moved into a positive destination. The remaining **9** will move into new provision that will be determined in April. This programme has also just received a 12 month extension that offers 40 more places for 25/26.

20 people, started and completed sector specific training and **2** have already gained employment.

Basic digital skills: Through our new community based supports at Powis Community Centre and Tory Skills Centre:

- **14** people completed CV workshops, and
- **11** people completed job application workshops that focused on using online search engines, software, and platforms, followed by interview workshops to enhance their interview skills.
- **27 laptops**, with 12-month Microsoft licenses, were provided to participants to help them engage in employability programmes.

Impact of our support

"The workshop was useful and the staff very helpful. I felt more confident with what was covered and appreciated the opportunity to write a re-useable draft for cover letters and personal statement, which was proofread and edited by the staff. Overall very happy for the time I spent at this course." Furthermore, an ABZ Works key worker provided feedback and said, "the participant, shortly after attending the session, went on to find a vacancy on his own, apply on his own and land the job in the end so a good success story!" **Participant from the south locality and aged 39.**

Employability support focusing on reducing inequalities

Inequalities in society have increased with national reports evidencing that the impacts of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis have not been evenly spread. In light of this, through different projects, we are targeting employability support to those experiencing the most difficulty, focusing on young parents, and ethnic minority people initially. One example is our employability pathways for young parent project.

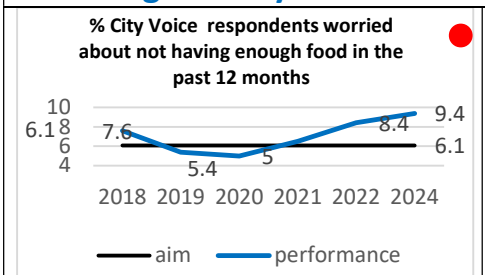
We are committed to supporting young parents into training and with the ultimate goal of moving into employment. Ensuring that young people are at the heart of the project is key to the right support being provided. This year 21 young parents have signed up to take part in a short (12 week) programme in which they will share their experiences, identify areas of improvement and ultimately co-design an employability support package for young parents. They will be paid the real living wage during this time, and this will also provide them with the opportunity to build confidence, build soft-skills and provide a taster of employment. The project has also identified 180 young parents in Aberdeen and work is underway to make contact with them to introduce them to financial inclusion support and employability provision.

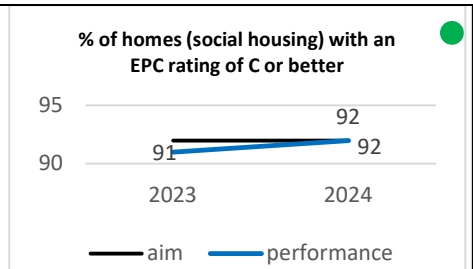
What impact have we had?

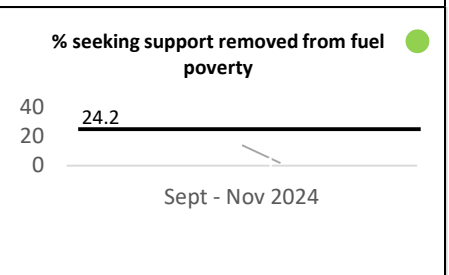
24/25/26 improvement aim — Performance

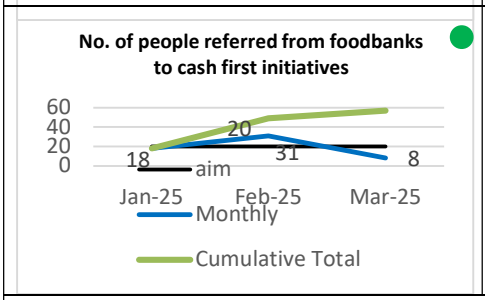
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

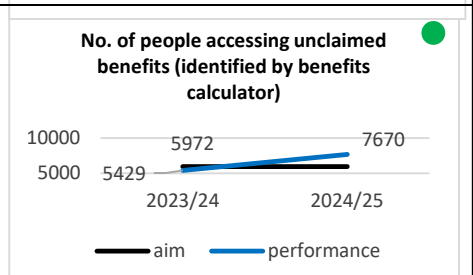
Reducing Poverty

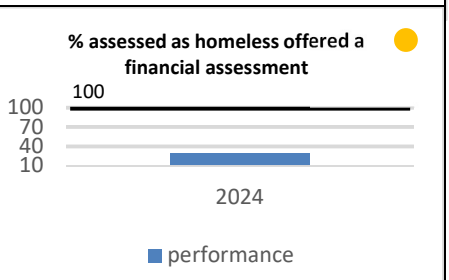




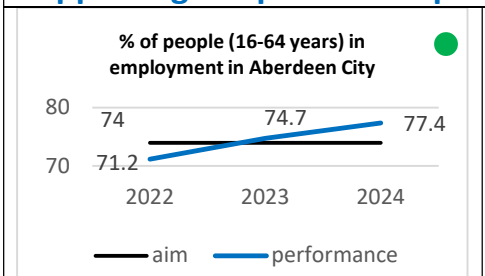


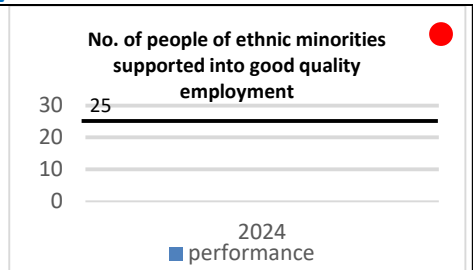


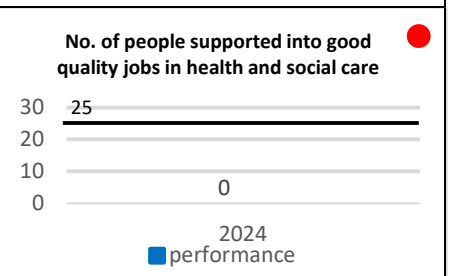


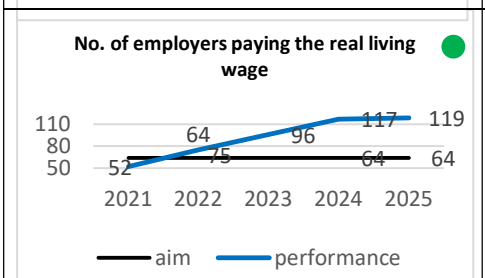


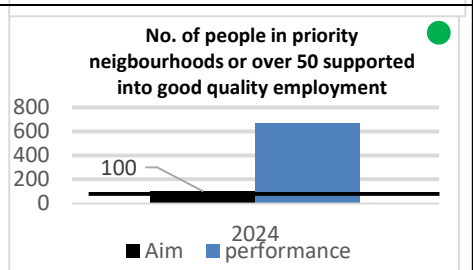
Supporting People Into Employment

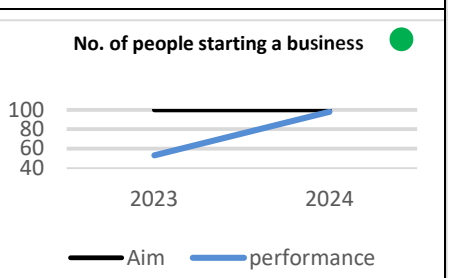


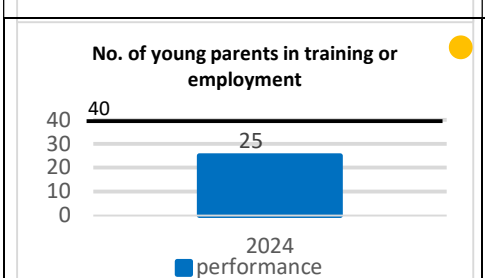


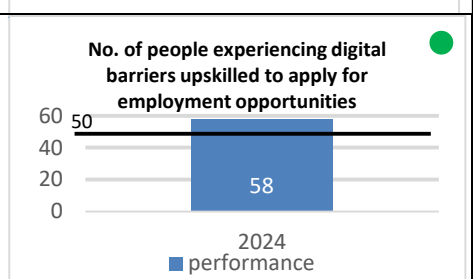


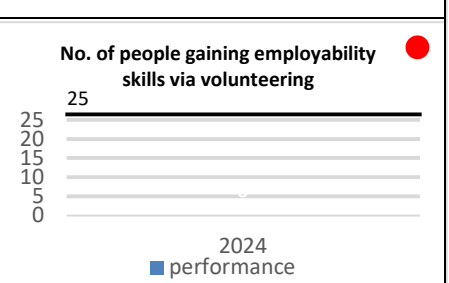












- Raising awareness of support available to reduce energy bills and the number of households in fuel poverty
- Continue with the cash first crisis fund and look to evaluate the overall impact of all cash-first interventions being provided in the City
- Supporting all households presenting as homeless to complete financial assessments
- Further our use of data to be able to identify and make direct contact, and where possible, auto award, for other benefits to ensure all are receiving their benefit entitlement.
- Coordinating efforts across money advice services to extend community based financial assessment support and meet increasing demand
- Improved communication and awareness raising of the breadth of support available from Community Planning partners
- Supporting young parents and people from ethnic minorities gain employment by co-designing supports to help them
- Continue to test an alternative and better-supported application process for healthcare applications, to support people to gain health and social care jobs
- Enabling new volunteering opportunities to support people to gain employment skills
- Supporting people into sustained, good quality employment, with a particular focus on people on universal credit within the priority localities, particularly Northfield and Tillydrone/Seaton/St Machar and aged between 30-49.

Prosperous People: Children

Our Stretch Outcomes

What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO3 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026	**89.8%** of children assessed at their 27-30 month review met their developmental milestones in 2022/23 up from 87.4% (21/22), however down from 91.8% in 16/17. **67.4%** of eligible children assessed in 2022/23, down from 78% (21/22) and 84.8% in 16/17.
SO4 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026.	**70%** of children and young people in 2023/24 reported feeling listened to all of the time, up from **68%** in 2022/23 and **64%** in 21/22.
SO5 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.	**10%** reduction in the gap between the % of care experienced young people (81.3%) and all young people (90.1%) achieving a positive and sustained destination in 22/23. **13.9%** increase in % of experienced young people achieved a positive and sustained destination in 22/23 (81.3), up from 67.4% in 2021/22 and 73.9% in 16/17.
SO6 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 and 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026.	**2.1% decrease** in % of Young People from Quintile 1 achieving a sustained positive destination (82.9% in 22/23 compared to 85% in 21/22 and 84.5 in 2016/17) **5% decrease** in % of Young People from Quintile 2 achieving a sustained positive destination (83.6% in 22/23 compared to 88.6% in 21/22 and 87.9% in 2016/17).
SO7 83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026.	**40% decrease** in number of young people being charged with an offence (590 in 22/23 compared to 985 in 15/16, however an 8% increase since 21/22 (546 to 590).
SO8 100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination by 2026.	**4.4% increase** in number of children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities experiencing a positive destination (89.4% in 2023/24 compared to 85% in 17/18). However a 2.2% decrease since 22/23 (91.6%)

To read a full overview of the work of the Children's Services Board read the Children's Services Board annual report 2024/25: Children's Services Plan Annual Report 2024/25

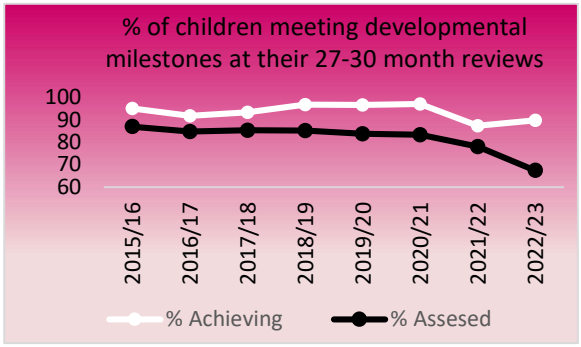
Progress made during 2024/25

Supporting children to get the best start in life

STRETCH OUTCOME 3 PROGRESSING WITH 89.8% of 27-30 month old children assessed meeting their developmental milestones.

Ensuring children get the best start in life is a key driver in improving their overall outcomes across the course of their lives. Developmental milestones for children aged 27 to 30 months are critical indicators of their progress in areas such as communication, physical development, social skills, and cognitive abilities.

Latest data available at the end of 2024/25 shows that 89.8% of children assessed in Aberdeen met their developmental milestones in 2022/23, up from 87.4% in 2021/22 and 7.7% higher than the national figure (82.1%).



However, there is room to improve. Data shows that there has been a 10.6% decrease in the percentage of eligible children who received an assessment, down from 78% in 2021/22 to 67.4% in 2022/23. Ensuring all eligible children receive an assessment continues to be an area of focus for Community Planning Aberdeen.

We know that some families, particularly within our priority neighbourhoods, face challenges that reduce their children's ability to reach these milestones. As a result, we have focused on provided targeted support and early intervention focusing on helping families with children under five to maximise income, have access to infant formula through a cash first approach, and access to dental health and parenting support where required, to ensure all children have the opportunity to thrive.

Introducing a cash first approach to accessing infant formula

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

100% of referrals to the infant feeding in a crisis pathway have received support

Cost of living pressures for families have exacerbated food insecurity difficulties, with many unable to afford infant formula. We are focused on supporting families with infants to ensure that they have the appropriate nutrition to meet their developmental needs. Through our Access to Emergency Infant Formula project we have introduced a new infant feeding in a crisis pathway that delivers a 'cash first approach' and supports the family with money for infant formula, as well as support to maximise income.

The project has made significant progress in the development of this pathway, supporting 100% of referrals since September 2023 with 58 vouchers issued to 41 families, and 11 families receiving repeat support. All families have also received follow-up contact from the CFine SAFE team, with 35 families offered financial screening appointments, and additional support with food access, energy grants, and child-related items. The financial gain from the support provided to date is estimated to be around £15,000 per year. All families were also offered access to emergency

food, a food pantry application, and support with energy-related costs. Positive feedback from participants highlighted the benefits of the vouchers and additional services provided.

The vouchers were a massive help to our family since our daughter requires the anti-reflux formula. This is about 133% of the price of an already expensive one. Monthly this adds up quickly. This has allowed us to prepare for winter, an expensive time generally. The other services such as the safe team and pantry have been a great help also. The pantry really helps us maintain cooking healthy meals without forking out an arm and a leg. The safe team have guided us through almost our first year financially which without, we would be struggling a lot more." **Local father who Received help from SAFE, Infant Formula Pathway vouchers twice and attends the pantry on a regular basis.**

"You give me £60 voucher for formula, and I also received pantry food, thank you, it has really helped". **Local mum who received lots of help with various issues relating to their baby.**

The full impact and evaluation of the pathway so far can be viewed in the project end report.

Helping families claim the benefits they are entitled to

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

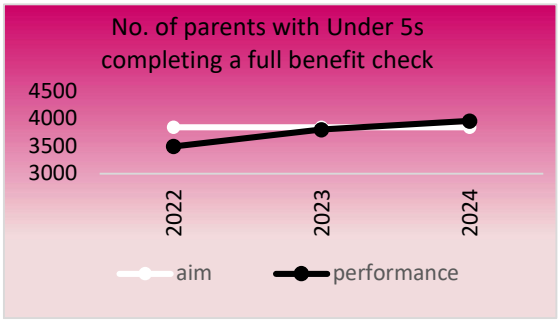
13% increase in parents with under 5s completing a full benefit check

3% over the original aim.

The challenges created by the Cost of Living crisis create a greater risk of families falling into poverty. Around 50% of households experiencing poverty have dependent children driving children and young people to be a key consideration as we work to combat poverty. Maximising income for families, where possible, is vital and supports the early years of children and to enable them to reach developmental milestones.

Our Early Years Financial Inclusion Pathway project has developed a financial inclusion pathway which enables Health Visitors and practitioners, to refer parents with children under 5 either for support to complete a benefit check, or where appropriate they self serve and complete the benefit check online.

There has been positive impact with a 13% increase in the number of benefit checks (3493 in 2022 to 3956 in 2024) and £762,992.08 in 2024 in financial gains, a 27.3% increase since 2023 (£600,667.29)



As well as the new referral pathway, we have also taken a targeted approach using a new data system, as we have done with our income maximisation project detailed above. With funding secured from the Scottish Government secured the development of a "Low Income Family Tracker". The tracker brings together indicators of poverty from multiple data sources held by the Council, the Department for Works Pension and other publicly available data. This has enabled us to identify households most in need, allowing for targeted support and effective resource prioritisation. Since 1 November 2024, targeted communications have been initiated with 86 families affected by the benefit cap, of which 51% (44) had a child under 5 years old. These efforts involve engaging households through various channels, offering specific discretionary housing payments to mitigate income losses caused by the benefit cap, and working towards long-term financial improvements to achieve exemptions from the cap.

Full details of the work can be found in the project end report.

Early identification and support for families at risk

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

87% decrease in number of children meeting threshold for social work intervention

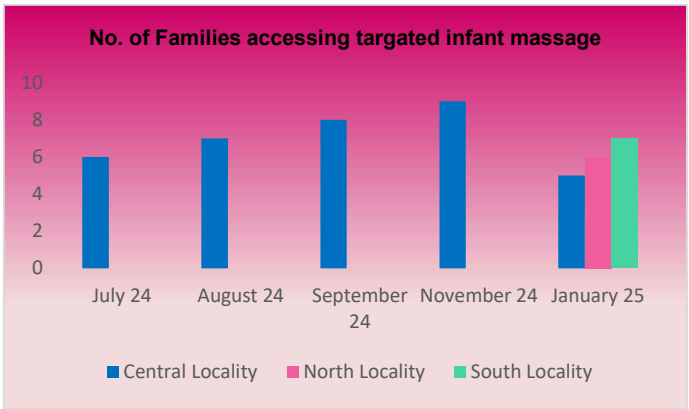
82% over the original aim.

Our 2024 data shows that we are getting better at identifying the early signs neglect among 0-4 year olds associated with Parental Mental Health/Addiction/Domestic Abuse. There has been an increase in referrals for support for families identified by health visitors and family nurses in 2024 in the categories of neglect associated with Mental Health (44%), Substance misuse (71%) and domestic abuse (49%). The increased number of referrals from 2022 to 2023 could indicate that professionals are getting better at early identification of the risks of neglect and support can be implemented.

Whilst referrals have increased, there has been an 87.2% reduction in children who met the threshold for social work intervention in 2024 (5 compared to 39 in 2022), this would indicate that our early identification and provision of support is being impactful.

We have introduced new specific supports to support parents. One initiative has been to deliver infant massage sessions in a group to families with babies aged 3-9 months, targeted specifically where there is domestic abuse, alcohol/ substance misuse or family mental health issues.

Starting in the Central Locality, our community nursery held regular blocks of targeted infant massage for families. This has been delivered to 35 families with positive feedback. Following completion of these sessions, families are keen to move on to another group and are being referred to Peep programmes. The benefits of infant massage are widely recognised therefore, this was rolled out across the city in January 2025. Overall between July 2024 and January 2025, 48 families have been supported.



Feedback from parents following the first block of infant massage included "***we were able to ask questions which reduced anxiety***", "***we met other families experiencing similar issues***". Ongoing feedback from families continues to be positive with families reporting they "**feel better connected to their baby**" and families are building relationships with other families and participating in community activities.

Increasing our programmes of support to families

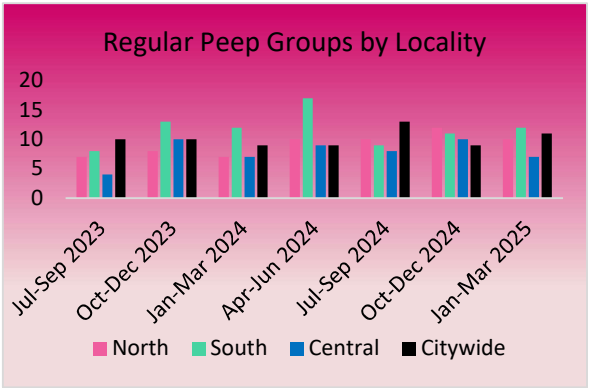
Peep is a research based adult learning programme that supports families with children 0-5 years. The demand for Parents as Early Educators Programme services is more than the team had capacity to meet with 103 under 5s currently on the waiting list as at 2023. In response, our Parents as Early Educators Programme project has focused on expanding our offer of the Programme across the city.

To support this we have adopted a multi-agency approach to support and train staff and capacity build, which has included:

- Pairing up partners/services that have similar goals to deliver Peep (i.e. family learning with libraries, ChildSmile/health with nurseries)

- Providing Early Learning and Childcare trained practitioners a term of co-delivery of a group with a Peep team member and/or with a trained practitioner to deliver the Healthier Families pilot.
- Developing a tiered training criteria for Peep delivery, including provision of funded training spaces to mitigate barriers.
- Developing a local Peep Practitioner network

As a result, there has been a 20% increase in the number of multi agency partners delivering PEEP sessions (30 in 2023 to 36 in 2025). Increasing the delivery team has led to a 35.8% increase in the number of families that have benefited from Peep (from 265 in Jan-Mar 2024 to 360 in Jan-Mar 2025). A total of 208 PEEP Sessions have been delivered over 2024. We have provided a number of regular Peep groups throughout our locality areas to ensure people can access the support in their community.

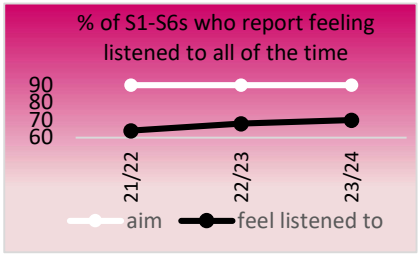


There were 106 responses to our annual Peep survey. Overall, the feedback has been positive. 83.8% of the parents said that their confidence to support their child's learning and development has improved since attending Peep and 63.2% feel their relationship with their child has gotten better. Asked what Peep could do differently, respondents suggested having longer and more sessions available to families.

Developing interventions to support children's mental health

6% INCREASE in young people reporting that they feel listened to all the time.

Improving the mental health and wellbeing of our children and young people is a key priority. Feedback from our annual surveys with school pupils has shown a 6% increase in the number of young people who feel that they are listened to all of the time up from 64% in 2021/22 to 70% in 2023/24, showing progress towards our overall stretch outcome. However, we know we have more to do to improve the mental health of our children and young people. Our projects during 2024/25 have focused on improving children and young people's confidence and feeling safe in their community.



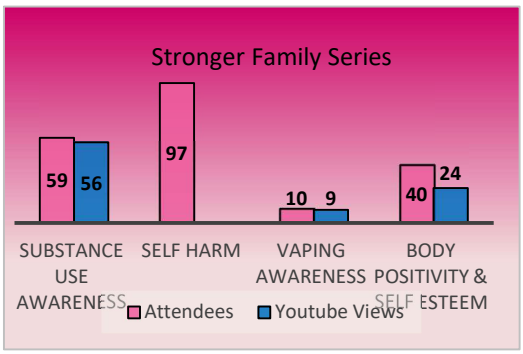
Improving Confidence and Finding Support

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

10% increase in % of S1-S6 pupils reporting that they always or often feel confident

Central to improving young people's mental health is to ensure that they can be confident, with well developed self-esteem and emotional resilience. Our improving confidence in Children and Young People project is working to do just this. With the introduction of new training programmes for key practitioners, helping them to better understand how to recognise and connect with children and young people who may be experiencing issues such as domestic abuse at home or undertaking self-harming behaviours.

The project has also worked with young people to feel more confident in engaging with adults who can help them. One initiative has been development and delivery of a number of stronger families sessions with parents and their children on topics such as self-harm. 206 families have participated and with positive feedback stating that the sessions are having a positive influence, supporting teachers and parents to better connect with their children and young people.

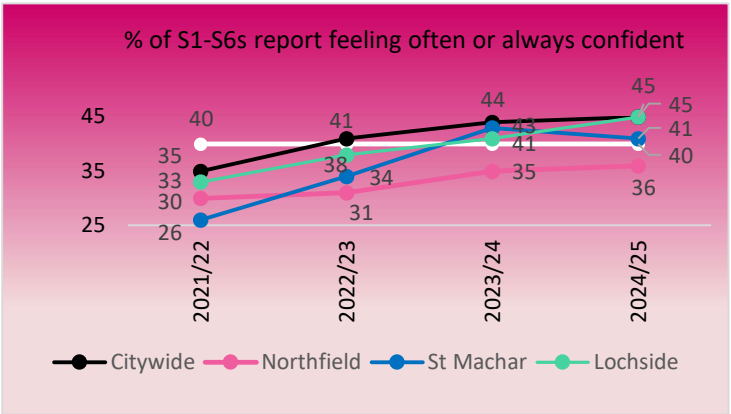


Feedback on the project's pupil and parent support sessions has been very positive:

"All of the information was very valuable. The discussion around the self-harm cycle was particularly helpful and the review of the home portal."

"My daughter has been seen at CAMHS for 8 years and has self-harmed from a very young age. This is the biggest help we have been given with this particular issue, thank you very much"

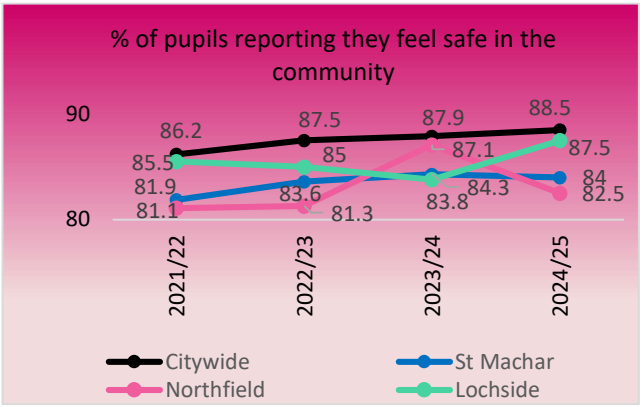
There have also been promising improvements with a 10% increase in the number of S1-S6 pupils reporting that they always or often feel confident from 35% in academic year 2021/22 to 45% in 2024/25. Although lower, this same trend in increasing confidence can be seen among pupils in our priority neighbourhood Academies. The biggest increase being in St. Machar Academy from 26% in 2021/22 to 41% in 2024/25.



Helping Young People Feel Safe in Their Community

Feeling safe in their community is a right for all children and young people and is crucial for their mental health. If a child or young person feels unsafe this could impact on their physical and mental health. They may become isolated and fearful of leaving home, they will be less inclined to make use of green spaces, parks and other amenities in their neighbourhoods.

Since 2021/22 there has been a 2.3% increase in the number of pupils reporting that they often or always feel safe from 86.27% in 2021/22 to 88.5% in 2024/25. This same trend from the baseline period in 2021/22 has also been noted in the Associated School Groups that serve our priority neighbourhoods (as can be seen in the chart below), but the extent to which young people feel safe in those areas is notably lower. Whilst the % for Northfield remains higher than 2021/22, in 2024/25 there has been a 4.6% decrease in % of pupils reporting they feel safe from 87.1% in 2023/24 to 82.5% in 2024/25.



Through our Children and Young People Feeling Safe project, we are providing targeted support to young people in the Lochside community. We have been testing a pilot programme of local youth

activity through our school community hubs in Torry. The aim is to support young people to feel safe in their community and improve their overall mental wellbeing. Youth workers have started a group for pupils who use the community wing after school. There has been a notable increase in the percentage of young people reporting they feel safe in Lochside between 2023/24 at 8.43% to 87.5% in 2024/25. Further work will continue to support young people in other communities such as Northfield. Throughout 2024, attendance at youth activities led by the youth work team was 792.

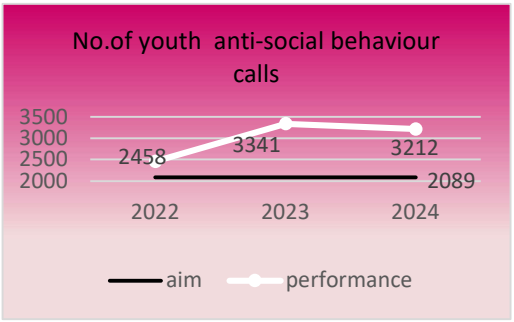
Reducing youth anti social behaviour calls

The work of the young people feeling safe project is also supporting on our Youth Anti-Social Behaviour project. This has included providing an increased presence of youth engagement officers and community safety officers in Lochside and the city centre, as well as conducting a number of school visits across autumn/winter 2024.

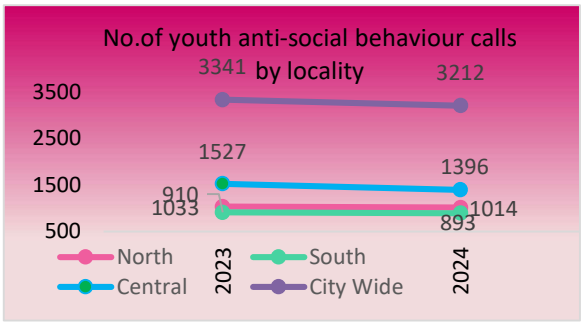
Youth Engagement Police Officers and Community Safety Police Officers worked in partnership to plan and implement an 8 week program across October to December 2024 of scheduled attendance in the vicinity of City Secondary Schools around the lunchtime hours with the intention of reducing youth anti-social behaviour and providing community reassurance.

These visits were met with great interest and a positive response from members of the public when conducted in the vicinity of Dyce Academy and area of Asda, Old Machar Academy and the area of Asda, Bridge of Don in the Greenbrae area and Hazlehead Academy and the passageway from the school towards Tesco on the Lang Stracht which included the Hazlehead multi story blocks and Woodend Hospital grounds.

To support increasing the capacity for delivery of activities for young people in outdoor spaces in the city centre the Youth Work team co-ordinated 3 Street Work training sessions for partners involved in the city centre group. Partners included Barnardos, Foyer and Denis Law Trust. Youth Workers and partners have been engaging with young people in the city centre since Easter 2024. As part of this, four Streetwork sessions were carried out in October 2024 during the holidays which culminated in young people taking part in a “giant cube” team-building activity on the rooftop of St Nicholas Centre. 26 young people engaged with the session.



As well as the city centre the project also supports a number of Steetsports activities in communities such as Garthdee and Middlefield in partnership with the Dennis Law Trust, to engage young people in their community and attract them away from anti-social behaviour. We are beginning to see the positive impact of the initiatives above with a 5% reduction in youth anti social behaviour calls from 3470 in 2023 to 3303 in 2024.

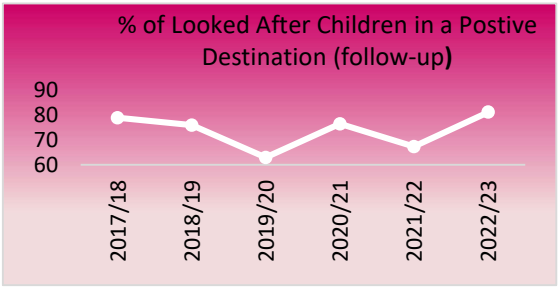


Improving outcomes for care experienced young people

STRETCH OUTCOME 5 PROGRESSING WITH 81.3% of Looked After Children in a positive and sustained destination.

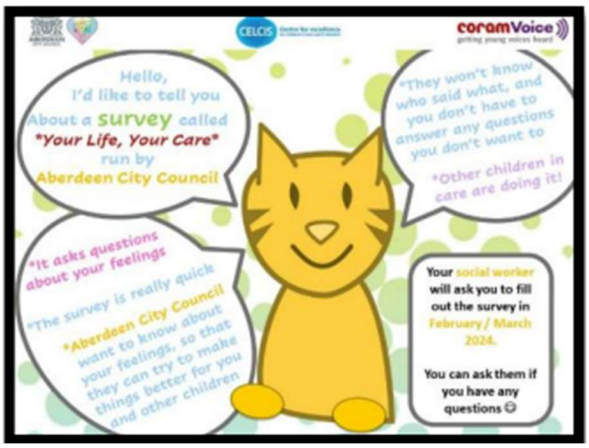
Central to the work of the Children's Services Board is delivery of The Promise. The Children's Services Board reviewed progress in delivering Plan 21-24 in October 2024. The Keeping the Promise Year 3 Evaluation highlighted that good progress is being made in a number of areas but that there is more to do. This position is reflected nationally.

There are some positive indications that our support for Care Experienced Children and Young People is beginning to have an impact with a 10% reduction in the gap between the percentage of care experienced young people (81.3%) and all young people (90.1%) achieving a positive and sustained destination in 2022/23 compared to 2016/17 (74% Care Experienced Children and Young People and 92.8 for all Aberdeen school leavers). This was a year on year increase of 13.9% from 67.4% in 2021/22.



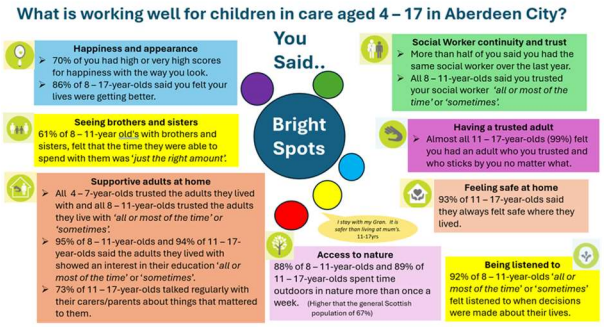
However, there remain gaps in the outcomes of care experienced young people and those who are not and our projects under Stretch Outcome 5 continue to focus on supporting care experienced young people to have a positive experience into, through and out of care.

Looked after Children's views shaping our improvements



This year our Bright Spots survey developed in partnership with Centre of Excellence for Looked After Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS) and Corum Voice, captured the voices of care experienced young people through the 'Your Life Your Care' survey. 345, 4–17-year-old Care Experienced Children and Young people and 227, 16-26 year shared their view. A full reports on feedback can be found here: Your Life Your Care (4-17yrs) and Your Life Beyond Care (16-25yrs)

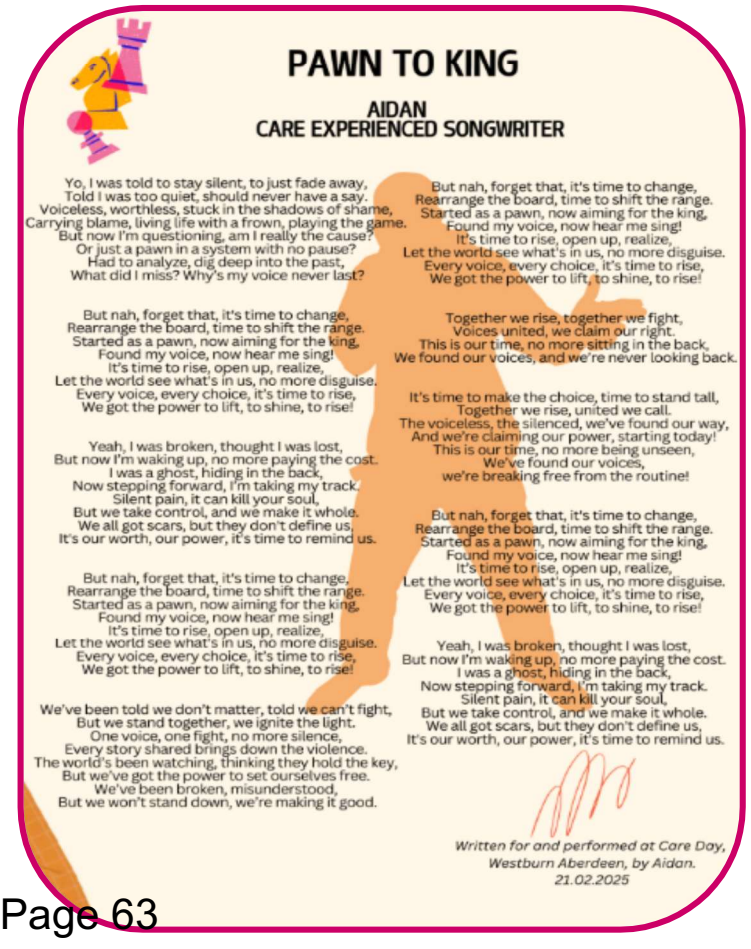
The feedback is invaluable, below are some of the highlights of what is both working well and could be better. Key areas of focus for coming next year include consideration of how to positively respond to the feedback provided



Young people aged 16 – 26, what is working well, what could be better?

Bright Spots – A care experienced young person's interpretation

Using the data revealed from the survey, Aiden transformed these insights into a powerful and accessible performance, making the voices and stories behind the statistics resonate on a deeply personal level. It's an invitation to listen, reflect, and understand the real impact of these experiences https://youtu.be/z-BbyE-ZosI?si=PxvLKnOo9szVZ1Cx



Supporting Care Experienced Young Parents

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

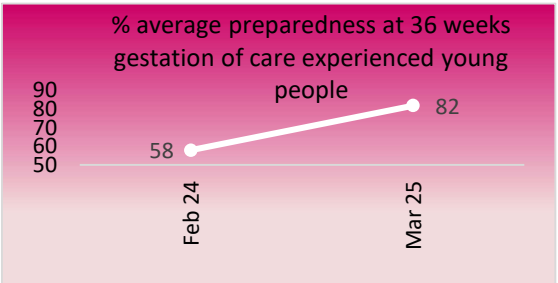
24% increase in the number of care experienced young parents feeling prepared for parenthood at 36 weeks gestation

2% over original aim

Whilst many young people will find it hard to be a confident first time parent. It is particularly difficult for our cohorts of Care Experienced Young People, who may have had quite traumatic experiences in their own childhood and have less direct family support networks.

Our Supporting Care Experienced Young Parents project is aiming to ensure that care experienced young people, as early as possible in their pregnancy, have support for both them and their unborn child, and are testing the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) Programme.

The Programme is currently supporting 24 under 19 year old care experiened parents and 13, 20-25 year olds. The project provides tailored support for each young person involved in the programme, assessing their confidence throughout and adapting the offer as support progresses. This can range from supporting healthy eating and behaviours for both parent and baby, referral to mental services as well as ongoing advice.



The participant feedback survey completed by the 17 care experienced parents who have finished the programme reported at 36 weeks gestation feeling prepared for parenthood. A signifiucant increase from Feb 2024 -March 2025 by 24% from 58% to 82%. Since November 2024, 100% of the babies of the parents partipating have met their developmental milestones.

Supporting Children and Young People Leaving Care

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

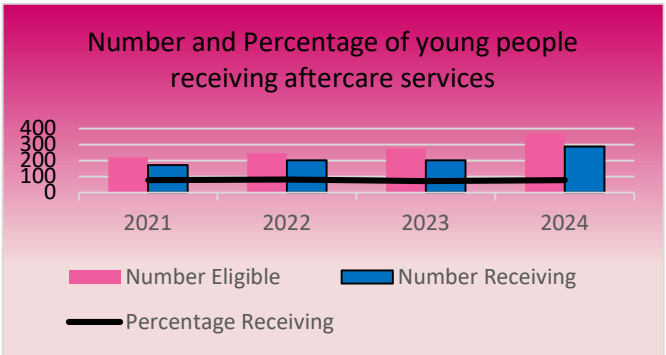
68% increase in the number of care experienced young people receiving throughcare/aftercare support

58% over the original aim

For those leaving care we are working to improve and expand our multi-agency and integrated approaches so that young people receive appropriate and effective throughcare and aftercare when they leave.

Our Improving Throughcare and Aftercare project has introduced a series of changes to our system including for instance: providing more targeted support to help Care Experienced Young People get into education, employment and training; improved welfare asessment training; and working with foster carers to help them better understand their roles in supporting a Looked after Child's transition from Care.

We have seen positive impact of the changes with a 68% increase in the number of eligible young people receiving aftercare (171 in 2021 to 288 in 2024), with 78% of eligible young people receiving support in 2024.



As part of the project, ABZ Works have developed a range of initiatives to help remove barriers and provide support and opportunities to help Care experienced young people feel confident and ready for education, training or employment. In 2024, 74 care experienced young people were supported, a 15% increase from 2023 (63) and 43% from 2022 (42). Opportunities included paid work experience programmes with guaranteed interviews for those who complete, aligned to sectors where we know there are skills shortage. More details on the project can be found in our Project End Report.

Reduction in looked after children

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

5.1% reduction in the number of looked after children.

There are multiple reasons why children are accommodated out with parental care. This includes: structural inequality, poverty, poor social housing, homelessness; parental experience of childhood trauma and difficulty accessing universal services.

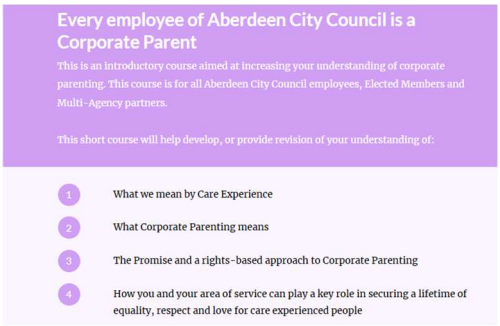
The Promise (2021) stresses the need for effective multi-agency intensive family support to ensure children and young people remain in the care of their family where it is safe for them to be so. Through our entering care project we are committed to putting in place the support to enable this. The number of looked after children in Aberdeen City has been incrementally reducing. As of November 2024 there were 443 looked after children in Aberdeen City. However, in 2023 the service included the 38 young people that were in continuing care in the data. Young people in continuing care are not looked after. This means there was actually 467 children in 2023 and a 5.1% decrease in 2024.

To support families, the project have have tested evaluated the processes and guidance (GIRFEC) in relation to the provision of multi-agency support for kinship placements that are showing signs of vulnerability; accessed therapeutic support for carers and children at points of enhanced vulnerability in the placement; piloted a test of change to deliver holistic family support to parents with addiction needs to increase their capacity to meet the needs of their children in a manner that protects their wellbeing; and Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) since February 2025.

Despite the data showing an overall positive downward trend since November 2023, it is worth noting that a contributory factor has been a 16% decrease in the number of children looked after at home and with friends and family (68 children September 2023 compared to 57 in November 2024. The reduction in the number of children looked after at home mirrors a national trend and reflects Local Authorities moving to embed the Promise (2021) and the move to a prevention and early intervention service delivery model locally and the partnership jointly commissioning services for children and families at Tier 2.

Corporate Parenting Training

In addition to developing interventions to improve children and young people's experience of care, it is one of the key roles of our partnership's delivery of The Promise to ensure that our staff better understand what it means to be a corporate parent. In particular understanding the key role that they play in a Looked After Childs experience of care and the responsibility placed on services to provide many of the supports and functions that might otherwise be provided by a loving family.



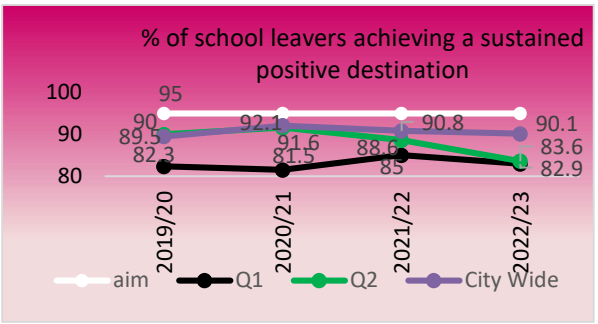
Through our Corporate Parent Training project we are continuing to increase the number of staff and services we train. This year we have developed an online Corporate Parenting Training module for all multi-agency staff. The training has been developed using the latest resources and content from the Promise and has also involved co-development from care exerienced young people. 52% of the 7745 staff identified as having a role in supporting those that are care experienced have now been trained with an ongoing steady month on month increase.

Focusing on young people in our priority neighbourhoods

STRETCH OUTCOME 6
82.9% Positive Destinations in SIMD1
&
83.6% Positive Destinations in SIMD2

Increasing the number of young people who go on to education, employment or training when they leave school remains a key priority for our partnership. Citywide positive and sustained destinations have shown a decline since 2020/21, from 92.1% in 2020/21 to 90.1% in 2022/23, 2.7% lower than the % for Scotland. The data also shows that young people from our priority neighbourhoods, are still much less likely to go onto a positive destination.

Latest data on the cohort of young people that left school in academic year 2022/23 shows that the sustained positive destinations for children in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 have decreased by 2.1% (85%-82.1%) and 5% for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2 (88.6%-83.6%) since 2021/22. Indicating that there is still further work to be done to meet our stretch Outcome to increase positive destinations for this cohort. Extensive work continues to expand and improve our curricular offer across the city to address this.



Improving Our Curricular Offer

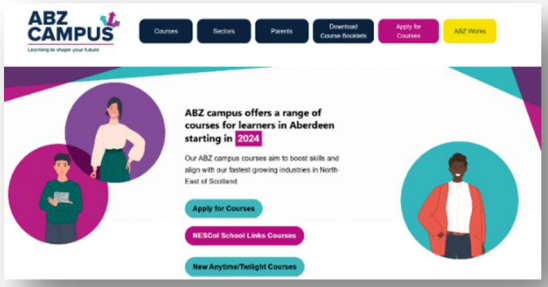
Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

125% increase in rate of completion of National Progression Awards/Foundation Apprenticeships/ Higher National Certificate courses available to young people

115% over the project's original aim.

One of the ways we are seeking to improve positive destinations is through our ABZ Campus project, which has been helping up us to achieve significant improvement to the number of young people completing National Progression Awards, Foundation Apprenticeships and Higher National Certificate courses across the city.

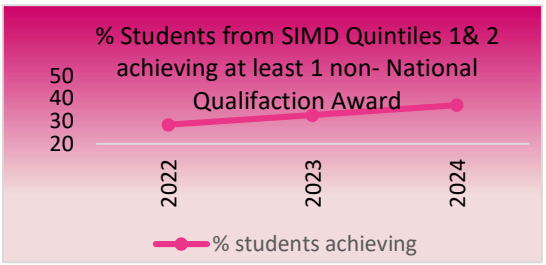
ABZ Campus offers equitable access to a citywide curriculum for all pupils regardless of their school. Enabling delivery of different courses and improving links with/delivering courses through other providers such as North East Scotland College. The project has also introduced Pathway Advocates in each of Aberdeen's 11 Secondary Schools to provide bespoke and tailored interventions as well as intensive regular career and curricular support, increasing attendance and developing positive relationships for our more vulnerable young people.



During 2023/24 the Pathway Advocates tracked and supported 248 vulnerable young people, of these 202 (81%) were care experienced. The number of young people supported in each of the 11 schools has differed according to identified need with the number supported ranging from 9 to 57 per school 10 young people are enrolled in an Employability Course as part of ABZ Campus with a further 6 young people benefiting from a pilot programme for young people with additional support needs. 93% (25) of the 27 young people who have been closed to the Pathways Advocate support programme, have moved into a positive destination.

The project has far surpassed its aim of 10% with a:

- 125% increase in completion rates of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework/National Progression Awards (2265 2023/24, compared to 1005 in 2021/22
- 20% increase in the completion of Foundation Apprenticeships (127 - 156 students in 2023/24)
- an increase from 0 Higher National Certificates in 2021/22 to 12 in 2022/23 and 9 in 2023/24



You can read more about the ABZ Campus in this Project End Report

Increasing the Uptake of Digital and Technology Courses

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

20% increase in the number of young people completing courses aligned to digital and tech sector.

As part of expanding our curricular offer we are also aiming to increase the number of young people completing Digital and Technology courses in the city. Digital and Tech is a key growth sector for the North East and an essential part of the transition away from oil and gas, as the economy diversifies.

Through our digital and tech project we have introduced new National Participation Award's at Level 5 and 6 in Games Design, Esports at Level 4 &5 in St. Machar Academy and adding National Progression Awards Cyber Security to ABZ Campus.

In 2023/2024, 1128 young people completed such courses, an increase of 19.75%. Of the three new digital NPA courses, data for 2023/24 showed:

- Esports - that across Level 4 to 6, 16 young people completed the Esports course with a 100% pass.
- Games Design, 18 young people completed level 6 with a 100% pass rate, with 54 at level 5 and a 85.19% pass rate and 15 at level 4, with a 66.67% rate.
- Cybersecurity - 79 young people completed level 4 and 5 Cybersecurity, with a 65.52% pass rate for level 4 and 24% for level 5.

Integrated Healthcare Courses

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

107% increase in the number of young people undertaking Integrated Healthcare Courses

14% over the original aim

A key sector which offers opportunities for young people to achieve employment is in Healthcare. Our Integrated Healthcare Courses project, through the development and promotion of expanded opportunities to undertake healthcare courses has helped 112 young people complete such courses, a 107% increase from 54 in 2022/23.

This can be attributed to the development and promotion of the availability of and career progressions associated with healthcare professions. Delivered in partnership with health colleagues, Nescol and through ABZ Campus to allow wide access. There has been an increase in enrolments of 33% for Academic Year 2024-25 compared to last year.

The integrated Health and Social Care course at SCQF 4 is now well established, and to respond to student needs, the project is also offering an integrated route to support those who are English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Increasing co-delivery of education and health services

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

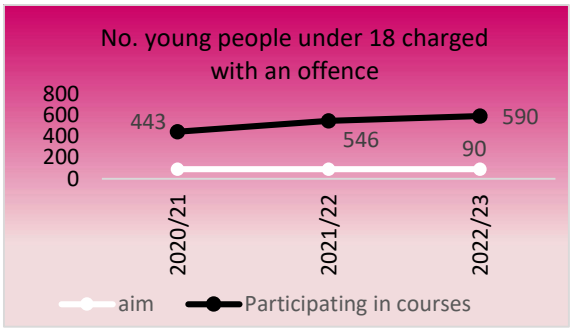
3 co-located and delivered services by health and education.

National and local research identified that those living in areas of deprivation have been most impacted by the pandemic and that their wellbeing has been most adversely affected. Following the success of the Links Hubs, partnership integration and delivery model, it was agreed to establish other co-located/co-delivery models was agreed as a priority to support children and young people, regardless of their circumstances, to achieve the same health and education outcomes as their peers.

Our Co-delivery project has raised awareness and promoted opportunities for co-location and supported and enabled others to progress and sharing learning. As a result there are now 3 co-located and delivered services by health and education. .At the start of the project there was 1 Co-located service at the Links Hub where a Health Visitor is based two days per week. The second service (around attendance) has seen health and education colleagues collaborate at Manor Park School (our second collaboration). In addition, the project team has worked to ensure successful planning for the successful integration of a Children's Social Work team at Kaimhill School (our fourth collaboration/co-location).

Considerable work continues to be undertaken to establish a new integrated service, our Bairns Hoose, on the Links Early learning and Childcare site. Building work is currently underway and the new integrated provision should be operational by the end of 2025. The opening of this provision will see colleagues from NHSG, Police Scotland, the Third Sector and Courts all co-located to support families who have experienced, or perpetrated harm. At this point, (late 2025) there will be 4 co-located operational services.

Keeping children and young people safe and preventing crime



Our partnership has been taking a coordinated approach to supporting groups of young people who have committed or are at risk of committing crime. Taking preventative approaches to reducing youth anti-social behaviour, as described above, in our communities and providing wrap around supports for those coming into or leaving the justice system to give them the best opportunities to improve their outcomes. Latest data on Strech Outcome 7 indicates that there has been a slight increase in the number of under 18s charged with an offence from 546 in 2021/22 to 590 in 2022/23, however remains a 40% reduction since the baseline period. Our work continues and we have had a number of successes in supporting this cohort through our improvement projects.

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

95% of 16/17 year olds appearing in court received a Community Needs Assessment

5% over its original aim

Latest data is showing improvement. As of January 2025 95% of 16 and 17 year olds have been supported by the court pre disposal team to ensure a full assessment of their needs can be effectively communicated in court to help ensure a supportive outcome.

The number of Care Experienced Young People charged per month on average has reduced from 7.39 in 2022 to 5 in 2025, and the number of Young People on Compulsory Supervision Order charged fell from 3.4 on average each month in 2022 to less than 1 in 2025. This indicates a sustainable reduction in the number of care experienced young people coming into conflict with the law, linked to increased trauma training and improved communication between services.

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

39% reduction in the average number of Care Experienced Young People Cautioned and Charged

19% over its original aim

Reducing Young People Going Missing From Our Children's Homes

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

87% reduction in number of Looked After Children missing from children's homes

72% over its original aim

Care experienced young people going missing from Children's Homes has been a key concern for the professionals who support them. Looked After Children are much more likely to be vulnerable to risk in the community.

To address this we established our Missing Looked After Children project which has had significant success, by changing the way in which Police, Social Workers from the children's homes and the young people themselves communicate through the development of the 'Not at Home' policy.

The 'Not at Home' policy normalises a young person's lifestyle and ensures that despite their care experienced status, their absence from a children's home is managed more in a similar way to that of a non-care experienced young person. The introduction of this policy has seen the number of reported missing care experienced young people drop from 39 in 2022 to less than 5 in 2024. Looked after young people themselves report that it was often much better for them as they would not have the feeling of being "hunted" by the Police. You can find more detail in the Project End Report

Supporting young people with additional support needs/disability access education and opportunities post school

89% of young people with Additional Support Needs/ Disabilities experiencing a positive destination

Since 2019/20 there has been an increase per year in the number of school leavers with Additional Support Needs/Disability. Children and young people who have Additional Support Needs or Disabilities can often struggle to remain in full time education for a range of reasons. Not only that, on leaving school there are a number of barriers that they are likely to experience in progress into a positive destination.

Community Planning Aberdeen are committed to ensuring that the barriers are addressed and that young people with additional support needs/ disabilities attend school and have the support, skills and connections they need to transition into and sustain positive destinations. Latest data shows there has been a 4% increase in the number of young people with Additional Support Needs/Disabilities who have experienced a positive destination (89% in 2023/24 from 85% in 2019/20) and a 2.2% decrease from 2022/23 (91.6%).

Through our positive destination and school attendance projects, we are testing a range of initiatives to achieve this. One example is piloting the use of CIRCLE (Child Inclusion Research into Curriculum Learning Education). This supports staff to better understand the various strategies that can be undertaken to provide individualised support for pupils. This has been piloted in the Aberdeen Grammar School, Harlaw Academy and Lochside Academy, with materials adapted to suit the individual schools in and a padlet developed to ensure access to key stages and information. This includes being able to quickly access strategies.

All three secondary schools have increased the percentage attendance for learners with a disability, all above the citywide attendance of 88.27% in 2022/23 and above the national average for all pupils at 90.2%

- Aberdeen Grammar School 2022/23 all pupils 91.92%, disability 97.69%, 2021/22 all pupils 92.14, pupils with a disability 96.05%
- Harlaw Academy all pupils 2022/23 88.68% pupils with a disability 90.92%, 2021/22 all pupils 89.58%, pupils with a disability 86.08%
- Lochside Academy 2022/23 all pupils 87.36%, pupils with a disability 91.67%, 2021/22 all pupils 87.29%, pupils with a disability 86.46%

This positive outcome is welcome and we hope that through expansion of this we will see a change to the city wide data which shows that the percentage attendance of pupils with Additional Support Needs/Disabilities has declined slightly from 2021/22 to 2022/23 from 89.36% for pupils with Additional Support Needs to 88.54% in 2022/23 and from 88.27% for pupils with a disability to 87.39%.

Increasing the number of young carers supported

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

20% increase in the number of registered young carers supported

Young carers are one of our the biggest single groups of children in need. Though there is much support available for young carers in Aberdeen, identifying and referring Young Carers to that support can be difficult, many do not realise they are carers. Our Young Carers project has focused on increasing the number of young carers identified and supported across the city. Since early last year the project has had continuing success, having increased the number of young carers accessing support by 20% from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024.

Of those whose address was recorded, data shows there has been increases in the number of young carers supported in two of the localities 53% (21) in North and 75% (23) in South; as well as a 23% increase in Priority Neighbourhoods. There has been decrease in the number supported in the central locality of 20%. The project also saw a moderate increase in the number of black, asian and

minority ethnic Young Carers from 16 in June 2023 to 23 December 2024. However, we recognise we need to do more and further work is ongoing to work with agencies such as Grampian Regional Equalities Council and Touch of Love to support identifying where these young people may be young carers.

The increase has been driven by a number of improvement activities including our targeted promotion and providing the "Think Young Carer Toolkit" training to all schools, external organisations including Health services, Education services, Police Scotland, and numerous Third Sector agencies (15 directly and connecting with others through Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations and the Third Sector Forum). You can read more about the work in our detailed project end report.

Our Young Carers have been proactively involved in recruiting other young carers into the programme working in partnership with Station House Media Unit, in 2024 producing their Young Warriors Video published during Carers week highlighting the struggles and the experiences of our very own young carers in Aberdeen.

Supporting Families Awaiting a Diagnosis for Autism

There remains limited support available for children and families with or awaiting diagnosis of autism and the waiting times between referral and diagnosis are significant (averaging 12 months). Outcomes for children deteriorate if they or their families do not receive timely and ongoing support through the child development stages.

Our Neurodivergent Pathways project has been looking to address this by testing a pilot in Woodside Primary School. The pilot supported 10 (42%) of children and families of the 17 that were referred, providing multiagency support for families awaiting an autism diagnosis, looking at various strategies and supports. This has included helping school staff to adapt their learning environments and working with health colleagues to ensure accelerated referral and diagnosis as well as providing extensive support to families in the interim.

In addition to the ongoing support, times between referral to and receiving of supports were significantly reduced. For instance with consent for the first assessment averaging 11.5 days, for a first clinical assessment at 13.5 days and parents receiving feedback within 6 weeks. Considerably shorter timeframes that the average of 12 months from referral to diagnosis You can read more about the work in our detailed project end report.

What Impact have we had?

The project has received incredibly positive feedback from the parents involved:

"Just finally getting the support for our son, which was all we ever wanted, that's the main thing, like, obviously the diagnosis helps because you can't often get supported without a diagnosis, but that wasn't the thing for us, it was getting the support and educating ourselves and being kind of able to help them."

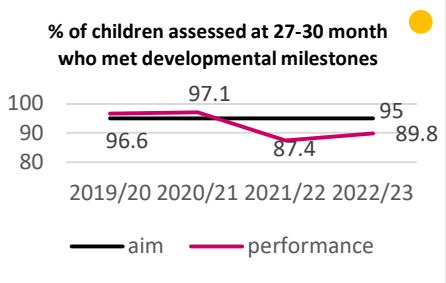
"We feel definitely feel like we have more tools and more information now than we ever have, and that is all down to the Test of Change"

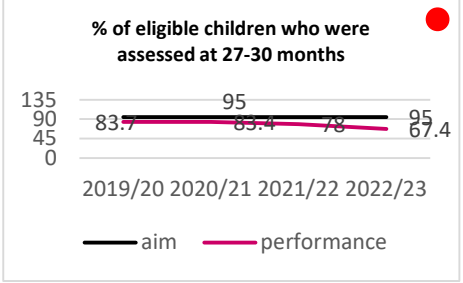
What impact have we had?

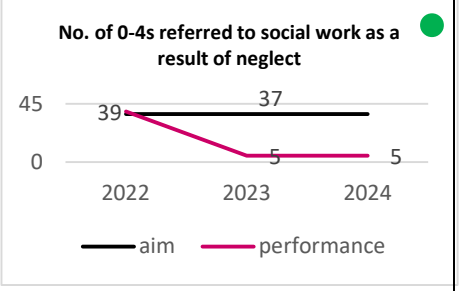
24/25/26 improvement aim — Performance

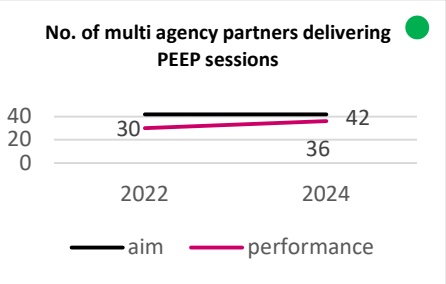
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

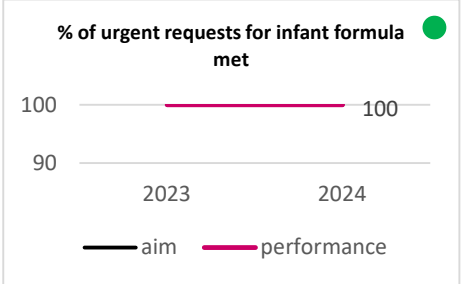
Children have the best start in life

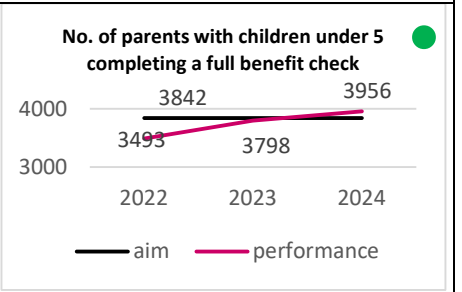


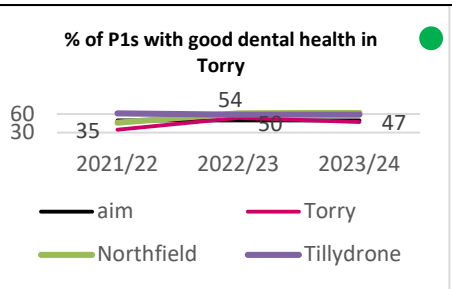




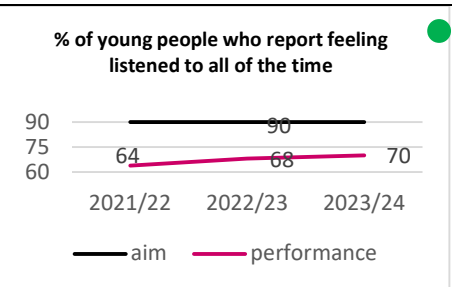


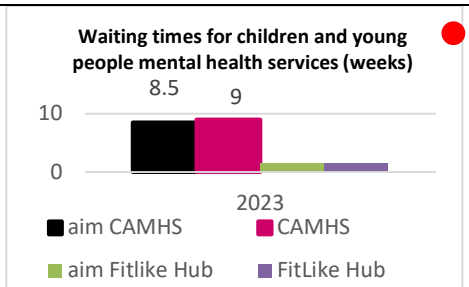


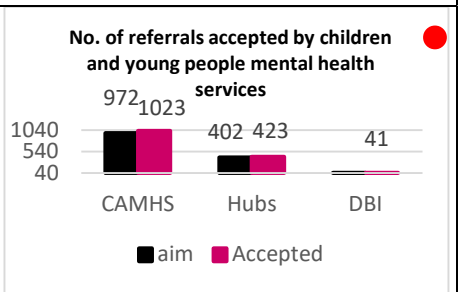


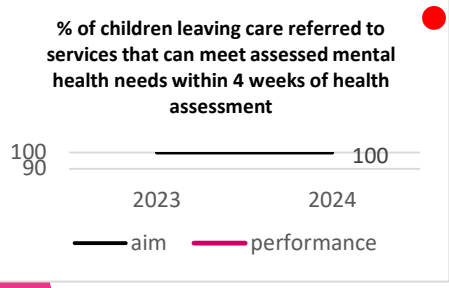


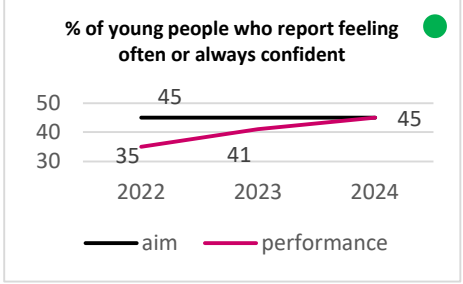
Children are listened to

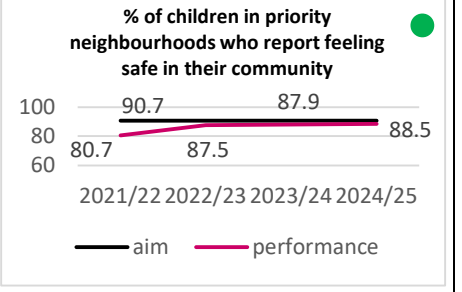




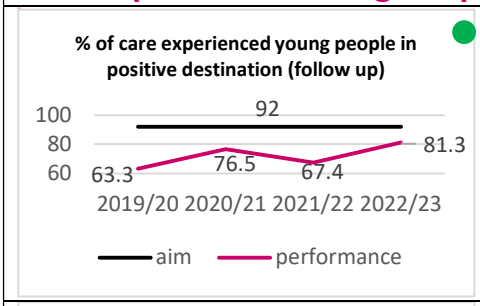


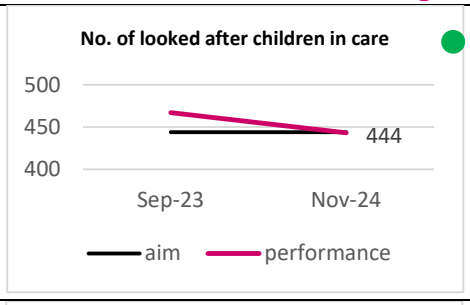


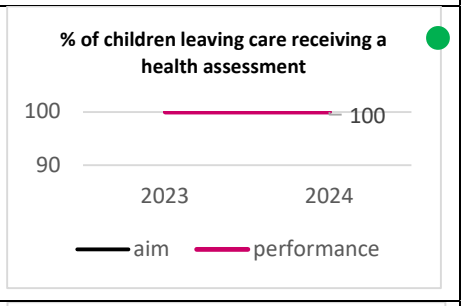


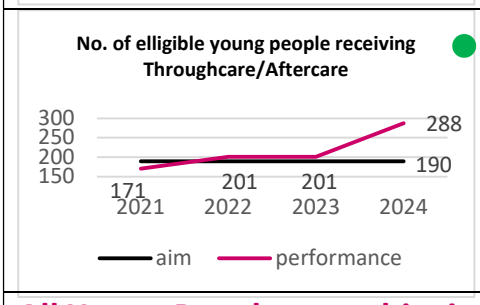


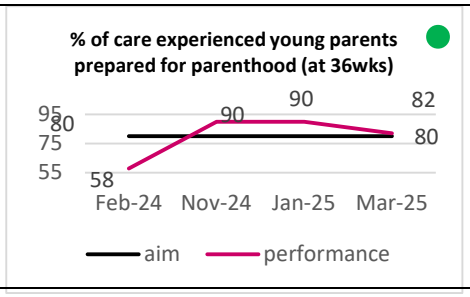
Care Experienced Young People are included and achieving

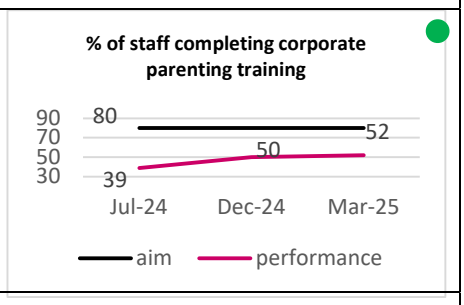




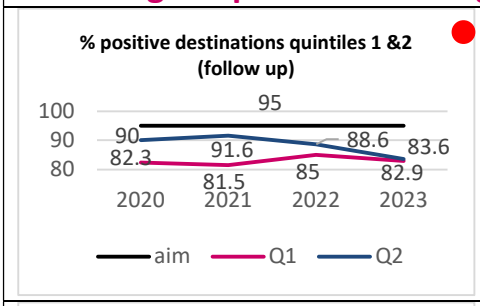


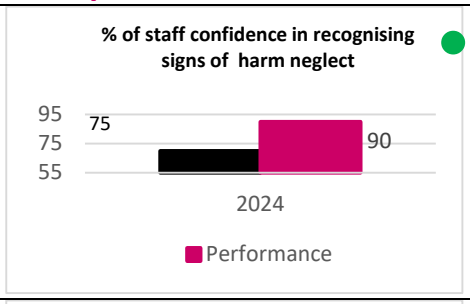


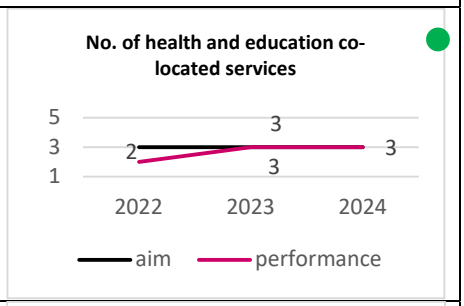


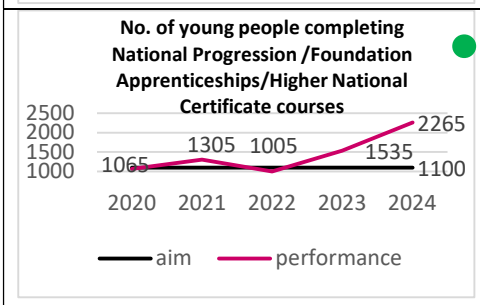


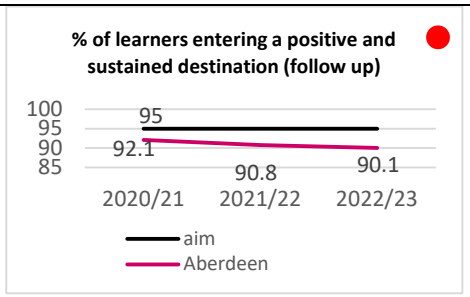
All Young People are achieving their potential

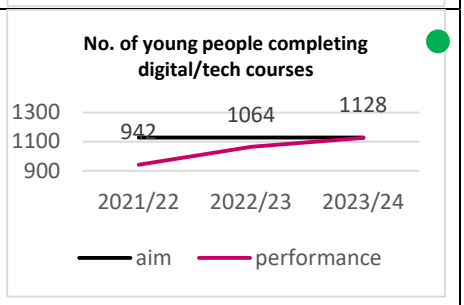


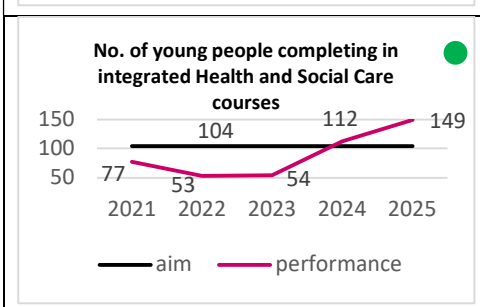




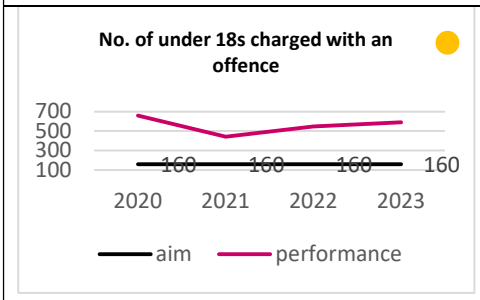


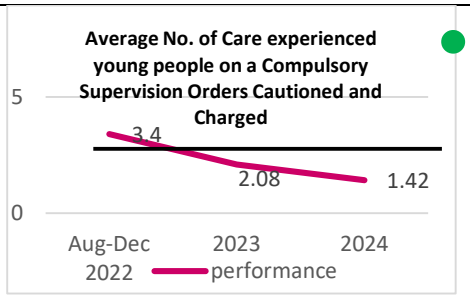


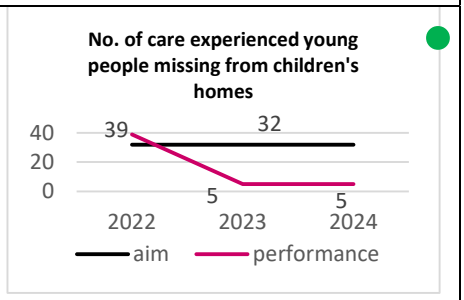


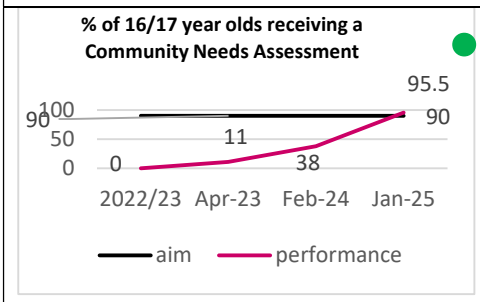


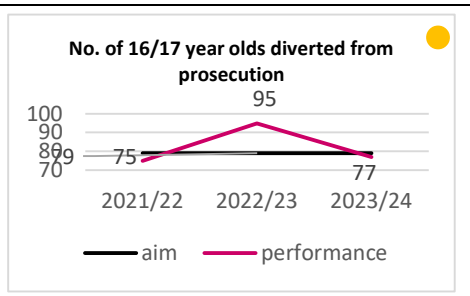
Children are Safe and Involved

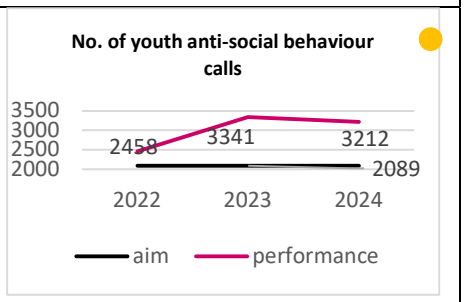




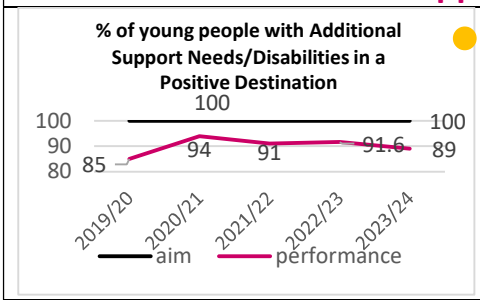


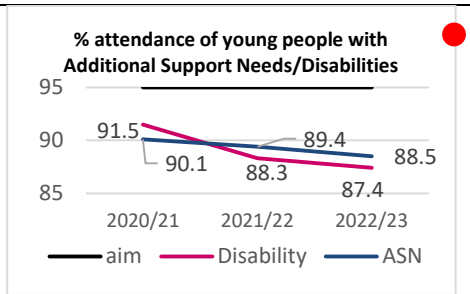


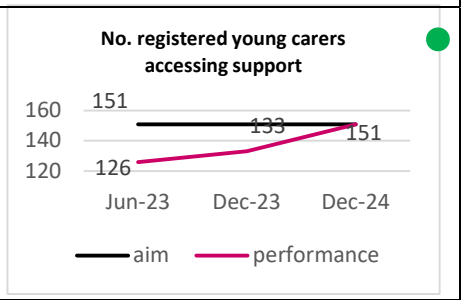


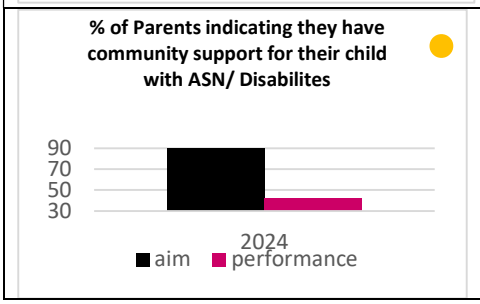


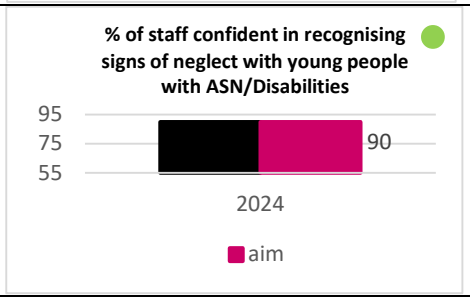
Children with additional support needs/disabilities

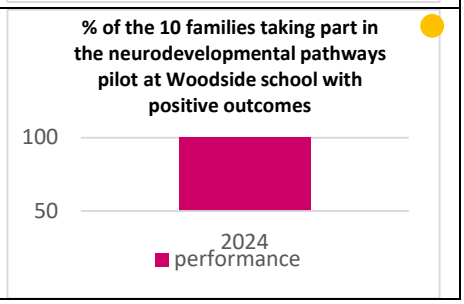












Improvement Priorities for 2025/26

Our improvement projects will continue to drive improvements for our children, young people and families, here are some of the key priorities for 2025/26:

- Taking a whole system approach to healthy weight and healthy lifestyle interventions through our Healthy Weight Aberdeen Programme
- Try to better understand why more children are presenting at hospital due to asthma in Aberdeen
- Look carefully at what more can be done to prevent suicide and access to mental health support for children and young people
- We will expand the reach of our Whole Family Approach to support more children, young people and parents through the development of our local Family Support Model as part of the Fairer Futures Partnership with the Scottish Government.
- Spread the use of Infant Feeding in a crisis pathway across more the partnership agencies to ensure that regardless of touchpoint that people across Aberdeen City who need this support can be directly referred and use the Pathway.
- Extending supports to the parents and families of Looked After Children to help them to remain home with their family
- Provide increased opportunities to identify and support Care Experienced Young Parents.
- Focus on improving the attendance and attainment of our pupils from our priority neighbourhoods, care experienced young people and young people with disabilities/additional support needs to give them the best possible chance of achieving education, employment or training once they leave.
- Expand the pilot approach to increasing attendance with health colleagues.
- Roll out Phase 3 of ABZ Campus (Session 2025-26) providing an expanded offer for young people as well as linking with other Local Authorities to share our learning.
- Continue to expand the reach of our digital and tech curricular programmes to provide more and more opportunities for young people to achieve qualifications in this field. We are also planning to open an outreach tech space for pupils call ONE Tech Hub in Schoolhill.
- Our readiness for the implementation of the Children's (Care & Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 will continue to have a strong focus.
- Addressing variation and improving transitions between child and adult services: whilst significant changes have been made to support children transitioning from care, there is still work to be done to support those young people transitioning from child to adult social care, such as those with additional support needs/disabilities. We will focus on helping making these transitions as effective and sustained as possible.
- Seek opportunities to expand our Neurodivergent Pathway to other primary schools
- Test the pilot positive destination project targeted at providing specific opportunities and support for young people with additional support needs/disabilities through ABZCampus & ABZWorks

Prosperous People: Adults

Our Stretch Outcomes

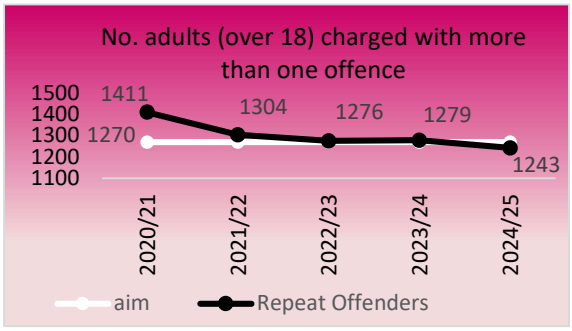
What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO9 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026	12% fewer adults were charged with more than one offence, from 1411 in 2020/21 to 1243 in 2024/25. This has declined since 2020 with exception of 2023 with no change from the previous year.
SO10 Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026. **70-73**	1.9 years increase in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) at birth for Males (60.2) from 2018-20, however 2.6 years lower than 2014-16. 0.1 years increase in estimated Healthy Life Expectancy at birth for Females (61.4) from 2018-20, however 4.9 lower than 2014-16.
SO11 Reduce the rate of both alcohol related deaths and drug related deaths by 10% by 2026.	In 2019-2023, the rate of drug related deaths was 23.7 – the same as in 2018-2022 and similar to the rate for Scotland of 23.6, however up from 17 since 2013-17. In 2019-2023, the rate of alcohol-specific deaths was 19.7 per 100,000 population – down from 20.3 in 2018-2022 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.5, however up from 18.7 in 2014-18.
SO12 Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City.	1763 homeless applications and 481 youth homeless applications in 2023/24, similar 2022/23 (1772 and 470). However, an 18% and 12.6% increase since baseline (2016/17).

Progress made during 2024/25

Reducing adults charged with more than one offence

STRETCH OUTCOME 9 ACHIEVED with 12% less people being **Charged** with more than one offence

We need to support people who have offended, to turn their behaviour around and become contributors to society. Through our projects we are supporting people in the justice system access housing, employability, and professional support, such as intervention and access to drug and alcohol support, to reduce repeat offending and a return to custody. We are seeing the impact of our interventions with data showing a 12% reduction in people charged with repeat offences from 1411 in 2020/21 to 1243 in 2024/25.



Supporting People to Make Progress on the Employability Pipeline

We have been continuing to work together to increase the number of people who are engaged with different areas of the Justice System being supported to make progress on the employability pipeline.

Using UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding, we provided three construction training courses to prisoners who will be released to Aberdeen, enabling participants to secure the Construction Skills Certification Scheme card which is required for all building site roles. We also funded a World Host Customer Service course. Through ABZWorks we continue to support HMP Grampian and Greene King to deliver activity through the training kitchen, which has continued to be popular and to secure positive results for participants. This activity was heavily featured in the BBC's Women In Prison documentary, particularly telling the story of one female inmate and her progress from prisoner to trainee, and into employment Jailed: Women in Prison

Through these routes, 67 people in HMP Grampian supported on the employability pipeline in 24/25.

Construction training: 56 city prisoners participated in construction industry training designed to enable them to achieve the Construction Skills Certification 'green' card which is a pre-requisite for working on a construction site. Of those, 5 disengaged from the course, 5 have been offered the opportunity to sit/re-sit the test in the community, 10 successfully passed the test and secured the certification in custody, eight will resit in the establishment, three moved to rehab, three were transferred out, two did not attend the test, one withdrew, one was released before being tried, and others continue working towards it. We do not have a note of employment outcomes at this time.

SVQ Level 1 in Professional Cookery Certification: 16 people started the course, 38% (6) completed, 5 (31%) failed and 5 (31%) are ongoing. 50% of the people (3) who completed the course were employed by Greene King.

Feedback from one individual was:

"I accepted without hesitation also overjoyed to be again given the opportunity to help others succeed. After completing the 10 weeks with the groups I learned so much more skills. There is a new group to start in Sept where I will continue to mentor. The groups I have been involved with were all keen an eager to learn. There is a sense to change their lives to break the chain of returning to crime and being brought back to custody this includes myself. I have already received a written confirmation of employment with Greene King which is an opportunity for me to succeed on my journey."

Ricky, Steven, Keiran and Kevin are graduating from the Greene King Training Academy today. Image: JASPERIMAGE

The past year has also seen ABZWorks provide a broad range of supplies to the prison to support the development of numeracy skills and broader skills among the prison population, via UK Shared Prosperity Fund Multiply monies. This includes craft materials. maths puzzle books, board games with a numeracy focus, fitness equipment, painting by numbers kits, and supplies for the creation of a "Liberation Station" set up by female inmates who are making soft toys and tote bags for prisoners on release from HMP Grampian, to help remove some of the stigma of leaving jail with a plastic bag full of belongings, while simultaneously building a range of employability skills.

No One Left Behind funding from Scottish Government has also been used to provide other skills-focused equipment and activities, including outdoor workwear (Personal Protective Equipment) and safety boots, gardening supplies, and kitchen supplies amongst other things.

ABZWorks has secured £30,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies from this year's People and Skills allocation for use in HMP Grampian and we are in talks with the prison meantime on how this could best be invested to deliver employability and skills activities for individuals who will be released to the city.

On 19 September 2024, the project team won the ‘achieving better outcomes for the most vulnerable’ category at the COSLA Excellence Awards.

Raising awareness of hate crimes and domestic abuse

Barriers to reporting crimes, especially hate crimes and domestic abuse, include lack of awareness, fear, isolation, and stigma. Our domestic abuse and hate crimes projects aim to increase reporting through awareness and changing attitudes so all people feel safe in our communities and that there is recognition that hate crime and domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility.

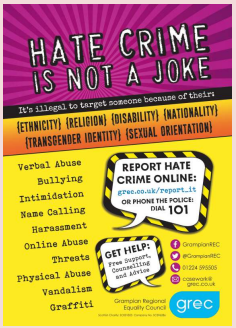
We are beginning to see the impact from our focus on public awareness and training with latest data showing increased reporting, with a 1% increase in reported domestic abuse incidents, 2,512 (2023/24) up from 2,488 in 2022-23.

Domestic Abuse

- **16 Days of Action:** On 25 November 2024 we held a Reclaim the Night march with around 100 people attending, to raise awareness of the links between gender equality, human rights and gender-based violence.
- **Training:** new online gender equality training launched
- **388** people completed training in 2024 (108 staff undertook Safe and Together training, 28 the Gender Equality module, 131 domestic abuse training, 36 women received Own My Life Training and 85 staff attended an event hosted by Grampian Women's Aid. This event significantly increased awareness and led to a rise in training registration
- **Safe Spaces:** We now have **2 registered safe spaces**, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Maritime Museum, where people can go for help, or simply to reflect and remember. Staff members have received in-depth specialist training around domestic abuse.

Hate Crime

- **Awareness Week:** we launched new local hate crime reporting promotional materials reflecting changes to legislation.
- **Training:** new training materials for Third-Party Reporting Centres and a training session was held in October 2024 with more than 20 people attending.
- **Reporting Centres:** There are now 9 listed reporting centres across the city and more that are not publicly disclosed.



Substance support for Justice system that identify to have concerns

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

100% of people identified with substance concerns in justice offered or accessing support.

Accessing support at the right time and in the right place can save lives and reduce harm and future re-offending. Through our justice substance project we are aiming for all individuals in the justice system with concerns about their substance use are receiving the support they need.

By implementing a new single system screening process in court social work, we have screened 603 individuals for substance support in 2024. Of these, 71% did not require support, whilst 29% did. Among those requiring support (29%) 88% had existing support already in place and 12% were referred to community-based support. Therefore 100% of

individuals screened and identifying to have concerns with their substance use were offered or accessing support. This screening process, initially tested on specific days, will now be conducted Monday to Friday due to its positive impact.

Ensuring support is available at point of identification of need has also been a key. Through our new pilot single pathway, people within supervised bail and diversion with substance use concerns, are offered an appointment with Alcohol and Drugs Action direct access service. Between May and December 2024, 33 appointments were given out. 64% were attended and 52% of attendees are now receiving ongoing support from Alcohol and Drugs Action.

Feedback has also been given by staff involved in this pathway and this has been captured below.

Staff have found that this helps to '**break barriers'** with service users able to discuss their substance use without fear of how this may further impact on their Justice involvement. '**Works well'** with younger people/first time offenders having allocated appointment times who may be less likely to attend 'drop' in appointments. Will stop potential escalation of offending/substance use at this early stage being linked in with support. Find worker at ADA '**easy to speak to'**

People with lived experience sharing their views and informing our improvements

People with lived experience, such as people who have spent time in prison or been the victim of a crime, have unique insight into what works and what doesn't in the justice system. This is vital to shaping and testing our improvements. However, we need to ensure that we had the systems and support in place to ensure all the all clear on the purpose and how their voice will be used.

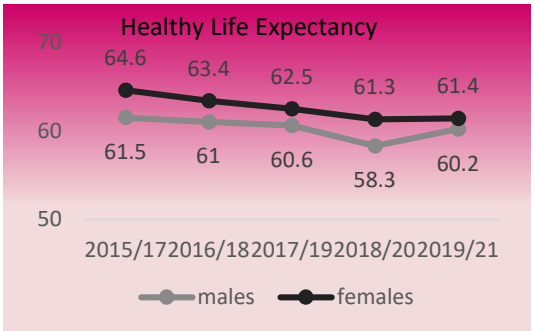
During 2024, the Health Determinants Research Collaboration has been working with Justice Social Work to conduct a lived experience project with aim of gaining an understanding of the following, with the findings to be used across the Stretch Outcome 9 improvement aims:

- how an individual's engagement with the Justice System has impacted on their experience of services (e.g. housing, health, employment, benefits, alcohol and drugs, police), as well as in the community.
- An individual's journey through the justice system - factors affecting an individual's decision to engage/discontinue; and identification of best practice from their perspective.
- the experience of staff working within the Justice system

As part of this, two justice social workers have received training and support on qualitative research. Following which they have been recruiting service users to participate in this project, with 5 service users having been interviewed (by end of March 2025) using a Topic Guide developed by the Team. Different methods of recording and transcribing have been tested by the team, with varying results. Accuracy is crucial and the learning from the different methods and costs will be shared in the evaluation report for other teams to learn from. Recruitment and interviews is ongoing until May 2025, and thereafter the analysis and write up of the findings of the project conducted with a final report available in August 2025.

Healthy life expectancy for all

Latest data available at the end of 2024, shows slight improvement in estimated healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth (2019-2021) with 60.2 years for Males up from 58.3 years in 2018-2020 and slightly lower than the figure for Scotland of 60.4 years. Whilst estimated healthy life expectancy at birth for Females was 61.4 years, similar to the figure for 2018-2020 of 61.3 years and the figure for Scotland of 61.1 years. Despite the improvement from the previous reporting period, it is recognised that further improvement is required with healthy life expectancy remaining below the baseline period.



Through our improvement projects we are committed to tackling health inequalities through both preventative and targeted approaches. We have focused on highlighting the impact of our individual behavioural decisions and providing specialist outreach and targeted services for particularly high-risk individuals but also addressing wider environmental factors such as reducing youth homelessness, supporting opportunities to be active and part of our communities and ensuring accessibility of services for all.

Increasing access to community based support for people living with chronic pain

Chronic pain can profoundly impact an individual's life, leading to physical limitations, emotional distress, and social isolation. In October 2024, 371 people in Aberdeen were on waiting lists for chronic pain services, with 18.5% from Northfield, Middlefield, Summerhill, Sheddockskely, Mastrick and Hilton areas.

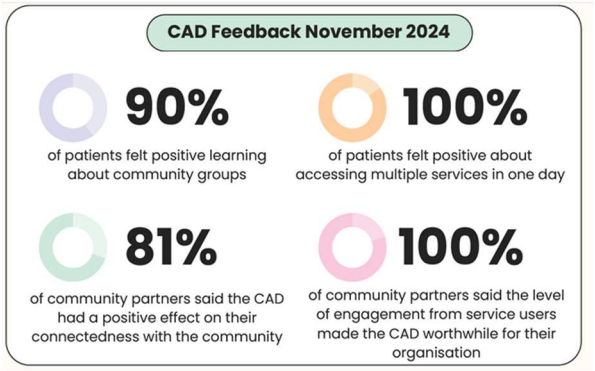
Through the Chronic Pain Management project**,** Community Planning Aberdeen are supporting community-based self-management and pathways initiatives to improve quality of life. A key new approach tested was co-designing Community Appointment Days (CAD), in equal partnerships with communities. Community Appointment Days:

- are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen
- promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions
- bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them.
- takes a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue.

Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to pilot the approach as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. A group of 32 service users, staff and third sector community partners took part in the BIG Conversation to start co-producing the Community Appointment Day. Everybody was equal.

Using the waiting list data, the first Community Appointment Days was held at Get active @ Northfield with 98 people taking part (49% (46) of these were patients from the Chronic Pain Management Service waiting list and 52 were walk-ins, along with 30 carers). The Day also featured 20 Community Partner Stalls introducing people to services, including pain-specific support, mental health, medication and recovery, benefits and employability, and more.

The approach has significantly improved access to support and resources for individuals living with chronic pain, contributing to better management of their condition and overall well-being. Following the first CAD, there has been a 36% increase in people living with chronic pain engaged in self-management initiatives (66 in Oct 2024 to 90 in Jan 2025) and a 300% increase in community services engaging in the chronic pain pathway.



Evaluation data showed:

- 8/10 patients felt that the Community Appointment Day either mostly or completely addressed what mattered most to them
- 94% of people felt a positive impact on their wellbeing from having fewer time-constraints
- 100% of people felt positive about accessing multiple services in one day
- 9/10 people felt positive about learning about community groups
- 9/10 people would recommend this event to friends or family
- 9/10 people felt the venue was easy to find and accessible

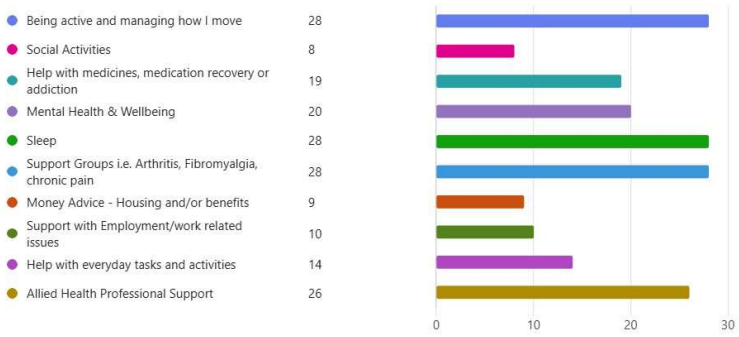
Feedback has been positive with participants stating:

> I feel really listened to and looking forward to continued input to developing the Community Appointment Day. Great to have an opportunity to talk to people in the same boat as me and find out what has helped them.

> Excellent opportunity to be involved from the start in a new way of working. This has given me hope.

The second Community Appointment Day was held at the Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub on 5 February 2025. 127 people attended, with 61 people pre-booking their place, and 66 walk ins. Evaluation data showed:

- 77% of pre-booked attendees were female, which is largely reflective of the chronic pain waiting list
- The median age of pre-booked attendees was 64 years, although attendees ranged between 24-83 years
- 86% of pre-booked attendees had no previous contact with the Chronic Pain team, highlighting the importance of taking an a preventative, population level approach
- 37% of pre-booked attendees learned about the Day via social media and 23% via their GP
- The chart below shows which support pre-booked attendees received at the Community Appointment Day



Supporting people in our priority neighbourhoods access support

Through our engagement, our communities expressed the importance of access to community health care and support services. We need to ensure that these services are available when required and in suitable settings. To support this, our uptake of cancer screening and support for women in pregnancy projects have focused on people in our priority neighbourhoods.

We have developed a comprehensive care pathway that ensures all pregnant women who smoke, have previously smoked, or have a high carbon monoxide reading are referred to a Health Point member of staff for health and wellbeing discussions. Pregnant women have to opt out of support after this conversation, with the outcomes fed back to the Midwifery team ensuring they can have supportive follow up conversations. The pathway launched on 17 March 2025 and as of 31 March 2025, 13 pregnant women have been referred.

Latest data shows a 0.8% reduction in women who smoked during pregnancy, lower than the rate for Scotland of 10.7% and the 2020-2022 rate of 10.4%. However, smoking during pregnancy is higher in least affluent areas (25%) compared to most affluent areas (2.8%). There has been a 1.4% and 1.6% reduction in % of women from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 areas who smoked during pregnancy between 2021-22 and 2021-23, compared to a 0.3% and 0.1% reduction in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 4 and 5 areas.

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

14% reduction in women from SIMD 1 and 2 reporting as consuming alcohol at antenatal booking.

9% over the original aim.

At antenatal appointment booking, we've also seen a:

- 33% reduction in the number of women from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 areas reporting as a current smoker (146 to 96 in 2023/24).
- 14% reduction in the number of number of women from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 areas reporting as consuming alcohol (22 to 19 in 2023).

However, we know that data on alcohol consumption in pregnancy is thought to be under reported, therefore actual levels could be much higher and we will continue to progress improvement activity in this area.

We have also worked with Grampian Regional Equality Council's existing community health champions and recruited 20 new Community Champions in Sunnybank, Old Aberdeen, Powis and or Froghall areas. These individuals are trusted voices in the community and have helped share information about increasing uptake of cancer screening and reducing smoking and alcohol use during pregnancy. By leveraging trusted community voices, we are testing how community voices increase awareness, influence behaviour change, and improve health outcomes related to these issues.

Through community engagement, new communication materials including 'postcard' resources and 3 posters tailored to address the barriers we know people from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 areas and ethnic minority groups are most likely to face have been produced to encourage uptake.

Enabling people over 50 to Stay Well, Stay Connected in their communities

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

169% increase in people engaged in Stay Well Stay Connected projects.

119% over the original aim.

We are committed to providing accessible opportunities for people aged over 50 to stay well and connected in their community. People have different interests and through our Stay Well Stay Connected project we are widening the choice of classes and activities to encourage people to participate. As a result 1,777 people aged 50+ are now regularly engaged in initiatives as of December 2024, a 169% increase from 660 people in December 2023.

We have tested a number of new community-based initiatives. These have included, a new monthly Soup and Sannies session at Cornhill Community Centre which aims to informally support mental wellbeing and expand the number of indoor activities for older people. 20 people have attended between January and March 2025.

We have also co-delivered a new women's health project through the Scottish Football Association's Power of Football programme at Pittodrie. Seven women completed the training programme, and 24 women have signed up to the programme waiting list for 2025. Two co-ordinators from the Health and Social Care Partnership and Aberdeen Football Community Trust are currently undergoing training to become accredited facilitators and are on track to be ready by March 2025. Feedback from women who completed the programme has been very positive.

Definitely feel more educated and equipped with techniques."

"I've enjoyed each week because I've learned something new each time and spent time with a lovely bunch of ladies."

67% increase in carers identified

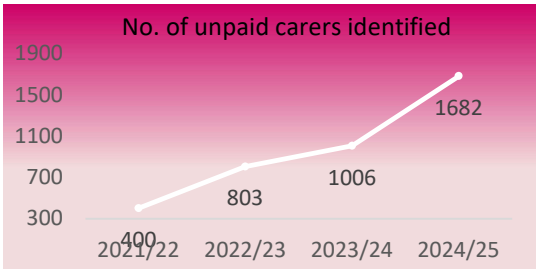
Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

67% increase carers being supported.

Community Planning Aberdeen recognises the critical role of unpaid carers and the need for early identification and support to improve the quality of life for both carers and those they care for.

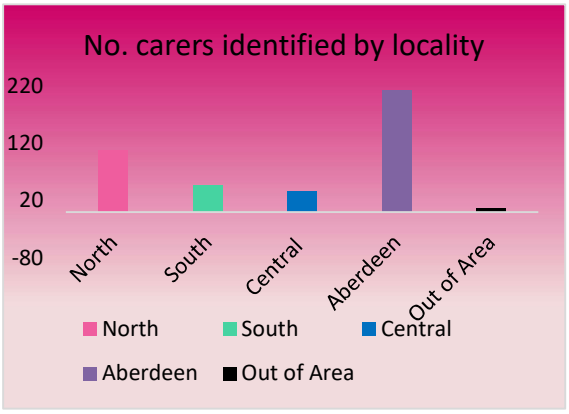
Through our increase the number of carers accessing support project we are testing a variety of referral pathways to identify new unpaid carers and ensuring that they receive the necessary support that helps them manage their responsibilities and maintain their own health and wellbeing.

The new referral pathways have included staff now being based within the following locations to identify unpaid adult carers earlier. Presence in these locations has meant that unpaid carers who do not know about the Adult Carers support Service, can seek help and support, face-to-face at a time and a place that meets their individual needs. As well as registering as a carer,



the team regularly signpost and refer unpaid carers to partners who can support them with other challenges they may be experiencing.

- Woodend Hospital at the Specialist Rehab Ward (9 referrals); Alzheimer Scotland Brain Health and Dementia Resource Centre Ward (11 referrals)
- the Wee Blether cafes now in 11 locations (some groups meet weekly, others fortnightly and some meet monthly). New groups being started in coming months



- Quarriers are now also attending the care management resource allocation panels enabling us to refer carers who are not yet supported for support, should they desire this.

As a result, there has been a significant increase in the number of referrals received by Quarriers over the last 12 months, 448 (April 2024- March 2025) compared to 409 in 2023/24 a 10% increase. Similarly there has been a 67% increase in the total number of unpaid carers identified (1006 in 2023/24 to 1682 in 2024/25.

Feedback from carers and staff has been very positive

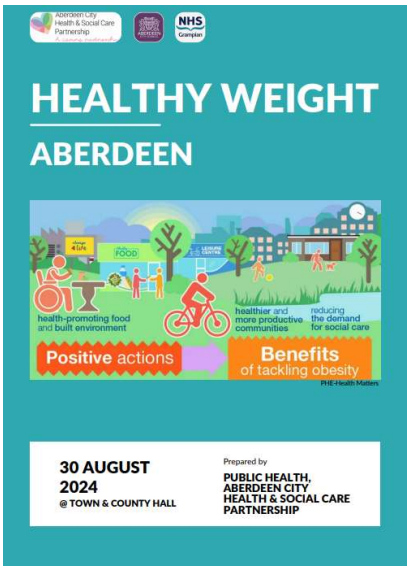
I had no idea there was support for unpaid carers, I had not heard about Quarriers, today has been helpful. I can speak to relatives when they visit and tell them about the support available.

I am so glad I got the opportunity to talk with you today and complete the registration form, I did not see myself as a carer. **(Vaccination Centre)**

I saw the notice in the coffee shop, my husband has had a stroke, I don't know how I am going to cope. Talking to you today has been a big help. **(Relative Woodend)**

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach

Currently, 1 in 5 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight, with higher rates in least affluent areas. Half of the pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and this continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the least affluent areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher rates of unhealthy weight compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of unhealthy weight highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.



In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, the Healthy Weight Aberdeen approach event was held. 111 people from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight and an opportunity

to consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest prospects for change. The event report is available at Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024 and visit | Aberdeen City HSCP for highlights. Following the event we have now established a Healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Promoting Healthy Life Choices

130%

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

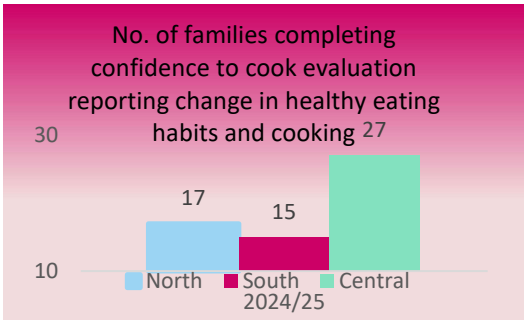
59 low income families in priority neighbourhoods supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support weight.

9 over the original aim

Through our Healthy Life Choices project we supported 59 adults of low-income families in priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024/25. Of the 59 adults supported 27 were from the Central locality, 15 South and 17 North. During this period, 205 young people were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices, 8 from North locality, 133 from South and 64 from Central.

Through the changes being tested we are providing effective weight management support and clear pathways for healthier living. Some of the changes are:

Confidence to Cook Programme



In 2024, the project has had a positive impact, by delivering tailored Confidence 2 Cook programmes targeted at a range of people and across our communities, for example Grey Hope, St, Fitticks, Touch of Love, Youth workers, Cairncry Adults Cooking with Confidence; CFINE, Seaton Community Centre, Hanover Community Centre, Barnardos Adult and Gray street allotment (Young Carers Integrated Food Programme-) and Family learning Classes. The programme focused on improving participants' confidence, life skills, and knowledge about healthy eating on a budget. As a result, 205 young people have been supported to improve cooking skills, meal planning, cooking healthy dishes and food safety knowledge. 59 adults have been supported.

Feedback from families has been very positive

> "I would just like to say how much the confidence to cook sessions that has attended has helped my child so much not just with skills which have come on so well but anxiety as well as confidence. He would never engaged in something like this but now willing to try. Thank you so much for all the support you have given these past months and hopefully will continue in the future."
> Lochside ASG Young person attending Confidence 2 Cook classes

To further support communities, a Food Champions Connect Event was held with 27 community members attending. The event promoted and raised awareness on available healthier choices in the community, Confidence 2 Cook classes and address barriers in accessing healthier choices.

A range of supports are required, and we have developed self-management support to enable people to access digital weight management services. Through the Digital Health Information Plus service, with Aberdeen City Libraries, we are connecting people with health information both online and in print. We offer 1-2-1 sessions, for in person support, in any of our community libraries, and can provide a device and wi-fi if needed. In 2024/25, 23 people from the Central locality have been offered 121 weight support.

Reaching out to people at risk and removing barriers to accessing alcohol supports

Alcohol and drugs are two of five lifestyle behavioural risk factors which contribute to the majority of chronic and non-communicable disease in our population. Latest data available at the end of 2024 shows that the rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths had reduced by 0.5 from 19.7 per 100,000 in 2019-23 compared to 20.3 in 2018-22. Although a reduction, this is an increase since the baseline (18.7) and we know that the effects of harmful drinking on individuals, their families and communities are wide-ranging, and we strive to sustain the reduction achieved and further this to achieve the Stretch Outcome by 2026.

Similarly, latest data has also shown that the 5 year average (2019-2023) drug related death rate for Aberdeen is 23.7 deaths per 100,000 population, the same as the rate for 2018-2022 and higher since 2017 baseline. Whilst we are seeing impact from some of improvement, we know we need to do more over the year ahead to save lives and achieve our Stretch Outcome.

Improving access to alcohol screening and support

In the City Voice in 2024 less than half of respondents (48.6%) correctly identified 14 units as the maximum recommended number of units with approximately a quarter (24.6%) saying they didn't know. This leaves nearly a third of respondents unclear as to the alcohol content of the drinks they consume.

The data shows that we need to do more and throughout 2024/25 we have focused on widening access to alcohol screening and support, including a promotional campaign and the development of a direct prompt on the screening quiz to offer access support immediately.

- 559 referrals to the Alcohol and Drugs Action alcohol service between 2022-2024, 159 in 2024 a 36% decrease since 2023. 30% of people supported in 2024 were from priority areas for AB16 (17), AB24 (22) and AB11 (9) a 44% decrease since 2023 (86 to 48). The decrease is disappointing and we will explore the reasons for this and what we need to do more to increase referrals to and engagement with alcohol support.
- Through the targeted social media campaign, subsequent levels of engagement with the 'Alcohol Aberdeen' online 'quiz' (AUDIT screening tool) increased. Between May and March 2025, 167 people have completed the 'quiz'41% (69) completed the during Alcohol Awareness week, demonstrating the effectiveness of having a campaign of paid advertising.
- 4 people have self referred to Alcohol and Drugs Action helpline between January 2025 and March 2025 from the new self-referral process direct from the quiz/screening online process
- The number of Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABI's) have increased by 12% from 2,704 in 2022/23 to 3,035 in 2023/24. Data for 2024/25 is not yet available. Over the last 2 years approximately 40% (2,249) of interventions were carried out by wider settings.
- In 2024/25, there was 21% decrease in people starting alcohol treatment (337 compared to 427 in 2023/24). 39% (133) were from a priority neighbourhood a 3%% decrease (133 compared to 179 in 2023/24). Similarly, there has been a 14% decrease in referrals for alcohol treatment (781 compared to 908 in 2023/24). 40% (314) were from a priority neighbourhood a 3% decrease from 2023/24 (393 compared to 314).

Reduction in the number of 13-15 year olds reporting having used cannabis, ketamine and 13-18 vaping

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

3.9% of 13-18 year olds reporting that they regularly vape. 1.3% reduction since 2023/24

Through our 13-15 year old substance projects we have tested a range of mechanisms which are prevention focused and aim to both raise awareness of the harm from substance use and vaping, but also provide support to stop using. A key area has been empowering young people to develop the material to ensure it has greatest chance of success.

Pupils from Lochside Academy have started to develop a substance use social media awareness campaign focussing awareness, informed choice, harm reduction and support. Aberdeen Youth Movement have also developed a vaping social media campaign. The feedback from those involved highlighted several areas of focus for the materials and identified some missing elements. They have pinpointed 6-10 key areas that could be added or improved.

As well as campaigns, we have tested new programmes for pupils and staff to increase awareness the harms from substances. Specially, the Absafe vaping workshop was held with primary 7 pupils in Countesswells to raise awareness of the safety risks of vaping. Feedback from staff and pupils was positive as below. The workshop will now be tested in other primary 7 classes.

> The P7 teacher and pupils found the workshop really beneficial. The workshop outcomes were age appropriate and engaging and built on prior knowledge the pupils had as well as extending their understanding. It was centred mostly around vapes and had a great balance between pupil active pupil involvement and information giving.

The Aberdeen City Health and Wellbeing Survey undertaken across all schools in November 2024, data shows that compared to November 2023, shows signs of positive impact, with a 34.5% decrease from 136 to 89 in the number of 13-15 year olds reporting that they have used cannabis. There has also been a 20.8% decrease in the number reporting they have used ketamine from 24 to 19 and 1.3% reduction in % of 13-18 year olds reporting that they regularly vape.

Reducing drug related deaths and increasing access to Naloxone

The Partnership through our fatal drug overdose projects are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. There has been a 23% decrease in suspected drug related deaths from 2023/24 (73) to 2024/25 (56), however a 12% increase since 2022/23 (49). 45% (25) of suspected drug related deaths over 2024/25 were from individuals living in priority neighbourhoods, this is 11% decrease since 2023/24 (28) and a 4% decrease since (2022/23).

During 2024/25, the project has focused on using a new data system to show drug deaths, non-fatal overdoses / ambulance call outs, Assertive Outreach referral reasons, weekly and by location so we can better identify locality based harms and trends.

Using the data, interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to naloxone, the life saving drug, to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need have been tested. This has included a new app and public access naloxone boxes. The public access naloxone boxes will be installed at four strategic sites.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond.
It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

As at the end of March 2025, 533 people have downloaded the app.

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. Morven Court in Torry hosted out first event. Also, for International Overdose Awareness Day, Aberdeen In Recovery, were in various locations across the city to raise awareness and to supply naloxone kits.

It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We welcome that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone and that from the 2024/25 school session all S4 pupils have been trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life. In addition, 88 staff were trained in naloxone in 2024.

Despite the above, there has been a 11% decrease in the total number of naloxone kits issued in Aberdeen from 2023/24 to 2024/25, (1,407 to 1,250). Of the 1,250 kits issued in 2024/25, 77% were issued to Persons at Risk, a 2% reduction from 2023/24. In 2024/25, 12% of kits were supplied due to the previous kit being used, this a 7% increase from 2022/23. From 2022/23 to 2023/24 we saw an increase in supply in Central (12%) and South (7%) Localities, with a slight decrease of 2% in North. However in 2024/25 we saw a slight decrease of 5% (23) in Central, and 27% (51) decrease in South, however a 3% (5) increase in North.

Since January 2024, 33 services have issued Naloxone kits, with 88% of kits issued being supplied from specialist substance misuse services and 3rd Sector/Peer Support Organisations. We know we need to do more. Naloxone is one of many interventions we are testing to reduce drug related deaths. Our projects are also focusing on targeting interventions and providing support at the various settings where people are attending and needing support. We are seeing the impact of this approach, with Crisis Response service showing a 7% increase in referrals from 646 to 692 (Dec to Nov 2024) and a 2% increase in individuals supported (485 to 495 Dec to Nov 2024). In addition, 48 people received the *'Sharp Response'* mobile service, this is in addition to the fixed site need exchange sites. With 93% of needles issued returned for safe disposal.

Reaching out to people at risk and removing barriers to accessing supports

There are many barriers to people engaging with drug services and we know that a range of interventions and approaches based in the heart of our communities are required to ensure people, particularly in our priority neighbourhoods, have access to the support they need and that any potential harm is reduced. Through a range of outreach interventions we are aiming support people access the support they need.

Assertive Outreach (AO) is a crucial approach for engaging individuals who are at high risk of substance use harm. The approach provides targeted support to those most at risk, helping to reduce harm by enhancing their existing support or accessing appropriate drug and alcohol services to meet their needs. Through our Assertive Outreach project, we have focused on the outcomes of people engaged with service and aiming to increasing the number of people closed who are no longer classed at risk. We have seen a 15% increase in the percentage of people closed from Assertive Outreach no longer considered at risk, with 71% (404) of people closed no longer considered at risk, compared to 56% (291) in 2023/24. This is same, 71% when looking at people closed from priority neighbourhoods in 2024/25.

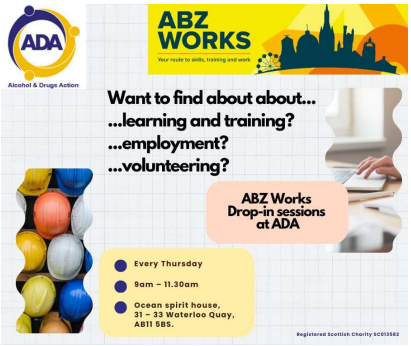
The project have introduced:

- Individualised Approach/ Shared Safety and Care Plans
- Tailored multi-agency interventions and outreach efforts, and
- Process for responding to patterns and risk factors associated with fatal overdoses to enable individuals referred to be supported in their community

As well as positive outcomes for people referred, we've also seen a 10% increase in the number of referrals to Assertive Outreach have from 523 in 2023/24 to 573 in 2024/25. This is the highest they've been since April 2021 and shows that the referral pathways and awareness across our partners is impactful. In 2024/25, 54% of Assertive Outreach referrals were from priority neighbourhoods, this is a 8% increase from 46 % in 2023/24.

Empowering Recovery

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

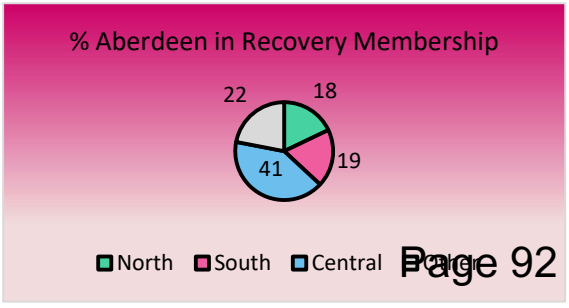


One of the initiatives we have piloted is the co-design of an employability pathway with ABZWorks which aims to support people in recovery into employment through support provided by employability keyworker. When people are work-ready, a paid work experience placement with ongoing employability keyworker is provided. Weekly employability drop-ins at Waterloo Quay started on 6 June 2024, and as at 30 March 2025, 22 individuals (12 males and 10 females) have been referred and 45% (10) are have either moved into employment or training/work placement/volunteering. Read the impact of the pathway on Rob below:

Hi my names Rob, I struggled with alcohol addiction due to mental health issues which have played a massive part on most of my life but with help I'm receiving from the people below will explain why I am in a much better place now than I've ever been before….the journey that I've been involved with over the last 2-years has been life changing in many aspects. I was seeking help and got in touch with ADA (Alcohol & Drugs Action) whom have helped me through tough times and still are today. My Counselling and help from the organisation has helped me adapt and adjust to becoming a better and more productive person than I've ever been and a lot of the credit has to go towards my one to one Counselling sessions with a chap called Finlay who has given me the mental strength to believe in myself again.

Finlay also put me in touch with Kevin at ABZ WORKS whom provided me with dynamic options as regards to connections with getting help back into work related situations such as Skills Development Scotland for help with CV's/ available courses/ job searches throughout Aberdeen city and even helped with funding/ vouchers for buying necessary items to get me through the month and footwear when starting a new job and also advice on life itself which all helped me in a great way.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol and Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 144 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during 2024/25. Of which 41% were from the Central locality, 19% South and 18% North locality. On average Aberdeen in Recovery are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, there were 18229.5 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 2430.6 days.



Raising awareness of the rights of people affected by substance use

Over the past 18 months Public Health and Alcohol and Drug Partnership colleagues have been facilitating a Grampian-wide Working Group to support the implementation of the National Charter of Rights with a Grampian voice. The work has focussed on the lived experiences of those people coming into service and opening a dialogue with senior decision makers to make improvements.

In addition, the Working Group co-designed a reporting tool to provide evidence on the implementation of the Charter of Rights to Scottish Government and supplementary data in line with Medically Assisted Treatment Standards. It resulted in Grampian being heralded as good practice by leading national policy makers with aspirations to embed the practice across the rest of Scotland. Grampian colleagues have had the opportunity to challenge current reporting procedures to apply in future a Rights-based approach. This enables a holistic submission on the Substance Use landscape across an Alcohol and Drug Partnership and its community.

Promotional materials have been developed locally in Grampian to promote the local voice along side the National Charter of Rights.

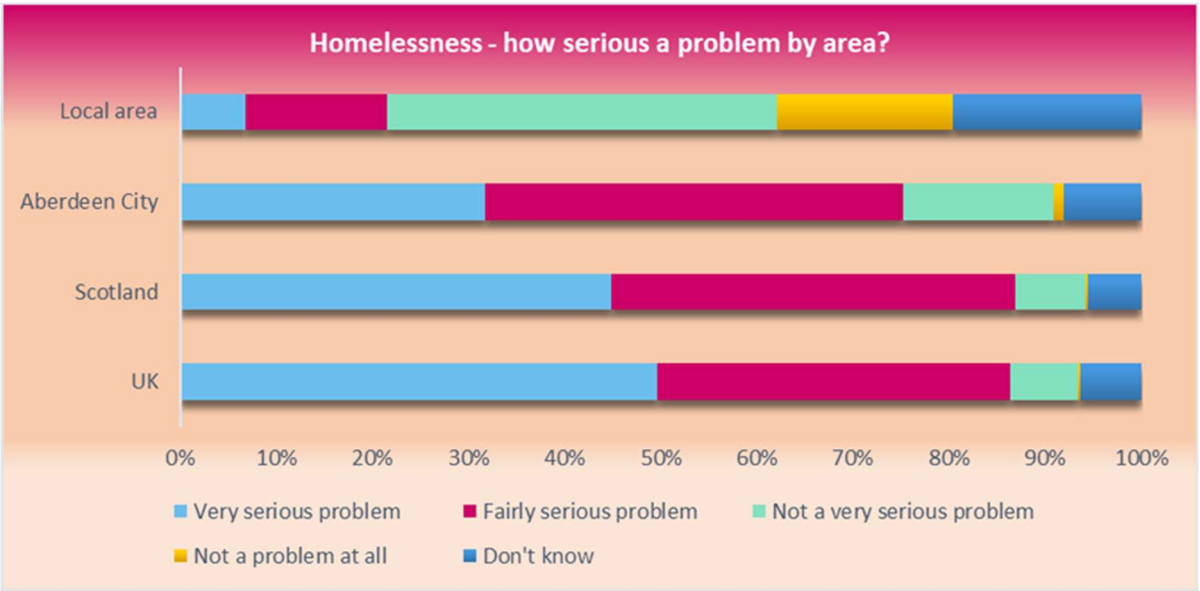
New Stretch Outcome focusing on reducing homelessness and youth homelessness

In 2023/24, there were 1763 homeless applications and 481 youth homeless applications and whilst similar to 2022/23 (1772 and 470), this is an 18% and 12.6% increase since baseline (2016/17). In response to this, Community Planning Aberdeen introduced a new Stretch Outcome 12that aims to "Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6% by 2026, ensuring it is rare, brief and non-recurring with a longer term ambition to end homelessness in Aberdeen City."

As part of the city's ongoing efforts to enact change and reduce homelessness locally, we were delighted that Aberdeen was selected 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 has created a coalition of 55 committed people and organisations from private, public and voluntary sectors who are working together to reduce homelessness and youth homelessness.

To support the work to achieve Stretch Outcome 12 and plans of Homewards Aberdeen's Coalition, in 2024, we asked City Voice panellists what it was like to live in Aberdeen, including some of the challenges around seeking secure housing and employment, as well as awareness and understanding of the different forms of homelessness, its causes and solutions.

Respondents considered homelessness to be a serious problem across Scotland more widely (87%), than in Aberdeen (75%) or their local area (22%). It is also clear that homelessness touches many people's lives, with 18% reported having experience of homelessness across its many forms, either themselves or through someone close to them.



When thinking about the causes of homelessness, the top-ranking answers include both structural issues such as poverty and a shortage of affordable housing, as well as individual factors including alcohol and drug problems and mental and physical health problems, indicating some awareness of the complexity of the issue. However, 91.8% of respondents reported drug and alcohol problems as one of the main causes of homelessness, reflecting a common and persistent misconception about homelessness. In addition, 44% of respondents didn't feel they had a role to play in ending homelessness. This supports the need for our reframing perception and encouraging action project to raise awareness, through a local campaign, about the breadth of homelessness experiences and the range of drivers of homelessness for individuals, including structural factors.

Creating new employment opportunities

Through our private sector and youth homelessness projects we are actively working in partnership to reduce and prevent homelessness through the creation of employment pathways for those at risk of, or experiencing homelessness in the city.

The need for employment pathways is crucial to preventing homelessness. In response to this priority, we welcomed the launch of Invisible Cities in Aberdeen. Invisible Cities is a social enterprise bringing a fresh take to local tourism by offering walking tours of cities across the UK guided by people who have experienced homelessness. Invisible Cities have delivered five training sessions on public speaking, story telling, history, people service, first aid as well as support to design and develop their own tour with. The first graduation of guides was on 27th March 2025 was attended by HRH The Prince of Wales. Tours have now launched, with four people now employed through Invisible Cities (one Project Coordinator and three guides).

As a result of elevating employers' awareness of homelessness in Aberdeen and reframing any existing perceptions, two cafe roles have been filled through Homewards Activator Pret Rising Stars project. One 63 year old and one 23 year old who had experienced homelessness and were referred from coalition partners Aberdeen City Council and Only A Pavement Away.

David Jackson, VisitScotland Regional Director for Aberdeen, said:
"I am thrilled that Invisible Cities is launching its tours in Aberdeen. Their training is vital in helping those who have found themselves homeless to gain new skills and confidence in public speaking, people service and storytelling".

Youth employment opportunities

As above, the need for employment pathways has been identified as crucial to preventing homelessness. With our youth homelessness project, Homewards, is working with Hays (a Homewards Activator), one of the UK's leading recruitment experts. Through this partnership, Hays will support the programme by securing national and local commitments for employment and training opportunities that will roll out across the six Homewards locations. Hays will also share bespoke data-driven insights that are crucial to understanding and addressing employment barriers faced by those experiencing homelessness.

Image: Kensington Palace

The new partnership builds on youth employability programme Project Flourish, created in 2022 by Hays and EveryYouth – a national charity that helps 16-25-year-olds at risk of, or experiencing homelessness develop the skills to secure meaningful employment, and provides job-ready training and support.

To support embedding Project Flourish in Aberdeen, in March 2025, Prince William and Homewards Advocate, Steven Bartlett, joined a workshop with young people from Aberdeen. During the session young people played "employment bingo" during which they expressed their challenges in finding employment. The image below shows the feedback in picture form:

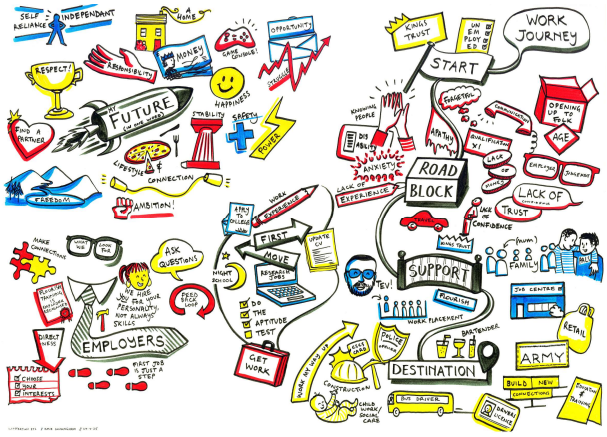


Image: illustrated by Rosie Cunningham for The Royal Foundation

Steven Barlett has also made a commitment to supporting the importance of employment through using his platform to showcase the positive role and impact business can have in efforts to end homelessness. He commented, “This partnership isn’t just about providing jobs, it’s about restoring dignity, possibility, and hope. And if we can prove what’s possible here, we can change the way the country thinks about homelessness for good.”

Image: Kensington Palace

Bringing sectors together to unlock tenancy sustainment

Homewards is bringing together partners to deliver an Innovative Housing Project (IHP) in each of the six locations. The purpose is to test and try new ways to unlock homes to end homelessness in each location. Key to their success will be the ability to scale and replicate our approach, so these initial projects can lead to more homes. The Aberdeen Innovative Housing Project pilot will focus on single adults and young people experiencing relationship breakdown.

The Aberdeen Innovative Housing Project will work initially with local Coalition member, Langstane Housing Association, a registered social landlord to identify ways to bring void properties back into occupation more quickly and in a condition to support more sustainable tenancies by making these houses feel like home with the right furniture and fittings. According to research done by End Furniture Poverty and Sheffield Hallam University, 26% of social housing tenants live in furniture poverty, with 8% living in ‘deep furniture poverty’, without three or more essential items. Working with Langstane, Homewards convened local and national businesses to provide these items in an effort to encourage longer tenancy and help to prevent homelessness. This initiative saw support from Homewards Activator IKEA, Bosch, DFS Group, Dunelm, The Furnishing Service, The Multibank, and local organisations Glencraft and Somebody Cares.

To date 8 private sector employers are supporting initiatives in the city to prevent homelessness which has ranged from supporting local reframing work, providing furniture, white goods, fittings and furnishings, to providing employment opportunities and as detailed above.

Young people helping to reframe homelessness

Data from local and national surveys show the need to reframe perceptions of homelessness. Enabling young people to express their views and support reframing homelessness is key to this. On 7 August 2024, as part of Prince William’s work in addressing homelessness, Homelessness: Reframed at the Saatchi Gallery opened. Homelessness: Reframed is an art exhibition bringing to life the breadth and complexities of homelessness across the country and giving the public an opportunity to engage with, and better understand, the stories of those with experience of homelessness. The exhibition displayed exceptional works from artists in the UK and beyond, sharing pieces inspired by their own, or others’, experiences of homelessness, and include pieces created by children and young people in at a series of creative workshops held across the six flagship Homewards locations.

Through our reframing homelessness project, artist Chloé Nicole Farrell worked in collaboration with participants from the Young Ambassadors Creative Learning, Aberdeen to create their work “Better a Wee Bush than Nae Bield” for the exhibition. The title derives from the motto emblazoned on the seal of famed Scottish poet Robert Burns and serves as the inspiration for this Aberdeen door. The young people from Aberdeen visited the Saatchi Gallery to see their exhibition in display.

Image: Kensington Palace

Young people hackathon developing artificial intelligence prototype

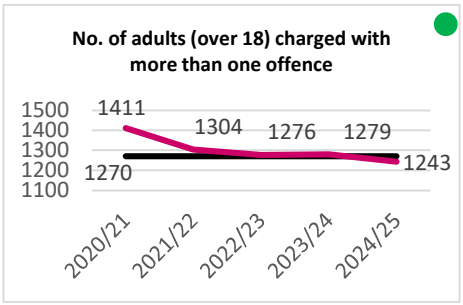
Our Ask and Act project, presented a pitch to young people from Robert Gordon University during their annual hackathon with the ask that they develop a prototype to prove concept of the development of an artificial intelligence tool that can support roll out of incoming Scottish Government Ask and Act poli cy. Following the pitch, a number of teams chose the project with one of the teams winning the prize as best prototype or response for a probable Ask and Act Tool. This has now led to further conversations on the possibility of developing a potential solution.

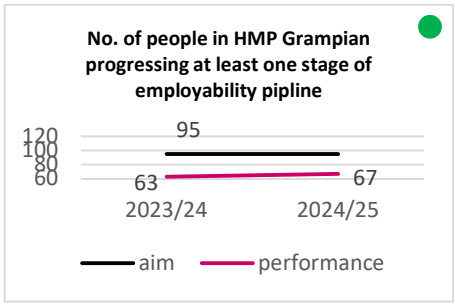
What impact have we had?

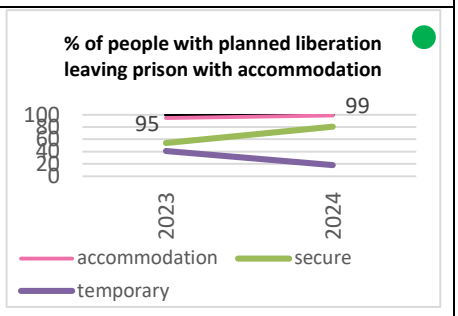
24/26 improvement aim — Performance

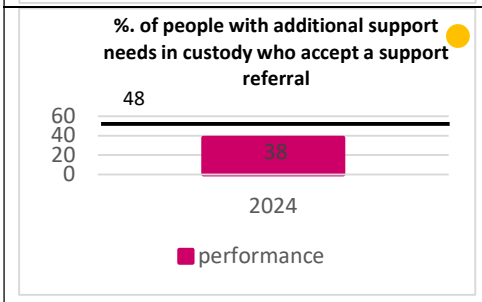
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

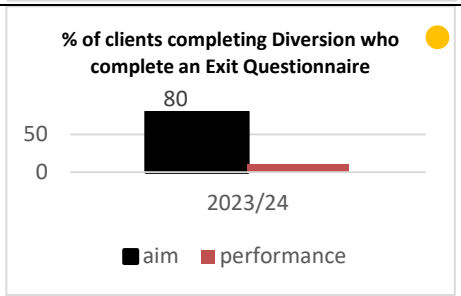
Fewer Convictions and Reconvictions

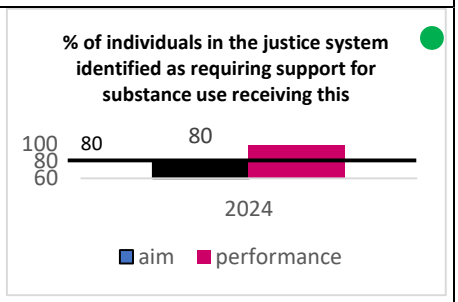


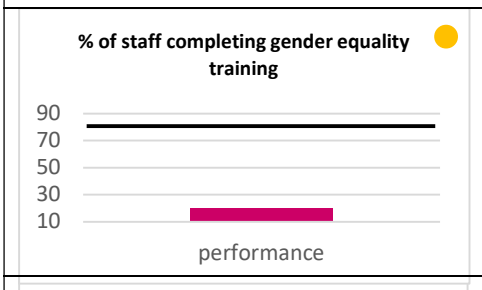


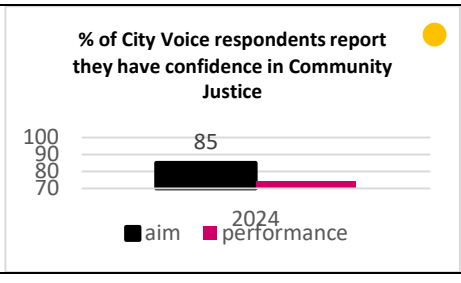


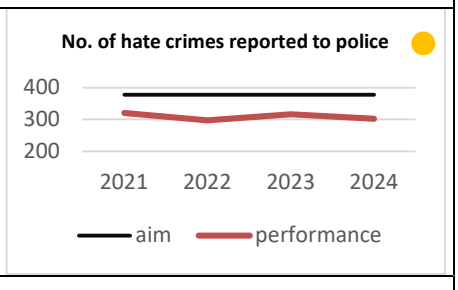


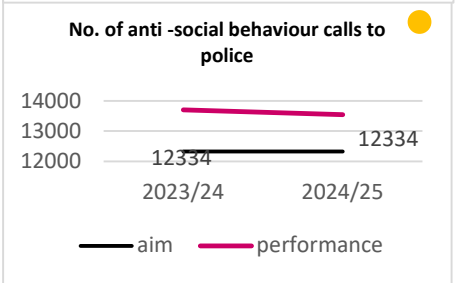




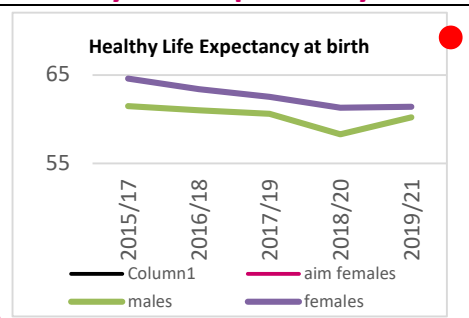


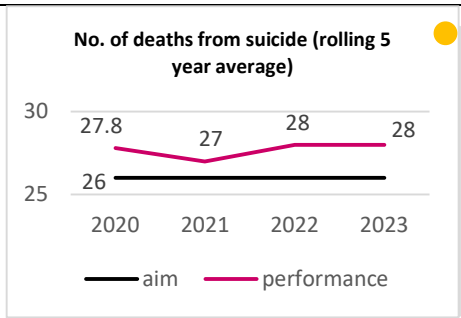


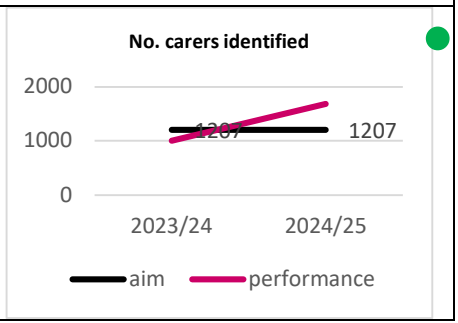


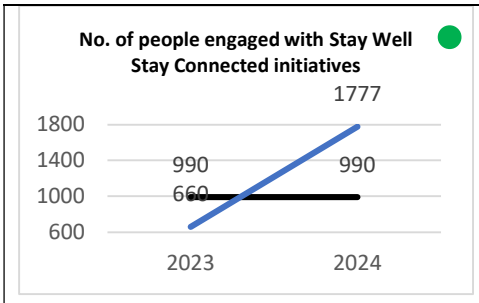


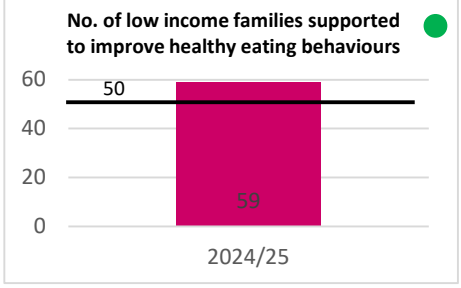
Healthy Life Expectancy

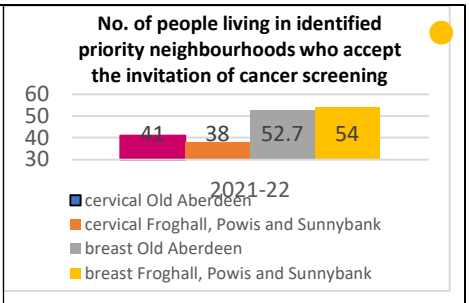


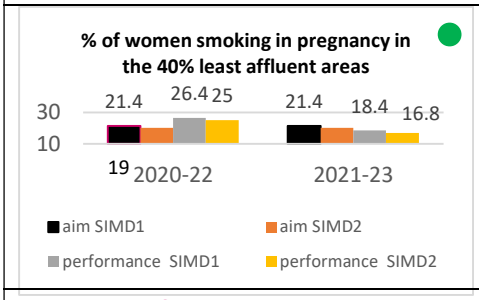


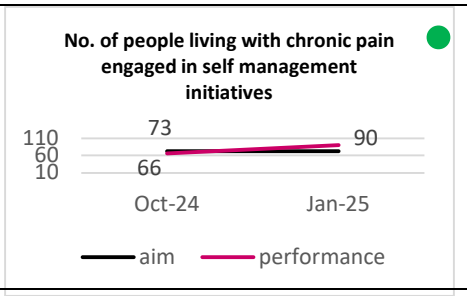


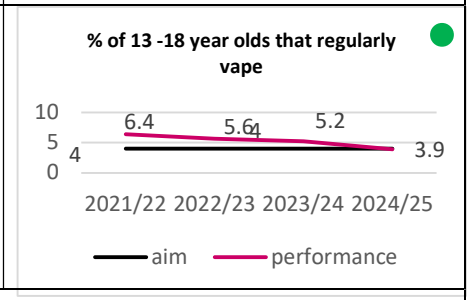




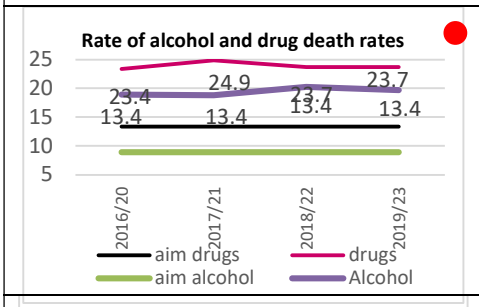


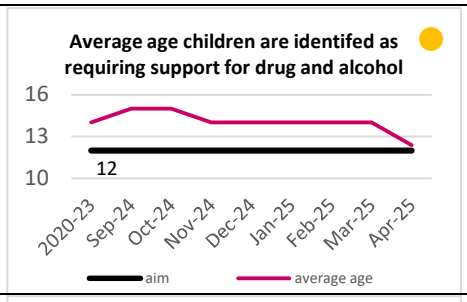


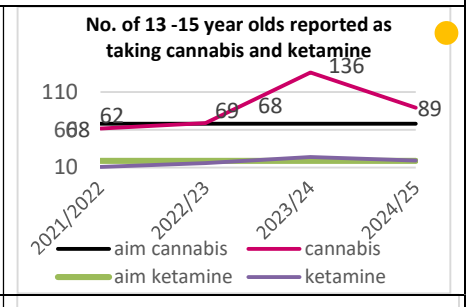


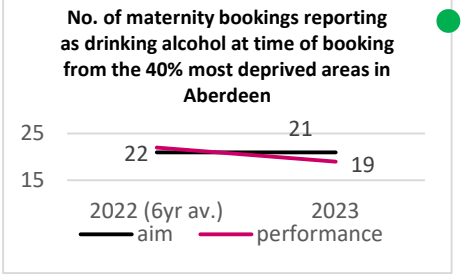


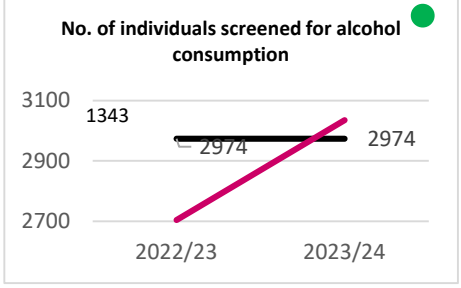
Lower Substance Use

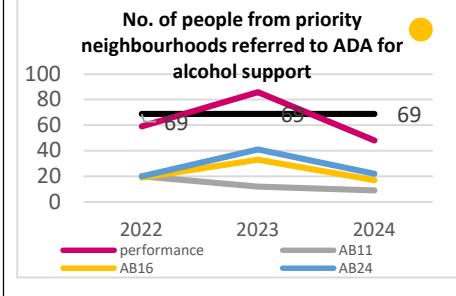


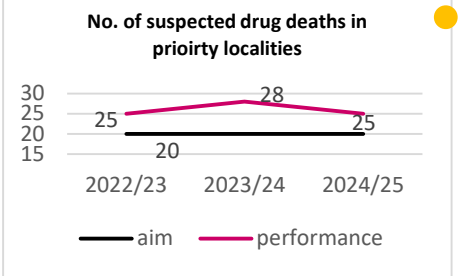


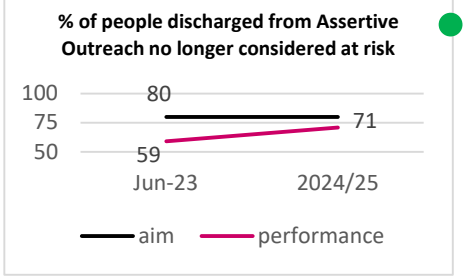


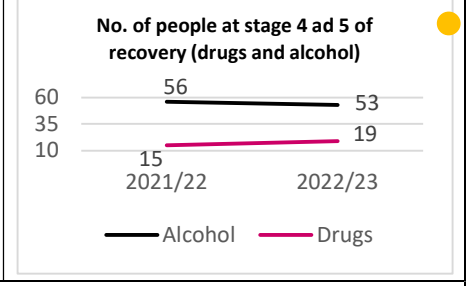




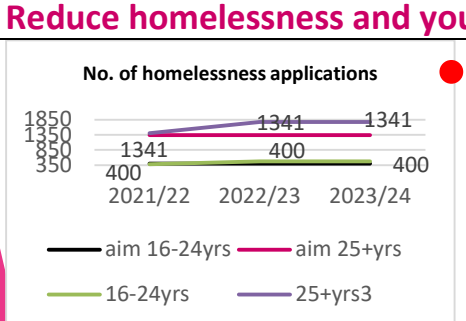


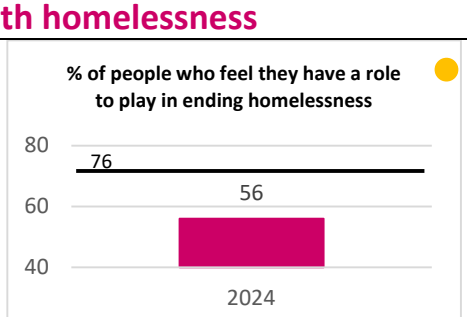


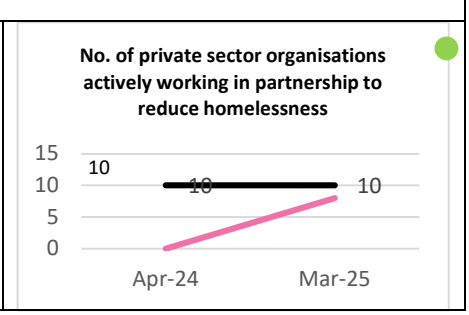


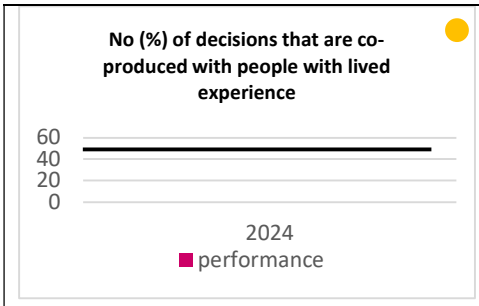


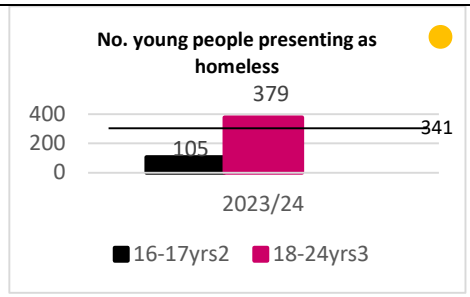
Reduce homelessness and youth homelessness

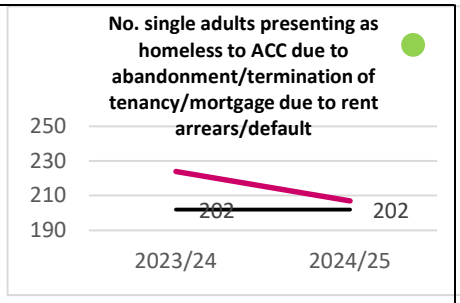


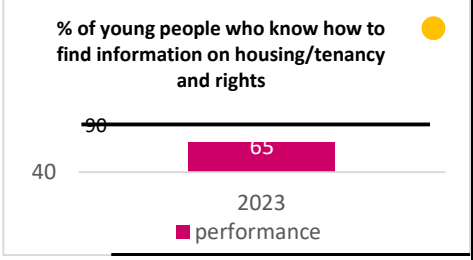


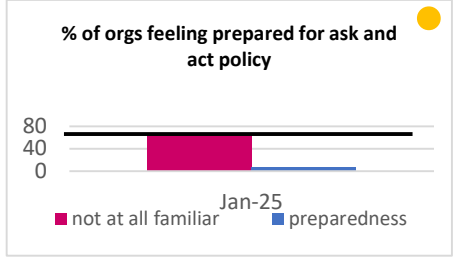



No (%) of decisions that are co-produced with people with lived experience
60
40
20
0
2024
performance


No. young people presenting as homeless
379
400
200
0
341
105
2023/24
16-17yrs2
18-24yrs3


No. single adults presenting as homeless to ACC due to abandonment/termination of tenancy/mortgage due to rent arrears/default
250
230
210
190
202
202
2023/24
2024/25


% of young people who know how to find information on housing/tenancy and rights
90
65
40
2023
performance


% of orgs feeling prepared for ask and act policy
80
40
0
Jan-25
not at all familiar
preparedness

- Supporting people in the justice system access housing, employability, and professional support from all touchpoints to reduce repeat offending and a return to custody
- Test targeted interventions to reduce adult anti-social behaviour
- Use data to identify areas for targeted supports to take preventative measures to reduce suicides and improve mental health.
- Continue to expand and identify new Stay Well Stay Connected programmes such as the next Power of Football programme and a Seven-Week Body Walking course between 31 March-5 May at Westburn Park, targeting over 50s who want to strengthen their mobility and improve overall health and wellbeing
- Implement the whole system approach to healthy weight
- Continue to tackle hate crime through expansion of Third-Party Reporting Centres and training to teams across the partnership who face and support those victimised by hate crimes
- Hold further community appointment days focused on other areas
- Further develop the whole family approach to support a reduction in drug related deaths and increase availability of naloxone through in our priority neighbourhoods.
- Explore the data for alcohol referrals and support and look at ways to increase the number receiving support
- Roll out Alcohol Brief Conversation (ABC) training updating the previous Alcohol Brief Intervention (ABI) approach
- Spread drugs and vaping prevention programmes across schools
- Test innovative approaches to preventing homelessness through participation in the Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales Homewards Programme.
- Leverage new employment and training opportunities for people experiencing homelessness through engagement with the private sector.

Prosperous Place

Our Stretch Outcomes

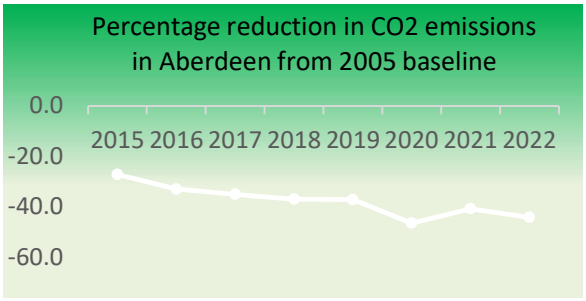
What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO13 Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate	**44.2% reduction** in carbon emissions (1063.1 (2022)) from baseline (2005) and a 5.8% reduction since 2021 (1128) to 2022.
SO14 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.	**30%** of people walking, a 2% increase from 2017 and 2022.
	1% of people cycling, a 1.4% decrease from 2017 and 1% from 2022.
	4% reduction in car Kms from 1258 in 2019 to 1210 in 2023, however a 4% increase since 2022 (1163).
SO15 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.	**4% increase in %** of land is protected for nature 17 to 21.3% in 2025, compared to 17% in 2021
	4% reduction in people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for, 49% in 2021 to 42.2% in 2024.

Progress made during 2024/25

Stretch Outcome 13 progressing with 44.2% reduction in carbon emissions

STRETCH OUTCOME 13 PROGRESSING WITH 44.2% reduction in carbon emissions.

Latest data available at the end of 2024 shows that we have reduced our carbon emissions with a 3.4% reduction since the last reporting period with 1,063.1 ktCO2e down from 1,128 ktCO2e in 2021 and a 44.2% reduction since our baseline of 2005.



It is heartening to see the positive outcomes through our collective improvement aims, as well as through national and system based efforts. Our improvement activity through Community Planning has multiple positive benefits on health and environment including active travel and nature for health.

Green Champion led initiatives to reduce public sector carbon emissions

5.5% reduction in public sector emissions.

Latest data shows a 5.5% decrease in public sector emissions between 2021 and 2022 (80.6ktCO2e – down from 85 in 2021) and an 18% decrease since 2016. Through our public sector emissions project we are committed to our Green Champions, staff volunteers that help identify areas of improvement and drive change within our partner organisations to reduce emissions and encourage sustainability. The Green Champions have continued to grow in strength with 128 Green Champions across 4 Community Planning Aberdeen partners, a 30% increase since January 2024.

Over 2024/25, we have seen 13 green initiatives tested with **7945kgCO2e** carbon emissions saved, an increase of 111% since the project started in June 2021. Initiatives have included:
Monitor switch off

- Step challenge
- Plastic free July and recycle week campaigns

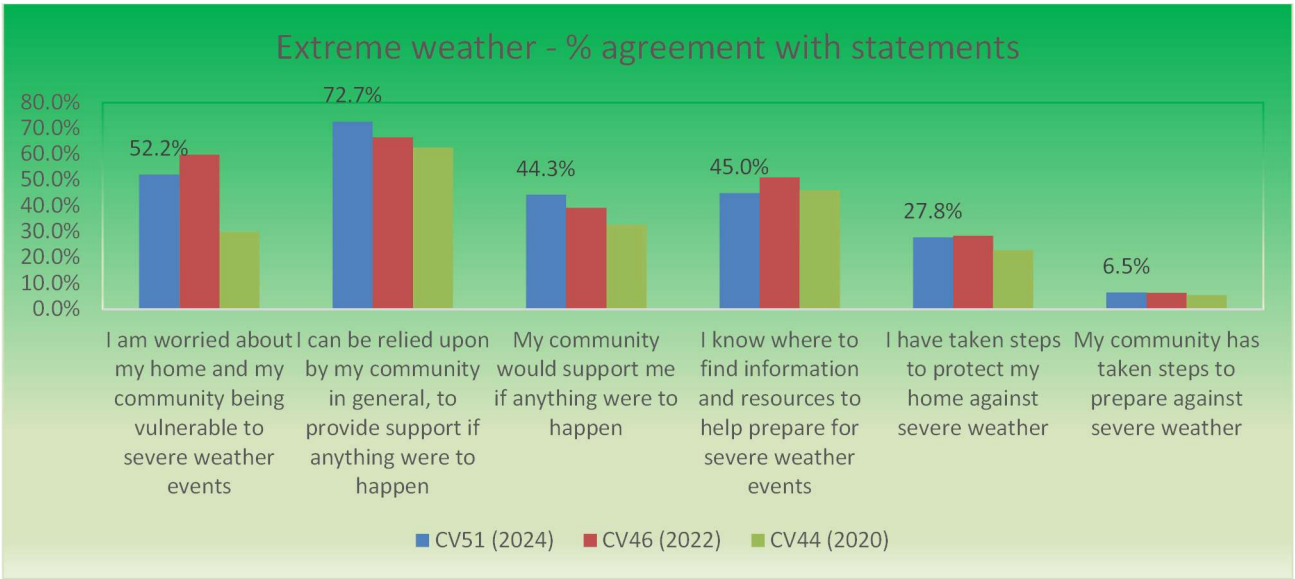
The Green Champions also organised a litter pick at the beach, with 11 people participating, including 2 young people. 14 bags of rubbish collected, with 314.09kgC02e emissions collected, saved 24040.87kg CO2e if used for Energy from Waste compared to landfill.

Building community resilience

We recognise the importance of our communities and have supported community resilience, from the development of resilience plans through to volunteering opportunities, and we have seen the positive impact of this during winter 2024/25 when we experienced storms and icy weather.

Through our community resilience and fall prevention projects our existing Resilience Groups and new volunteers have rallied their communities. To support our communities, we held a further Community Resilience Conference in October 2024. Approximately 70 people attended the conference and feedback was very positive with connections made with community groups/individuals and organisations to support communities take action in extreme weather.

We also know that people want to help their community in extreme weather, but don't know where to find information or the streps to take. Data from our City Voice in 2024, showed that while 72.2% of respondents agreed that they could be relied upon to by their neighbours or community to provide support if anything were to happen, only 45% said they would know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events.



To increase awareness, in November 2024:

- We distributed leaflets on how to prepare for winter weather to target groups and areas of high footfall
- We commenced a social media campaign targeted at communities and put to the front page of Aberdeen City Council web site 'preparing for winter' information
- Our communities shared information across their networks and as highlighted below one Community Council created their own 'Winter Resilience' section on their website.

As well as development of full community resilience plans, we have supported resilience plans and task-specific plans with 47 community emergency resilience boxes issued in December/January 2023 to a variety of community locations. Battery generator packs are also being provided to the 3 existing Community Resilience Groups to assist the overall response to a power outage emergency.

By March 2025 over 40 battery packs had been distributed to the 3 community resilience groups and the Health and Social Care partnership for use in emergencies by the most vulnerable who require powered equipment. The Annual Community Resilience Conference has been confirmed for Friday 10 October 2025 at King's Church, Bridge of Don.

Community Ice Crews Preventing Falls

Improvement Project Aim Achieved

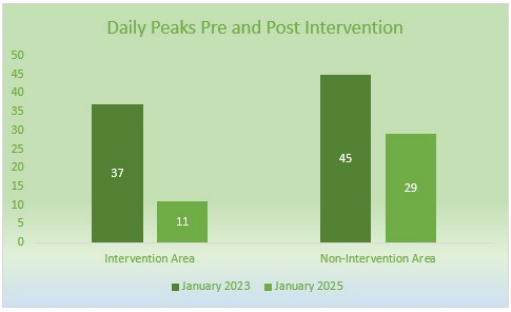
70.3% in falls from ice during peak days in AB15/16 compared to 35.6% in non intervention areas.

14.7% over the original aim.

Not all residents are fit and well enough to grit their own paths, and for them the injuries from falls can be life-changing. Through our fall prevention project, we have launched a community based approach to falls prevention using the volunteer RNLI model.

Led by 3 community councils, with approximately 20 volunteers and supported by the local authority and NHS Grampian, the volunteer 'ice crews' are gritting high risk pavement areas in AB15 / AB16 to help keep our community out and about. The crews are sent intelligence from the council when road surface temperatures are forecast to drop below zero, at which point they use hand gritters and salt bags provided by the council to grit the pavements where the highest number of falls were seen the previous winter.

As a result, compared to other areas where Ice Crews are not yet in place, we found in AB15 and AB16 the daily peak of 11 falls in the cold snap in January 2025, was 29.7% of the daily peak of 37 falls in January 2023. A reduction of 70.3%. Meanwhile, in the rest of the city, the daily peak in January 2025 was 29 falls, 64.4% of the peak of 45 falls in January 2023. A reduction of 35.6%. Therefore in the intervention re there was a 34.7% greater reduction. 14.7% over the original aim.



The 3 Community Councils engaged with their communities through their own local communication methods such as newsletters, door drops, community meetings, social media. Through this they were able to recruit volunteers, as well as keep them up to date on the progress. One of the Community Councils visited local schools in their area and engaged with the pupils to help create names for their gritters. The Rosehill, Stockethill Community Council created a website with information about the project.

Feedback has been that an increased sense of community spirit has been built up in some parts:

"There were the practical benefits of having the pavements gritted, but also I fell it was a very practical, visible, way of building community. People saw the salt bags on the streets, spoke to the gritting volunteers, helped themselves and their neighbours. It allowed ACC and the Community Council to engage directly with the community. I think people appreciated that money and time was being spent on the area".

"We found it to be a community building exercise - we worked with the local school kids to name our gritters and local businesses such as the Croft and Cairns and Murdos helped us store equipment and salt".

Supporting communities to recycle their electricals

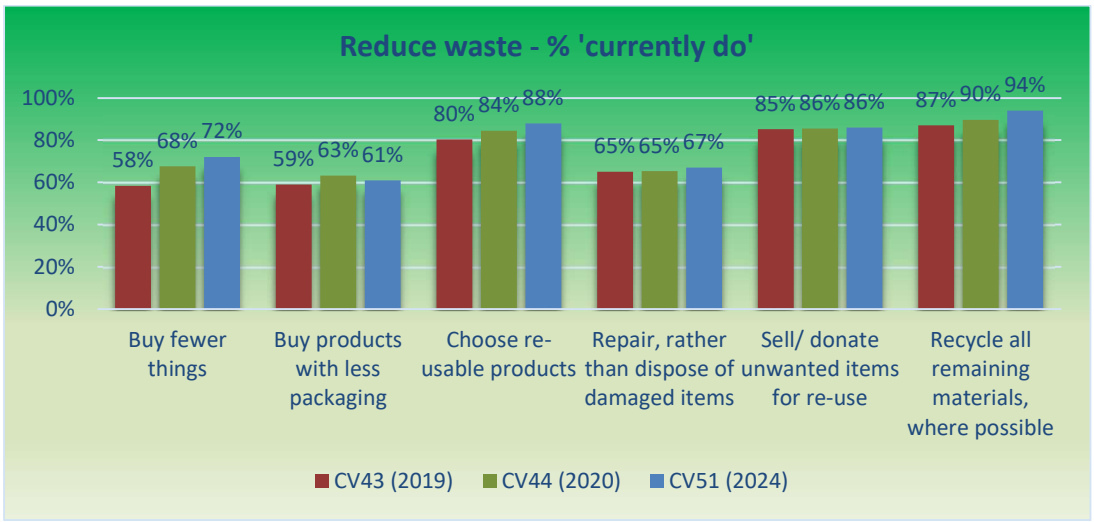
Improving access to recycling is a key part of supporting a reduction in waste. To support the reduction of electrical waste, a new local small electrical recycling initiative was launched on International E-Waste Day (14th October 2024), to raise awareness of the importance of recycling electricals and significantly reduce e-waste and its environmental impact by making it easier for residents to recycle their electricals.

19 striking, large, bright pink collection bins were installed across Aberdeen neighbourhoods, providing locals with easily accessible options at community sports clubs and libraries, to safely dispose of unwanted electrical items. Three additional bins were also toured around schools to help educate young people on recycling.

Over the period Oct 2024-Feb 2025, 8 tonnes of electrical items were recycled. The initiative was promoted via HypnoCat, the Recycle Your Electricals mesmerising pink, fluffy mascot, who is on a mission to hypnotise local residents into recycling their electricals.

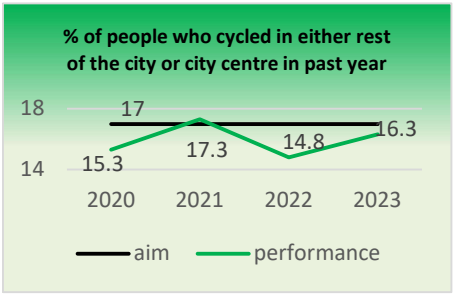
In 2023, 89,314 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City – up from 88,802 in 2022, however a 7% reduction from baseline of 2016. Of the waste generated, 41.8% was recycled in 2023, the same as 2022. 12.2% went to landfill and 46% managed by other diversions.

Data from the latest City Voice shows a 4% increase in respondents reporting that they currently buy fewer things (72%); choose re-usable products (88%); and recycle all remaining materials, where possible (94%). When data was broken down by locality, smaller % of respondents from north locality and from SIMD1 reported currently doing the actions below with the exception of buying fewer things where 85% of SIMD1 respondents reported this compared to 72% City Wide and Sell/ donate unwanted items for re-use where 87% of North respondents reporting doing this compared to 85.9% City Wide.



Supporting people to cycle and wheel

Small changes to the way we travel can play a big role in helping to reduce the impact of climate change, as well as health benefits individually and for our communities. We are continuing to work with our communities to promote and enable everyone to walk, wheel or cycle for recreation and transport and to therefore support our environmental and health outcomes.



Data from City Voice in 2023 shows that the percentage of people using a standard pedal bike was 16.3%, with 20% of respondents from the Central locality cycling as one mode of travel in the past year, compared to 18% from the South locality and 12 % from North.

We recognise the barriers to cycling and through our cycling project we are putting in place initiatives to enable people to cycle, some of the these are:

- **I Bike Communities** - delivered in partnership with Sustrans Scotland, the programme engages, enables, and motivates participants to increase their levels of active travel and physical activity, thereby improving health and wellbeing. During 2024/25, a total of 61 cycling training sessions were held, with 130 participants, of which 27% (35) people were from our priority neighbourhoods and 19% (25) were new Scots/Asylum seekers. These sessions allow people to improve their biking skills and build confidence. Many participants had not ridden a bike in several years. **Aberdeen Cycle Hub** - opened in Seaton in Oct 2024 to support the local community in enjoying walking, wheeling, and cycling with the necessary resources. Many young people have either learned to ride bikes or gained confidence through the obstacle course, while adults rediscovered their enthusiasm for cycling. One mother remarked, **"I better get a bike now. My son is off on his bike"** and another shared her joy at riding again after **"at least 20 years since I have gone this fast."** There is also a selection of adapted bikes stored at the Hub and there has been regular attendance from Heathryburn Primary and Cults Academy, as well as an adult group from Inspire to make use of these bikes during weekly sessions.
- **North East Cycle Hub (NECH)**: In 2024/25, 2514 bikes were diverted from landfill, with 920 of these being repaired and reused through Stella's Voice, on behalf of the NECH project. NECH aims to develop a north east wide hub for bicycle repair and reuse across both the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire local authority areas, enabling more people to cycle as part of their daily lives and support them as they do so.). The recycled bikes with helmets, locks and lights have been provided to schools in Aberdeen, to the Family Centre, and to refugees in Aberdeen. As of January 2025, they have begun collecting unwanted bikes from the Hazelhead recycling centre, with 198 bikes collected to April 2025.
- **Multistorey secure bicycle storage facilities for Tillydrone & Seaton:** installing safe and secure bicycle storage facilities can help reduce transport challenges for low-income residents and reduce the impact of transport poverty on these households. By promoting cycling for commuting and leisure, secure parking increases the accessibility of cycling and facilitates healthy and sustainable living. Tillydrone and Seaton were selected for a pilot programme where six storage units were installed, providing secure space of up to 12 bicycles. The project was awarded "Best Public Cycle Parking" by Aberdeen Cycle Forum in 2024.

Supporting all children and young people to walk, cycle and wheel

Community Planning Aberdeen are focused on supporting all children and young people to walk, cycle and wheel and safe routes and confidence to cycle are key to that. Through our walking and cycling projects we have a range of initiatives like the "Champions for Change" which have engaged children, young people, and families at St Machar and Lochside Academies to identify safe routes and priorities, enabling them to realise their rights and provide valuable feedback.

In partnership with Sustrans Scotland we support initiatives that promote active travel, sustainability and community engagement across the city. One such initiative, I Bike Schools, focuses on encouraging cycling and walking among children within a specific school cluster area. For 2024/25, the I Bike Schools officer worked with the St Machar Academy Associated Schools Group to inspire and support students in adopting active travel habits. Between August to December 2024, there were a total of 63 I Bike Schools activities and over 2,037 pupil engagements across 7 I Bike Schools.

In addition, through I Bike Schools, in 2024/25 we have delivered:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
6 Bikeability sessions with 73 pupil attendees •3 other Cycling Skills Sessions with 52 pupil attendees •12 led walks with 291 pupil attendees · •2 led rides with 31 pupil attendees and •10 Education activities linked with Art and Design, Environment and Science with 203 pupil attendees. There were 18 instances of support from regular volunteers and 4 instances of support from other volunteers.	464 attendees participated in I Bike activities. These have included: •Led rides and walks – 138 pupil attendees. •Interest and Enthusiasm – 247 pupil attendees. •Planning meetings – 2 staff members. These activities have been supported by 9 regular volunteers, 9 parents and 24 staff members.	Q3 saw limited activities due to school holidays.	•15 pupils learned to ride bikes. •108 bikes were loaned to enable participation. •31 instances of support from volunteers •841 pupils attended our sessions.

As well as safe routes and confidence to cycle, we want our children and young people to have access to bikes, and that cycling is inclusive for all. We have seen positive impacts in both areas:

Increasing Accessing to Bikes for Young People

The "**Access to Bikes for Young People**" initiative (funded via the Nestrans' People and Place Programme 2024/25) at Loirston Primary School is working in partnership with the parent council and a group of parents who are Cycle Trainers to deliver Bikeability. This has identified many pupils lack confidence cycling and do not own or have access to a bike. In partnership with Tyred and Cranky, 45 high-quality refurbished bikes have been provided to families and young people who otherwise would not have access to one. Bikes will help recipients access educational and employment opportunities. Work has also been ongoing with BeCycle to provide 30 bikes to meet requirements of approximately 60 beneficiaries through the Fersands and Fountain Community Project. Dyce academy received support to replace a fleet of bikes for school pupil use after their

previous bike fleet was stolen. 15 new bikes and helmets have been provided to support 20 – 25 young people to ride to school. The school identified beneficiaries, and these include refugees from Ukraine as well as young people in less affluent communities close to the school who would otherwise not have access to a bike

Inclusive cycling for children and young people

In early November 2024, I Bike, in partnership with Grampian Disability Sport and the Grampian Inclusive Cycling Bothies (GICB) hosted a Cycling Festival attended by over 40 families. Participants of all ages enjoyed the opportunity to ride bikes, with many experiencing cycling for the first time or after a long hiatus.

Through the Grampian Inclusive Cycling Bothies, 29 young people with a disability aged between 13-24 have been supported through weekly adapted and targeted cycling sessions, utilising a fleet of adaptive bikes designed to make cycling more accessible to everyone in the community. Through the partnership between I Bike Schools and GICB, hand bikes are available for school based sessions, enabling young wheelchair users, who had never cycled before, to participate in cycling alongside their peers.

The impact was profound, with one young participant exclaiming, ***"I'm free!"*** *and one* Pupil Support Assistant couldn't believe how chatty one of the boys became after just one session and both boys were desperate to have another go on the handcycle.

These efforts have improved physical health but also fostered a sense of community and inclusivity. 27 young people participated in the Scottish Disability Sport's Grampian Parasports festival on 27 September, aimed at P4 to S6 pupils with a physical impairment, visual impairment or hearing loss.

Social prescribing of nature

A growing body of evidence finds that connection to nature can benefit physical and mental health in varied ways including reducing stress, boosting the immune system, reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression and improved memory and concentration. Though our social prescribing project, three GP practices in Aberdeen have begun training with RSPB Scotland to roll out 'Nature Prescriptions', an initiative designed to increase patients' physical and mental health through a greater connection with local nature.

A Nature Prescription is a guided conversation with a healthcare professional and patient which explores how wellbeing can be improved through a deeper connection with nature. Alongside the conversation, we have developed a 'Nature Prescription Calendar' which aims to support patients to connect with nature in their area. The calendar was informed by a community co-creation session, with suggested activities include spending time in a favourite nature space close to home, looking for signs of changing seasons, recording the nature you see through photos, drawings or writing, and visiting Torry Battery to go rockpooling.

Between April and December 2024, 13 people have been socially prescribed nature. Feedback from a local Doctor has been positive:

> Dr Adrain Crofton, Lead Clinician, Torry Medical Practice said: "This locality-specific and user-friendly programme designed by RSPB Scotland is an excellent tool for us to give to patients who feel this might be something they would like to try but might not otherwise know where to start. The materials are of a high quality and very easy and fun to follow.
> "The great advantage of the nature prescription is that it is all on your doorstep and is something that can help anyone at any stage of life, and it's free. In many ways, that makes it one of the best treatments we have".

Communities leading environmental improvements

Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

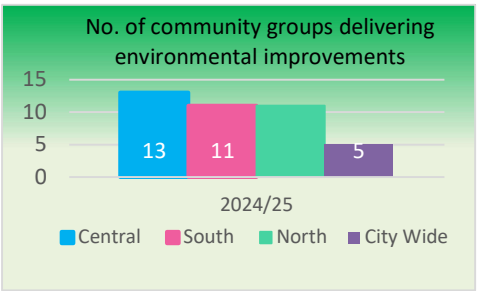
67% increase in number of community groups delivering environmental improvements.

17% over the original aim.

Through our community environmental project, Community Planning Aberdeen are committed to supporting communities to lead environmental initiatives which will make a real difference in their neighbourhood and help achieve reaching the targets set out in our collective Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts framework.

One initiative tested is the Local Environmental Action Fund, administered by NESCAN Hub, which provides grants of up to £3,000 to support projects in local communities, that provide environmental improvements, support nature recovery, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support local communities.

Between April and March 2025**,** 40 community led environmental improvement projects have been funded, 29 via the Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) and 11 from the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting (JTPB) Fund, an increase of 67% from 2023/24 (24) . Of the 11 Just Transition Participatory Budgeting, 8 are supporting local environmental improvements for green spaces and a further 3 are supporting built-environment improvements such as energy efficiency upgrades for community buildings.



Of the 40 projects, 13 are in Central, 11 in South, 11 in North and 5 are City Wide. 12 projects are working in our priority neighbourhoods, 7 in central priority neighbourhoods and 5 in South.

The funds have been published widely and connections built with black, asian and minority ethnic and other minority groups to enable them to access the funding. Through enabling our communities with funding, support and expertise provided by NESCAN Hub and the enthusiasm and commitment of community groups working for the benefit of nature, the planet and their community, we have seen a wide variety of the environmental action projects being seen spring up all over the city. Some examples:

Gairn Community Garden
Transforming an unused space along the Deeside Railway line into a vibrant, green community hub. Featuring raised beds for fresh produce, play areas for children, and peaceful spaces for socialising, it will be a place for everyone to connect.

By engaging local nurseries, older residents, and new community members, the garden will bridge generations and cultures, promoting inclusivity and community spirit. Focusing on sustainability, it will enhance biodiversity, reduce carbon footprints, and inspire eco-friendly living.

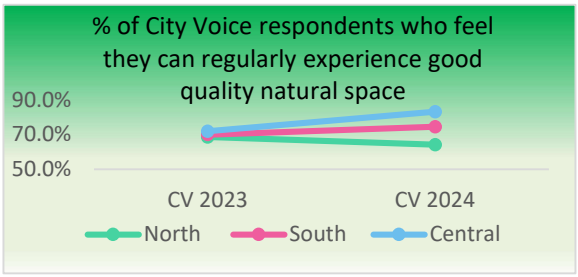
Bucksburn Academy Friends of the Additional Support Need Wing
Supporting users to modernise the allotment plot, creating a sustainable space for all pupils, staff, school families and young unaccompanied asylum-seekers to learn together. The space will be a haven for learning about sustainable land management, food production, mindfulness and mental health. The plot will be accessible to all users with wheelchair access, raised beds, a sensory garden and sheltered gathering space.

The project is also supporting groups seeking to adopt available / unused land – in particular working with the Mounthooly Food Forest Project as a pilot to showcase the potential for adopting greenspace that is currently managed by mowing alone, as well as supporting the Nature Awareness Strategy. Through partnership working, trees from Social Juice have been secured and a tree planting session is being planned. Drawing on the expertise of several community-led organisations and exploring different funding options, the project are also planning a bioblitz for summer.

Improving natural space

8.5% INCREASE in people feeling they can regularly experience good quality natural space

Through our natural space project we have seen a 8.5% increase in City Voice respondents who feel like they can regularly experience good quality natural space. This increase is also see across our South and Central localities whilst there has been a 7.9% decrease in North.



We have also seen a 4% increase in the % of land that is protected for nature (21% in 2024 from 17% in 2021. Despite this, we recognise that and we need to do more to encourage organisations and individuals protect land for nature as the signs ups to the land for nature pledge has remained static at 7 organisations for 2024. In addition, there has been a 4% reduction in people reporting that they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for, 49% to 42.2% in 2024. These will continue to be areas of focus over 2025/26.

A range of initiatives are planned for the forthcoming year and have been held. One example, was a highly successful wildflower planting session at Westfield Park (a key site for Aberdeen B-Lines, a vital initiative that aims to create stepping stones of habitat across the city to support pollinators like bees, butterflies, hoverflies, and moths). The event, led by Buglife Scotland and sponsored by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution, saw over 3,200 plug plants and native wildflower seeds, supplied by Scotia Seeds, added to the park's growing flower-rich grasslands. Around 40 volunteers turned out, including local residents, members of the Friends of Westfield Park group, Aberdeen City Council, and Southern Electricity Networks distribution staff.

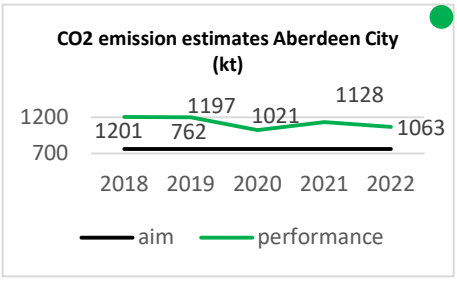
Since March 2023, 11 other sites across the city, have been supported to create flower-rich habitats by planting native wildflowers, installing bee hotels, and engaging local communities.

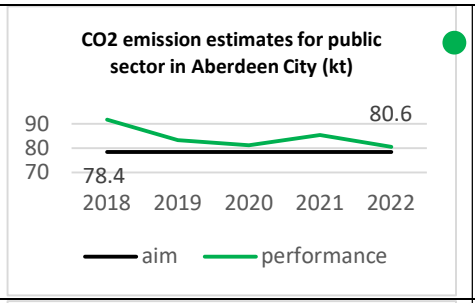
What impact have we had?

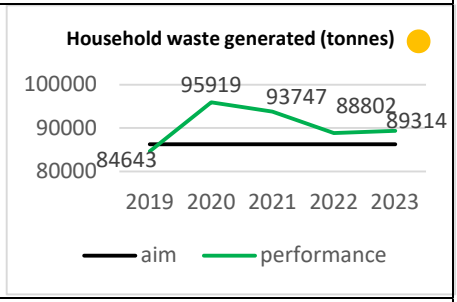
24/25/26 improvement aim Performance

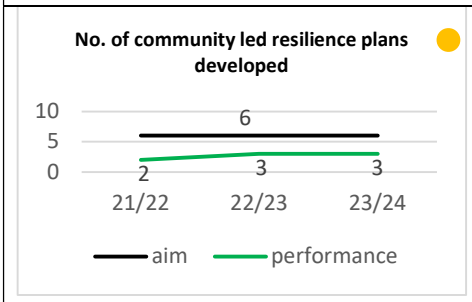
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

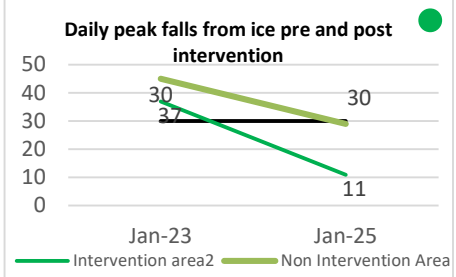
Climate Change



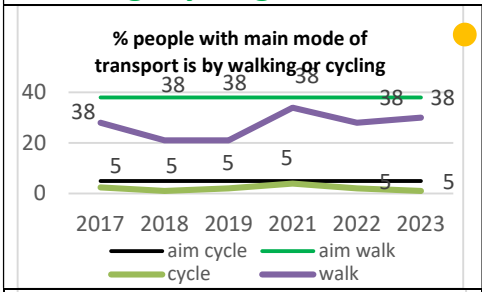


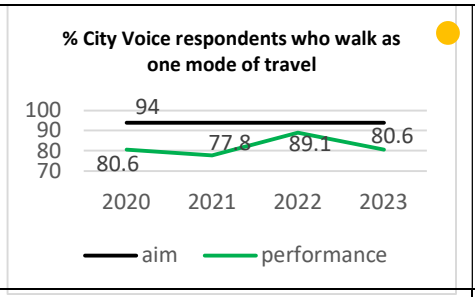


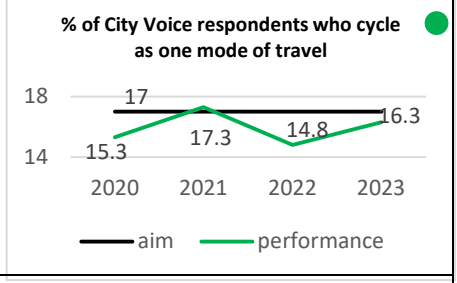


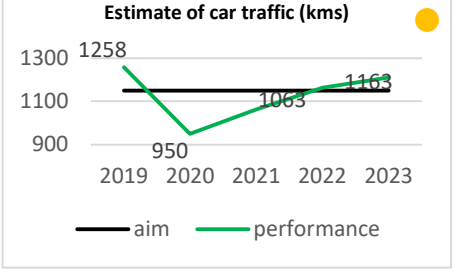


Walking, Cycling and Car Miles

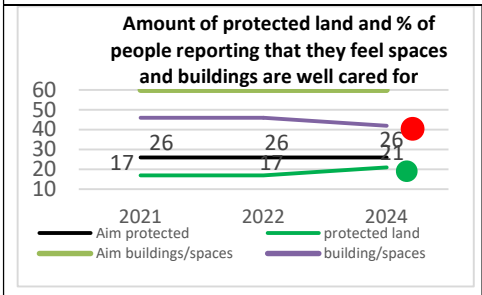


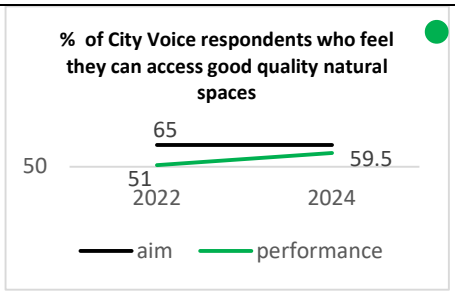


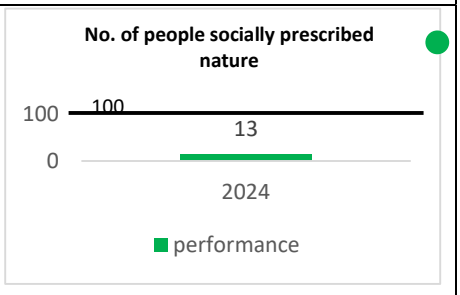


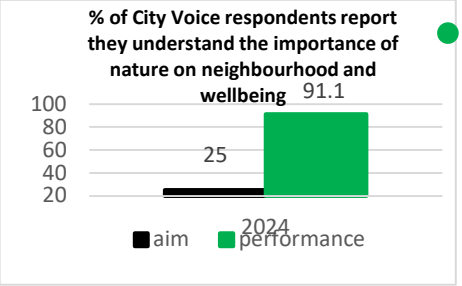


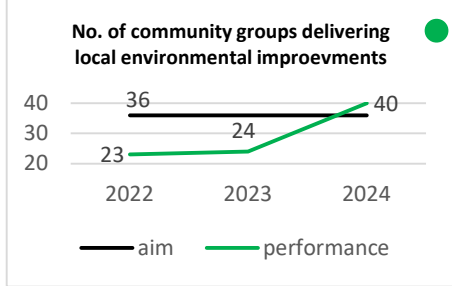
Natural and Built Environment











Improvement priorities 2025/26

- Continue to support communities to develop community resilience plans, with plans in place for all communities at risk of flooding.
- Pilot a school food waste and allotment growing initiative
- Co-locate services within the community in a library in each of the North, Central, and South localities, to increase access to services in the community and reducing the need to travel by car.
- Pilot School Streets to improve the safety of children and their caregivers on the journey to and from school, thus encouraging more walking, wheeling and cycling for the school journey
- Work with communities to develop a community led action plan that set out clearly how both infrastructure and behaviour change can be delivered in their community that addresses the highlighted barriers and gets more people walking and less use of cars.
- Create with community members and local children a range of materials to promote and encourage use of natural spaces to meet people's interests.
- Create and pilot bat walks and other nature walks in local areas.
- Create wildlife corridors and B lines.
- Test travel tour fairs by the Countryside Rangers Service focusing on a minibeast safari looking at insects and woodland areas, and a night-time moth-spotting trail.
- Continue with the pilot social prescribing for nature
- Hold a Ranger/Volunteer Network Event to host volunteers involved with nature-based activities and offer support to groups e.g. funding, training if they are interested in offering nature-based social prescriptions.
- Continue to promote and increase number of organisations pledging to manage at least 10% of their land for nature.

Community Empowerment

Our Stretch Outcome

What we are working towards	How we are doing
SO16 100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026	**5.6% increase** in % of City Voice respondents in 2024 scoring 5 and above (out of 1-7) feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better, 22.3% up from 16.7% in 2023, however lower than the baseline of 24.3% in 2021.

Progress made during 2024/25

Ensuring Children's Rights/UN Convention on Rights

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Scotland) Act 2024 was enacted on 16 July 2024, ensuring that children's rights are respected and protected in Scotland. Our Children and Young People's Rights project, with children and young people, have been developing and expanding the ways in which we communicate with and involve children and young people in the planning and development of our work across the city.

100% of Community Planning Aberdeen Board decisions which impact on children and young people informed by them.

100% of Community Planning Aberdeen Board decisions which impact on children and young people have been informed by them. Of the 98 Local Outcome Improvement Plan projects, 60 (60.2%) have identified that they should and are involving children and young people, 26 (26.5%) have identified that involvement of Children and Young People is not applicable to their project, with 13 (13.3%) still to confirm. To support this, members of the Young Ambassadors who are supported via Create Learning and Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM) who are supported via the youth work team have been meeting regularly to focus on the impact of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child across the Partnership. They have developed and tested a range of approaches and these are reflected within the children and young people section of the toolkit. Some examples are:

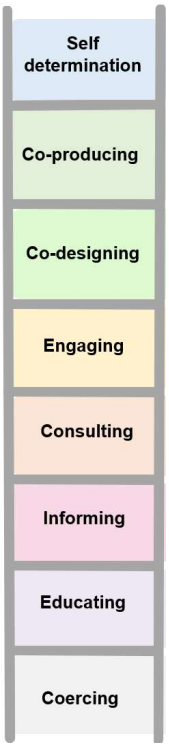
The project has also compiled a comprehensive directory of youth engagement groups across the city, including key interest and target groups. We also work closely with youth participation colleges throughout the partnership to better establish opportunities to engage with our more vulnerable or hard to reach groups.

ACC Budget Phase 2
Aberdeen Youth Movement supported Aberdeen City Council with engaging with School pupils in the budget and capturing their views on the proposed items that would be affected and how this would affect their lives. A dedicated week long, lunch time takeovers was held from 4th November. 390 pupils participated in the consultation sessions from the following schools: Dyce, Bridge of Don, Lochside, Aberdeen Grammer School and Oldmachar Academies.
This was complemented by a Aberdeen Youth Movement social media campaign on the Budget, with 10,156 views.

Your Place; Your Plans; Your Future engagement –They have tried and tested different methods to come up with a universal youth friendly Your Place; Your Plans; Your Future engagement tool that is being used across the city with young people and within 5 local academies.

Creating the Conditions for Community Participation

There are many ways people can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for their local community and influence how public services are delivered in their area to meet their needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.



Improvement Project Aim Exceeded

769% increase in number of community members participating in community planning.

669% over the original aim.

We are delighted that there are 791 community members currently participating in community planning at a meaningful level (From engaging to co-production) through a range of methods:

- Locality Empowerment Groups
- Priority Neighourhood Partnerships
- Woodside Decides
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagment

This is a 32% increase from 2023/24 (602) and a 769% increase from 2022/23 (91), as well as 41 community groups and organisations, a 58% increase since 2022/23 (26).

Deep Engagement with Community Groups

Two ways of getting involved in community planning at a local level are through our Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships. Our three Locality Empowerment Groups (LEGs) cover the North, South and Central localities. We also have three Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships (PNPs) which focus on some areas the of the City which are less affluent. The groups are made up of local people interested in improving the quality of life for people living in their community. Members use their own knowledge and experiences to influence priorities, help determine solutions and drive the development and delivery of the Locality Plans. The Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships work together to take shared priority issues forward. See table 1 below for our localities, neighbourhoods, and priority neighbourhoods.

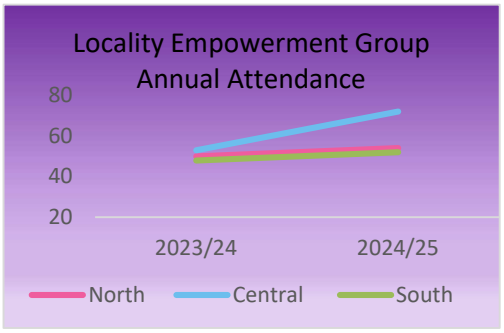
Table 1. Localities, neighbourhoods and priority neighbourhoods

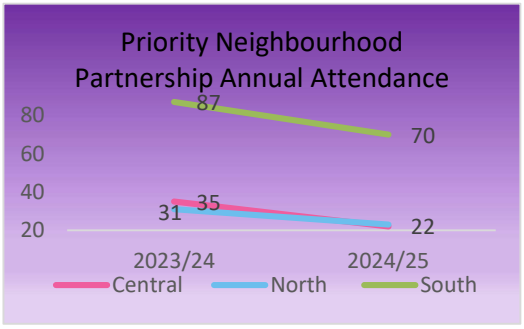
Localities	North	South	Central
Neighbourhoods	1.Dyce 2.Danestone 3.Oldmachar 4.Denmore 5.Balgownie & Donmouth 6.Bucksburn 7.Heathryfold 8.Middlefield 9.Kingswells 10.Northfield 11.Cummings Park 12.Sheddocksley 13.Mastrick 14.Summerhill	1.Culter 2.Cults, Bieldside, Milltimber & Countesswells 3.Hazlehead 4.Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield 5.Garthdee 6.Ferryhill 7.Kincorth, Leggart & Nigg 8.Torry 9.Cove	1.Tillydrone 2.Old Aberdeen 3.Seaton 4.Woodside 5.Hilton 6.Stockethill 7.Ashgrove 8.George Street 9.Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank 10.Midstocket 11.Rosemount 12.City Centre 13.Hanover 14.West End
Priority neighbourhoods (Based SIMD analysis)	7.Heathryfold 8.Middlefield 10.Northfield 11.Cummings Park 13.Mastrick	7.Kincorth 8.Torry	1.Tillydrone 3.Seaton 4.Woodside 6.Stockethill 7.Ashgrove 8.George Street
Locality Empowerment Group	North	South	Central
Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	Wider Northfield	Torry	Seaton, Woodside & Tillydrone
Locality Plans	North Locality Plan	South Locality Plan	Central Locality Plan

Through our community involvement project, our integrated Locality Planning Team, with community members, have been testing different approaches with the Locality Empowerment Group and Priority Neighbourhood Partnership meetings to support increasing the number and diversity of community members. This has included the development of a Communication and Engagement Plan led by a community member and co-designed with another three community members; thematic meetings, rotating venues and a citywide meeting for all members. We have seen an increase in annual attendance at each of the Locality Empowerment Groups, with an 8% increase in North, 35.8% increase in Central and 29.2% in South.

Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test here.

The Locality Planning team, together with community representatives, continue to look at enhancing the accessibility and appeal of participation through improved structures around Locality Planning. You can read the Locality Planning Annual Reports here.





Engaging communities in shaping our plans and strategies

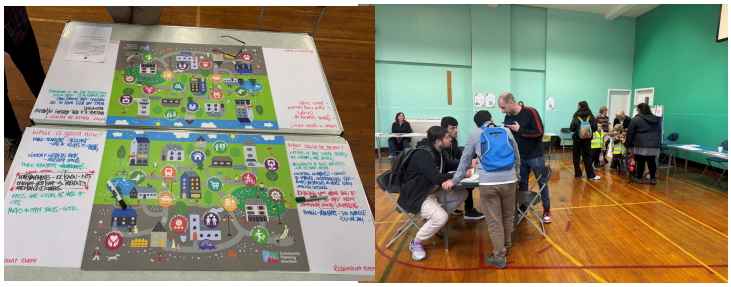
Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025.

This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

The approach enables us to:

- Put people at the heart of the process.
- Look at people's physical and social environments and asses and identify where improvement is required to support people to live healthy, happy lives.
- Align priorities across all Strategies/Plans resulting in greater cohesion.
- Empower communities to engage through consistent use of a single tool
- Provide outreach and adaptive sessions to make the process more accessible to all group
- Respond to community insights in a more joined up way
- Inform our knowledge of where to dig a bit deeper and provide targeted, deep dive, sessions responding to the initial results
- Confirm if our strategies are focused on right areas.

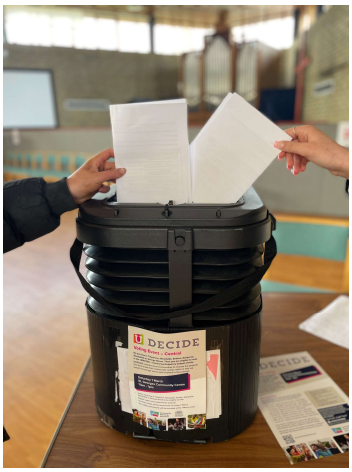
We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held 6 locality events, a children and young people's version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say. Working with the North East Culture Collective, there have also been a series of creative engagement sessions undertaken, as part of testing how creativity and culture can help empower communities.



The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

Community Funding

The Fairer Aberdeen Board allocated £25,000 to undertake a Participatory Budgeting event in the Rosehill, Stockethill and Cornhill area during October 2024. A steering group made up of partners and community representatives prioritised the funding for initiatives to improve the community, support social inclusion, and tackle isolation and loneliness. Funding was awarded to six initiatives supporting parents and toddlers, youth work, and community activities.



The Locality Planning team led the delivery of a UDECIDE Participatory Budgeting process. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities. Applications were open to community groups who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the Locality Plans. Proposals needed to be in one of the 13 identified Priority Neighbourhoods. Funding was awarded to 23 projects across the three localities and 3 projects were partially funded. You can read more about the projects and the process here: UDECIDE Report 2025.

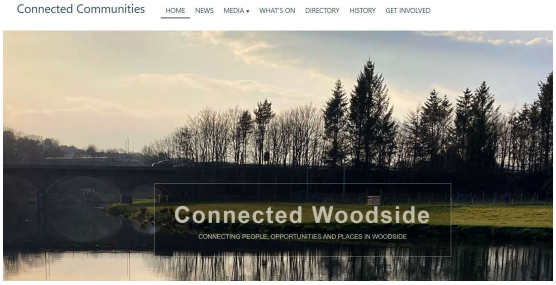
In the Woodside Decides initiative, Station House Media Unit and the Woodside Network have been testing how small funding pots can be utilised to encourage local residents to have a greater sense of control and influence within their community, and therefore to become more actively involved in Community Planning activity in their local area. Funding for this test of change was sourced from Community Planning Aberdeen, ACVO, North East Culture Collective and NESCAN Hub. £18,000 of funds across 4 themes, and a range of community engagement events and activity has taken place over the past year. This has included open events, advertised widely, bringing together people from across the community, as well as more targeted events for women and older people. There have also been outreach activities within sheltered housing complexes, and a youth project at Printfield Community Project. So far around £8000 has been allocated, whilst other initiatives are under way to allocate the remaining funds.

Celebrating Communities

We are extremely fortunate in Aberdeen to have so many community groups being led by local people, serving those on their doorsteps and making a vital contribution to their city. The work they do is invaluable and complements the work of Community Planning partners. Increasing awareness, celebrating and promoting community led projects and activity has benefits for partner organisations and communities alike.
Our celebrating communities project has focused on increasing awareness of community led projects, both across communities as well as policy and decision makers. 66% of decision makers in 2024 reported that they felt they have a good awareness of community-led initiatives in the City.

Different communication methods are being tested, such as showcasing some community-led work as part of a Challenge Poverty Week screening and then promoting the screening through a digital magazine of the event was shared with policy and decision makers.

Staton House Media Unit have also worked with community members in both Woodside and Torry to develop a community website for the two areas, and this was launched in February.



Community Empowerment Toolkit

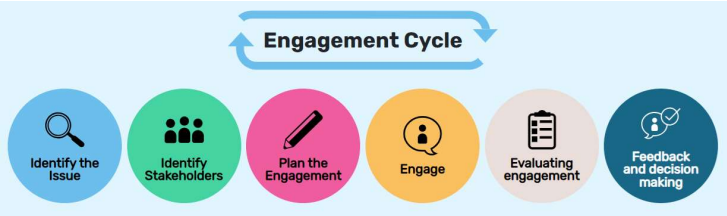
Collaboration between Community Planning partners and communities can lead to new solutions. However, negative experiences in the past as well as a lack of experience and confidence in how to work together can be a major barrier to collaboration for staff and communities. Through our capacity building project, with engagement from both communities and children and young people, we have co-produced an online community empowerment toolkit.

Community Empowerment Toolkit

The toolkit provides a single platform that staff and communities can go to for help and support to select the most appropriate and meaningful collaboration methods and processes to use; or to access advice on overcoming the obstacles.

Community members can find out a wide range of information, including getting in touch with their local Community Council, where to get help with funding, useful data to support projects, and how to connect into existing groups and organisations.

For organisations looking to undertake community engagement, the toolkit provides a step-by-step guide, with lots of useful resources to help support good community engagement. While the toolkit has been developed by Community Planning Aberdeen, the community engagement section can be used for any location.



As well as the toolkit, a new introductory training course 'Foundations of community engagement' has been developed and launched for community engagement practitioners across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray. This course is for staff who want to learn the basics of community engagement and apply these skills as part of their job role. Since it launched in March, 51 people have booked on.

Community Learning & Development

During 2024 there has been a strong focus on Community Learning and Development (CLD) at a national level with the Independent review and subsequent report of CLD commissioned by Scottish Government and Education Scotland HMIE progress visits and evaluation reports published. Both of these highlight the vital role CLD providers across councils and the third sector provide in enabling life changing and often lifesaving interventions through learning and community empowerment. These reports also come with recommendations to be implemented both nationally and locally with these finding from these informing our future CLD plan for 2025-27. Across the city progress against the CLD plan, aligned LOIP outcomes has recorded positive impact on learners and the community, these include:

Establishing a kinship worker: This worker has successfully bridged the gap between the kinship team and supports available across the city.

Increasing learner confidence: 96% of learners reported increased confidence following engagement with family learning.

Securing paid placements for ESOL learners: Most learners on the ESOL for care courses run in partnership with Bon Accord Care secured paid placements.

Supporting adults facing personal challenges: Working in partnership with Shmu (Station House Media Unit), 62 adults facing personal challenges were supported, with 23 going on to secure positive destinations in education or employment.

Healthy minds team: This team has successfully supported learners facing social isolation through activities within the community and Cornhill Hospital, with almost all reporting increased confidence.

Expanding support for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): Over 200 learners are currently being supported, with learners setting up learner-managed support groups to improve mental health and reduce social isolation.

Funded projects: These projects supported 686 volunteers who contributed 103,711 hours of volunteering time

Community resilience groups: Three community resilience groups have been established across the city in Cults, Culter, and Bridge of Don to support the community in the face of adverse weather and other civil contingency events.

For more examples of the impact of Community Learning and Development delivered across the city, please see:

Learning changes lives for the better – CLD Plan 2024-2025 report

Community Learning and Development Case Studies 2024

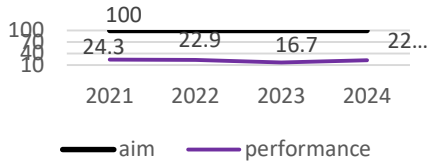
What impact have we had?

24/25/26 improvement aim Performance

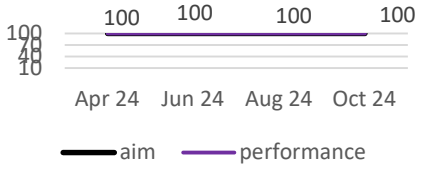
- Yes
- Getting there
- Not yet

Community Empowerment

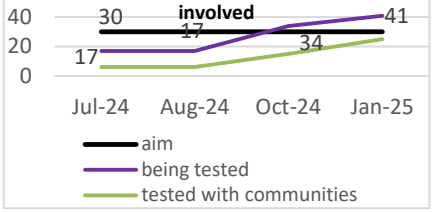
% of people who feel able to particpate in decisions to make things better



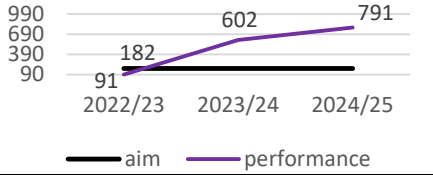
% Community Planning Aberdeen Board reports which impact Children informed by them



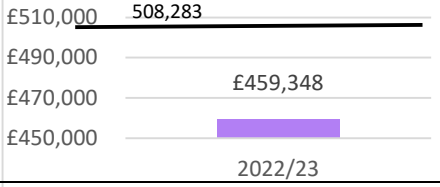
No. of community ideas in Locality Plans tested where communities are involved



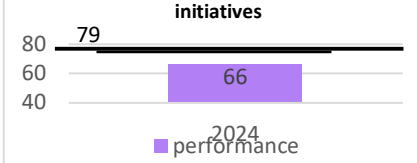
No. of community members participating in Community Planning



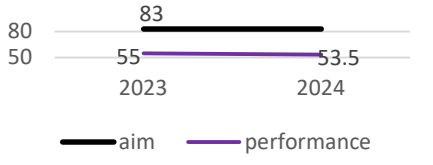
No. of community led projects supported to access CPA Funding



% of policy and decision makers who feel they have a good or very good awareness of community-led initiatives



% City Voice respondents reporting they have knowledge/skill to make improvement in community



- Incorporate tools and techniques on engaging people with lived experience within the online community Empowerment toolkit, including a new 'human library' of stories told by people from Aberdeen with lived experience.
- Work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.
- Testing with children and young people different methods of engagement on decisions which impact them.
- Support for community led organisations to access funding for community led initiatives.
- Establishment and delivery of the new Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership to improve collaboration across the City's Community Learning and Development partners and support delivery of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Locality Plans, Children's Services Plan and other key strategies.
- Continue to take a rights based approach to engaging people from diverse communities using the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles.
- Improve gathering of feedback from community members on whether they feel they are being engaged at a meaningful level.

Ways to get involved

There are many ways people can get involved in the work of the Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for our citizens and the wider community. Our ambition is for all communities across Aberdeen to be equal community planning partners and we are reaching out to all individuals, community groups and organisations to get involved in our work to make the City a place where all people can prosper, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Find out more about the different ways you can get involved by clicking on the links below.

Find out more about Community Planning Aberdeen

Sign up for community updates

Join a Locality Empowerment Group

Join a Priority Neighbourhood Partnership

Become a member of our Citizen Panel

Find out about other ways of working with communities

Learn about our Community Empowerment Network

Or simply get in touch by emailing communityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Who's Who?

CPA Board and Management Group Provides strategic leadership and direction.

Chair CPA Board	Vice-Chair of CPA Board	Partners involved
Councillor Allard, Aberdeen City Council	Susan Webb, Public Health, NHS Grampian	• Aberdeen City Council • NHS Grampian • Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • Police Scotland • Robert Gordon University • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • University of Aberdeen • Skills Development Scotland • North East Scotland College • Nestrans • Scottish Enterprise • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations
Chair Management Group	**Vice-Chair of Management Group**	
Angela Scott, Aberdeen City Council	Phil Mackie, Public Health, NHS Grampian	

Outcome Improvement Groups

Anti-Poverty Group Preventing suffering due to poverty.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council	Marj Johnston NHS Grampian	Susan Thoms, Aberdeen City Council	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Foyer • Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership • Aberdeen Health Determinants Collaboration • ACVO • CFine • Cyrenians • Grampian Racial Equalities Council • Instant Neighbour • The Fountain of Love Church • NHS Grampian • SCARF • Station House Media Unit • University of Aberdeen

Aberdeen Prospers Responsible for improving our economy.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Allison Carrington, Skills Development Scotland	Duncan Abernethy, NESCOL	Vacant	• Aberdeen City Council • Skills Development Scotland • North East Scotland College • Nestrans • Grampian Racial Equalities Council • Robert Gordon University • Scottish Enterprise • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Department for Work and Pensions • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • Grampian Racial Equalities Council • Federation of Small Businesses • Culture Aberdeen • University of Aberdeen • NESCAN

Children's Services Board Ensuring children are the future.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Graeme Simpson, Aberdeen City Council	Vacant	James Simpson, Aberdeen City Council	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Children's Hearings Scotland • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • Scottish Children's Reporters Association • Scottish Fire and Rescue • Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • Sport Aberdeen • Skills Development Scotland

Resilient, Included & Supported Group Helping people live independently.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Alison MacLeod, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	Kenny Collie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Grace Milne Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	• Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • NHS Grampian • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • Police Scotland • Nestrans • North East Scotland College • University of Aberdeen • Robert Gordon University • Sport Aberdeen • Quarriers

Community Justice Group Improving outcomes for people involved in the justice system.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Claire Wilson, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	George Nixon, Police Scotland	Chris Parker Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	• Aberdeen City Council • Health and Social Care Partnership • Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • Scottish Courts and Tribunals • Scottish Fire and Rescue • Scottish Prison Service • Skills Development Scotland • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Community Justice Scotland • University of Aberdeen • Grampian Racial Equalities Council • Families Outside

Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Tackling issues arising from substance use.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Fiona Mitchelhill, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	Vacant	Simon Rayner, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Scottish Prison Service • Aberdeen in Recovery • Alcohol and Drugs Action • Scottish Ambulance Service • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • Advocacy Services Aberdeen • North East Scotland College • University of Aberdeen

Homewards Steering Group Reducing homelessness and youth homelessness

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Dr Isaac Poobalan, Provost St Andrews Cathedral	Campbell Thomson, Independent Chair Public Protection Committee	Anu Kasim, Homewards	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • ACVO • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • North East Scotland College • University of Aberdeen • Aberdeen Cyrenians • Aberdeen Foyer • Aberdeen Football Community Trust • Burgesses • Department of Work and Pensions • Grampian Regional Equalities Council • Kings Church • Langstane Housing • Public Protection Committee • Salvation Army • Scottish Prison Service • Seven Incorporated Trades • Station House Media Unit • Street Soccer Scotland • Social Bite • The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales

Sustainable City Group Creating a safe, attractive, welcoming environment.

Chair	Vice Chair	Lead Contact	Partners involved
Jillian Evans, Public Health, NHS Grampian	Sinclair Laing, Aberdeen City Council	Jacqui Bell, NHS Grampian	• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Civic Forum • NHS Grampian • Police Scotland • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • Sport Aberdeen • Nestrans • SEPA • Nature Scot • NESCAN • University of Aberdeen • Home Energy Scotland • CFine

Community Empowerment Group Ensuring community perspective.

Chair	Vice Chair		Partners involved
Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council	Maggie Hepburn, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations		• Aberdeen City Council • Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations • Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership • Civic Forum • Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) • Police Scotland • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • NHS Grampian • University of Aberdeen • Station House Media Unit • Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaboration

Community Planning Team Provides strategic support to Partnership colleagues.

Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead, Prevention and Community Empowerment, Aberdeen City Council	Allison Swanson, Community Planning and Improvement Manager, Aberdeen City Council	James Simpson, Performance and Strategy Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council
Anne McAteer, Research Officer, Aberdeen City Council		

Integrated Locality Planning Team Responsible for delivering our three Locality Plans.

City Wide	South	Central	North
Iain Robertson, Transformation Programme Manager, ACHSCP	Vibha Gaikwad, Public Health Coordinator, ACHSCP	Chris Smillie, Public Health Coordinator, ACHSCP	Vacant Public Health Coordinator, ACHSCP

City Wide	Torry	Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside	Northfield, Mastrick, Middlefield Heathryfold, Cummings Park
Jade Leyden, Community Development Manager, Aberdeen City Council	Teresa Dufficy, Community Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council	Graham Donald, Community Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council	Kev Donald, Community Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council

Further Information:

If you have any questions about this report or Community Planning Aberdeen please contact: CommunityPlanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

To find out more about community planning please visit: www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk

Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Draft Locality Plan Annual Reports 2024-25 for North, South and Central Localities.
Lead Officer	Michelle Crombie, Chair of CPA Community Empowerment Group Alison Macleod, Chair of ACHSCP Strategic Planning Group
Report Author	Jade Leyden, Locality Planning and Community Development Manager, ACC Iain Robertson, Transformation Programme Manager, ACHSCP
Date of Report	1st May 2025
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 21St May 2025

Purpose of the Report

This report presents the draft Annual Reports 2024/25 against the North, South and Central Locality Plans published in July 2024. 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 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. At the same time, this joint working 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 throughout 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 This report presents annual reports against the refreshed Locality Plans for 2024-25 and reflects inclusion of a new theme covering Community Empowerment which was

strongly recommended by community members throughout the engagement and consultation period. Each of the annual reports attached as **Appendices 1-3** will provide members and the public with an overview of progress made in the last 12 months to address priority issues outlined in our reports. A summary of highlights and challenges from each annual report are set out below against the Economy, People, Place, and Community themes:

2. NORTH, SOUTH AND CENTRAL KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2024/25

2.1 The three Locality Plan Annual Reports 2024-25 contained in **Appendix 1-3** provide the Community Planning Partnership and members of the public with an overview of progress made in the last 12 months to address priority issues, some highlights from each plan are set out against the Economy, People, and Place themes below:

2.2 Central Locality

2.2.1 **Economy –** ABZ Works supported 28 people living in Central Locality to set up their own business during 2024-25.

2.2.2 **21.8%** of people in Central Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to 26.3% of people living in Central priority neighbourhoods.

2.2.3 **People –** 13 Health Improvement Fund (HIF) projects were funded across Central Locality during 2024-25, with a collective value of £48,240 for health improvement activities which delivered outcomes within the IJB Strategic Plan, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, and/or the Central Locality Plan. .

2.2.4 **127** people attended the Community Appointment Day on Chronic Pain at the Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub on 5 February 2025, with 61 people pre-booking their place, and 66 walk ins. **86% of pre-booked attendees** had no previous contact with the Chronic Pain Team, highlighting the importance of taking an a preventative, population level approach.

2.2.5 In 2023, the rate of drug related hospital stays for Central Locality was **248.5 people per 100,000** of the population, this was a slight improvement on 2022's data, where the rate stood at **250 admissions**. Central Locality continues to have the highest rate of drug related hospital stays across Aberdeen City.

2.2.6 **Place** – **87%** of Central Locality respondents to the City Voice survey reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. **81.3%** of respondents from the Central priority neighbourhoods reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces.

2.2.7 **74.6%** of Central Locality residents regularly walk compared to **68.8%** of people living in Central priority neighbourhoods. People in Central Locality are most likely to walk regularly in Aberdeen City.

2.2.8 **Community - Overall attendance at Central LEG meetings increased by 35.8% between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Overall attendance at the Central PNP decreased by 37.1% between 2023-24 and 2024-25.**

2.2.9 **Eight** community led projects were funded in Central Locality through the UDecide participatory budgeting scheme in March 2025, with a collective value of **£20,000**.

2.3 North Locality

2.3.1 **Economy** - ABZ Works's Development Fund has supported several employability projects across North Locality during 2024, such as Future Focus CV Workshop sessions for unemployed people in Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill; and they worked in partnership with Middlefield Community Project to provide volunteers with qualifications for REHIS (food hygiene), First Aid, and Customer Service, along with mentoring, resilience, and mental health support.

2.3.2 Danestone Community Centre delivered a Community Nappy Exchange providing nappies to families in need. The project has helped reduce the financial burden on families and promote sustainability. The project supported **545** people during 2024.

2.3.3 **People** – **98** people attended Aberdeen City's first Community Appointment Day for Chronic Pain at Get Active @ Northfield on 27 November 2024. The purpose of the Community Appointment Day was to bring all key health, social care, and wellbeing services all under one roof to support people who are living with chronic pain. This included primary care and secondary care services, as well as key partners such as the DWP, Sport Aberdeen, and third sector organisations which provided advice on sleep, medication, and social connectiveness. Feedback received during the event was very positive from both attendees, staff, and stall holders.

2.3.4 The Saltire Awards are the Scottish Government's way of celebrating, recognising and rewarding the commitment, contribution and achievements of volunteers aged 12-25 in Scotland. Of the 3623 Aberdeen Saltire Award recipients during 2024, **1622** young people were from North Locality. This is the highest number by locality area in Aberdeen City.

2.3.5 **Place** – **65.2%** of North Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to **45%** of people who live in North priority neighbourhoods.

2.3.6 Heathryburn Primary School created a community garden to engage families in the cycle of food growing and encourage positive mental wellbeing through outdoor activities. The garden has provided a space for families to learn about gardening and enjoy outdoor activities together. The project supported over **50 pupils**. The garden has become a popular spot for families to gather and learn about gardening.

2.3.7 **Community -** Overall attendance at North LEG meetings **increased by 8%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Overall attendance at the Northfield PNP **decreased by 25.8%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25.

2.3.8 **22** community led projects were supported by the Health Improvement Fund in the North Locality during 2024-25 with a collective value of **£61,372**. **8** community led projects were funded in North Locality through the UDecide participatory budgeting scheme in March 2025, with a collective value of **£20,000**.

2.4 South Locality

2.4.1 **Economy** – The number of children in low income households decreased from **1900** in 2022, to **1864** in 2023, an improvement of **1.8%**. However this is still significantly higher than the 1616 children in low income families from before the pandemic in 2019.

2.4.2 According to the City Voice Survey carried out in 2024, **10.3%** of people in South Locality worried they would need to choose between heating and eating, compared to **16%** of people living in Torry and Kincorth.

2.4.3 **People** – **94.2%** of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. With **91.4%** of Lochside Academy leavers also achieving a positive destination.

2.4.4 Alcohol related mortality rates in South Locality have been improving since 2018, with a rate of **14.4 deaths** per 100,000 recorded in 2023, compared to **17.3 deaths** per 100,000 in 2018.

2.4.5 **Place** –**69.6%** of South Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces, compared to **47.4%** of people who live in South priority neighbourhoods.

2.4.6 **64.2%** of South Locality residents regularly walk compared to **47.4%** of people living in South priority neighbourhoods

2.4.7 **Community -** Overall attendance at South LEG meetings **increased by 29.2%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25. Overall attendance at the Torry Partnership **decreased by 19.5%** between 2023-24 and 2024-25.

2.4.8 **14** community led projects were supported by the Health Improvement Fund in the South Locality during 2024-25 with a collective value of **£49,701**. **Ten** community led projects were funded in South Locality through the UDecide participatory budgeting scheme in March 2025, with a collective value of **£20,000**.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 The Locality Planning Team will work with our Community Planning and community partners to focus on areas for improvement during 2025-26. These include increasing the number of Community Resilience Groups across the City; improving community health and wellbeing, particularly weight management and mental health; and supporting people living in poverty to achieve better outcomes.

3.2 The Locality Planning Team will lead on planning and community engagement for the three new Locality Plans which will be published alongside the new 10 year Local Outcome Improvement Plan, expected in April 2026. The Locality Planning Team will report to the IJB and the CPA Management Group with the new plans, alongside the new 10 year LOIP in 2026.

3.3 The Locality Planning Team will ensure locality planning and community empowerment are effectively embedded into the IJB new Strategic Plan ensuring Locality Empowerment Group (LEG) and Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP) members can contribute towards evaluation, planning, and delivery of projects, with an increased focus on co-production and co-delivery wherever possible.

3.4 Engagement between Community Planning, third sector, and community partners will continue. Stretch Outcome 16 projects aim to connect, support, build capacity, and promote community activity within localities.

3.5 The Locality Planning Team will continue to work with Community Planning Outcome Improvement Groups and ACHSCP's Strategic Planning Group to ensure more locality level data is produced, and can be used to make targeted interventions.

3.6 The Locality Planning Team will continue to consolidate funding streams which support Locality Planning such as the Health Improvement Fund, UDecide participatory budgeting, Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, and Fairer Aberdeen Fund to improve efficiency, reduce duplication, and ensure our key community led priorities are being supported.

3.7 Progress reporting on locality planning will continue on a monthly basis through ACHSCP's Strategic Planning Group and through the Stretch Outcome 16.3 project group which reports to the CPA Management Group and Community Empowerment Group. Updates on locality planning will also be reported to the IJB through the Chief Officers Report and the ACHSCP Annual Performance Report.

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the Management Group:

i) Approve the final draft Locality Plans presented at Appendix 1, 2 and 3 and agree that it be considered at the CPA Board meeting on 18th June 2025;

ii) Make suggestions on how to strengthen the reports before submission to the CPA Board; and

iii) Consider the report in conjunction with the CPA Annual Outcome Improvement Report (**Item2.1)** to understand the link with the priority issues being tackled via the city wide Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Opportunities and Risks

The effects of poor health and wellbeing are deeply connected to the broader factors influencing public health, which the Community Planning Partnership aims to improve through its stretch outcomes 1-16. The Locality Plans help direct resources to people and communities who need support the most across various outcomes. They support the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Strategy, along with other partner strategies. Most importantly, they facilitate stronger cooperation between community groups and public services, allowing for the pooling of resources, skills, and assets to achieve shared priority outcomes.

Consultation

Allison Swanson, Improvement Programme Manager
CPA Lead Contacts Group
ACHSCP Senior Leadership Team
ACHSCP Strategic Planning Group
North, South and Central Locality Empowerment Group members
Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships

Background Papers

Local Outcome Improvement Plan
North Locality Plan
Central Locality Plan
South Locality Plan

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Aberdeen City - North Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25

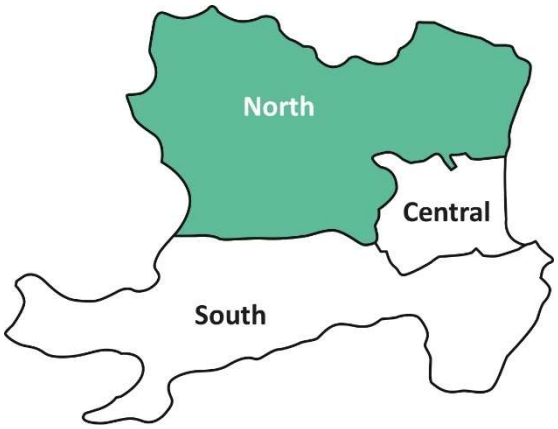
North Locality Neighbourhoods:

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

Community Planning Aberdeen

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the North Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The North Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the 14 neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our North Locality Empowerment Group and North Priority Partnership.



The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the North Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the North Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings park, Sheddocksley, Mastrick, Summerhill, and Heathryfold. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.

Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the North Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to achieve the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the North Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 10

Our Place – Page 24

Our Community – Page 27

Our Economy

OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Create Opportunities for Fair Work

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credits or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **15 new businesses were set up** in North Locality through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZ Works' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.

Enchanted Elements: Case Study Shantelle first engaged with Business Gateway in February 2024 at the Cummings Park Community Centre, aiming to launch a party hire business from a retail unit. Her plan included offering equipment like popcorn and candy floss machines for events, retailing children's costumes and party bags, and providing food and party services.

Realising the financial impracticality of a shop unit, we reassessed her business model, focusing on online sales and event-based trading. With support from ABZWorks and successful Seed Fund Start Up funding, Shantelle launched her business. Her first major initiative, renting a stall at the Trinity Centre, did not yield sales or bookings. Viewing this as a learning opportunity, Shantelle appreciated not committing to a permanent retail unit prematurely. We held follow-up meetings to adjust her strategy, and she remains engaged with Business Gateway for ongoing support.

Support for Entrepreneurial Initiatives Recognising that flexible working arrangements are often key to balancing family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person which has supported 19 parents in 24-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In the North locality, **seven parents** have benefited from this initiative.

Pictures needed to breakdown section below
Local employability support and job opportunities

Paid Work Experience Placements in ELC Settings: ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the early learning and childcare (ELC) sector has seen the successful placement of **10 paid work experience opportunities** which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In the North Locality, **two placements** have been provided.

Sector-Based Training for Expanded Childcare Access: To address long-term capacity issues in the childcare sector, ABZ Works has commissioned training activities targeted at enhancing skills and broadening access. This program has reached 29 individuals, including 10 parents, providing them with specialised sector-based training. The goal is to empower participants with the skills needed to support and expand high-quality childcare services in our communities. In the North Locality, **13 individuals** have received training.

Northfield Academy pupils participated in the **Careers in Health event**, a collaborative effort between Nescol and RGU, held over two days (29-30 October 2024). The event aimed to raise awareness of career pathways in the health sector. The S4 pupils, along with students from 11 other schools, visited both Nescol's City Campus and RGU's campus at Garthdee. They engaged in various activities related to careers in Health, exploring pathways in Healthcare, Fitness Health and Exercise, and Life Sciences.

Middlefield Community Project supports local employability through partnership working with ABZ Works. Activities within Middlefield include: Arts and crafts, local history, coping skills, sign language, gardening and food growing, cooking groups, youth work groups, men's groups, Pathways support, WorkingRite, apprenticeships in the nursery, and volunteering and job opportunities through the community café.

ABZ Works Development Fund is a grant programme to support local organisations in building their capacity to deliver employability-related activities, with a focus on those facing barriers to employment, and aims to help residents gain access to employability programmes and work. Some of the recipients of the Development Funds are noted below:

Mastrick Community Centre and **Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill Community Council** are actively involved in employability initiatives funded through the ABZ Works Development Fund (Phase 3). These projects are taking place between January and March 2025.

The 'Future Focus: CV Workshop' Series supports unemployed individuals in **Mastrick, Sheddocksley, and Summerhill** by equipping them with essential job market skills. It offers workshops and one-on-one sessions for CV improvement, application tailoring, and cover letter writing. Workshops are held in local venues to reduce logistical and financial barriers, ensuring accessibility for care-experienced individuals, parents in poverty, and those over 50.

Mastrick Community Centre has been funded to establish an **employability café**, providing a welcoming environment for individuals to enjoy coffee, chat with staff, and explore training and job opportunities. The café aims to build meaningful relationships and offer comprehensive support, including CV building, interview training, job search assistance, and guidance on training opportunities and funding. Individuals can identify and overcome barriers at their own pace with dedicated staff assistance. The focus is on boosting confidence and skills, enabling local people to connect with employers and other organisations for further training or employment opportunities.

Middlefield Community Project, funded by the ABZ Works Development Fund (Phase 2), supports two areas of work from April 2024 to March 2025. Firstly, it increases support for volunteers by providing a budget for qualifications like REHIS, First Aid, and Customer Service courses, along with mentoring and management time. Secondly, it funds two, year-long adult learning classes and offers coping skills sessions to help people access these opportunities and support their mental health.

Build Your Future event @The Hub attracted 25 local people to access support from Robertson Construction, ABZ Works, SHMU, Pathways, and Middlefield Community Project at an Employability Morning hosted at the Middlefield Hub. **Two local people** who attended the event are now in full time employment or have started an apprenticeship. Several other attendees have accessed additional training or are now in sessional staff roles hoping to increase their hours. The event was a huge success.

ABZ Works has also been working alongside Sport Aberdeen at **Get Active @ Northfield** where we have set up an information stand targeting mainly parents who are attending the centre with their children. We provided information on our employability service and what support is available to Northfield residents. We spoke to approximately **80 people** over four weeks in March 2025. We are exploring the possibility of continuing the information sessions at The Middlefield Community Project.

ABZWorks conducted a **city-wide skills audit** in Aberdeen during April 2025, surveying residents to improve employability services. The aim was to identify desired skills, training and support needed for entering or returning to work. Feedback is gathered through various methods, including door-to-door visits in Northfield and other priority neighbourhoods to reach those digitally excluded or not in touch with local services. Currently, 45% of survey respondents are from Northfield.

The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **1622 young people** from North Locality. The North Locality had the highest number of young people achieving a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City.

The **Family Learning team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **36 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the North Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses. In addition, Family Learning have supported parents and carers with over £15,000 worth of childminding hours through the Scottish Childminding Association, providing placements for 16 children across the North Locality. As well as linking families to childcare funding support via ABZ Works. This has reduced barriers to engagement with our universal courses or 1:1 targeted support to families.

Affordable Childcare

Financial Support for Childcare Costs: ABZ Works continued its commitment to support parents to remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring parents can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In the North Locality, **five families** benefited from this support.

Danestone Community Centre ran a **Community Nappy Exchange**, providing nappies to families in need. The project has helped reduce the financial burden on families and promote sustainability. The project supported **545 people**. Families have expressed gratitude for the support provided by the nappy exchange.

Support our Most Vulnerable Families

Community food provision and community pantries

The Cubby. Created in 2019 as a response to households struggling with everyday costs, The Cubby is based in Cummings Park Community Centre to alleviate food poverty and food anxiety. Different models were looked at including the Food Bank and Pantry models. The Pantry model was initially chosen to reduce any stigma, give a shopping experience, and promote social interaction.

Traditionally, the pantry model involved membership and session fees as people like to contribute, however, it was quickly recognised some did not have the fees so could not contribute. The fees were replaced with an honesty box with no expectation to contribute.

Currently The Cubby opens fortnightly and supports between **15-20 households** each session. Funded by Cummings Park Community Association, Health Improvement Funding, and the Trade Widows Project, the Cubby has purchased fridge freezers, and Fairshare via Cfine. The Cubby provides dried goods, tins, frozen foods, plus fresh vegetables and fruit while encouraging healthy eating as an option to members. It also signposts to other services as the need arises.

" It's handy knowing it's there if I need it, it's accessible to me and a fall back if things are getting tight."

Four volunteers at a time run each Cubby with shopping, registration, stock taking, setting out the food, dealing with customers and tidying up some of the duties entailed. Each session uses **18 volunteer hours giving a total of 432 volunteer hours a year** supporting the initiative. Volunteers have gained confidence, met new friends and been given renewed purpose. They are all enthusiastic and willing to contribute more.

"Volunteering helps my motivation and gives some purpose, rather than being stuck in the house. It's helped my confidence as I have to speak to people, even though I'm not at my best. It's helped me reflect on how I deal with things and learn to listen to people around me more."

"I like volunteering at the Cubby, I feel I'm helping out and gives me a chance to speak to folk."

During 2024-25 however, the rising cost of food prices has meant fewer food and domestic items have been donated, which unfortunately has impacted on the budget of the Cummings Park Association.

Fit like? Family Wellbeing Hubs are a group of services working together to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. The Hubs help with:

- Finance and benefits
- Family relationships and communication
- Coping with daily pressures
- Promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- Talking about traumatic things that have happened

There is a Fit Like Hub based in Manor Park Community Hub in the North Locality.

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **15 Cash First recipients were from North Locality**, with 47% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In the North Locality, **£7,360.79** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Financial Inclusion

Funded by Multiply Funding, The Council's Family Learning Team supported **16 people** to take part in a four session Managing Money course at Cummings Park Community Centre. Content included creating a household budget, taking control of your money, the cost of credit and when debt becomes a problem, plus advice on how to help your child learn money skills. St Machar Credit Union also came along to speak to the groups, after which many of those attending joined the Credit Union. Twelve of the participants completed a level 2 SQA module in numeracy, and one of the groups visited the Money Museum in Edinburgh. The Money Museum have decided to develop family activities due to the visit from Aberdeen residents.

"I'm keeping track of my budgeting more"

"I'm planning ahead and understand more about interest rates"

"Very informative and engaging!"

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **177 people from North Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion To further support families, ABZ Works had a secondment of a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure that eligible families have the support needed to access the support they are entitled to. In the North Locality, **40 families have been assisted.**

Fuel poverty & Affordable heating

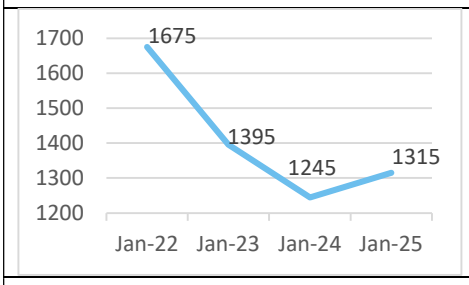
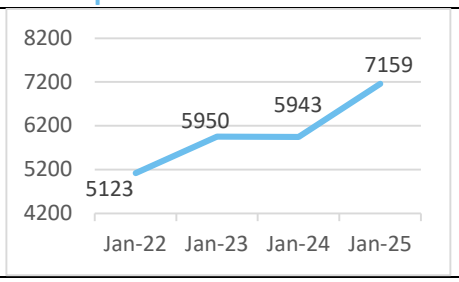
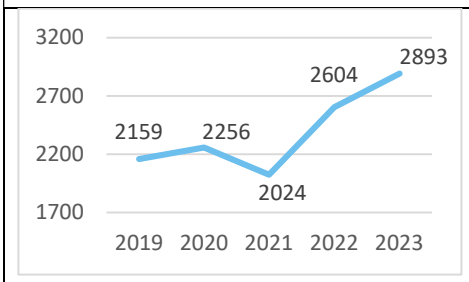
Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen, that delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In the North Locality 542 enquiries were received, of these 193 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of the support from Scarf, including support to heat their home, general and energy advice, home visits and onwards referrals, **11% of households were removed from fuel poverty.**

English as a Second Language Support

- The Community Learning and Development **Adult Learning team** have delivered 55 ESOL activities to 330 learners most of whom have reported an increase in confidence (awaiting information to provide more context). Core ESOL classes follow a communicative approach focusing on developing learners' basic English skills to a level which will allow them to function in society.
- Classes start at literacy level, where learners are taught how to read and write the roman alphabet and go up to Pre-Intermediate level (A2, National 3).

- Learners are able to prepare for SQA ESOL awards at National 2 and 3 level. They also have the opportunity to complete SQA Core Skills Numeracy Level 2 awards.
- As well as core classes, ESOL learners also have the opportunity to participate in short courses on a range of topics, such as Scottish culture and visit places around Aberdeen, such as the Art Gallery or Old Aberdeen. Weekly board games sessions at the Maritime Museum also provide learners with an opportunity to develop their speaking skills in a different setting.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2024/25?

Food Insecurity	Food Poverty	Rent Assistance
10.7% of people in the North Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to **26.7%** of people living in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**4.5%** of households in the North Locality went without food for a day compared to **6.7%** of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**177** people from North Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund
Fuel Insecurity	**Fuel Poverty**	**Digital Employability Support**
25.4% 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 50, 2024)	**5.4%** of households in the North Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to **20%** of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**8** people in the North Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs
Claimant Count	**People on Universal Credit**	**Benefit Maximisation**
		The online benefit calculator has been accessed **737** times by people from North priority neighbourhoods
Children in low income families	**Business Start Ups**	**Digital Access and Skills**
	Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported **15** people in North Locality to start their own business	**93.6%** of North Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with **91.6%** across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- Encourage more people to start their own business and promoting local business gateway services across the wider locality
- More English as a Second Language (ESOL) services across the North Locality

Our People

OUR PRIORITIES

North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out three priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 2. Improve he physical health and wellbeing of people
Priority 3. Support local volunteering
Priority 4. Early Intervention Approach

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Upskill knowledge and understanding to improve health and wellbeing

Boogie in the Bar provides an opportunity for people at risk of social isolation to meet up at a local venue to have a blether and a dance. The Boogie in the Bar held at **New Greentree's in Dyce** continues to grow in numbers and popularity. Health Improvement Funding has enabled organisers to provide a hot meal for those attending. On average around **30 people** attend each month and come from a mix of those living in residential housing or living independently in the community.

Boogie in the Bar at **Sunnybank Football Club** also provided social activity for older adults, helping reduce social isolation and improve mental health. During 2024-25, the Boogie **supported 411 people with five volunteers contributing approximately 140 hours.** Participants look forward to the event each month, and it has become a highlight for many.

Dyce and Stoneywood Association ran a **lunch club** for up to **25 elderly people** living alone or in sheltered accommodation. The lunch club provided nutritious meals, quizzes, entertainment, and simple exercises, helping reduce isolation and improve mental health. The project supported 25 people with **14 volunteers** contributing approximately **288 hours**.

Aberdeen North Parish Church provided a **hearing loop system** within the Aberdeen North Church building, increasing the accessibility of the weekly service for those who attend, many of whom use a hearing aid. The project has improved the accessibility of the church services, allowing more people to participate fully. The project supported 40 people with 2 volunteers contributing

approximately 208 hours to support ensure people can access the loop. Participants have expressed gratitude for the improved accessibility.

Lewis and Taransay sheltered housing complexes (Sheddocksley) now take part in the **Compassionate Buildings and Spaces** project and have made significant progress resident health and wellbeing. Both complexes now host a monthly Boogie in the Hoose, which is something residents greatly look forward to. Between the two complexes, an **average of 60 people attend these sessions**. Feedback has been very positive and residents have said how their confidence has grown. Both complexes took part in Dementia Awareness sessions run by Age Scotland and a few residents took part in a Fun Activities Leader Training course which enables them to run Body Boosting Bingo sessions with their neighbours. Dementia friendly signage has also been purchased and will be fitted during April 2025. The next steps for this project will be to evaluate the work, share learning, and encourage other sheltered housing complexes to get involved.

Occupational Therapy Student Led Groups – Robert Gordon University

Occupational Therapy Students at Robert Gordon University received funding from the Health Improvement Fund to design, create and run activity sessions within Sheltered Housing Complexes within the North Locality of Aberdeen City. The students were able to work with the residents to facilitate and adapt the sessions as appropriate. This intergenerational project supported the Students learning through real-life scenarios which they may face when working within the health and social care sector upon graduation. Furthermore, the project supported the active aging of residents through meaning activities. The project has involved **32 students**, who visit the sheltered housing complexes for 2 hours per week, over an 8 week period.

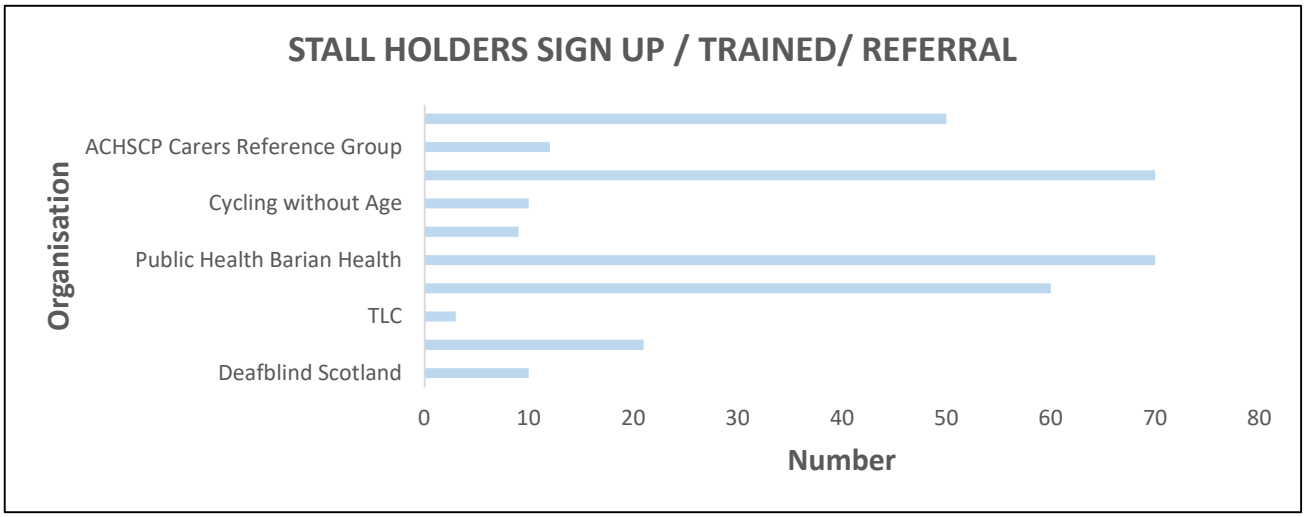
"This allows social integration for the residents through purposeful holistic activities."

Len Ironside Centre installed a basket-style swing for clients with good mobility and some independence skills, and another swing that is wheelchair accessible for clients who are not able to access a swing in any other way. The swings have provided a fun and inclusive activity for clients, improving their physical and mental wellbeing. The project supported **45 service-users** who have expressed joy and appreciation for the new swings.

Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics that are often uncomfortable and sometimes are stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outline below:

- 369 people attended the Gathering, including **58 community delegates** from the North Locality
- 8 speakers
- 61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors
- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below:



The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

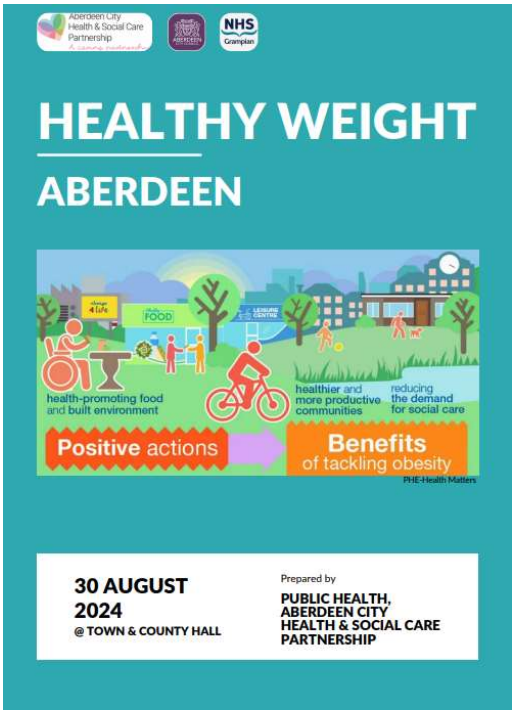
Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:

The annual women's health and wellbeing fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with 61 people in attendance, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach



Currently **over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight**, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of the pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and this continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, the Healthy Weight Aberdeen approach event held. 111 people from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024 and visit | Aberdeen City HSCP for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Promoting Healthy Life Choices

Through our **Healthy Life Choices project** we supported **16 adults from low income families in North Locality priority neighbourhoods** to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.

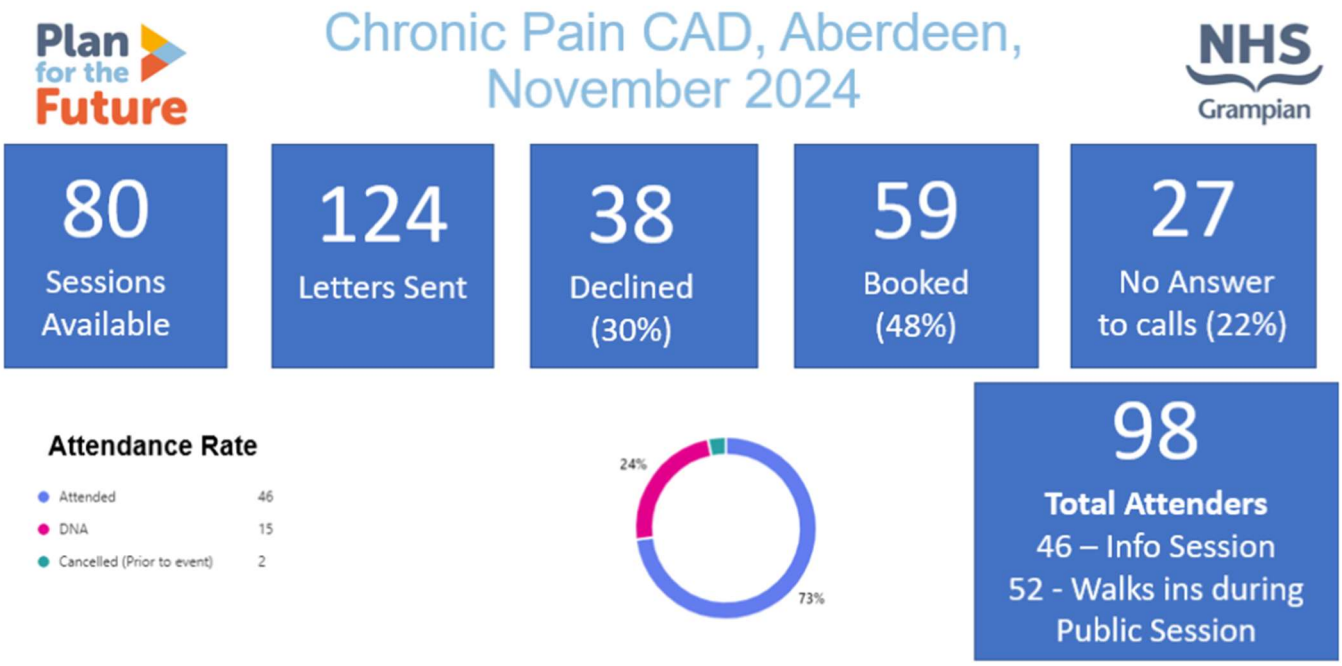
Strikers based in Bridge of Don delivered a **Walking Football Wellbeing project** to help older men maintain their fitness and stay active. The project provided a fun and engaging way for participants to stay fit and socially connected. The project supported **64 older men, with six volunteers contributing approximately 90 hours**. Participants have reported improved physical fitness and social interaction from the walking football sessions.

Community Appointment Day on Chronic Pain – Get Active @ Northfield on 27 November 2024

Community Appointment Days (CADs) are an innovative way of improving population health, social care, wellbeing by focusing on prevention and early intervention. CADs are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen. CADs promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions, the idea is that this improves patient outcomes and overall population health, and helps to protect primary and secondary care services which are under severe pressure from growing waiting lists. CADs bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them. This recognises that the current system is set up to manage one condition at a time, whereas CADs take a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue. Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to trial a CAD in Aberdeen City as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. The 2023 Scottish Health Survey also found that 38% of Scottish adults experienced chronic pain, this highlighted the importance of focussing not just on current waiting lists, but taking a more population level approach to prevent people from experiencing so much pain that they need to referred to the hospital's Chronic Pain Team. There is a widespread recognition across all sectors supporting the Chronic Pain CAD that chronic pain cannot be resolved in hospitals, instead the most appropriate interventions need to be made in our communities.

The first Community Appointment Day in Aberdeen was held in Northfield as it is one of our priority neighbourhoods and takes into account the health inequalities affecting this area of the city. Evaluation data compiled by NHS Grampian Public Health found:

- 8/10 patients felt that CAD either mostly or completely addressed what mattered most to them
- 94% of people felt a positive impact on their wellbeing from having fewer time-constraints
- 100% of people felt positive about accessing multiple services in one day
- 9/10 people felt positive about learning about community groups
- 9/10 people would recommend this event to friends or family
- 9/10 people felt the venue was easy to find and accessible
- Attendance data and patient feedback is outlined below



"I didn't expect so much help today. I've got many helpful advices. Great event! 5 star!"

"Really positive experience. I've felt "written off" by NHS and government, and today really helped me see a way forward."

"I got the letter and thought what is this? Today has been magic, you've got to take ownership. This CAD is wonderful, without this you can feel no-one cares and you just have to get on with it"

y Centre ran an Active Aging programme to improve hea
less active and socially isolated members of the local community. The project has successfully engaged participants in various activities, promoting physical fitness and social interaction. The project supported **21 people.** Participants have reported improved physical health and reduced isolation.

Dyce and Stoneywood Association Community Association bought two benches for Central Park in Dyce as part of the EncourAGE programme. The benches have provided a place for residents to rest and enjoy the park, promoting social interaction and outdoor activity. The project **supported 500+ people with 12 volunteers contributing approximately 6 hours**. The benches have become popular spots for community members to gather and chat.

Supporting Mental Wellbeing

Let's All Talk North East Mums (LATNEM) offered a free mental health peer support service for mums and birthing people, meeting fortnightly in Aberdeen. The project trained four new volunteers to meet demand and provide trauma-informed support and resources for service users.

The project **supported 220 people with 22 volunteers contributing approximately 195 hours**. Participants have reported improved mental health and support from the peer support service.

The Community Learning and Development **Healthy Minds team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds **supported 22 participants in North Locality with a total of 81 learner hours.**

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention delivered 50 training sessions across Aberdeen City which were attended by 663 people. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. A good example of this training being delivered within the North Locality was at the Middlefield Community Project where a suicide prevention workshop was delivered to **10 staff members**.

SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people.

Evaluation data has shown that **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

"Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you"

"Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it."

Support for Young Carers

Despite the substantial support available for young carers in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **66 young carers supported in the North Locality**

Case Study

A 14-year-old Young Carer (YC) was referred to Barnardo's Young Carers Service due to his significant caring role for his Mum, who suffers from advancing Emphysema, ADHD, poor mental health, and chronic pain. YC's responsibilities include household chores, emotional support, and helping with meals. The family has limited support, with no contact with YC's father and only a maternal grandfather who cannot assist due to his own health issues. YC struggles with school attendance and forming peer relationships, partly due to his caring responsibilities and bullying. Barnardo's Young Carers Service provides YC with opportunities for positive experiences, including 1-1 sessions, group activities, residential breaks, and a Befriender. YC has built a positive relationship with his volunteer befriender and enjoys group activities with other Young Carers. Various grants have been secured to support YC's participation in activities like karate lessons, coding classes, and trips, as well as accessing foodbanks and other financial aids due to the family's financial strains.

Activities for Children and Young People

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work team** has been in Northfield, Dyce, Oldmachar and Bridge of Don Associated School Group (ASG) primary and secondary schools since 2021. The team offers a range of informal learning activities such as 121 support, Youth Awards, drop-ins and school holiday programmes. These activities support and improves young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

267 youth work activities were delivered in North ASG's during 2024. gained a Youth Award, either a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award.

A pupil from Northfield academy who takes part in youth work programmes had this to say:
"youth work has helped me with my confidence, help me make new friends, talk about stuff I haven't told anyone".

Roots of Empathy P2, P3 at Quaryhill and Bramble Brae Primary Schools

The Community Learning and Development Family Learning Team worked with staff at Quarryhill and Bramble Brae Schools using an evidence programme for ages 5-13 in order to develop respect and understanding for themselves and others, as well as build relationships. A supported volunteer parent and their infant visited each school for 9 of the 27 sessions at each school throughout the year. The baby's development was observed, it's feelings labled and the children were encouraged to reflect on their own and others feelings. **25 children from each school** took part.

> *"the children really enjoyed having the baby visits, teachers noticed a difference on how the children expressed their feelings."*
>
> **Family Learning Worker**

Oldmachar Youth Club identified a need for a social space for secondary school-age young people to avoid social isolation and have a safe club to enjoy games and activities. The youth club has provided a safe and engaging environment for young people, helping them build confidence and social skills. The project supported **30 people with 10 volunteers contributing approximately 468 hours**. Participants have expressed appreciation for the safe and fun environment provided by the youth club.

As a result of successful funding bids, **Sport Aberdeen** have been able to complete the refurbishment of the tennis courts at **Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre**, with new surface, fencing and floodlighting installed during 24-25. A successful launch event was held in June 2024, which attracted over **200 people**. Play & fitness equipment have also been installed as part of the phase 2 improvements. Total investment in the project was over £60,000.

Northfield Climbing Wall Sport Aberdeen's Active Schools team and Community Sport team recently reactivated the indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy as a result of a successful funding application. The teams joined forces and secured £3900 in November 2024 from Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership's Health Improvement Fund, covering the cost of inspection and recertification of the wall and helping to **train 32 people to deliver bouldering sessions**. Bouldering is a discipline of rock climbing, performed at a low height without ropes or harnesses, and has many benefits for physical and mental health.

The indoor climbing wall at Northfield Academy was originally installed in 2017, unfortunately, the wall fell out of use due to staff turnover at the school and the loss of qualified teaching staff to support climbing sessions. A bustling opening event was held on Thursday 27 March 2025 to celebrate the facility being back in action. This was all made possible through close partnership working between Sport Aberdeen, Northfield Academy staff and a range of community groups via the priority neighbourhood partnership that is active in the area**.** As at March 2025, **50 young people have taken part** in school taster sessions and there are plans for setting up school lunch club sessions, and an all-girls bouldering group.

Looking ahead to the future, plans include attracting further support and funding to reactive roped rock climbing, embedding the activities as a regular part of the curricular offering at the school, supporting local clubs to develop performance pathways and enabling other external groups within the community to use the climbing wall out with school hours.

"Through bouldering you get to know different people better. Bouldering makes me feel supported and lets me trust others. I have been able to do a lot more than I thought I could. At the start of the year, on the residential trip, I nearly cried when we went climbing so bouldering has really helped my confidence. Now that I've tried it, it would be really good to be able to climb more regularly and have others try it out too."

Northfield Academy pupil

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond.
It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone and that from the 2024/25 school session 24-25 saw all S4 pupils trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life.

As a result of this, there has been a 48% increase in the total number of naloxone kits issued in Aberdeen City from 2021/22 to 2023/24, (X to Y) with a 56% increase in the number issued to Persons at Risk. X% of kits supplied to people at risk. We have also seen increased supply in each locality, with a X% increase in Central (X kits), X% increase in South (X kits), X% increase in North (Xkits) and X% increase in other (X kits) compared to 2023/24.

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which 18% were from the North locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

Alcoholic Anonymous at Northfield Community Centre

Alcoholic Anonymous meet at Northfield Community Centre weekly with between **16-20 attendees** each session. Northfield Community Centre was chosen as a venue as participant's privacy is respected and members can attend from throughout the city.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour	Positive destinations	Mental Health
There were **1014** reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across the North Locality during 2024. This is a **1.8%** improvement on the 1033 incidents reported during 2023. **173** incidents took place in Northfield and **171** incidents in Bucksburn, these were the highest neighbourhoods across the North Locality	**92.6%** of North Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination, this is the lowest in Aberdeen City. With **85.29%** of Northfield Academy leavers achieving a positive destination	**20.5%** of people who live in the North Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is higher than the Aberdeen City figure of **17.4%** and the highest per locality in Aberdeen City

Teenage Pregnancies	Counselling for Young People	Working Together with Parents
In the North Locality, **35 per 1000** girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This is above the Aberdeen City average rate of **19.8 per 1000** girls and young women. The North Locality has the highest proportion of teengage pregnancies across in Aberdeen City.	**100%** of schools in North Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	**27** new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children
Young People Volunteering	**Healthy Eating**	**Community Empowerment**
1622 young people from the North Locality received a Saltire Award. **3623** young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City.	**15.9%** of people in the North Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to **40%** of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**369 people** attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering, held at the Beach Ballroom on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. **58** attendees were from North Locality.
Alcohol Awareness	**Drug Related Deaths**	**Drug Related Hospital Stays**
48.6% of people in the North Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. **20.2%** of people who live in North Locality do not drink alcohol. This figure is **29.1%** across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)	naloxone kits supplied in North Locality in 2022	The rate of drug related hospital stays for the North Locality was **163.1 per 100,000** population. This is an improvement from **175.2 per 100,000** in 2022
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	**Deaths from Suicide**	**Life Expectancy**
Alcohol related mortality rates in North Locality are now **13.9 people per 100,000.** This is below the Aberdeen City rate of **19.9 people per 100,000.** North Locality had the lowest proportion of alcohol related mortality deaths across Aberdeen City	The rate of death from suicide in the North Locality is **12.6 per 100,000**, this is higher than the citywide average of **11.1 per 100,000** of the population. The North Locality has the highest rate of deaths from suicide in Aberdeen City	Men who live in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live **81 years,** whereas men in Heathryfold and Middlefield can expect to live **73.2 years.** The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is **76.9 years.** Women who live in Balgownie and Donmouth East can expect to live **85.6 years**, whereas women in Heathryfold and Middlefield can

		expect to live **74.7 years** – this is the area with the lowest life expectancy for women in Aberdeen City. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is **80.9 years.**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Explore options for a Northfield Pump Track
- Develop a support package for volunteers
- Support and celebrate local heritage

Our Place

OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local place:

Priority 5. Maximise use of disused outdoor space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Images to be added to this sections
Middlefield Community Litter Pick

Health Issues in the Community, a community development programme was delivered by ACHSCP at Middlefield Community Hub during 2024 to empower the local community to support health and wellbeing needs in the Middlefield area. Part of the course required attendees to research a health issue that was of concern to them or their community. Littering was raised as an issue and this led to the establishment of a community group to improve the local environment, Keep Middlefield Clean promotes upcoming litter picks, and information on recycling.

These litter picks were organised and attended by two community members, along with staff and volunteers from the Middlefield Community Hub and Middlefield area. Between March and June **nine picks over 16.5 hours were organised**, with an average of six adults and children collecting a total of **66 bags of rubbish** along with larger items such as mattresses, carpets, bikes, trampolines and traffic cones. Regular litter picks happen on a regular basis and cover the Middlefield area including the Scatter Burn.

"We want to make it a safe place for people to be able to walk about and enjoy"

" … and know that there are people who care about the area we live in."

"… let's keep it litter free and looking nice."

Cummings Park Flat have a garden which is maintained by volunteers and occasionally by the Community Payback Team. Part of the garden is allocated to grow fruit and vegetables including strawberries, apples, plums, raspberries, rhubarb, potatoes and tomatoes in their greenhouses. The fruit and vegetables contribute to participants having a healthy diet and encourages people to grow their own. The flat garden is an open garden in which welcome to help themselves to the produce, with local children often getting the fruit. The volunteers report working in the garden contributes to their wellbeing and gain satisfaction from seeing the results of their work. One of the volunteers is in their 80s and said they missed working in the garden during a recent illness. The thought of coming back to the garden inspired her to get better.

"I get a sense of making an effort and contributing, even though I don't like gardening! I also pick up litter on my way and from the garden and recycle it where possible. It's helped me grow as a person. I like recycling as it can turn a useless item in to something useful. I wish people wouldn't drop litter though!"

Heathryburn Primary School created a **community garden** to engage families in the cycle of food growing and encourage positive mental wellbeing through outdoor activities. The garden has provided a space for families to learn about gardening and enjoy outdoor activities together. The project supported **over 50 pupils.** The garden has become a popular spot for families to gather and learn about gardening.

Middlefield Community Project run a **Bike Hub** every Thursday. This is where local people can come and get their bikes repaired, or be taught how to do it themselves thus encouraging people to develop new skills and to recycle as opposed to throwing away and buying new. The project also accepts donations of bikes to repair, clean, and hand out to children in the area who perhaps couldn't afford a bike. The project **repairs 20 bikes per month** at The Middlefield Hub, and during 2024-25 handed out over **50 bikes** to local children and families.

Northfield Community Centre members have taken part in **two litter picks** during 2024. One was part of the Aberdeen 24 hour litter pick**. 30 children collected 35 bags of rubbish** from around the centre using equipment borrowed from Aberdeen City Council. They were supported by six centre volunteers, a local Councillor, and a Community Planning member of staff. The second litter pick was around Lintmill shops, with **12 children and six volunteers collecting 23 bags of rubbish**.

"The kids loved it and they didn't want it to finish" – Northfield Litter Pick Volunteer

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council's Family Learning Service supported groups from **Cummings Park** on outside **wellbeing walks** due to social contact restrictions. The parents enjoyed this way of interaction so much they have continued since. In the past year, the group meets at Cummings Park Centre and have enjoyed walks in Auchmill Woods and Aberdeen beach. At the end of each walk the group have a coffee and a supportive chat as a debrief on how their week has been. If the weather was poor, the group took part in activities inside the community centre, and this led to the creation of the Cummings Park Boccia Group. The group understands how taking part in outdoor activities contributes to their general wellbeing and mental health. Attendance varies between **2-8 people per session**.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
65.2% of North Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the **74%** of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)	**4** Supported community food growing projects happening across North Locality	**2** community groups being supported to look after community green space in priority neighbourhoods
Cycling	**Walking**	**Community Resilience Group in North Locality**
4.4% of people in the North cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice, this is the lowest in Aberdeen City (City Voice 51, 2024)	**53.1%** of people in North Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to **42.1%** in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 51, 2024)	There is **one** Community Resilience Group in the North Locality which serves Bridge of Don and Danestone

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces
- We will support and encourage people to walk and cycle more
- Work with local communities on improving traffic management
- Establish more Community Resilience Groups
- More initiatives which promote responsible dog ownership.

Our Communities

OUR PRIORITIES

The North Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our Communities:

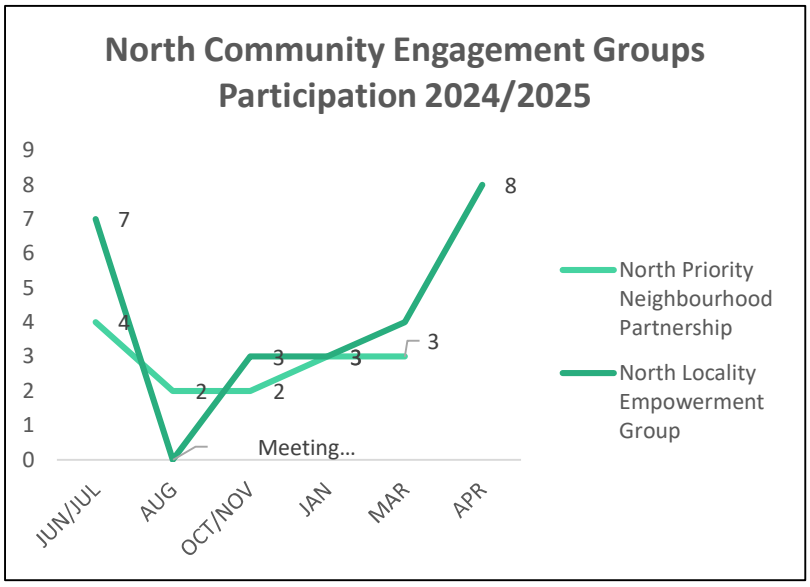
Priority 6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their communities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

There are many ways you can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for your local community and influence how public services are delivered in your area to meet your needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.

Community members in the North of the city can get involved through a range of methods:



- North Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- North Priority Neighourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagment

Stay updated

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 Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

Every few months, ACVO pull together a North funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update **here.**

As well as this, council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation **Newsbite** magazine, hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more or contact the Locality Planning Team:

Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding

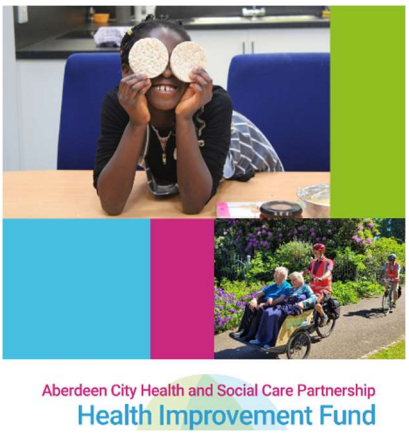
The Locality Planning team led the delivery of **a UDecide Participatory Budgeting process**. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Cummings Park, Heathryfold, Northfield, Mastrick and Middlefield who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the North Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to **seven projects across those areas and 1 project was partially funded**. You can read more about the process here: UDecide Report 2025.

Funded UDecide Projects
Generation Games Intergenerational activities to bring people of all ages together combatting loneliness *Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities*
Play Later Lights Portable lighting allowing young people to do safe positive games/activities at night *Locality Plan Priority Link: More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together*
Cummings Park Gamers Unite Gaming nights for the local community – social interaction and teamwork *Locality Plan Priority Link: More activities/spaces for children and young people to participate in/be together*
Aberdeen North Toddler Group Resources to make a Toddler group more child friendly. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities*
Try Wellbeing Activities 2025 Physical and arts & Crafts sessions supporting mental health with fun activities. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Support Community groups to know about Health and Wellbeing and Health and Social Care Services in the Community*
The Flourish Project Sessions supporting Wellbeing and mental health for young people

Locality Plan Priority Link: Creating opportunities for those who identify as socially isolated or vulnerable to take part in activities
Community Cycle Maintenance Training Vocational Qualification for young people to fix and maintain bicycles. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop programmes to encourage outdoor activity*
Project Strive Dance performance and theatre for young people sharing the joy of live performance**.** *Locality Plan Priority Link: Diversionary Activities for young people*



The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) process is designed to enhance health and wellbeing across Aberdeen through community-led projects. It is open to anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City, offering community grants of up to £5,000. Projects must be innovative, community-led, meet local needs, and demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing. The decision-making process involves local screening panels composed of community representatives and staff, who allocate funds based on a scoring process aligned with the fund's principles. This ensures that projects are selected fairly and effectively to address the diverse needs of the community.

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
Active Schools Football Festivals - Sport Aberdeen The project will allow football festivals across Bridge of Don, Oldmachar and Northfield ASGs.
Grandmas Group - Danestone Community Centre A peer support group for Grandmas
ASN Floor Curling - Active Schools (Dyce ASG) to support ASN Floor Curling groups.
Football Pitch Costs - Stoneywood Parkvale FC Engaging local community through football.
Nurturing Young Minds - Bridge of Don and District Men's Shed 'Intergenerational working' project, between the above two groups, to educate the children
Blast From The Past - Bucksburn and Newhills Community Council Blast From The Past Leading to the Future - historical community engagement group.
Blossoming Brambles at Bramble Brae School - Bramble Brae School A nurture space within a school aims to provide a safe, supportive environment where children can develop their emotional well-being, social skills, and resilience through tailored, relationship-based interventions.
Walking Football - Beacon & Bucksburn Community Learning Association Walking football (with instruction). Improve Health and Mental wellbeing.
The Flourish Project - The King's Community Foundation Our Flourish project is an 8 week training programme, for young people aged 10-14, supporting and promoting positive mental and emotional health. It equips them with skills to develop a healthy self-esteem, allowing them to uncover inner strengths that they didn't know they had.

Family Fun Activities - Children 1st This project will provide recreational and wellbeing opportunities to children, young people and families who face a range of barriers to equal participation in their community.
Compassionate Buildings and Spaces - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Creating Dementia Friendly environments and meaningful engagement within Sheltered Housing
Childhood Multi-Sport Activity - Danestone Community Centre Multi-sport activities tackling childhood obesity
The Bridges Choir - Absafe SCIO Intergenerational Community Choir
Bucksburn Initiative - Beacon and Bucksburn Community Learning Association Fostering Community Connections and providing Mental Health Support
Northfield Academy Climbing Wall reactivation - Sport Aberdeen The re-activation of the Northfield Academy Indoor Climbing Wall.
Physic and Sensory Gardens - Springhill Community Garden Creating physic and sensory garden areas in Springhill Community Garden, which currently maintains food growing beds, ornamental borders, and natural habitats for pollinators and wildlife. The garden is located on a former bowling green, with ample space to create educational and therapeutic areas.
Afristyle "Peer Support Dance" - Afristyle Dance Club A peer support dance project
Food, Finance, Facts & Fun – Cfine Local Charity partners working together to support their beneficiaries nutritionally and financially through education. The aim is for staff within the different orgs to be given the opportunity to attend and take part in a full day basic cooking on a budget class in order to promote classes to their own service users.
Health Diversity Network – GREC Network of volunteers to increase health literacy among ethnic minority Gypsy/Traveller community
Pillow Maah - Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership Maah, currently functioning as a pillow-type companion sensor, measures individuals' behaviour over a month while its soft, comforting form supports well-being. Although this initial version does not feature actuation, it lays the groundwork for a future, fully interactive Maah equipped with dashboards and data-driven feedback.
Boxing for All - Byron Boxing Byron Boxing Club is a not for profit Aberdeen based Boxing Club, lead and managed by passionate volunteers, offering expert tuition in boxing, fitness, promoting discipline, peak fitness, physical well-being, support and general well-being whilst also offering a diversionary project to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in the community.
Postnatal Pathways - Mastrick, Sheddocksley & Summerhill Community Council Weekly support groups for postnatal mothers, offering expert advice and emotional support.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the North Locality **20 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £390,000.**

Consultation & Engagement

Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025.

This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Get Active @ Northfield and another at Kings Community Church, a children and young people's version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.

The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection report, HMIE reported that CLD's **"Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP"**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test here.

Your Locality Planning Team

We recognise the value of partnering with communities to foster a thriving environment for everyone. By working closely with local communities through our locality planning team, we aim to be more responsive, supportive, and action-focused. Input from the community is essential to this process.

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In the North Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade and Kev.

Iain Robertson

Transformation Programme Manager

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Jade Leyden

Locality Planning and Community Development Manager

Aberdeen City Council

Kev Donald

Community Development Officer

Aberdeen City Council

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Aberdeen City - South Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25

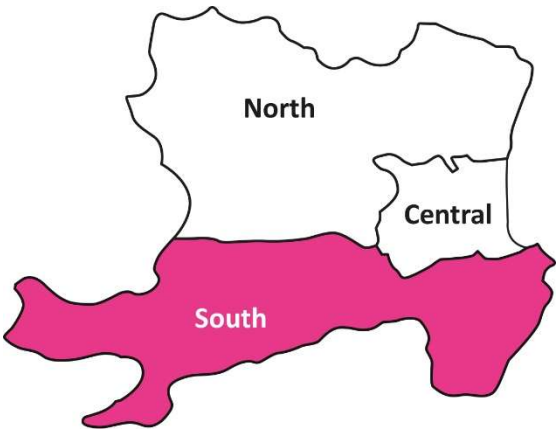
South Locality Neighbourhoods:

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

Community Planning Aberdeen

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the South Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The South Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the nine neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our South Locality Empowerment Group and Torry Partnership.



The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the South Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the South Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Torry and Kincorth. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.

Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the South Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to achieve the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the South Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 8

Our Place – Page 22

Our Community – Page 27

Our Economy

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out two priorities to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce number of people living in poverty
Priority 2. Improve and create employment opportunities.

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Supporting our most vulnerable families

Community food provision and community pantries

Following a successful Health Improvement Fund application, the **Greyhope Soup and Sannies** began in November 2024. It has gone from strength to strength with numbers growing each month. On average **35 people** come along to Greyhope Community Hub to enjoy a free nutritious lunch, while meeting up with old and new friends. The soup and sandwiches are made on site in the community café, where four amazing volunteers serve the food.

Attendee Feedback:

"Delicious food, will be back again"

"The soup was nice but really loved the chocolate cake"

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **11 Cash First recipients were from South Locality**, with 64% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In the South Locality, **£5,510.00** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Cash First Aberdeen

Benefit uptake

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **95 people from South Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion To further support families, ABZ Works had a secondment of a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure that eligible families have the support needed to access the support. 25 families have been supported through this project in 2024/25.

The Bridge Centre is partnered with the Aberdeen North Foodbank and by extension the foodbank networks around the city, The centre signposts people to food poverty groups. The Bridge Centre also runs an 'Intro to Electrics course'. From this course, **5 people have moved into employment or education**, and all 14 participants have left with improved CVs and stronger networks. The Bridge Centre also runs cooking classes which aid in helping people to budget better as well as upskilling. Finally, the Coffee Bar in The Bridge Centre has had a number of volunteers go on to employment or further education and even more upskill and be trained in the hospitality industry

Fuel Poverty & Affordable heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen, that delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In the South Locality 433 enquiries were received, of these 128 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of the support from Scarf, including support to heat their home, general and energy advice, home visits and onwards referrals, **19% of households were removed from fuel poverty.**

The Aberdeen Trusted Trader scheme is a local business partnership scheme aimed at increasing consumer confidence, promoting good practice within local business, and helping protect citizens from doorstep crime. Trading Standards Trusted Traders have been vetted by Aberdeen Trading Standards and the scheme is supported by Police Scotland and consumeradvice.scot (a part of Advice Direct Scotland).
All Trusted Traders have agreed to trade fairly and sign-up to a Code of Practice. The Code covers:

- Transparent procedures for quoting and carrying out work
- Only charging a fair and reasonable price
- Dealing with complaints promptly

All residents of Aberdeen City can access the scheme by searching https://www.trustedtrader.scot/Aberdeen/

Improve and create employment opportunities

Social Enterprises and small businesses

Souperb are a social enterprise based in Torry and funded through UDecide participatory budgeting in March 2025 to offer soup and a roll in a warm and friendly safe space with no cost to entry to people at risk of food poverty. The social enterprise aims to build up a pool of volunteers and collaborate with Lochside Academy and other community partners to help young people gain experience in running a community cafe. Souperb endeavours to source quality produce from CFINE, supermarkets and other suppliers at no cost.

Support for Entrepreneurial Initiatives Recognising that flexible working arrangements are often key to balancing family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person which has supported 19 parents in 24-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In the South Locality, **five parents** have benefited from this initiative.

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credits or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **11 new businesses were set up in South Locality** through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZWorks' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.

"This is an extremely important service as some people can't travel, for me having business support on my doorstep is perfect. My support adviser has helped me get my business up and running advising me on things I didn't know existed, helping me through my business plan and financial plan, and without this support I would never have managed to get to where I am today" ***– A new business owner from Torry***

Financial Support for Childcare Costs ABZ Works has continued its commitment to helping parents remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring parents can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In the South Locality, five families have benefited from this support.

Paid Work Experience Placements in ELC Settings ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the early learning and childcare (ELC) sector has seen the successful placement of 10 paid work experience opportunities which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In the South Locality, **four placements** have been provided.

On Tuesday, 8 October 2024, NESCol's City Campus hosted the **Promoting Positive Pathways** event, organised in partnership with Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen, Scotland's Rural College, Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce North East, and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. The event aimed to upskill **100 teachers** from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by improving their knowledge of regional education pathways through workshops and a lunchtime learning marketplace. Workshops focused on pathways from school to further and higher education, employment, and apprenticeships, based on teacher feedback. The learning marketplace provided an opportunity for attendees to interact with stallholders from educational institutions and organisations, enhancing their understanding. Following the event, teachers shared their newly acquired knowledge with

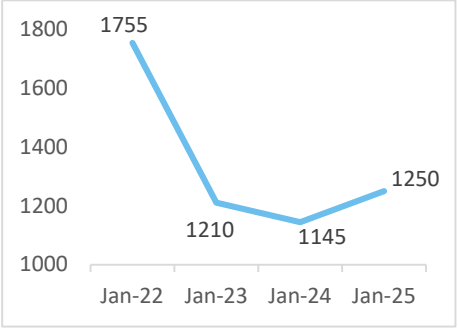
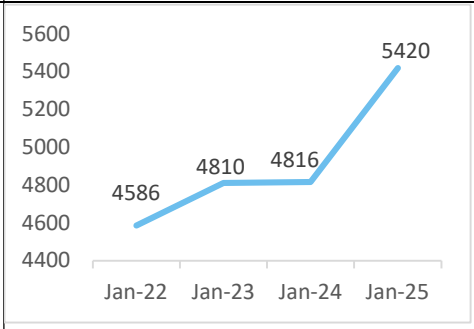
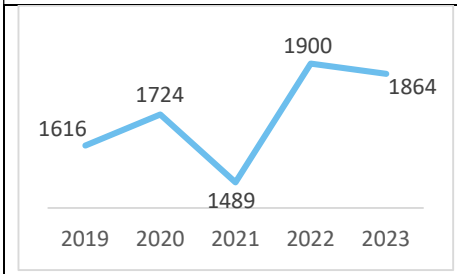
Saltire AWARDS

colleagues in their respective schools, contributing to a better understanding of educational and career pathways for students in the region.

The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **1123 young people** from South Locality.

The **Family Learning team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **14 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the South Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2024/25?

Food Insecurity	Food Poverty	Rent Assistance
10.4% of people in the South Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to **10.9%** of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 50, 2024)	**4.9%** of households in the South Locality went without food for a day compared to **5.1%** of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)	**95** people from South Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund
Fuel Insecurity	**Fuel Poverty**	**Digital Employability Support**
10.3% of people in the South Locality worried they would need to choose between heating and eating, compared to **16%** of people living in Torry and Kincorth. (City Voice 50, 2024)	**5.6%** of households in the South Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to **6%** of households in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 50, 2024)	**8** people in the South Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs
Claimant Count	**People on Universal Credit**	**Benefit Maximisation**
		The online benefit calculator has been accessed **737** times by people from Central priority neighbourhoods
Children in low income families	**Business Start Ups**	**Digital Access and Skills**
	Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported **11** people in South Locality to start their own business	**89.1%** of South Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with **91.6%** across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Strengthen relationships with local businesses as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility
- Work with partners to improve housing insultation and retrofitting opportunities
- Work with partners to make public transport more accessible and affordable across the South Locality
- Utilise more empty buildings
- Improve affordability and accessibility of public transport

Our People

OUR PRIORITIES

South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out two priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 3. Support children and young people
Priority 4. Focus on early intervention, prevention and re-enablement actions

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Providing activities for Children and Young People

Opportunities and activities

Denis Law Legacy Trust organized a free-to-attend family fun day in Torry packed with activities to support active lifestyles and fun while bringing young people to the fore of leadership in their own community. The event was a great success, engaging the community in various activities and promoting physical fitness and leadership skills among young people. The project **supported 480 people with 20 volunteers contributing 90 hours**. Families have expressed appreciation for the fun and engaging activities provided at the event.

Community Food Initiatives North East ran Families Cooking Together (FCT), providing cooking and information sessions for families where adults and children can come together to learn new skills, build confidence, and improve health and wellbeing. The sessions have been well-attended, helping families develop healthier eating habits and improve their overall wellbeing. The project **supported 147 people with 4 volunteers contributing to the work**. Families have reported enjoying the sessions and feeling more confident in their cooking abilities.

The Torry Dancers have had a successful year with great attendance across all five dance classes. The dancers have been out in the community performing for several groups, including June's Bench opening, Provost Hogg Court, Balnagask Community Centre, Brimmond Court and for two community events in the Greyhope Community Hub. We are returning to Provost Hogg in May 2025 for another performance and the last time we were there, the girls took time to mix with elderly residents which was very much enjoyed on both sides. The dancers gain confidence when out dancing for events and the feedback from parents is positive too as they agree it's very beneficial for their

children. At the moment we are busy rehearsing for our summer show in June 2025 which the dancers and families are very excited about.

Awaiting input from Kings Community Church

Big Noise Torry

Big Noise Torry plays a vital role in providing freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people across Torry. **Around 800 children and young people engage in Big Noise weekly** and are supported through **1,024 hours of musical provision** across three schools and the Greyhope Community Hub.
Big Noise have welcomed over **1,500 audience members when attending 30+ community events** and performances, strengthening local pride and participation.
The Big Noise Holiday clubs annually provided **192 hours** of free childcare, meals, and engaging activities to support families facing poverty, directly aligned with the South Locality Plan's priority of reducing child poverty.

Other noteworthy support provided by Big Noise included:

- The Big Noise Youth Voice and Young Leaders programmes with **27 older young people** participating, building employability and leadership skills,
- Sustained early intervention through weekly "Little Noise" baby music sessions (**19 families signed up**) and inclusive support for children with additional needs reinforced early prevention aims.
- Community musical groups, such as "The Noise" and monthly care home concerts, promoted social connections for people across generations.
- More than **100 additional community members** joined activities like Big Sing sessions, drumming, and ceilidhs, promoting inclusion and wellbeing.

Big Noise's work directly supports the South Locality Plan's focus areas of reducing poverty, improving employability, supporting children and young people, and increasing community involvement, while promoting mental wellbeing, healthy choices, and inclusion throughout Torry and beyond. Find out more about Big Noise Torry here.

Young People's Mental Wellbeing

Gray Street Allotment Association applied for funding to purchase equipment for an intergenerational gardening project with Broomhill Primary School;. The project **supported 300+ people with three volunteers contributing approximately 300 hours.** Children have expressed excitement about gardening and have learned valuable skills through the projects.

Inchgarth Community Centre provided several pre-school activities that benefit both children and parents, while offering opportunities for P1 and P2 children which also brings parents together. The activities have successfully
engaged children and parents, helping them build stronger connections and improve their overall wellbeing. The project supported **680 people** with **two volunteers contributing 96 hours**. Families have expressed appreciation for the engaging activities and the opportunity to connect with others.

Cults Academy ran **Confidence to Cook** sessions, allowing young people the opportunity to gain a certificate, improve confidence in cooking, and learn about healthier eating on a budget. The sessions have been well-attended, helping young people develop essential cooking skills and confidence. The project **supported 10 people.** Participants have reported feeling more confident in their cooking abilities and enjoying the sessions.

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work team** has been in the Lochside, Hazlehead and Cults Associated School Group (ASG) Primary and Secondary schools since 2021. The team delivers a range of informal learning activities such as Confidence to Cook, Youth Awards, 121 support and the AMPED project. These activities support and improves young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

279 youth work activities were delivered in South ASG's during 2024. **44 participants** gained a Youth Award, either a Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award. **23 participants** took part in the Confidence to Cook programme during 2024 and received a certificate on completion.

Positive Destinations for Care Experienced young people

The ACHSCP Public Health Team train practitioners to deliver the PEEP (Parents as Early Education Partners) programme. PEEP recognises that parents and carers are children's first and most important educators.

The Peep Learning Together programme supports parents and carers to:

- Value and build on the home learning environment by making the most of everyday learning opportunities.
- build and strengthen attachment relationships with their child through listening, talking, playing, singing and sharing books together.

- help babies and children to make the most of their opportunities by becoming confident communicators and active learners, ready for school

Hazlehead Primary School ran **Peep sessions** for young families to promote positive parenting and make connections with others in the local community. The sessions have provided valuable support and information for families, helping them build stronger connections and improve their parenting skills. The project **supported 80 people**. Families have expressed gratitude for the support and connections made through the PEEP sessions.

Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

Fit like? Family Wellbeing Hubs are a group of services working together to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. The Hubs help with:

- Finance and benefits
- Family relationships and communication
- Coping with daily pressures
- Promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- Talking about traumatic things that have happened

There is a Fit Like Hub based in Tullos Community Centre in the South Locality.

Supporting People to Make Healthy Choices

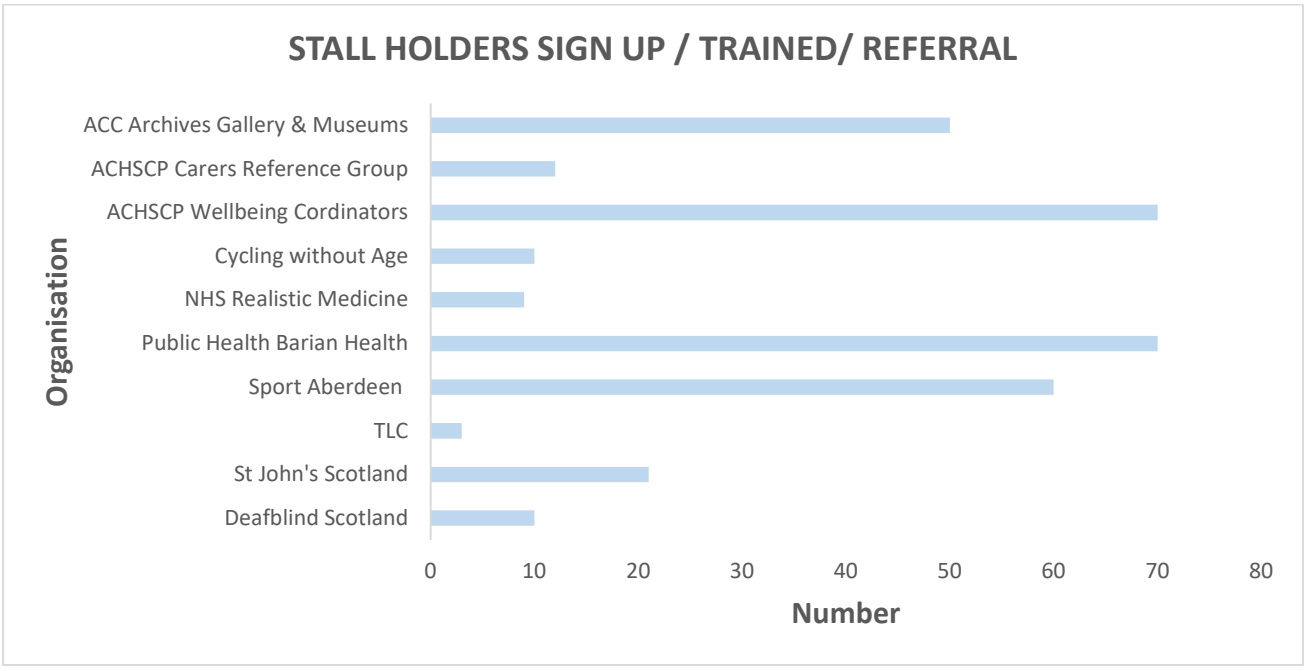
Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics that are often uncomfortable and sometimes are stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outline below:

- 369 people attended the Gathering, including **60 community delegates** from the Central Locality
- 8 speakers

61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors

- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below:



The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:

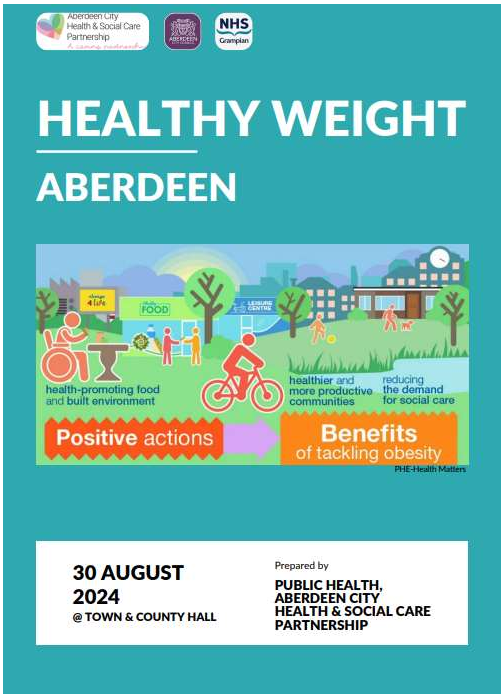
The annual women's health and wellbeing fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with 61 people in attendance, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

Community Feedback

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach

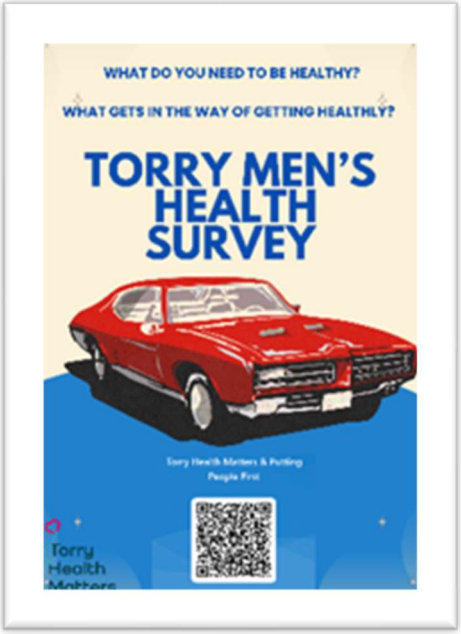


Currently over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of the pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, the Healthy Weight Aberdeen approach event held. 111 people from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024 and visit | Aberdeen City HSCP for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Through **our Healthy Life Choices project** we supported **12 adults** from low income families in South Locality priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life

choices to support healthy weight in 2024-25. During this period, 170 young people from priority neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.



The Torry Health Matters network was established in 2024 to strengthen working relationships and increase communication between services, organisations, and community members to specifically focus on the health and wellbeing of the Torry community.

During 2024, the Torry Health Matters set up the following community projects:

- A thriving weekly Knit and Natter group **10-15 people** attend on regular basis
- A monthly Soup and Sannie event where **30-45 people** attend
- A weekly Bumps to Bairns parent and child group **5-8 families** attend

The network's focus in 2025 will be on two specific themes: Men's health and wellbeing, and Family Health and Wellbeing. Torry Health Matters will work closely with NHS Grampian's Putting People First initiative to plan a series of Torry Men's Health MOT events as part of Men's Health week 9th -15th June. Other projects in the pipeline include Jog Torry; and developing health and wellbeing activities within Provost Hogg Court.

Boogie in the Bar are day time discos which aim to support older people and people with learning disabilities at risk of social isolation, physical & cognitive decline, and loneliness. The Boogies always provide attendees with a light lunch.

The Boogie in the Bar at the **Abbott Bar, Kincorth** has been running for just over two years with **1750** people attending. There have been several friendships made over that time with friends meeting up outside the Boogies to socialise which is great to hear!

Feedback:

"I have made some lovely new friends since coming here. I feel happy again"

"Love coming here, everyone is so friendly"

The Boogie in the Bar at the White Cockade, Torry was established in June 2024 and was initially the first Monday of every month but unfortunately did not get high numbers of people attending. This prompted the ACHSCP Wellbeing Team to reach out to local care homes and sheltered housing units in Torry which allowed residents to find out what suited them, and a decision was taken to move the Boogie to the first Thursday of every month starting on 6 February 2025. Between February and March 2025, 97 local people attended the Boogie at the White Cockade, with very positive feedback. The South Locality is fortunate to have Natalie, a community volunteer who DJs at both the White Cockade and Abbott, she is very appreciated by all staff members , volunteers, and attendees.

Attendee Feedback:

"My husband, who has dementia wasn't sure about coming. He now can't wait to come along. We now go to The Abbott as well."

Health and Wellbeing Support for Households Affected by RAAC

On 24 and 25 June 2024, health and wellbeing drop-in sessions were held in the Bridge Centre, Torry to offer health and wellbeing support for households affected by Raac housing in Balnagask. Key officers and workers from ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, Penumbra, SAMH's Link Practitioner Service, and Mental Health Aberdeen **supported 10 local people** through signposting to Penumbra 1st Response, Well Aberdeen, and Self-harm services; Mental Health Aberdeen's Raac support group held during August-September 2024, and Mental Health Aberdeen's Torry Counselling service; and the Peep Families Learning Together programme.

Issues discussed and addressed at the sessions included:

- Mental health and anxiety
- Children's mental health
- Family support
- The Council's response and how they had been communicating with affected households
- Lack of stability and inconsistency of information shared with regards to RAAC housing
- Timing of moves
- School transitions and worries about additional costs such as school uniform costs
- Transition and anxiety associated with re-location
- Future of Torry and the local community

Awaiting update – here for your service from SAMH

Support for Young Carers

Despite the substantial support available for **young carers** in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **40 young carers** supported in the **South Locality**

Young Carer Case Study

An 18-year-old student at North East Scotland College, was referred to the Barnardos Young Carers Service in August 2020 for support due to their substantial caring role for their mother, who has Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E). The Young Carer (YC) provides emotional support, assists with shopping, personal care, and household activities. They also manage their own health needs, having been diagnosed with ASD and ADHD in 2022, and have faced mental health challenges throughout their childhood.

Initially, YC received fortnightly one-to-one sessions to understand the impact of their caring role and to access breaks from caring. Over time, the focus shifted to exploring healthy coping strategies, building self-esteem and confidence, developing peer relationships, and managing poor mental health. Regular communication with professionals and the family helped support YC comprehensively. The YC's mother also engaged with Adult Support Groups, becoming more independent in accessing her own support. YC has participated in social opportunities through various groups and activities, accessed financial support, and used their experience to help create an in-school Young Carers group, raising awareness and establishing a Young Carers lead at their school.

The Community Learning and Development **Healthy Minds team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024-25, Healthy Minds supported **15 participants in the South Locality with a total of 42 learner hours.**

Raise awareness of substance service and provision

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond.
It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone and that from the 2024/25 school session 24-25 saw all S4 pupils trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life.

As a result of this, there has been a 48% increase in the total number of naloxone kits issued in Aberdeen City from 2021/22 to 2023/24, (X to Y) with a 56% increase in the number issued to Persons at Risk. X% of kits supplied to people at risk. We have also seen increased supply in each locality, with a X% increase in Central (X kits), X% increase in South (X kits), X% increase in North (Xkits) and X% increase in other (X kits) compared to 2023/24.

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which 19% were from South locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention delivered 50 training sessions across Aberdeen City which were attended by 663 people. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. In the South Locality, SAMH's Link Practitioner Service participated in a dedicated outreach event on 25 June 2024 to support the wellbeing of tenants and owners affected by RAAC concrete in their homes in Balnagask.

SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people.

Evaluation data has shown that **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

"Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you"

"Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it."

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour	Positive destinations	Mental Health
There were **893** reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across the South Locality during 2024. This is a **1.9% improvement** on the 910 incidents reported during 2023. **213** incidents took place in Torry, this was the highest per neighbourhood across the South Locality.	**94.2%** of South Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination. With **91.44%** of Lochside Academy leavers achieving a positive destination	**16.9%** of people who live in the South Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is slightly lower than the Aberdeen City figure of **17.4%**
Teenage Pregnancies	**Counselling for Young People**	**Working Together with Parents**
In the South Locality, **20.9 per 1000** girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This just above the Aberdeen City average rate of **19.8 per 1000** girls and young women.	**100%** of schools in South Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	**27** new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children
Young People Volunteering	**Healthy Eating**	**Community Empowerment**
1123 young people from the South Locality received a Saltire Award. **3623** young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City	**15.4%** of people in the South Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This has increased from last year's figure of **10.1%** (City Voice 50, 2024)	**369 people** attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. **44** attendees were from South Locality.
Alcohol Awareness	**Drug Related Deaths**	**Drug Related Hospital Stays**

51.1% of people in the South Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. The South Locality has the highest proportion of people (**31.9%)** who do not drink alcohol across Aberdeen City (**29.1%)** (City Voice 49, 2024)	135 naloxone kits supplied in South Locality in 2022	The rate of drug related hospital stays for the South Locality was **118.1** per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from **135.3** per 100,000 in 2022
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	**Deaths from Suicide**	**Life Expectancy**
Alcohol related mortality rates in South Locality are now **14.4 people per 100,000**. This is below the Aberdeen City rate of **19.9 people per 100,000**	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.	Men who live in Braeside can expect to live **84.2 years,** whereas men in Torry East can expect to live **71.5 years.** The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is **76.9 years.** Women who live in Braeside can expect to live **84.7 years**, whereas women in Torry East can expect to live **76 years**. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is 80.9 years.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Increase positive destinations for vulnerable learners
- Work with partners to make childcare accessible and affordable for all

Our Place

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local place:

Priority 6. Identify and maximise use of green space

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Encourage community growing spaces

Inchgarth Community Garden was created in 2018 by volunteers at Inchgarth Community Centre, and has grown in size and beauty ever since. With lovely areas to sit and enjoy the world go by, to enjoy reading a book or lunch, or learning and volunteer, there's something for all at the garden. With lots of food growing there is plenty of free food too. There is also can access to toilets, a cafe, an excellent playpark, and picnic benches. It's a truly lovely space for all to enjoy, and a warm welcome is assured to all.

Tullos Community Garden

In 2024, the garden had a successful year with numerous events and community collaborations. Highlights include the Big Garden Bird Watch, two well-attended family events, and the formation of the Aberdeen Community Garden Network (ACGN), which helped with garden improvements. The garden celebrated its sixth birthday with a local turnout and activities, while volunteers from various groups, including Barnardo's and Ashtead Technology, contributed to significant projects. The CFINE HOPE team enhanced the garden's compost system, and a memorial was held for a founding member. Regular volunteering sessions continued, though turnout was sometimes low. A CFINE songwriting course also took place, linking

the garden with the community. The garden group wishes to extend their thanks to key supporters and volunteers.

Cook and Create – Freelance Creative Practitioners

Cook and Create was a project targeted at primary aged children to encourage food skills and healthy eating within a creative and inclusive environment. The project was run over three sessions, each session consisted of cooking and eating a healthy meal together and participating in some arts and crafts to finish the day. While eating the meal, the participants were able to speak about the ingredients used within the meal and explore the importance of healthy eating together. The work undertaken during the art sessions was utilised to create a recipe book for all participants to share with their families upon Cook and Create project finishing.

".. a portion of the recipe for each child to take away at the end of the session. This ensured that participants had adequate access to healthy food whenever we were able to support this and it also supported sharing of what was learnt in the sessions with family and friends after the session ended."

Safe and welcoming environment

Asylum and Refugee Care ran an eight-week program for asylum seekers using social and therapeutic horticulture practices to enable integration into the local community by improving English language skills, horticultural skills, and wellbeing through meaningful gardening and outdoor activities. The program has successfully helped asylum seekers integrate into the community and improve their overall wellbeing. Participants have reported improved language skills and a sense of belonging in the community.

During 2024-25, **Greyhope Bay** have organised **nine litter pick events**, which was attended by **130 volunteers**. It is estimated that **1170 bags of rubbish** were collected during the litter picks. Aberdeen City Council supported the local litter picks by providing Greyhope Bay with the kit and equipment.

Support people to make healthy choices

Jog Torry was funded through **UDecide participatory budgeting** in March 2025 to organise a community fitness celebration day to motivate the wider community to improve their health and wellbeing. The aim is to kickstart jogging in Torry with two blocks of coach-led sessions, with encouragement for two participants from each group of 20 to go on and complete the Jog Scotland training enabling them to run the Torry group as volunteers, helping the programme to be self-sustaining.

It is envisaged the fitness day will take place at St Fitticks Park and include a 5km round the park for the first couch to 5km course completers. The fitness day will also provide refreshments for the community and will host information stalls on various themes including community walking groups (paths for all), chair based aerobics, Sport Aberdeen offers, and other fitness opportunities in the area. Local parents at Greyhope Primary School have already expressed interest in linking up with the project. The project is supported by the Torry Health Matters Group as it helps to meet one of its core aims to improve adult fitness, mental health, and prevent diabetes.

St Fitticks Park Walking Group started in June 2024 through support and encouragement from Sport Aberdeen.
The walks start at the Bridge Centre in Torry at 11am on Fridays. Up to **10 people** participate regularly on the walks.

The **Friends of St Fittick's Park** have had a busy and successful year, offering family workshops, community gatherings, and environmental activities in Torry. Highlights include nature-based events like "Build a Bee Hotel," mammal detection workshops, and regular litter picks, collecting around **50 bags of litter and five shopping trolleys**. The classroom, which celebrates its first birthday in June, has been a hub for community engagement and will continue to host events in 2025, including a bioblitz and citizen science activities. The group has received support from various local and national organisations, and they look forward to a busy summer season.

"Mum, we were at the nature park and it was brilliant!"

One of the comments from an excited child after a recent Friends of St Fittick's Park family event.

Kaimhill School Enhanced Provision created a sensory garden for children with additional support needs. The garden has provided a safe and engaging environment for children to explore and learn, helping them feel more regulated and connected. The project **supported 50 children** and has become a favourite spot for them to explore and learn about nature.

Deevale Greenspace Growers

The Community Development team identified and surveyed the greenspace area is behind flats on Deevale Gardens, Cairnvale Place, Cairngorm Drive and Faulds Gate in Kincorth in May 2023. 90 homes were visited and **59 responded**.

Residents were surveyed to find out if they would like to see the development of the greenspace at the back of their homes for the benefit of the local community. We held two garden meetings with interested residents to explore residents ideas. The project focussed on developing a growing plot for the garden. The project has been successful in growing a range of vegetables throughout the summer 2024.

One grower has started documenting the progress through poetry.

The growers supported hosted a 1st birthday celebration to showcase the garden with residents with tea and homemade cakes. At the event, residents were asked for ideas for Phase 2 for example flower planting, seating options to make it a welcoming and social space and extending the growing space.

Social Juice is a community interest company dedicated to upcycling surplus fruit to invest in new community orchards and environmental projects. This year Social Juice has created its first batch of cider and perry from surplus apples and pears to start building an income stream to support community projects. We are inviting donations of surplus fruit from the gardens and orchards across Aberdeen to expand what we do. During 2024 we have been able to supply locally grown apples and pear trees for five community groups in Aberdeen, with orchard planting projects at Torry, Cove, Mounthooly, Woodside and Tillydrone. These will provide locally grown apples and pears for people in those areas, flowers for pollinators and a rich environment for wildlife. In Torry, Social Juice was honoured to receive three grant awards to revive St Fittick's Edible Garden and transform it into community biodiversity hub to help our local wildlife including pollinators. The grants from the Just Transition Participatory Budget, the Coast and Communities Fund, and Nature Hubs Fund Social Juice has secured so far are half the battle and we need help from the Torry community to create a community garden for the benefit of all. Contact us if you are interested on info.socialjuicecic@gmail.com.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
69.6% of South Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is lower than the **74%** of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)	**12** supported community food growing projects happening across South Locality	**5** community groups being supported to look after community green space in Torry and Kincorth
Cycling	**Walking**	**Community Resillience**
10.6% of people in the South cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice (City Voice 51, 2024)	**64.2%** of people in South Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to **47.4%** in Torry and Kincorth (City Voice 51, 2024)	There are **2** Community Resilience Groups in the South Locality. These groups cover Culter; and Cults, Bieldside, and Miltimber

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- We will support communities to collaborate food growing efforts with schools and workplaces
- Review the impact of cyclists and other users on the Deeside Line
- Work with community partners to deliver more litter picks
- Establish more Community Resilience Groups
- More initiatives which promote responsible dog ownership

Our Communities

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our Communities:

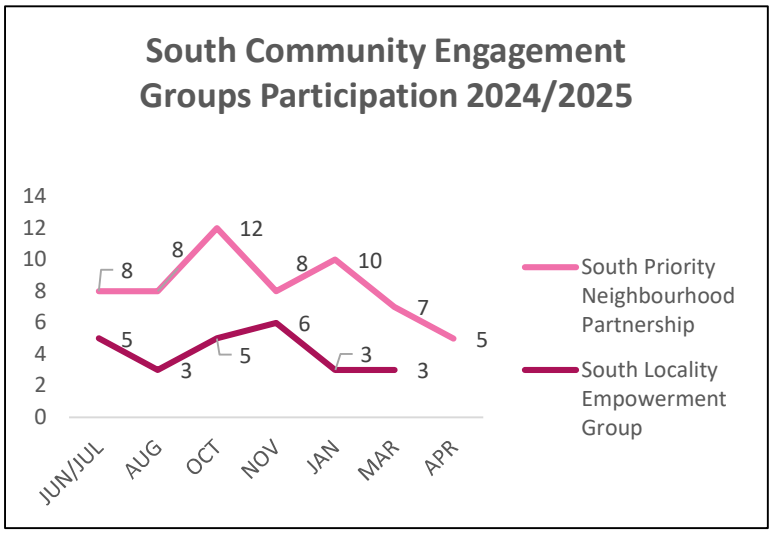
Priority 6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their communities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

There are many ways you can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for your local community and influence how public services are delivered in your area to meet your needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.

Community members in the South of the city can get involved through a range of methods:



- South Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- Torry Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagment

Stay updated

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

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

Every few months, ACVO pull together a South funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update **here.**

As well as this, council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation **Newsbite** magazine, hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.

In March 2025, with help from SHMU, a group of community members launch the **Connected Torry** website, for local people to find out more about what's on it the area, about local groups and read local news stories.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more or contact the Locality Planning Team:

Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Community Funding

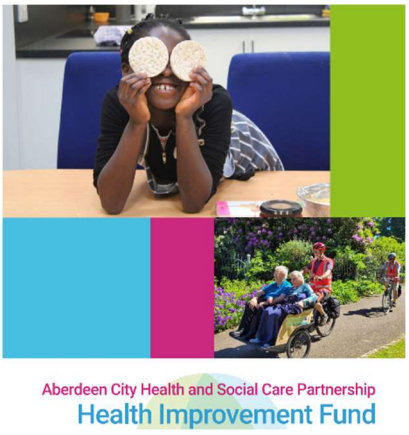
The Locality Planning team led the delivery of a UDecide Participatory Budgeting process. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Torry and Kincorth who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the South Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to 9 projects across Torry and Kincorth and 1 project was partially funded. You can read more about the process here: UDecide Report 2025.

Funded UDecide Projects
Schools First Aid Training Services CIC – South Training children the essentials and basics of First Aid. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training*
Christmas Lights for Provost Watt Drive in Kincorth Christmas lights and a light switch on celebration, bringing the community together *Locality Plan Priority Link: Celebrate and increase awareness of community led projects*
Gardner Green Space Creating safe and welcoming green spaces for residents to socialise and enjoy nature. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Promote use of greenspace and improve access to greenspace*
Kincorth Rainbows Youth Community Group Providing a safe, girls only space for the members to be themselves, learn and develop. *Locality Plan Priority Link: More freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities*
51st Aberdeen Brownies Inspiring and empowering girls aged 7-10, helping them develop valuable life skills *Locality Plan Priority Link: More freely available/low cost facilities for children and young people, including sports facilities*
Souperb Free soup and roll, giving young people the experience of running a community Café. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
Peep TALK group Family group supporting young children's speech, language and communication. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training*

Recreation Club (Our Lives Our Community) A club helping mental resilience, health and wellbeing, healthy relationships, community spirit. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Identify and develop actions to address the mental wellbeing of young people*
JOG TORRY Kickstarting Jogging in Torry with a community fitness celebration day. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop opportunities/spaces for more physical activity in the area- Torry 10k.*
Torry Clean & Green Initiative Revitalising Torry, fostering clean, safe public spaces through school roadshows *Locality Plan Priority Link: Increase litter bins*



The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) process is designed to enhance health and wellbeing across Aberdeen through community-led projects. It is open to anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City, offering community grants of up to £5,000. Projects must be innovative, community-led, meet local needs, and demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing. The decision-making process involves local screening panels composed of community representatives and staff, who allocate funds based on a scoring process aligned with the fund's principles. This ensures that projects are selected fairly and effectively to address the diverse needs of the community.

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
Young Carers Confidence to Cook skills – Barnardos Confidence to Cook skills Sessions will be offered to Young Carers.
Sporting Equipment for All – Albury Sports Hub Replacing and renewing worn equipment and provided extra equipment for young users.
Project Netball – Active Schools (Lochside ASG) A safe and encouraging club for young girls to play netball recreationally and competitively.
Unleash Your Drive – Golf & Mental Toughness Tools – Active Schools (Cults ASG) Using golf in schools as a context for pupils learning mental toughness tools.
Intergenerational Gardening Project – Gray Street Allotments Association Creating a garden in a designated area at Broomhill Primary School Play Ground. Helping children.
Torry Dance Group – Torry Dance Group Free zumba and highland dance tuition.
Confidence to cook for menopause and women's health – Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership A project to equip women with the skills, knowledge and confidence to cook, eat and prepare healthy meals that will have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing especially in preparation for the menopause and hormonal changes.
Torry's Bumps & Babies - NHS Childsmile To provide a warm and welcoming setting where new Mums / Mums to be, can meet

Connecting the Dots From the Ground Up -Torry Health Matters Network Torry Health Matters –promoting community health & wellbeing activities, improving communication between and access to services, directed by the community's priorities.
Walk and Talk therapy in St. Fittick's Park - Friends of St Fittick's Park Improving mental health and wellbeing by supporting people to get access to being outdoors in nature and the opportunity for conversations during nature walks. We will offer creative workshops for people to participate in arts and crafts activities, as well as individual outdoor walk and talk sessions with a qualified counsellor.
Community Media for Change (Torry) – SHMU A community media project, which will deliver positive health outcomes for individuals and the wider community of Torry.
Hope and Meal Project - North East Black Ethnic Minorities We will establish a monthly dinner club in Aberdeen, providing nutritious meals and support for the homeless and those in need. This safe space will foster community spirit and social interaction. Our goal is to improve the well-being of vulnerable individuals by addressing hunger and isolation.
Unity in Wellness Project - Pillar of Hope A free, culturally sensitive befriending service for BAME adults in Aberdeen with long-term health conditions, who face a higher risk of social isolation, poor health outcomes, and marginalization. The service is delivered by trained volunteers, providing tailored befriending support to help improve their well-being.
Gairn Community Garden - Gairn Community Garden Garden with raised beds, play areas, and seating to promote social interaction and health.
Get fit for Project - Inchgarth Community Centre. Provide free fitness and wellbeing activities for those facing the barriers and challenges to participation listed above, with the view to improving people's health and wellbeing across a wide section of our community.
Step Ahead – In Your Power A person-centric 'one-stop-shop' that helps individuals: 1. understand who they are 2. Identify what support they need to realise their potential 3. find the right delivery method 4. and deliver that support to them, enabling them to live a healthy, empowered life within our community.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the South Locality **20 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with a **value of £370,000**

Consultation & Engagement

Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality (PANEL) principles, Community Planning Aberdeen launched its "Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future" engagement in March 2025. This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held six locality events, including one at Greyhope Community Hub and another at Airyhall Library, a children and young people's version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.

The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City's locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection report, HMIE reported that CLD's **"Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP"**

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test here.

Your Locality Planning Team

We recognise the value of partnering with communities to foster a thriving environment for everyone. By working closely with local communities through our locality planning team, we aim to be more responsive, supportive, and action-focused. Input from the community is essential to this process.

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In the South Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, Teresa, and Vibha.

Iain Robertson

Transformation Programme Manager

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Jade Leyden

Locality Planning and Community Development Manager

Aberdeen City Council

Vibha Gaikwad

Public Health Co-Ordinator

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Teresa Dufficy

Community Development Officer

Aberdeen City Council

Aberdeen City - Central Locality

Annual Outcome Improvement Report 2024-25

Central Locality Neighbourhoods:

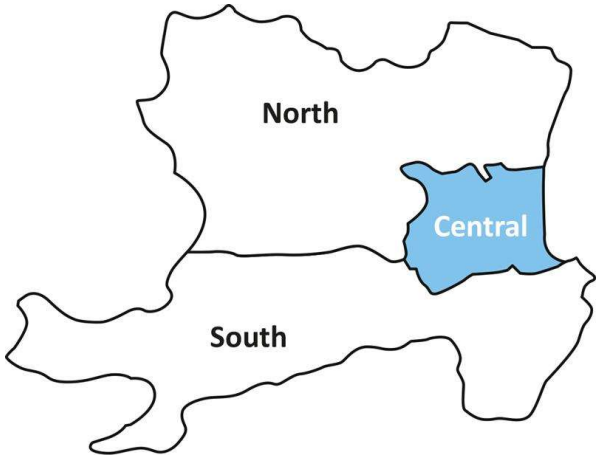
Ashgrove, City Centre, Froghall, George St, Hanover, Hilton, Midstocket, Old Aberdeen, Powis, Rosemount, Tillydrone, Seaton, Stockethill, Sunnybank, West End and Woodside

Community Planning Aberdeen

Welcome

Welcome to the third annual report against the Central Locality Plan first published in 2021, and the first report since our Locality Plan was refreshed in April 2024. The Central Locality plan sets out how Community Planning Aberdeen and its member organisations will work together with communities to deliver improved outcomes for the sixteen neighbourhoods in the locality and for the locality as a whole. The Locality Plan was prepared by the Locality Planning Team following engagement activity between March-April 2025 and with oversight and support from our Central Locality Empowerment Group and Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership.

The report provides an update on progress made against the six priorities identified by community members in the Central Locality Plan. It includes information on key activities and the impact these have had across the Central Locality and in our priority neighbourhoods of Ashgrove, George Street, Tillydrone, Seaton, Stockethill, and Woodside. Importantly the report sets out areas for improvement and further attention which the Locality Planning Team will focus on over the next year.



Our focus is always on delivery of outcomes to improve the economy, place, and lives of people across the Central Locality. We have adopted a community led approach and want to take every opportunity to empower and celebrate our communities. This is particularly important as we find ourselves in a very challenging financial environment with public bodies, third sector partners, and community groups all under pressure; it is essential we all work together to deliver the key findings of the Christie Commission (2011) to collaborate more effectively and shift the balance of public services from a demand based model towards prevention. This report provides a baseline for how we are currently performing in the Central Locality, with a commitment to continuous improvement moving forward.

This report is split into the following sections:

Our Economy – Page 3

Our People – Page 11

Our Place – Page 24

Our Community – Page 28

Our Economy

OUR PRIORITIES

The Central Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local economy:

Priority 1. Reduce the number of people living in poverty

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Supporting our Communities who Experience Poverty

Community food provision and community pantries

The Seaton Pantry receive two deliveries per week from CFINE's Fare Share scheme. Most of this food is at the end of its useful life; the principle being to reduce food wastage. Our principal aim however was to reduce hunger in the community. The pantry also provides free period product and sometime toiletries, cleaning product and baby products.

The pantry serves around 60 people a week but we know those community members have families. We estimate that up to 8640 people were supported through the Seaton Pantry during 2024-25. Ther Pantry also works closely with the Council's Family Learning Team, Co-Operative Supermarket's Coboodle initiative, the Russell Trust, the Vaccination ansd Wellbeing Hub, Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR), Family Learning groups, Adult Learning ESOL classes and counselling service, Abernecessities, Community Outreach Group (C.O.G), Citizen Advice Bureau, and the Cash First Project.

The Pantry provides volunteering opportunities, we currently have eight volunteers who have been a great asset to the pantry for the past year.

The pantry has had a significant impact on the local community. Local people have reported it has been life change knowing they can access food and other items at the centre without being questioned or judged.

Seaton Soup and Sannies is jointly delivered by ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, and Seaton Community Hub. It has been running for over three years, initially starting once a month however very quickly moved to twice a month. Up to 30 participants attend each session from sheltered housing complexes within the Seaton area. Fleet transport provide a bus for those who are unable to attend independently. A small group of dedicated volunteers help ensure this runs every month as it would not be possible without them.

Feedback from Attendees:

"I am very satisfied coming here; I am glad I was introduced to it"

"The food is excellent, and the staff are very helpful"

"It's lovely enjoying time away from home, meeting other people and not cooking"

Cornhill Soup and Sannies is jointly delivered by ACHSCP, Aberdeen City Council, and Cornhill Association. This was established on 16 January 2025 following successful application to the Health Improvement Fund. The number of attendees has increased each month, with eight people attending in March 2025, the room can hold up to 15 people. Due to the awarding of UDecide participatory budgeting , the project team is now able to increase these sessions to twice a month, starting in May 2025. This will give more local people the ability to attend. The kitchen is currently run by a dedicated volunteer, and a new volunteer joined the team in April. As part of the dedicated Stay Well Stay Connected LOIP project, Sport Aberdeen will periodically deliver chair based exercises at these sessions to increase the mobility of attendees

Cash First Aberdeen

Our **Cash First project** is testing a flexible cash first crisis fund for people facing financial emergencies. Using funding from the Scottish Government Cash First Pilot, ACVO and partners launched the fund on the 4th of November 2024 for single males, aged 18-45, who are in receipt of Universal credit and are presenting at food banks as food insecure. The fund is co-designed by local third-sector organisations alongside 70 lived experience voices; including those from CFINE's lived experience group. Between January to April 2025, the fund has supported 57 individuals. Of those 57 people, **31 Cash First recipients were from Central Locality**, with 52% of those recipients being from priority neighbourhoods. In the Central Locality, **£16,700.00** of Cash First Funding was distributed.

Images for below section required

Financial Inclusion

Distribution of the **Rent Assistance Fund** has been far reaching and utilised by families who need assistance to keep on top of their rent payments. The Pilot Rent Assistance Fund aims to assist Council tenants who may be facing financial hardship and through no fault of their own can't afford an increase in the rent they currently pay. The £500,000 fund is funded through Aberdeen City Council's Housing Revenue Account budget. During 2024-25, **185 people from Central Locality** received support from the Rent Assistance Fund.

Enhancing Financial Inclusion To further support families, ABZ Works had a secondment of a dedicated financial inclusion officer within the employability team. This role provided invaluable assistance to families in identifying and accessing their full range of benefit entitlements, including childcare support. This proactive measure helps ensure that eligible families have the support needed to access the support they are entitled to. In the Central locality, **44 families** have been assisted.

Fuel Poverty & Affordable Heating

Scarf is a social enterprise, based in Aberdeen, that delivers free advice to householders and businesses including advice on how to reduce heating costs. In the Central Locality 1,032 enquiries were received, of these 390 households were in fuel poverty. As a result of the support from Scarf, including support to heat their home, general and energy advice, home visits and onwards referrals, **19% of households were removed from fuel poverty.**

The NESFit project, funded through Health Improvement fund, "Campaign for Warm Healthy Homes," aims to improve the health and wellbeing of householders by providing health monitoring equipment for their homes. This equipment will be lent out to monitor environmental factors that affect health, helping individuals to better understand and manage their living conditions. The project focuses on creating healthier home environments, which can significantly impact overall physical and mental health. By empowering residents with the tools and knowledge to monitor their home environments, NESFit seeks to foster a proactive approach to health and wellbeing.

English as a Second Language (ESOL) Support Adult Learning have delivered 487 ESOL activities to 996 learners a total of 28,739 learner hours. Core ESOL classes follow a communicative approach focusing on developing learners' basic English skills to a level which will allow them to function in society.

Classes start at literacy level, where learners are taught how to read and write the roman alphabet and go up to Pre-Intermediate level (A2, National 3).

Learners are able to prepare for SQA ESOL awards at National 2 and 3 level. They also have the opportunity to complete SQA Core Skills Numeracy Level 2 awards.

As well as core classes, ESOL learners also have the opportunity to participate in short courses on a range of topics, such as Scottish culture and visit places around Aberdeen, such as the Art Gallery or Old Aberdeen. Weekly board games sessions at the Maritime Museum also provide learners with an opportunity to develop their speaking skills in a different setting.

The Culture Cafe at Fersands and Fountain offers a safe place for people to come and practice their English language. Our workers and volunteers organise a programme that encourages discussion about various subjects. Often guest speakers come from agencies with useful information about their services. Twenty four people attended one of the meetings which usually end up with a meal. Its nice to see people making new friends and the mix of nationalities is great too. Several of the attendees have started volunteering and many others now use other community services.

Sport Aberdeen provided football sessions for asylum seekers and refugees housed in Aberdeen. The football sessions have provided participants with access to high-quality facilities and kit, helping them stay active and integrate into the community. The project has been successful in promoting physical fitness and social inclusion. The project supported **100 people with 6 volunteers contributing 80 hours**. Several participants have been scouted by local football clubs and are now playing in local leagues.

Strengthen Opportunities for Business Growth

Business Gateway's business start-up project has supported 45 individuals across Aberdeen City to start their own businesses during 2024-25. This initiative has enabled participants to either come off universal credits or significantly reduce their reliance on them. **28 new businesses** were set up in Central Locality through deployment of dedicated community business advisors; targeted funding from ABZWorks' seed funding to remove financial barriers; and a partnership referral pathway. The transition from benefit dependency to business ownership has been life-changing for many participants, who have gained financial independence and confidence, underscoring the importance of dedicated and localised support.

Selkies Wonders: Case Study

Michelle Grey founded Selkies Wonders, a business specializing in handcrafted potion bottles and "nerdy" cross-stitch art inspired by fictional literature. She first engaged with Business Gateway in 2023 at the Tillydrone Community Campus, seeking support to launch her creative enterprise.

Facing mental health challenges and an eating disorder, Michelle saw starting her own business as a path to recovery and self-reliance. With the help of Business Gateway and ABZWorks, she developed her business plan and financial forecasts, and secured startup funding for materials.

Michelle's participation in ABZWorks workshops and mentoring sessions boosted her confidence and capability. Encouraged to reach out to author Sarah J. Maas, Michelle became an official merchandiser for the author—a significant milestone for her business.

Additionally, she secured a £450 "Give It a Go" grant from The King's Trust, aiding her early growth. Michelle now regularly attends craft fairs and has a stockist in Banff, where she also hosts successful "make your own potion" workshops.

Michelle's story highlights the importance of accessible, community-based business support services in turning visions into reality.

Support for Entrepreneurial Initiatives Recognising that flexible working arrangements are often key to balancing family and career, ABZ Works has allocated Seed Fund grants of up to £5,000 per person which has supported 19 parents in 24-25. This support has enabled them to launch their own business, promoting self-employment and offering new pathways for income generation that can accommodate their childcare needs. In the Central locality, 7 parents have benefited from this initiative.

Support Development of Employment Opportunities

Images for this section required

Paid Work Experience Placements in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Settings ABZ Works' initiative to support career pathways in the ELC sector has seen the successful placement of 10 paid work experience opportunities which have supported parents. These placements not only provide practical, on-the-job experience for parents but also contribute to building a robust workforce in the ELC sector. The placements have been flexible to work around existing childcare arrangements. In the Central locality, 4 placements have been provided.

Sunnybank Community Centre provided affordable yoga, employability skills for non-native English speakers, and a book challenge for primary age children. The yoga classes and employability skills workshops have been well-attended, helping participants improve their physical health and job prospects. The book challenge has incentivized children to read at home, promoting literacy and learning. The project supported 28 people with 1 volunteer contributing 16 hours. The yoga classes have helped participants manage stress and improve their overall wellbeing.

St Machar Academy pupils participated in the Careers in Health event, a collaborative effort between Nescol and RGU, held over two days (29-30 October 2024). This event aimed to raise awareness of career pathways in the health sector. The S4 pupils, along with students from 11 other schools, visited both Nescol's City Campus and RGU's campus at Garthdee. They engaged in various activities related to careers in Health, exploring pathways in Healthcare, Fitness Health and Exercise, and Life Sciences.

On Tuesday, 8 October 2024, Nescol's City Campus hosted the **Promoting Positive Pathways event**, organised in partnership with Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen, Scotland's Rural College, Skills Development Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce North East, and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. The event aimed to upskill around 100 teachers from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by improving their knowledge of regional education pathways through workshops and a lunchtime learning marketplace. Workshops focused on pathways from school to further and higher education, employment, and apprenticeships, based on teacher feedback. The learning marketplace provided an opportunity for attendees to interact with stallholders from educational institutions and organisations, enhancing their understanding. Following the event, teachers shared their newly acquired knowledge with colleagues in their respective schools, contributing to a better understanding of educational and career pathways for students in the region.

The Digital Skills Project led by **ABZ Works** aimed to upskill people who needed both basic and sector specific digital skills to enhance their employment opportunities. As at 31 March 2025, **58** people have accessed digital support, with 20 now in positive destinations (6 in employment, 4 in education, 8 in further training and 2 volunteering). In addition, **27** people have received a laptop to apply for jobs, with **11 from Central Locality**. These laptops were issued by ABZWorks and funded via No One Left Behind. The laptops have provided participants with the suitable resources to help apply and interview for jobs from home, participate and complete online employability courses and support them to complete home tasks set out by employability training providers to help move them towards gaining employment.

ABZ Works also funded a programme in January 2024, where **seven** participants engaged in digital and employability activities, resulting in **four** participants moving into positive destinations. Based on this success, two new programmes were funded by ABZ Works, a digital and media skills, delivered by **SHMU in Woodside**, and a specific IT training programme, delivered by **Aberdeen Foyer** have been delivered during 2024 to offer an enhanced range of digital activities. Seven people from the Central Locality completed sector specific training and one person gained employment. This programme has also just received a 12 month extension that offers **40 more places** for 2025-26.

The **Saltire Awards** continue to recognise and enhance volunteering by young people aged between 12-25 in Aberdeen City. The awards are co-ordinated by Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and contribute positively to development of employability skills. During 2024, 3623 young people across the city registered with the Saltire Awards, including **878 young people from Central Locality**.

Affordable and Accessible Childcare

Financial Support for Childcare Costs ABZ Works has continued its commitment to helping parents remain or enter the workforce by providing targeted financial support towards childcare costs. This initiative is designed to alleviate one of the largest barriers to parental employment, ensuring that families can pursue or sustain meaningful work without the overwhelming weight of unaffordable childcare expenses. In the Central Locality, **six families** have benefited from this support.

Printfield Community Project have been making childcare more affordable and accessible to increase parental employment. **27 children** have registered with Woodside Partnership After School Club. Parents and Carers are charged £8 and £7 per session respectively.

Sector-Based Training for Expanded Childcare Access To address long-term capacity issues in the childcare sector, ABZ Works has commissioned training activities targeted at enhancing skills and broadening access. This program has reached **29 individuals, including 10 parents**, providing them with specialised sector-based training. The goal is to empower participants with the skills needed to support and expand high-quality childcare services in our communities. In the Central locality, 14 individuals have received training.

Fersands and Fountain's Afterschool Club provide a nurturing environment and pick children up from Kittybrewster and Woodside Primary Schools ensuring they arrive at our centre where qualified staff are ready to care for them and offer healthy snacks. Our programme is designed to be fun and engaging, involving a variety of activities that include cooking, dancing, arts and crafts, team games, board games, quizzes, and sports games in our gym hall. Children love joining in Zumba and fitness sessions, participating in musical games, facing exciting challenges, and enjoying movie nights. This is a Joint Partnership with Printfield Community Project.

Supporting priority families via Fit Like hubs

Fit like? Family Wellbeing Hubs are a group of services working together to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. The Hubs help with:

- Finance and benefits
- Family relationships and communication
- Coping with daily pressures
- Promoting positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- Talking about traumatic things that have happened

The **Family Learning team** have delivered four courses with a focus on readiness to work, incorporating key employability skills such as confidence building and working with others. Learners has completed approx. **10 SQA Awards** in session 2024/25 across the Central Locality. The team are developing SQA accreditation for all of their universal courses

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD DURING 2024/25?

Food Insecurity

7.3% of people in the Central Locality worried they would not have enough to eat compared to **8.1%** of people living in priority neighbourhoods
(City Voice 50, 2024)

Food Poverty

4.1% of households in the Central Locality went without food for a day compared to **8.1%** of households in priority neighbourhoods
(City Voice 50, 2024)

Rent Assistance

185 people from Central Locality received support from the Rent Assistance Fund

Fuel Insecurity

21.8% of people in the Central Locality worried they would not be able to heat their home compared to **26.3%** of people living in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)

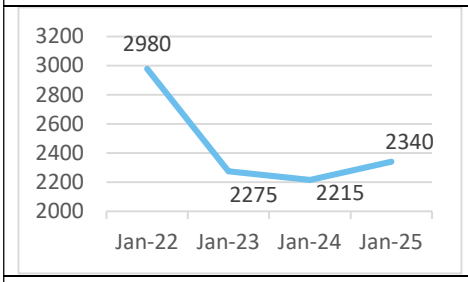
Fuel Poverty

5.7% of households in the Central Locality have had to seek support for paying for heating, compared to **8.1%** of households in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)

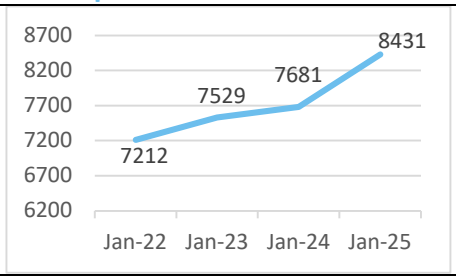
Digital Employability Support

11 people in the Central Locality received a laptop to support them to apply for jobs

Claimant Count



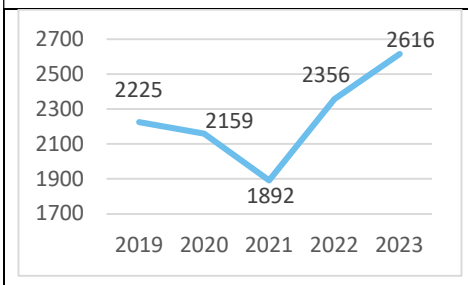
People on Universal Credit



Benefit Maximisation

The online benefit calculator has been accessed **737** times by people from Central priority neighbourhoods

Children in low income families



Business Start Ups

Business Gateway and ABZ Works supported **28** people in Central Locality to start their own business

Digital Access and Skills

91.4% of Central Locality households had access to the internet at home, compared with **91.6%** across Aberdeen City
(City Voice 49, 2024)

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025-26

- Utilise more empty buildings and visually improve local areas
- Strengthen relationships with local businesses
- Visually improve the area to encourage use/business
- Encourage more employers to sign up to the real living wage

OUR PRIORITIES

Central Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out three priorities to improve outcomes for our people

Priority 2. Improve mental wellbeing of the population
Priority 3. Ensure people can access services timely through a person-centred approach
Priority 4. Create safe and resilient communities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Improve Mental Wellbeing of Population

The Community Learning and Development **Youth Work team** has been in the St Machar and Grammar Associated School Group (ASG) Primary and Secondary schools since 2021. The team offers a range of informal learning activities such as 121 support, Youth Awards and drop-in sessions to support and improve young people's emotional and mental wellbeing.

246 youth work activities were delivered in Central ASG's during 2024. **165 participants** gained a Hi5/Dynamic Youth Award.

Cairncry Community Centre hosted a number of festive celebrations during December to support those who may not otherwise be able to join in with Christmas meals and parties, due to financial or personal constraints. The main event included a 3-course Christmas Day lunch which was open to local residents who could not access food or were lonely or isolated. A free meal was provided, along with entertainment and a gift. The celebrations reduced social isolation, improved mental health and aimed to reduce the stigma around food access.

"The day really emphasised community spirit and the importance of coming together."

Fersands and Fountain SCIO supported adults in the Woodside community to reduce isolation, anxiety, and stress through positive activities. The project has successfully kick-started a range of adult services, helping participants make new friends, enjoy positive activities, and reduce fear, anxiety, and stress. Community spirit has increased, and participants have access to more information and advice. The project supported 72 people with 7 volunteers contributing 800 hours.

A participant who was previously isolated now actively participates in community events and activities.

More images required for this section

Grampian Society for the Blind, operating as **North East Sensory Services (NESS),** delivered yoga classes for adults with serious sight and/or hearing loss to improve physical and emotional wellbeing. The yoga classes have been highly beneficial, helping participants manage the impacts of their sensory loss and improve their physical and emotional wellbeing. The project provided accessible exercise opportunities for those with serious sight and hearing loss. The project supported **nine people with two volunteers contributing 52 hours**. A participant reported improved balance and reduced anxiety after attending the classes.

S.T.A.R. - Seaton Taking Action For Regeneration runs a community hub offering various services including food bank vouchers, work support, and general help and advice. The community hub has become a vital resource for the local community, offering a range of services and support. **The Chill Out Room** has provided a safe space for all ages and abilities, helping reduce stress and improve mental health. The project supported **70 people** during 2024-25.

Music 4 U based at **Ivories Coffee Shop** provided music-based social activity for those with additional support needs, health conditions, and the wider community. The Music Café has provided a welcoming environment for participants to enjoy music and social interaction. The project has helped improve mental health and build friendships among those with additional support needs. The project supported **35 people with two volunteers contributing 20 hours.** A participant performed their first solo at the Music Café, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

The Dee Swimming Club Boogie in the Bar is daytime disco for older adults and people with learning disabilities who are at risk of loneliness and social isolation. Boogies facilitate social interaction, friendships, and physical and cognitive exercise. The Boogie at Dee Swimming Club was set up in 2023 and has only grown in popularity. The ladies on the Dee Swimming Club Committee have been amazing as they do all the catering, pre-disco set up, and serving every month. This Boogie has wonderful DJs that volunteer their time to make it a real afternoon disco. This boogie is extremely busy, each month with around **70-80 people attending**. Boogie in the Bar also received National Lottery community funding in 2024 which will ensure Boogies can continue to be delivered into 2026 and hopefully beyond.

Feedback from participants:

“Thank you for giving your time to this”

“I will definitely be back”

“Please keep the boogie going”

Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie's Aberdeen) ran free exercise groups including Qigong and yoga for people with cancer and their families. The exercise groups have been well-attended, providing participants with a chance to build confidence, energy, and enjoy activities they may not otherwise have had access to. The project has made a positive impact on the physical and mental health of people with cancer and their families. The project supported **120 people**. A participant shared that the Qigong classes helped them cope better with their cancer treatment.

Suicide Prevention

During 2024-25, SAMH's Community Engagement Officer specialising on suicide prevention **delivered 50 training sessions** across Aberdeen City which were **attended by 663 people**. This included to groups that have reach into all our localities such as DWP work coaches, Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub staff, various NHS Grampian teams, Council Housing Officers, Aberdeen in Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action staff, and other third sector organisations. There were four Introduction to Suicide Prevention training sessions delivered within the Central Locality. This included the Lighthouse Women's group and community based sessions in Seaton, Woodside and Tillydrone. A total of **27 people attended these sessions**. SAMH also had a dedicated article on suicide prevention published in the June edition of the Seaton Scene (picture below).

SAMH's Community Engagement Officers across the North East Suicide Prevention Team also delivered 32 online sessions reaching another 450 people.

Evaluation data has shown that **80%** of people attending the training feel more confident to ask about suicide. **90%** reported the training has been useful in both their personal and professional lives.

A sample of attendee feedback is noted below:

"Great training, really enjoyed this refresher of information. Trainer was interesting to listen to and engaged well with the group."

"Powerful piece of training that resonated at so many different levels and with so many different people on the call. Thank you"

"Thank you for a thought provoking session. I am telling anyone who will listen about it."

The Community Learning and Development **Healthy Minds team** works with adults in recovery of an enduring, diagnosed mental illness to access learning opportunities within their community to promote their recovery. They work on a 1:1 basis to offer guidance, develop a learning plan and support the learner to participate in learning opportunities. They also offer short engagement courses to meet our learners needs as and when required. In 2024/25, Healthy Minds supported 49 participants in the Central Locality with a total of 664 learner hours. One local person from Central had an art installation displayed in Edinburgh as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival and went on to run art workshops for other Healthy Minds users.

Increase knowledge and Understanding of Health Provision in Central Locality

Women's Health and Wellbeing Fair:
The annual women's health and wellbeing fair took place on Tuesday 26th November 2024 with 61 people in attendance, with an additional 32 stall holders from a very diverse set of organisations across the public and third sectors. As part of our Women cycling programme, Sport Aberdeen fitted up a bike in the anti-room of the Towns House for women to try. This was well received with eight women expressing an interest in cycling more after testing out the bike.

Community Feedback

"I have found quite a few services I didn't know about. Thank you for organising"

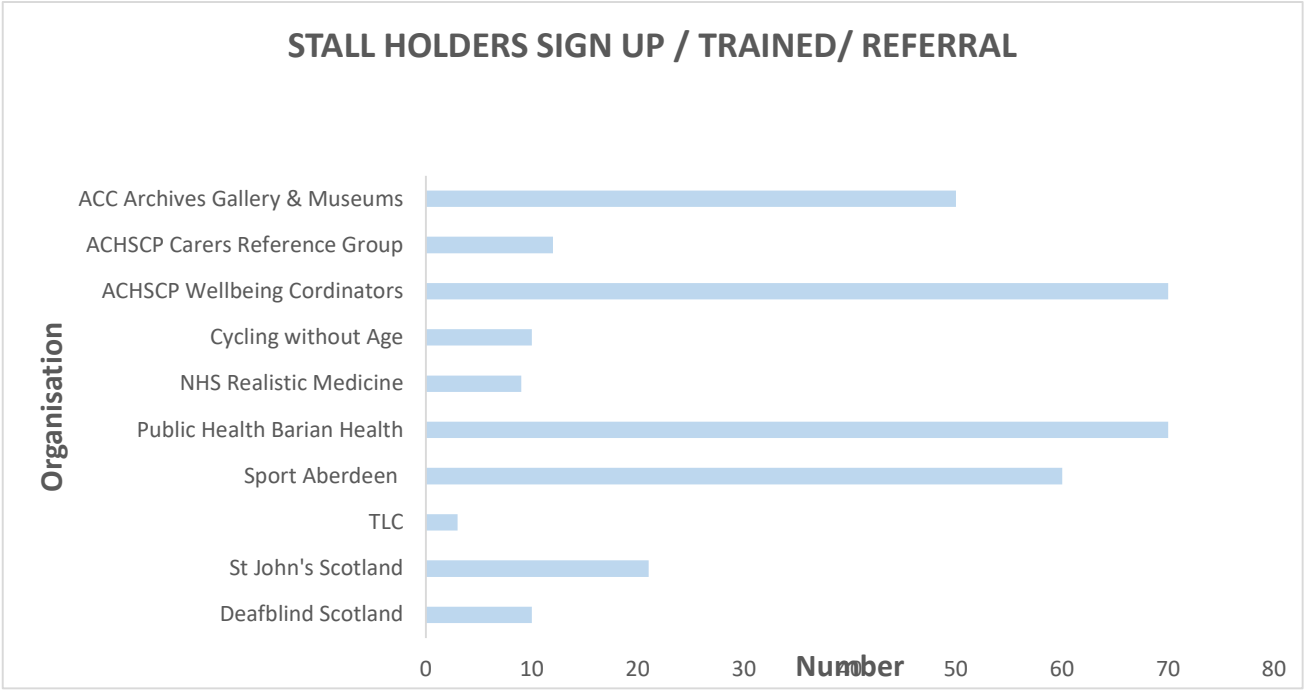
"Lot's of time to speak to the people on the stalls, didn't feel rushed"

Grec health champions/ link practitioners – awaiting update

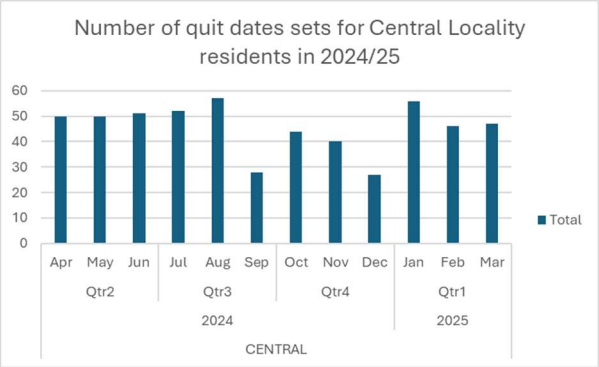
Grampian Gathering (Living Well, Ageing Well, Dying Well)

The second annual **Grampian Gathering** event was held at the Beach Ballroom on Saturday 12 October 2024. The event promoted active ageing and aimed to improve population health and wellbeing, with a view to reduce demand and pressures on the wider health and social care system through preventative approaches, whilst encouraging community empowerment and greater self-management of health and wellbeing. The Gathering also provided an opportunity to have open conversations on planning for end of life, and having a good death – topics that are often uncomfortable and sometimes are stigmatised. The event programme included five celebrated speakers, taster sessions, live musical performances, and community information stalls. Evaluation data from the event is outline below:

- 369 people attended the Gathering, including 60 community delegates from the Central Locality
- 8 speakers
- 61 stall holders from across private, public, third, independent, and community sectors
- 84% of community delegates who took part in the evaluation graded their experience at the Gathering to be 8/10 or greater
- The number of community delegates who signed up for activities, groups, or training at the Gathering is recorded below



Smoking Cessation



There are three Gold Standard pharmacies in Central Locality providing advanced public health services and have in-house public health champions who can help with all aspects of health and social care using referral pathways. **548 people** from Central Locality accessed smoking cessation support during 2024-25. A breakdown on the number of quit days they set during the year is shown in the chart.

Healthy Weight Aberdeen and Whole Systems Approach

Over 20% of Primary 1 children in Aberdeen are at risk of being overweight, with higher rates in more deprived areas. Half of the pregnant women in Aberdeen were overweight in 2022, and continues to rise year-on-year. Deprivation plays a significant role, with those in the most deprived areas nearly twice as likely to be at risk of being an unhealthy weight. Trends also show inequalities based on gender, age, and ethnicity, with men and boys showing higher obesity rates compared to women and girls. Poor diets, low physical activity, and the severe health and economic consequences of obesity highlight the need for urgent, comprehensive public health interventions.

In response to this position, on 30th August 2024, the Healthy Weight Aberdeen approach event held. 111 people from a range of sectors attended. The event provided a shared understanding of the reality of the challenge to address healthy weight consider how the local system is operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The event report is available at Healthy Weight Aberdeen Report-30 Aug 2024 and visit | Aberdeen City HSCP for event highlights. Following the event we have now established a healthy Weight Aberdeen Systems Network Group to take the approach forward.

Through **our Healthy Life Choices project** we supported 59 adults, 23 from the Central Locality, of low-income families in priority neighbourhoods to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices to support healthy weight in 2024/25. During this period, 170 young people from priority neighbourhoods were also supported to improve healthy eating behaviours and adopt good life choices.

Innovative approaches to addressing health issues

What Moves You CIG ran dance sessions to improve physical and mental health for people with Cancer, and their families. The dance sessions have been well-received, with participants reporting improved physical fitness and mental wellbeing. The project has provided a fun and engaging way for people to stay active and connected. The project supported **30 people** with **three volunteers contributing 90 hours**. A participant with mobility issues showed significant improvement in their movement and confidence.

ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team and Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT) delivered the Scottish Football Association's Power of Football training programme at Pittodrie Stadium between September-November 2024. The eight week programme uses football to enhance participants' knowledge about menopause and their personal journeys, helping them comprehend the impact on their well-being, relationships, and professional lives. **Seven women completed the training** programme in November 2024, and a further 24 women have signed up to the programme waiting list for 2025. Two co-ordinators from ACHSCP & AFCCT are currently undergoing training to become accredited facilitators and are on track to be ready by May 2025. Feedback from women who completed the programme has been very positive, **a small sample of participant feedback is outlined below:**

"Definitely feel more educated and equipped with techniques."

"Keep doing what you're doing. You're all doing a fantastic job. You all made me feel very welcome and comfortable."

"I've enjoyed each week because I've learned something new each time and spent time with a lovely bunch of ladies."

The Stay Well Stay Connected show on SHMU radio first broadcast in 2024 with co-hosts Carol Baig and Hayley Ross from ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team. It is a monthly radio show which goes live on the second Monday of every month from 1pm-2pm. The radio show contains information on wellbeing opportunities within the local area, as well as having guest speakers talking about a variety of different health and wellbeing topics.

Fersands and Fountain After School Club

At our Afterschool Club we prioritize the safety and happiness of your child by providing a nurturing environment. We pick children up from Kittybrewster and Woodside Primary Schools, ensuring they arrive at our centre where qualified staff are ready to care for them and offer healthy snacks. Our programme is designed to be fun and engaging, involving a variety of activities that include cooking, dancing, arts and crafts, team games, board games, quizzes, sports games in our gym hall and more. Children love joining in Zumba and fitness sessions, participating in musical games, facing exciting challenges, and enjoying movie nights. This is a Joint Partnership with Printfield Community Project.

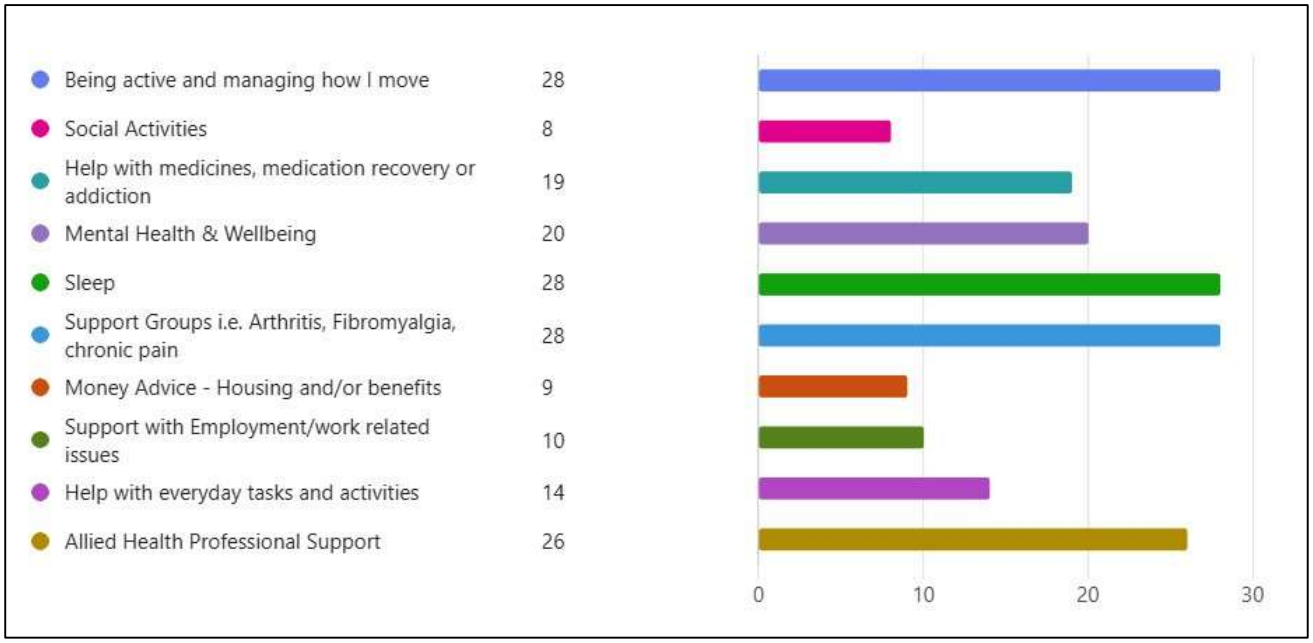
Community Appointment Day – Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub – 5 February 2025

Community Appointment Days (CADs) are an innovative way of improving population health, social care, wellbeing by focusing on prevention and early intervention. CADs are centred around the simple concept of understanding what matters to someone, then working alongside them to make that happen. CADs promote patient empowerment and encourages them to learn more so they can more effectively self-manage chronic conditions, the idea is that this improves patient outcomes and overall population health, and helps to protect primary and secondary care services which are under severe pressure from growing waiting lists. CADs bring together a range of health, social care, and wellbeing services across private, public, and third sectors all under one roof in a community venue and allows attendees to have personalised conversations on what matters most to them. This recognises that the current system is set up to manage one condition at a time, whereas CADs take a more person-centred and holistic approach to treat such as complex issue. Chronic pain was assessed as being appropriate to trial a CAD in Aberdeen City as local waiting lists and times have increased in recent years and patients on the chronic pain waiting list, are also likely to be on other waiting lists for services such as podiatry or mental health. The 2023 Scottish Health Survey also found that 38% of Scottish adults experienced chronic pain, this

highlighted the importance of focussing not just on current waiting lists, but taking a more population level approach to prevent people from experiencing so much pain that they need to referred to the hospital's Chronic Pain Team. There is a widespread recognition across all sectors supporting the Chronic Pain CAD that chronic pain cannot be resolved in hospitals, instead the most appropriate interventions need to be made in our communities.

The second Community Appointment Day in Aberdeen was held at the Aberdeen Vaccination and Wellbeing Hub on 5 February 2025, following the first CAD in Northfield on 27 November 2024. Evaluation data compiled by NHS Grampian Public Health and patient feedback is outlined below:

- **127 people attended** the CAD, with 61 people pre-booking their place, and 66 walk ins
- 77% of pre-booked attendees were female, which is largely reflective of the chronic pain waiting list
- The median age of pre-booked attendees was 64 years, although attendees ranged between 24-83 years
- **86% of pre-booked attendees had no previous contact with the Chronic Pain team**, highlighting the importance of taking an a preventative, population level approach
- 37% of pre-booked attendees learned about the CAD via social media and 23% via their GP
- The chart below shows which support pre-booked attendees received at the CAD



"It's been a relief to talk to people who understand and can offer help and support. Chronic pain has affected my confidence, as I don't go out and I'm unable to work, so to speak with people who are empathetic has been amazing."

"Well worthwhile. Hope there are more of these types of programmes."

"Grateful to attend this much needed event and for giving some fresh knowledge and contacts. A morale booster as well!"

Volunteering in the Community

Supporting Young Carers
Despite the substantial support available for **young carers** in Aberdeen, identifying and referring them to this support can be challenging, as many do not recognise themselves as carers. The Young Carers project has aimed to increase the identification and support of young carers throughout the city. Since early last year, the city wide project has seen continued success, with a 20% increase in the number of young carers accessing support, rising from 126 in June 2023 to 151 in December 2024. As of March 2025 there were **60 young carers** supported in the **Central Locality.**

Young Carer Case Study

A 12-year-old student at St Machar Academy, was referred to Barnardos Young Carer service in July 2021 through self-referral. YC cares for their brother with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), providing emotional, practical, and personal support. While the family had support for the parents and brother, YC lacked support. To address this, YC was registered for group activities and engaged well with others. YC was also assigned a volunteer befriender to provide social opportunities beyond their brother's interests.

The volunteer befriender noted that YC enjoys their outings, expresses opinions, and shows increased confidence. YC also participated in residential opportunities, including the Outward Bounds residential in April 2023 and the Scottish Young Carers Festival in August 2023, demonstrating teamwork, motivation, and resilience. YC's favourite activities were the crate climb and leap of faith.

Regular contact is maintained with YC's family to monitor the impact of the brother's ASD on YC and ensure YC receives adequate support. The family is also directed to additional support organizations like Quarriers Adult Carers Service and receives regular financial support opportunities.

Create local safe spaces to support outside activities

Activities for Children and Young People

PEEP is a programme delivered by Aberdeen City Council, in partnership with ACHSCP which offers early intervention to families who may require some additional support for a short period of time to prevent escalation to more intensive support. Peep can also support families back into their community as part of, or following social work intervention. In 2024, ACHSCP and the Council set up a **PEEP Group at Lord Hay's Court**, which is a sheltered housing complex in Seaton. The sessions involve fun activities with the children, parents and older adults that attend. The group generally has 3-4 parents and children, and a small group of residents from Lord Hay's Court. The group has been part of the Creating Intergenerational Communities pilot toolkit this year, with planning in place to extend these sessions into the South Locality.

Fersands Summer Holidays

A youth work summer programme was organised for and by 12-18 year olds**. Thirty two young people signed up** to 13 activities and outings including Balmedie , Dundee Swimming, Paddleboarding ,Go Karting, Bowling, Hill Walking and Mountain Biking, as well as a Wellbeing week of relaxing and stress free activities including a Fishing Trip and Yoga. The kids had great new experiences diving off high boards and sand dunes, learning about coping strategies such as Yoga and conversations for good mental health.

Raise awareness of substance use service and provision

Healthy Beginnings is a resource that was created to highlight the effects of alcohol and smoking in pregnancy and was adapted from #Drymester and ASH Scotland resources. Three sessions have been delivered to ascertain how the resource was received, and its potential use. The sessions reinforced information on alcohol in pregnancy but highlighted the higher prevalence of those with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) than attendees initially thought. Inclusion of short videos on the effect of alcohol on an egg, and the effects of smoke on an unborn child, were perceived as being impactful and useful in conjunction with other resources such as posters, leaflets, peer support and social media posts.

Attendees reported having more confidence in advising a pregnant mother to stop drinking alcohol than smoking, as smoking was seen as an addiction and more stressful to quit than alcohol. The effects of smoking on the mother-to-be and the growing foetus were understood but less was known of the effects of second-hand and third-hand smoke.

The resource provided information of support services for both alcohol and smoking during pregnancy, and the free Nicotine Replacement Treatment with behavioural support available from HealthPoint and Quit Your Way programme from community pharmacies across Grampian.

The Community Planning Partnership through our **fatal drug overdose projects** are focused on reducing drug related deaths (DRDs) through innovative developments and by increasing the distribution of naloxone. Naloxone is an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone and can save someone's life. During 2024-25, the project has focused on interventions in our priority neighbourhoods to increase public awareness and access to the life saving drug to people at risk of overdose, as well as to family members/friends of those in need.

The Aberdeen Protects app launched in December 2024 promotes the uptake and use of naloxone. The app is for anyone - whether parents, staff or people using substances. Whether its young people at a party, people out at the weekend or people who have used substances for a long time, we can all reduce harm by understanding the risks and how to respond.
It enables people to:

- find nearest stockists of naloxone
- videos on how to use naloxone and respond to an overdose
- understand signs and symptoms of overdose
- harm reduction advice
- order postal naloxone kit online
- links to support services
- links to national drug alerts
- local push notifications of drug alerts, harms and local support

We're also getting out in the community and running community learning and development event to raise awareness of naloxone and support available. It is important that training on naloxone is available for everyone. Our young people are a key part of this. We are delighted to report that all secondary schools have staff members trained to administer naloxone and that from the 2024/25 school session 24-25 saw all S4 pupils trained in administering naloxone, in addition to the Level 6 first aid course. This provides them with a qualification, as well as the ability to save someone's life.

As a result of this, there has been a 48% increase in the total number of naloxone kits issued in Aberdeen City from 2021/22 to 2023/24, (X to Y) with a 56% increase in the number issued to Persons at Risk. X% of kits supplied to people at risk. We have also seen increased supply in each locality, with a X% increase in Central (X kits), X% increase in South (X kits), X% increase in North (Xkits) and X% increase in other (X kits) compared to 2023/24.

Recovery from drug and alcohol-related harm is crucial for creating healthier communities. We know that each person's recovery journey is unique, and that providing a range of supportive opportunities helps sustain their recovery, reduce stigma, and increase resilience. Through our recovery project we are committed to building on the treatment, support and community peer led initiatives available and providing recovery support for individual, family, and community levels to help people live free from the potential harm of alcohol and drugs.

We have also increased support available over the weekend, with Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) now running sessions on Sundays and Alcohol & Drugs Action open on Saturdays and Sundays, to ensure that when people need support they can access it. There were 126 members of Aberdeen In Recovery during Q1-2 of 2024-25. Of which 45% were from the Central Locality. On average AiR are running 14 different groups per week with the aim of providing a variety of options to meet the individuals interest and needs. Through Aberdeen In Recovery activities, between 4 April and 22 November, there were 9326 SAFE (Stable Addiction-Free Engagement) hours which equates to 1243.5 days.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Youth Anti-Social Behaviour	Positive destinations	Mental Health
There were **1396** reported youth anti-social behaviour incidents across the Central Locality during 2024. This is a **8.6% improvement** on the 1527 incidents reported during 2023. Central Locality recorded the highest number of a youth anti-social behaviour incidents across Aberdeen City. **679** incidents took place in the city centre this was the highest per area across the Central Locality	**94.3%** of Central Locality school leavers achieved an initial positive destination, this is the highest in Aberdeen City. With **92.05%** of St Machar Academy leavers achieving a positive destination	**15.9%** of people who live in the Central Locality have been prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression, or psychosis. This is below the Aberdeen City figure of **17.4%**
Teenage Pregnancies	**Counselling for Young People**	**Working Together with Parents**
In the Central Locality, **21.90 per 1000** girls and young women recorded pregnancies. This is just above the Aberdeen City average rate of **19.8 per 1000** girls and young women.	**100%** of schools in Central Locality offer counselling and Active School activities	**27** new PEEP practitioners trained during 2024-25 to support parents with young children

Young People Volunteering	Healthy Eating	Community Empowerment
878 young people from the Central Locality received a Saltire Award. **3623** young people received a Saltire Award across Aberdeen City	**8.9%** of people in the Central Locality said they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food due to poverty. This compares to **10.5%** of people in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 50, 2024)	**369 people** attended the Stay Well Stay Connected – Grampian Gathering, held at the Beach Ballroom on 12 October 2024 which celebrated active ageing. **60** attendees were from Central Locality.
Alcohol Awareness	**Drug Related Deaths**	**Drug Related Hospital Stays**
49.1% of people in the Central Locality said they didn't know the maximum number of alcohol units recommended per week. **28.7%** of people who live in Central Locality do not drink alcohol. This figure is **29.1%** across Aberdeen City (City Voice 49, 2024)	naloxone kits supplied in Central Locality in 2022	The rate of drug related hospital stays for the Central Locality was **248.5 per 100,000** population. This is a slight improvement from **250 per 100,000** in 2022. The Central Locality continues to have the highest rate of drug related hospital stays across Aberdeen City
Alcohol Related Mortality Rates	**Deaths from Suicide**	**Life Expectancy**
. Alcohol related mortality rates in Central Locality are now **34.1 people per 100,000**. This is significantly higher than the Aberdeen City rate of **19.9 people per 100,000.** Central Locality has the highest proportion of alcohol related mortality rates across Aberdeen City	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.	Men who live in West End North can expect to live **83.2 years**, whereas men in Old Aberdeen can expect to live **68.1 years** – This is the area with the lowest life expectancy for men in Aberdeen City. The average life expectancy for a man in Aberdeen City is **76.9 years.** Women who live in West End North can expect to live **88.1 years**, whereas women in Woodside can expect to live **74.4 years**. The average life expectancy for a woman in Aberdeen City is **80.9 years.**

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Work with Community Safety Partnership to expand the no. of community safety initiatives
- Promote road safety
- Increase the number of people who have access to nutritious food

Our Place

OUR PRIORITIES

The Central Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our local place:

Priority 5. Maximise the spaces in communities to create opportunities for people to connect and increase physical activity.

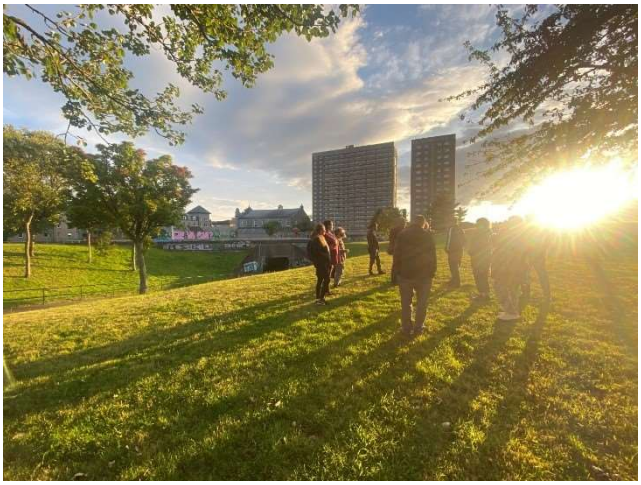
WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE DURING 2024/25?

Supporting greenspace development

Encourage community growing spaces

Mounthooly Roundabout

The idea for the Mounthooly Garden was born out of the George Street Masterplan, which highlighted a lack of developed green spaces in the area. In response, we engaged with the community to identify their aspirations and needs, leading to the concept of a Forest Garden - a sustainable, edible ecosystem that serves both environmental and social purposes.



Aberdeen Community Planning, CFine Community Growing team, students from NESCOL and residents of George St and surrounding area held meetings over a year which culminated in a planting day. Mounthooly will be used as a community space, a location for learning, socialising and gardening. 22 participants came to the planting day which say 12 sapling apple and pear trees planted, there are plans to plant a further 8 more mature apple trees. These trees will form the basis of the Forest Garden.

This project will contribute to improved access to healthy food in this area which has a lack of accessible green spaces.

The phased approach for planting allows project participants to dip their toes in and figure out their way as they go along. As the project develops, we hope participants - particularly local residents - will be eager and excited to take the lead in developing the garden further, choosing whether to incorporate more complex elements or components that may require additional maintenance.

This approach aims to ensure that the garden project is sustainable, genuinely community-informed and led, and a healthy, welcoming, safe space for everyone.

Rosemount Community Garden

A group of volunteers have come together to transform a previously unused area of greenspace within the Rosemount Community Centre grounds into a community garden. The group meet weekly to design and develop the garden into an attractive and educational space. Over the course of the project Skene Square Primary School and Midstocket Play Group have used the area and supported the creation of the community garden. The volunteers have also collaborated with the Rosemount Community Centre Association for support with storage and access to the garden-site, and local Men's Sheds to borrow and share tools. The project aims to increase physical activity, improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation, as well as providing education around gardening and growing.

Mile End Primary School created a sensory garden in the school grounds to support learning and engagement. The sensory garden has been completed, providing a safe and inclusive outdoor environment for children. The garden has supported learning and engagement, helping children with additional needs feel more regulated and connected. The project supported 600+ people with **20 volunteers contributing 45 hours.** The garden has become a favourite spot for children to explore and learn about nature.

Encouraging the Use of Greenspaces for Healthy Benefits

Mighty Oaks Menopause Health Walks began in 2023 in Powis, and is a group which empowers women to take control of the menopause through walking, talking, laughing and supporting each other. The walks take place twice a month on Wednesday evenings from Powis Community Centre between 5:30pm-7pm. The first hour is a gentle walk followed by a cup of tea and a natter. The group size varies throughout the year, however there is now a core group that continue to do this walk led by a volunteer from Powis Community Centre. Participants have reported they now walk multiple times a week which is a fantastic outcome.

Feedback from participants:

""Love it. Really good just to meet other women going through the same thing to share experiences and have a safe place to talk."

"You are doing great job, keep it up. It is good to come along sharing experiences and coping mechanisms."

Women's Health Social Bike Rides began in 2024, ACHSCP's Wellbeing Team worked in partnership with Sport Aberdeen to set up a social bike ride for women once a week. These have taken a break over the winter period, but we are looking to start them back up again at the end of April. The group started of small but eventually had **six women attending weekly**, the group can only accommodate eight people, so this was a great achievement, we are hoping it will be as successful in 2025!

Over the last year **Sport Aberdeen** have also developed a cycling hub at the Raymond Kelly Pavilion in Seaton, which currently hosts the Grampian Inclusive Cycle Bothy programme for Aberdeen (twice a week) – designed to provide cycling opportunities which are more accessible to adults and young people with disabilities and additional support needs. Adult & Family Learn to Bike and Cycle confidence sessions have also been based there through our partnership with Scottish Cycling's Rock Up and Ride programme. Strong partnerships have also been formed with Sustrans, who have used the pavilion as a base for their iBike Schools programme which has focused on the St Machar Associated School Group area over the last two years

Tackle Waste in our Communities

With the winds that blow from the beach and the through the high rises there is a steady stream of litter being blown in Seaton. This was seen as an opportunity to bring the community together, **Fresh Community Wellness, Seaton management team and the Community Council** came together and organised a litter pick Barbeque day.

In total there were **30 volunteers** from the local community came together to enjoy the barbeque, connect with their community and help in picking litter. In total **25 bags of rubbish** were picked over the course of a few hours. There are plans to make this a regular community event.

ALC Aberdeen have received, refurbished and distributed **28 bikes** in Tillydrone over the last twelve months. They are given to children and young people who do not have access to a bike. The bikes are denoted to the ALC as owners think they have come to the end of their usefulness.

Young people are supported to learn about bike maintenance to support them to look after the bikes they receive free of charge.

WHAT IMPACT HAVE WE HAD IN 2024/25?

Satisfaction with Green Space	Community Growing Spaces	Community Managed Green Spaces
87% of Central Locality respondents reported being satisfied or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of green/open spaces. This is significantly higher than the **74%** of respondents for Aberdeen City collectively (City Voice 51, 2024)	**12** supported community food growing projects happening across Central Locality	**6** community groups being supported to look after community green space in priority neighbourhoods
Cycling	**Walking**	**Community Resillience**
13.1% of people in the Central cycled in the last year as a sustainable travel choice (City Voice 51, 2024)	**74.6%** of people in the Central Locality walk as one mode of transport. However this number falls to **68.8%** in priority neighbourhoods (City Voice 51, 2024)	There are **0** Community Resilience Groups currently operating within Central Locality

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN 2025/26

- Work with community partners to deliver more litter picks
- Establish Community Resilience Groups across the Central Locality
- More initiatives which promote responsible dog owners

Our Communities

OUR PRIORITIES

The South Locality Plan 2021-26 sets out one priority to improve our Communities:

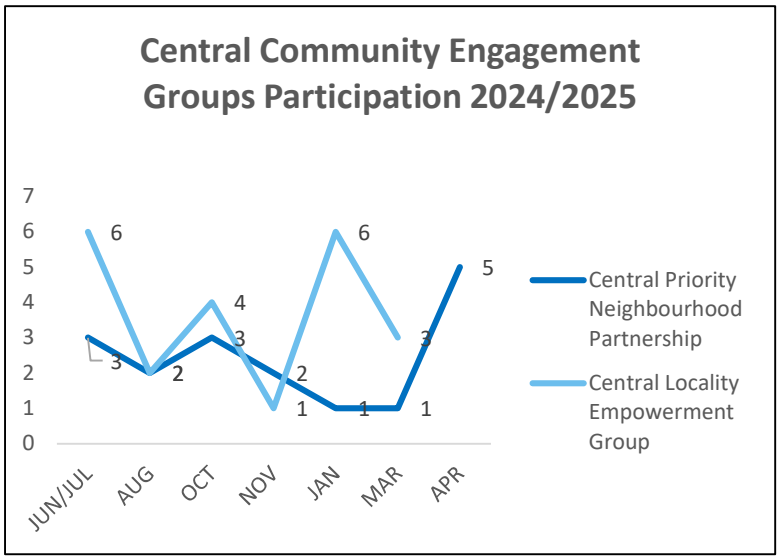
Priority 6. Increase the number of people and groups involved in making improvements and decisions in their communities

PROGRESS MADE DURING 2024/25

Community Participation

There are many ways you can get involved in the work of Community Planning Aberdeen to make things better for our local community and influence how public services are delivered in your area to meet your needs. We are committed to enabling all citizens to participate should they wish to.

Community members in Central Locality can get involved through a range of methods:



- Central Locality Empowerment Group (LEG)
- Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership (PNP)
- UDecide Participatory Budgeting
- Fairer Aberdeen Board
- Place Standard Community Engagment

Stay updated

Central Locality Empowerment Group and the Tillydrone, Woodside 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 Tillydrone, Woodside and Seaton Priority Neighbourhood Partnership you will be able to provide a voice on behalf of the people and communities across your neighbourhood.

As well as this, we have a number of ways to stay updated on what is going on in your neighbourhood.

Every few months, ACVO pull together a Central funding and events update, so you can find out what's on and have up to date access on locally available funding opportunities. See the latest update here.

As well as this, council tenants can also find out about updates in the Tenant Participation Newsbite magazine, hard copies are sent to all council tenancies.

Get Involved

Following a citywide meeting with our existing community representatives, they had the following to say about what they gain from involvement:

If you are interested in getting involved in helping achieve these aims in your local community, follow this link to find out more or contact the Locality Planning Team:

Our Communities - Community Planning Aberdeen

localityplanning@aberdeencity.gov.uk

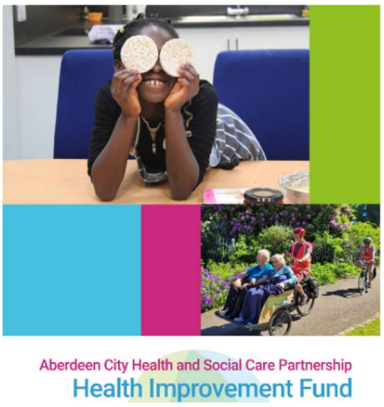
Community Funding

The Locality Planning team led the delivery of a **UDecide Participatory Budgeting** process. There was £60,000 of funding available to community groups, £40,000 from Community Planning Aberdeen and a further £20,000 from the Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This provided a total of £20,000 available for each of the three localities.

Applications were open to community groups in Tillydrone, Woodside, Seaton, Stockethill, Ashgrove and George Street who were able to demonstrate how their projects and activities related to one or more of the community ideas detailed within the Central Locality Plan.

Funding was awarded to 7 projects across those areas and 1 projects was partially funded. You can read more about the process here: UDecide Report 2025.

Funded UDecide Projects
ALC School Breakfast Club Safe, warm breakfast Club for Academy and younger students. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
Tillydrone Community Flat Foodbank A lifeline for vulnerable residents supplying emergency food *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
Soup and sandwich Club Free nutritious meal club reducing social isolation and ensuring people don't go hungry *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
The Aberdeen North Foodbank Helping put food on the table and ensuring people do not go hungry, *Locality Plan Priority Link: Sustain and develop community food provision including food pantries*
U-Band Community band introducing people to Ukrainian culture. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Support English as Second Language (ESOL) families to access services*
Fun in the Sun! Four weeks of free, welcoming activities for 8-12 year olds in the Summer. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Create indoor and outdoor opportunities for activities (young people).*
Empowher Providing a safe, supportive space for women to discuss mental health *Locality Plan Priority Link: Develop programmes of activities to informally support mental wellbeing*
Schools First Aid Training Services CIC First Aid training covering basic and essential skills for P5-7. *Locality Plan Priority Link: Upskilling communities and partners' knowledge of health and wellbeing, weight management, services, and training*



The Health Improvement Fund (HIF) process is designed to enhance health and wellbeing across Aberdeen through community-led projects. It is open to anyone living and/or working in Aberdeen City, offering community grants of up to £5,000. Projects must be innovative, community-led, meet local needs, and demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing. The decision-making process involves local screening panels composed of community representatives and staff, who allocate funds based on a scoring process aligned with the fund's principles. This ensures that projects are selected fairly and effectively to address the diverse needs of the community.

Funded Health Improvement Fund Projects
SCIO Activities Group - Tillydrone Community Campus Intergenerational Arts & Crafts sessions. Chair based yoga/fitness sessions.
Sports & Exercise at the Breadmaker - The Breadmaker Sporting activities and exercise for Adults with learning disabilities
Developing the Team and Garden of Bonnymuir Green Community Trust. Adding a greenhouse to the Bonnymuir Green garden, & refreshing staff First Aid at Work training.
Food for all - Seaton Community Hub Providing a new approach to providing food for people in Seaton.
Knit and Chatter intergenerational sessions - Your Love Rara Integrated craft and mental health sessions to build bridges between generations.
Soup and Sandwich Club - Aberdeen City Council Soup and Sandwich lunch club once a month at Cornhill community Centre.
Aberdeen Foyer Winter Wellbeing Project - Aberdeen Foyer Provide inclusive space to share food, reduce isolation, increase employability through learning
Initial training for Grampian Birth Buddies - Grampian Birth Buddies Training a group of women to support their peers through the perinatal period.
Cornhill Community Art Space Programme - Cornhill Community Association Develop the community art space programme and add groups and classes to support local people struggling with their Mental Health through creative means.
Time for Me – Building skills and resilience – Quarriers Project will help carers gain skills, build confidence and have a break from caring.
Campaign for warm healthy homes – NESFit Aim to support and empower communities by giving them data to understand how their housing conditions affect their health. We will do this by purchasing health monitoring equipment to lend out to householders to monitor environmental factors that affect health.
Happy Children, Happy Families - Sunnybank Community Centre Association Messy Play and Playgroup sessions for families with young children. Youth Club for Primary age children.

Health and Diversity Network – GREC

The Grampian Health and Diversity Network (GH & DN) is an initiative by the Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) aimed at empowering ethnic minority community members to improve their own health and wellbeing.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council to tackle poverty and deprivation. The Fund is allocated by a deliberative participatory budgeting approach, with a Board made up of Elected Members, Community Planning Partners, and community representatives with lived experience. The Fund supports initiatives and services in priority areas, as well as vulnerable groups across the city. In the Central Locality **27 initiatives** were funded to deliver activities with **a value of £520,000.** In addition, the Fairer Aberdeen Fund allocated £25,000 to undertake a PB event in the Rosehill, Stockethill and Cornhill area during October 2024. A steering group made up of partners and community representatives prioritised the funding for initiatives to improve the community, support social inclusion, and tackle isolation and loneliness. Funding was awarded to six initiatives supporting parents and toddlers, youth work, and community activities.

In the **Woodside Decides** initiative, shmu and the Woodside Network have been testing how small funding pots can be utilised to encourage local residents to have a greater sense of control and influence within their community, and therefore to become more actively involved in Community Planning activity in their local area. Funding for this test of change was sourced from Community Planning Aberdeen, ACVO, North East Culture Collective and NESCAN Hub.
£18,000 of funds across 4 themes, and a range of community engagement events and activity has taken place over the past year. This has included open events, advertised widely, bringing together people from across the community, as well as more targeted events for women and older people. There have also been outreach activities within sheltered housing complexes, and a youth project at Printfield Community Project. So far around £8,000 has been allocated, whilst other initiatives are under way to allocate the remaining funds.

Consultation & Engagement

Participation of communities and people's rights lie at the heart of community planning and our communities are key to informing and shaping our plans and strategies. Using the steps within the community empowerment toolkit, and the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment and Legality

(PANEL) principles, Community Planning Aberdeen launched its “Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future” engagement in March 2025.

This builds on the community engagement which took place in 2023 using the Place Standard tool to inform the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in 2024, engaging 465 people. This year the approach has been enhanced and adapted to enable the single engagement to help inform a number of plans and strategies being developed by the Partnership.

We know that different people will have different needs. We wanted to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their views, including those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage. As well as an online version, we held 6 locality events, including one at Aberdeen Sports Village and another at Rosemount Community Centre a children and young people’s version, and took the conversation into schools and communities across Aberdeen, capturing thoughts and feelings about life in Aberdeen. Our outreach programme details all the groups and locations we attended to help support people have their say.

The engagement closed on 18 May 2025 and analysis of participation and results is underway. The data will be used to inform the multiple plans and strategies, including the Local outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and locality Plans for North, South and Central. Using the results, we will work with communities to co-create solutions through the development of the next Plans, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning.

In addition, the Locality Planning Team continues its outreach work, and engages on a regular basis with individual community members, and community groups and organisations such as community councils and the local third sector.

During May 2024, the Council’s Community Learning and Development (CLD) service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE). HMIE inspectors reviewed the City’s locality planning arrangements and interviewed LEG and PNP community members. In their inspection report, HMIE reported that CLD’s **“Successful engagement of community representatives is starting to ensure that their [community member] views are included in locality planning and the refresh of the LOIP”.**

- Host more citywide locality planning engagement sessions
- Add more content to the Locality Planning section of the Community Planning Aberdeen website
- Prepare an induction pack for community members joining a LEG or PNP
- Increase the number and diversity of people engaging in locality planning meetings, activities, and projects. Participation in Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships has declined, particularly in the North and Central Localities. To address this, we are exploring new methods to boost engagement, acknowledging that each neighbourhood has unique needs. Our focus has been on hyper-local engagement. A recent test of change in Seaton tested the idea that holding area focused meetings within neighbourhoods could increase attendance. Additionally, by concentrating on area specific priorities from the Locality Plan, we aimed to encourage those with a particular interest in those issues to participate. You can read more about the test here.

Your Locality Planning Team

We recognise the value of partnering with communities to foster a thriving environment for everyone. By working closely with local communities through our locality planning team, we aim to be more responsive, supportive, and action-focused. Input from the community is essential to this process.

The Locality Planning Team consists of staff from both Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, working together to enhance outcomes across all local areas and neighbourhoods. In the Central Locality, your key locality planning contacts are Iain, Jade, Chris and Graham.

Iain Robertson

Transformation Programme Manager

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Jade Leyden

Locality Planning and Community Development Manager

Aberdeen City Council

Chris Smillie

Public Health Co-Ordinator

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership

Graham Donald

Community Development Officer

Aberdeen City Council

Progress Report	Community Planning Aberdeen New Improvement Charters
Lead Officer	Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead Prevention and Community Empowerment
Report Author	Allison Swanson, Community Planning and Improvement Manager
Date of Report	2 May 2025
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 21 May 2025

Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update on the status of the remaining new improvement charters to be submitted to Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group.

Summary of Key Information

BACKGROUND

1.1 The refreshed Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) was approved by Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 29 April 2024. Within the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan there are 16 stretch outcomes which break down the overarching vision for Aberdeen as 'a place where all people can prosper' into specific, measurable improvement aims for 2026.

1.2 For each stretch outcome, there are a number of shorter term improvement projects which have been identified to deliver the longer terms outcomes. Within the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan there are 98 improvement aims and therefore providing a sharpened focus on areas which require collaboration from partners and application of improvement methodology.

COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2024-26 – OVERVIEW OF PROJECT CHARTER STATUS

2.1 Of the 98 aims, 93 are continuing/live and 5 are to be initiated.

2.2 As per the schedule agreed by the Management Group, a further 4 new project charters were due to this meeting. The status of each is detailed in the table below.

Ref	Improvement Aim	Project Manager	Charter Status
2.8	Support 25 individuals to gain employability skills via volunteering opportunities by 2026	TO BE CONFIRMED	**Charter delayed for a fourth meeting.** The Chair of Aberdeen Prospers has had productive meeting with Mental Health Aberdeen regarding leading this aim. The potential lead will now complete bootcamp with a view to charter being submitted to next meeting.

9.4	Increase to 80% the number of community justice clients completing exit questionnaires with 90% of those showing an improvement by 2026.	Health and Social Care Partnership, Justice Social Work, Hazel Flett	Community Planning Aberdeen considered charter and agreed that this was currently single system activity and for that to actioned within the Justice Social Work Delivery Plan and that the Community Justice Group report back at point multi-agency activity was ready to progressed. It was agreed that there was multi agency activity in relation to showing improvement in the various areas recorded within the exit questionnaire.
12.5	Increase % of housing option assessments undertaken using an integrated, multi-agency, person centred approach.	Aberdeen Cyrenians, Donna Hutchison	Homewards Steering Group have considered draft charters for 12.5 and 12.7. Due to alignment/overlap, the Group are proposing that the aims be combined into a single improvement aim and charter for consideration at the Management Group meeting today. Charter to be circulated on 16 May.
12.7	Increase no. of families accessing mediation support.		
12.9	Increase accessibility to a wider range of housing options to people at risk of homelessness.	Aberdeen City Council, Mel Booth	**Delayed** to next meeting to enable workshop to be held in June 2025 and for the output from the session to inform the change ideas.

AIMS ACHIEVED

2.3 As of 31 March 2025, 2 of our Stretch Outcomes had been achieved (Stretch Outcomes 2 (employment) and 9 (adult offences)) with 8 projects ended, and 31% (30) improvement aims achieved. The remaining improvements aims were still in progress with a view to all concluding by 2026.

NEXT STEPS

3.1 Project aims with charters approved will move to progress reporting.

Recommendations for Action
It is recommended that the Management Group: i) note the status of the remaining new charters to be submitted and approve the new charter (to follow) and the rescheduling of the other charters.

Opportunities and Risks
Successful delivery of the revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 requires a robust programme management approach to the delivery of the 98 improvement aims. The phased approach to the initiation of the projects in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan to help ensure we are channelling our resources to those projects which are most likely to have the biggest impact. The clear governance arrangements for both continuing and new project charters also ensures that we have effective outcome management arrangements in place to deliver upon the aims in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan in the timescale and supports projects to continue at pace. The process for project leads to connect with communities, provides communities with a number of options for ways to get involved and to be supported where required.

Consultation
Michelle Crombie, Strategic lead prevention and Community Empowerment Community Planning Aberdeen Outcome Improvement Groups Community Planning Aberdeen Lead Contacts Group

Background Papers
Refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 and Refreshed Central Locality Plan, North Locality Plan and South Locality Plan

Contact details:

Name	Allison Swanson
Title	Community Planning and Improvement Manager
Email Address	aswanson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Project Report 5.1 Reduce by 5% the number of children entering the care system by 2024.
Lead Officer	Graeme Simpson – Chair of Children's Services Board
Report Author	Tam Walker, Aberdeen City Council
Date of Report	17/02/2025
Governance Group	Community Planning Management Group – 21 May 2025

Purpose of the Report

This report presents the results of the LOIP Improvement Project 5.1 which sought to reduce by 5% the number of children entering the care system by 2024.

Summary of Key Information

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 There are a multiplicity of reasons why children are accommodated out with parental care. This includes: structural inequality, poverty, poor social housing, homelessness; parental experience of childhood trauma and difficulty accessing universal services.

1.2 Data evidences that the vast majority of the children and young people (circa 90%) who require care and protection have been exposed to risks associated with their parents/ care givers life and circumstances. These risk factors predominantly relate to enhanced parental vulnerability (addiction, variable parental mental health and domestic violence). The Promise (2021) recognised the structural impact of poverty on families. Like other authorities Aberdeen City's looked after children primarily originate from the Scottish Index Multiple Deprivation 1 and 2 neighbourhoods of the city.

1.3 The Promise (2021) highlights the need for multi-agency partners to mitigate the impact of poverty in a manner that is empowering and non-stigmatising. It stresses the need for effective multi-agency intensive family support to ensure children/young people remain in the care of their family where it is safe for them to be so. The number of looked after children in Aberdeen City has been incrementally reducing. Over the past three years there has been circa a 15% reduction in the number of looked after. As of end of November 2024, there were 443 children looked after compared to 570 at 1st April 2020. Data shows a decrease across all care types and mirrors a national trend.

1.4 The % of looked after children in Aberdeen City aligns to the national figure and that of our comparator authorities. However, Aberdeen City's 'balance of care' is out of step with that of the national and comparator authorities. In particular data indicates that the % of children placed with foster carers is notably above the national position.

1.5 The Corporate Parenting Plan and Children's Services Plan (2023 – 2026) has been shaped by the Promise and recognises the need for all agencies to do more to support children remain within their families, where it is safe for them to be so.

2 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AIM

2.1 The CPA Board in September 2023 approved the project charter for the initiation of an improvement project that aimed to reduce by 5% the number of children entering the care system by 2024.

3 WHAT CHANGES DID WE MAKE?

3.1 The multi-agency partnership focused initially on the further development of existing services to better support children and young people with an escalating risk profile in line with The Promise (2021) with the aim of reducing the number of children with risk factors entering care. This has included:

- Continuing development of **Fit Like Hubs** in three localities – providing holistic and preventative whole family support. Utilising a rights based and family first approach the Fit Like Service works intensively with families on challenges they have identified to mitigate risk and vulnerability. The change has particularly focused on building the capacity of kinship carers to enable them to feel better supported and have their own needs recognised more effectively as detailed in section 4.
- The **Northfield and Lochside Pilot Projects** - these pilots work predominantly with young people aged 12+ who have been identified by school and social work staff with an escalating risk and vulnerability profile. Working on a cross cluster basis (Education, Children's Social Work; Community Learning, Youth Work and key ALEO partners) the pilot provides intensive support to young people and their parents/carers to mitigate risk/vulnerability.
- Children's Social Work **Family Support service** – provides support to children/young people and their parents/carers (including kinship and foster carers) who have been assessed as on the edge of care. Referral and allocation processes have been streamlined and the services delivered by Craigielea and Includem are now co-located to to maximise shared learning and use of resources. Craigielea and Includem primarily provide young people with intensive wraparound support in the community and within their Centre. This Intensive Family Intervention Team (IFIT) and Family Network Team (FNT) practice model recognises that children are at their most vulnerable when their parent/carer is experiencing difficulties staying attuned to their needs due to their own vulnerabilities. Interventions are used to support the parent/carer to understand their child's behaviours as a communication of unmet need; to become more attuned to their child's needs; and to meet these and reduce risk for them.

3.2 In addition, the following changes were identified for testing by the project team:

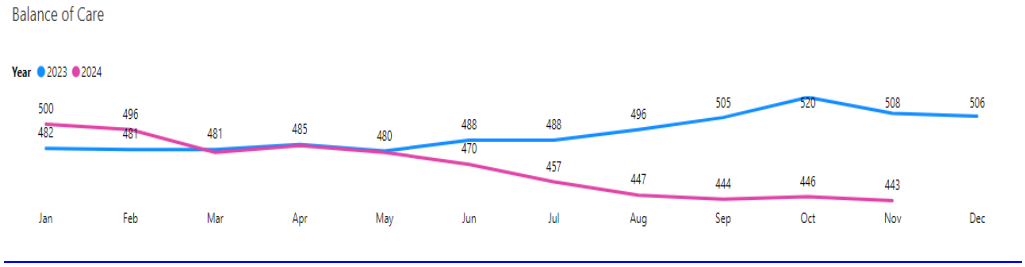
- All agencies coming together to agree a multi-agency plan within 5 days where there is evidence that a child's kinship placement is likely not to be able to meet their needs and is at risk of ending
- Pilot a pathway where a Child Protection Planning Meeting (CPPM) makes a decision to refer to Scottish Children's Reporter Authority (SCRA), within 10 weeks we will have identified each adult within the child's family network who has the potential to provide alternative care should it be required.
- Test how best to deliver holistic family support to parents with addiction needs in order to increase their capacity to meet the needs of their children in a manner that protects their wellbeing.

3.3 This improvement activity builds on previous improvement activity which focused on enhancing the support to kinship carers Kinship Care Support - Project End Report.pdf .

4 HAVE OUR CHANGES RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENT?

4.1 Yes, the aim has been achieved.

4.2 The charter was approved in September 2023 at which point there were 505 looked after children. As of November 2024 this had reduced to 443, (circa 12%). In 2023 the service recognised that our data included 38 young people in a continuing care placement. Young people in continuing care are not looked after. This means there was actually 467 children when the charter commenced and the reduction to 443 represents a 5.1% decrease.



4.3 Data from the Lochside and Northfield Pilots has indicated that of the young people who have engaged with the Pilot, no young person has been accommodated out with their family network. The whole family support provided saw for a number young people a de-escalation of risk/vulnerability to enable them to again be supported at a Universal level. Those supported through the pilots have engaged more positively with services they may previously have struggled to connect with. Powerfully, there is feedback from children and families saying that they have wanted to engage with the family centric supports available. The full data and impact can be read in Edge of Care Pilots Final.pdf report.

4.4 Data from the Fit Like Hubs continues to evidence that over 90% of young people and their families engaging with the Hubs are being effectively supported at Tier 2 avoiding the need of escalation into Tier 3 and the requirement of statutory measures. In 2023 there were 109 closures and 6 (5%) transferred to Children In Need (CIN) team, whilst in 2024, there were 124 closures and 8 (6%) transferred to CIN team. All children and young people transferred to the CIS Team has qualified social worker, coordinating a multi agency plan.

4.5 The project with the Fit Like Hub has focused on building the capacity of kinship carers to enable them to feel better supported and have their own needs recognised more effectively. A range of engagement activity has been undertaken with kinship carers. This highlighted strengths and areas where improvement have been made. Support to kinship carers is now offered from a variety of multi agencies and this is facilitated, in part by the funding of a CDO spanning Kinship/Family Learning/Fit like Hubs via WFWF. New support groups have been established including a Kinship/ASN group. Two Information Events have taken place, linking kinship families with relevant organisations and a Support Guide has been given to all carers.

4.6 In regard to the pilot process for ensuring a multi-agency plan is in place within 5 days Child's kinship placement is likely not to be able to meet their needs and is at risk of ending the model has now been embedded and where a kinship placements are showing signs of vulnerability, 100 per cent of multi-agency plans are reviewed and additional support is accessed for the child and carer.

4.7 Learning from these services is being actively utilised to inform the development of our emerging Family Support Model.

4.8 In taking forward the changes above, the Project Team evaluated existing processes and guidance (GIRFEC) in relation to the provision of multi-agency support for kinship placements that are showing signs of vulnerability. Positive practice was noted. Including:

- The partnership identifies signs of vulnerability and acts on these timeously.
- Child planning meetings have multi agency representation and the voice of the child and the support needs of their carer(s) are at the centre of planning.

- There are multi-agency escalation pathways when a child or carer is experiencing a barrier to service provision and a timely response is needed.
- Learning and development places kinship at the centre of planning and support and this is reflected in the practice model.

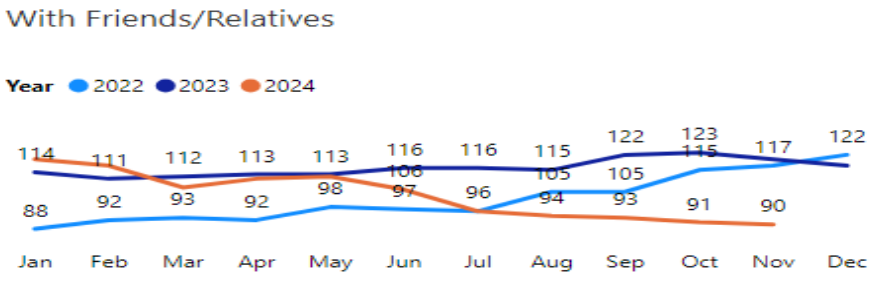
4.9 The Project Team established qualitative data (feedback from carers, children and practitioners in relation to their experience of being supported by the partnership at points of crisis). This has been used to:

- identify gaps in supports
- establish connections with other services
- further develop kinship carers support groups/activities

4.10 It has however been difficult to track, monitor and report on the numbers of meetings held in respect of children in a kinship placement which has been recognised as vulnerable, which agencies where part of these, desired outcomes for the child and carer and review mechanisms. To address the vulnerability around data the Project Team are:

- Exploring who provides support to kinship placements to understand existing recording mechanisms.
- Develop a minimum data set for kinship support with partners.
- Building analysis capacity (i.e. making sense of what is happening)
- Data collection and analysis and learning shared across partnership.

4.11 Whilst the data shows a positive downward trend it is worth noting there has been a decrease in the number of children looked after at home and with family/friends.



4.12 The Project Team has reviewed the downward trend and the initial observations are that this trend reflects the fact kinship carers are securing legal permanence (Kinship Care Order) through Court. This results in the child no longer being deemed looked after, however the kinship team and multi-agency partners continue to support the child and carer.

4.13 Recognising that the data trends in relation to kinship care placements continues to be out of step with the national position, the following changes are underway to build on learning and will be reported through Stretch Outcome 5 Sub Group and the Children's Services Board. Specifically:

4.14 Test A - Pilot a pathway where a Child Protection Planning Meeting (CPPM) makes a decision to refer to Scottish Children's Reporter Authority (SCRA), within 10 weeks we will have identified each adult within the child's family network who has the potential to provide alternative care should it be required.

4.15 The Project Team aligned with the values and model of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) and agreed this approach could drive further improvement activity. Accordingly the following steps have been taken:

- Met with Edinburgh and Glasgow Council's FGDM teams to gain further insight of their service and how they implemented and embedded this model.

- Benchmarking - specifically services available to kinship placements when there is an enhanced level of vulnerability.
- Research from the Registrar's Office - what information is held and the safeguards in place to ensure this information is used proportionately.
- A process flow map/procedure to support the identification of adults within the child's network that may be part of planning and assessment.
- A practice note was established to offer guidance and a tool kit to support practitioners undertaking the identification of adults and engaging with them.

4.16 To address the skills and capacity challenges:

- A coordinator role has been allocated to the Project Team.
- The coordinator will monitor and support trials across the City.
- The coordinator will collate and analyse data from the trials and any learning.
- To address the skills and knowledge gap, selected practitioners participated in trauma informed training and FGDM training and have reported increased practice confidence.
- The selected practitioners have been allocated a mentor to offer support and a reflective space. Tests trails commenced in February 2025.

4.17 Test B - Pilot a test of change to deliver holistic family support to parents with addiction needs to increase their capacity to meet the needs of their children in a manner that protects their wellbeing.

4.18 Feedback from parents identified there may be a gap in the provision of whole family support or barriers to accessing this. The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership identified capacity to support this area of vulnerability for parents with children via the Penumbra Intensive Housing Support contract. The Integrated Drug Service; Penumbra and Children's Social Work agreed a shared approach to delivering whole family support.

4.19 To support the development of this test the following steps were taken:

- Meetings with key stakeholders from Adults and Children's Social Work and Third Sector Partners to share information about the identified need built the case for change and establish multi -agency support.
- As part of the stakeholder engagement, they mapped current support pathways for parents with addiction issues to avoid service duplication and agreed shared pick up points across Tier 1,2 and 3 as well as escalation pathways.
- To avoid creating unnecessary barriers the Penumbra workforce are embedded within the IDS. The IDS will continue to assess and support parents and Penumbra will work alongside them to provide practical parenting outreach support.
- There will be a shared approach to identifying families.
- To minimises parents having to retell their stories, work has been undertaken to ensure IDS, Children's Social Work and Penumbra are using a shared risk assessment and family plan.

  Penumbra began supporting families in January 2025.

5. HOW HAVE OUR COMMUNITIES/PROTECTED GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT AND THE IMPACT OF THIS PROJECT

5.1 The views and voice of children and young people is at the centre of our local GIRFEC practice model. The design and delivery of the Fit Like Service; the Northfield and Lochside Pilots have and continue to be informed by the voice of children, young people and their families. Additionally their voices have been at the centre of this project and its design. They will be involved in the continuing improvement activity.

Edge of Care Pilots:

5.2 The case studies in Appendix A articulate significant and often consistent change for young people and their families. These "successes" will inform our Family Support model as well as how the Edge of Care pilot will feature within this.

5.3 No child, young person or family has refused the support. Children/young people happily engaged and shared concerns about what they would like to achieve. Transferable skills are being developed to help them to better access learning. The value of work taster sessions has been highlighted.

5.4 Creating a welcoming environment so young people feel safe, listened to and feel things will be done is important. Wellbeing is improving and supporting young people's readiness to learn. Food is important.

5.5 There are signs of positive improvements in family relationships due to increased engagement of children / young people with activities / curriculum, reduced financial strain and opportunities opening up to access community interaction making them feel less isolated.

5.6 Parents/carers are happy to have the additional support in place as they feel that they and their children benefit. Time has been invested in supporting team members to consider how contact is made with families, how they introduce the support and how they continue to engage helps. Interventions need to be tailored to individual needs. Families have been supported to access weekly community connection sessions, financial support, support to access health and joint working with their child. These connections have been helpful and built a sense of community.

5.7 Participation and engagement activities are increasingly being embedded to support service development and improvement. This includes:

- Through our Rights Service the views of care experienced young people are at the centre of our strategic planning and service improvement.
- The Mind of My Own App ensures that young people can express their views to influence their own planning and service improvements.
- The Brights Spots survey (Bright Spots Programme (sharepoint.com) sought the views of children and young people experiences of care and leaving care. The remarkable uptake has provided an invaluable insight as to how multi-agency partners can better support our care experienced children and young people. The Corporate Parenting Group is developing an improvement plan in response to what our young people have told us.
- The Kinship Team use a range of approaches to seek views/feedback about the quality of service provided. The most recent survey (March 2024) identified training needs as well as more specific emotional support.

6. HOW WILL WE SUSTAIN AND MONITOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

6.1 Learning from the tests of change will be utilised to inform the development of the Family Support Model.

6.2 The current monitoring and reporting arrangements at a local and national level will remain in place (Dashboards) and will be overseen by the Children's Services Board and reported through the annual report.

6.3 Quantitative data (number of assessments and meetings held etc) and qualitative (stories around the children and families) will be monitored by the project coordinator on a monthly basis and the Dashboard up-dated.

6.4 Practitioners undertaking assessments will be encouraged to share learning with the coordinator and record feedback from children and families.

6.5 The project will use Dynamics 365 to analyse trends and patterns in the balance of care, specifically in relation to children moving from their parents to kinship.

7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCALE UP AND SPREAD

7.1 Learning from the above activities will continue inform specific activity to support children and young people to remain within their family network. Scoping activity has commenced to map out the expansion of the Pilot Project to incorporate the St Machar ASG. This will ensure the three ASG's serving the communities of our city with the greatest levels of deprivation can deliver proactive and preventative support to mitigate the escalation of risk and vulnerability of young people identified by Education and Social work colleagues. The intention is for this to go live in the Spring/Summer term of 2025.

7.2 Learning from the Fit Like Service will actively contribute to the developing Family Support Model.

7.3 The further changes ideas being tested as detailed above will be overseen by Children's Services and if impactful, opportunities for scale up and spread considered.

Recommendations for Action

It remains a partnership priority to ensure, where it is safe and where children are loved they remain within their family network. Additionally we are motivated to minimise the number of placements children experience given the emotional and psychological impact from frequent moves. Building on the learning to date we want to continue to understand how, on a multi-agency basis, we are supporting children to be placed and remain in their family network. It is therefore recommended the Management Group:

i) Acknowledges that the aim has been achieved with a 5.1% reduction in the number of looked after children since September 2023 and that the changes have been impactful and agrees to recommend to the CPA Board testing is concluded on basis that learning is being used to inform the development of the Family Support Model;
ii) Notes multi-agency data in relation to kinship care placements (formal and informal) will continue to be gathered, monitored and reported on to support the identification of areas where further improvement would be helpful; and
iii) Notes that the testing of the change ideas Test A & Test B are still in their infancy. Over the coming months analysis of their impact will be reported to the Children's Services Board and inform future improvement activity and the refresh of our statutory Children's Services Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36.

Opportunities and Risks

Opportunities:

- FGDM provides an evaluated model to identify strengths and encourage parent, carer and wider family participation in decision making when a child is at risk of becoming looked after. This approach could informing our commissioning strategy to further support early and preventative interventions.
- When trying to identify family members that can be part of safety plans for children barriers are encountered when seeking access to information. These enquiries usually take place in moments of crisis. Sometimes agencies use process and policy to avoid information sharing. There is an opportunity here to unlock the potential of information sharing between agencies for the purposes of improved decision making.

- It is not always clear whether information sharing difficulties are the result of a legal, technical or culture barriers, however what has been established is that we are not always able to access information in a timely manner.

Risks:

- Funding for the Pilot Project and the Fit Like Service is subject to continuing SG grant funding.
- One of the barriers to progressing this project has been the availability of resource to coordinate and lead the test trials. While this has for now been addressed unexpected operational demands can result in statutory tasks being prioritised.

CONSULTATION

- Project Team
- Corporate Parenting Group
- Children's Services Board

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Progress Report	Draft Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2025
Lead Officer	Michelle Crombie
Report Author	Anne McAteer, Research Officer
Date of Report	1 May 2025
Governance Group	Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group – 21 May 2025

Purpose of the Report

This report presents the 2025 Population Needs Assessment (PNA) for Aberdeen City. The Population Needs Assessment is a key source of evidence which informs the key priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council and provides an updated evidence base for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans.

Summary of Key Information

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 In 2023, Community Planning Aberdeen published a Population Needs Assessment to provide a comprehensive picture of Aberdeen City as seen through a broad range of data sets. The document was used as the evidence base for identifying the shared priorities for public services in Aberdeen and updating the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26 approved in April 2024 for the last time before 2026 which marks the end of the current plans' 10 year timeframe of 2016-2026. A new Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans is to be developed for 2026-2036 in order to continue to meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

1.2 Over the last year the Partnership has been working towards the improvement aims within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan with a view to improve outcomes for the people of Aberdeen.

2 POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2025

2.1 The revised Population Needs Assessment for 2025, appendix 1, provides an updated evidence base for the refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and underpinning Locality Plans.

2.2 The Population Needs Assessment is a systematic process for gathering and analysing data and information about the wellbeing and needs of people and communities across Aberdeen. It helps determine the gaps between current and desired outcomes and is used to identify priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen that are included in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

2.3 The layout of the Population Needs Assessment has been updated and is structured around 5 themes which reflect the Social Determinants of Health. The Social Determinants of Health contribute to the unfair and avoidable differences in outcomes seen across the city of Aberdeen. Social and economic factors, health behaviours, access to health services and the physical environment in which people live all contribute to shaping people's health. Each section covers data relating to the themes as follows:

- **Children, families and lifelong learning**
  - Give every child the best start in life
  - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- **Economic stability**
  - Create fair employment and good work for all
- **Communities and housing**
  - Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- **Neighbourhood and environment**
  - Purse environmental sustainability and health equity together
- **Health and Social Care**
  - Ensure healthy standard of living for all
  - Strengthen the role and impact of health prevention

2.4 The Population Needs Assessment for 2025 has a population health commentary, provided by Public Health Grampian in partnership with the Health Determinants Research Collaboration and Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland. This provides a helpful summary of the Population Needs Assessment findings, drawing out the data and what it is telling us in relation to health inequalities and at-risk populations, and forecast demand for services, to be considered as part of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan development process.

2.5 In addition to the summary, Public Health Grampian in partnership with the Health Determinants Research Collaboration and Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland have reviewed the data sets included to increase understanding of the levels of inequality that exist and provide a common descriptor of vulnerability across the City.

2.6 As in previous years, the Population Needs Assessment has been aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Goals 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. The Sustainable Development Goals serve as a framework to cross check against our Population Needs Assessment to help identify any gaps and ensure alignment between our Local Outcome Improvement Plan; the National Outcomes Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. Narrative on the data in the Population Needs Assessment through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals is contained as Appendix 1 to the Population Needs Assessment.

3 NEXT STEPS

3.1 The revised Population Needs Assessment for 2025 provides an updated evidence base for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and Locality Plans. The development stages and timeline for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 is contained at appendix 2.

3.2 Work is in progress with staff across the Partnership to check the accuracy of the data, check key messages and address any gaps in the data before submission to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board.

3.3 As well as supporting the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36, the Population Needs Assessment is also a source for Partners to utilise in their own organisations to consider whether the key findings have an impact on their current strategic plans.

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group:

i) Consider the current draft Population Needs Assessment 2025 at Appendix 1;
ii) Note that work is in progress with Partners to address any gaps in information and data; and agree that it be submitted to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board in June 2025;
iii) Agree that Partners take the Population Needs Assessment into their respective organisations to consider the key findings alongside their own strategic plans; and
iv) Note the development stages and timeline for the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 at Appendix 2.

Opportunities and Risks

A robust Population Needs Assessment is an opportunity to consider the current needs of the people of Aberdeen to ensure that, as a Partnership and as individual public service organisations, we are providing an appropriate response. As with any evidence based model, its strength lies in the breadth and depth of the supporting data, and the quality of the analysis. The Council's Community Planning Team has worked with Partners to provide quality assurance throughout the development of the Population Needs Assessment to ensure the integrity of the information contained.

Consultation

The following people were consulted in the preparation of this report:
Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group
Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead Prevention and Community Empowerment
Martin Murchie, Director Aberdeen health Determinants Research Collaboration and Chief Officer, Data and Insights, Aberdeen City Council
Phil Mackie, Public Health Consultant, NHSG
Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland
Aberdeen City Council Data and Insights Team
Aberdeen City Council Corporate Management Team

Health Determinants Research Collaboration Sustainable Development Team, ACC Outcome Improvement Groups Data owners across the Community Planning Partnership

Background Papers
The following papers were used in the preparation of this report. Aberdeen City Population Needs Assessment 2024 Online Outcomes Framework

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Population Needs Assessment 2024/25

Community Planning Aberdeen

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1. Introduction

1.1. What is a Population Needs Assessment?

The Population Needs Assessment (PNA) is a high-level analysis of key groups, priorities, and challenges across public services, including service performance and information available on the customer perspective. The Population Needs Assessment will identify areas where more detailed analysis is required to ensure a greater understanding of existing and potential provider strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement.

Assessing the needs of a population is not an exact science. Rather, it is a process by which we can better understand the types of things that will bring benefit to people and explore how that can be related to the services and interventions that are being provided . In this report, we start this process by considering the data that is available to us. This can focus on significant life events or the lived experiences of people, it can tell us about what services have been providing and how they are performing, and it can also tell us something about what we could be doing differently. In all these cases, there is a need to recognise that all the data we use requires interpretation.

This Population Needs Assessment will update the information provided in the Population Needs Assessment which was carried out in 2023.

Whilst it is intended that the Population Needs Assessment will provide a comprehensive overview of the state of Aberdeen across a wide range of indicators, there will be areas which are identified as out of scope for the initial assessment. Where there is an identified need for more detailed analysis, this will be planned for the future. For example, data drilling down into specific communities, service provider or market.

This document provides Community Planning Aberdeen with an important foundation to work, together with the people of Aberdeen, to better understand the city and its communities and take collective action, through our Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, underpinning our approach to community planning and improving local outcomes. It is this process that provides the opportunity for the interpretation to take place and a population need assessment to be completed.

1.1.1. Data used and limitations

Much of the data presented in this document comes from official statistics provided by, for example, the Scottish Government, National Records of Scotland, Public Health

Scotland, Office for National Statistics and NOMIS. Additional data has been provided by Council services and Community Planning Partners.

In general percentages and rates presented have been rounded to one decimal point. Some of these (e.g. life expectancy) will have a degree of error associated with them because of the way they are generated. Technically, these results should be presented with their associated Confidence Interval (usually ±x%). Differences are said to be statistically significant if confidence intervals do not overlap. However, for ease of presentation, confidence intervals are not shown. A degree of caution is therefore required when interpreting some of the data – particularly for smaller geographies such as neighbourhoods or intermediate zones where there is likely to be greater imprecision around estimates and confidence intervals are likely to be broader.

1.1.2. Consultation

Within this Population Needs Assessment information on the Customer and Citizens perspective has been included. In most cases, this has been done using Aberdeen City Voice. Aberdeen City Voice is Aberdeen's citizens' panel. There are over 800 citizens on the panel who have agreed to give their views on a range of issues. Full access to the questionnaires and reports can be found at Aberdeen City Voice.

1.1.3. Layout

The layout is structured around 5 themes which reflect the Social Determinants of Health. The social determinants of health contribute to the unfair and avoidable differences in outcomes seen across the city of Aberdeen. Social and economic factors, health behaviours, access to health services and the physical environment in which people live all contribute to shaping people's health.

Each section will cover data relating to the themes as follows:

- **Children, families and lifelong learning**
  - Give every child the best start in life
  - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- **Economic stability**
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- **Communities and housing**
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- **Neighbourhood and environment**
  - Purse environmental sustainability and health equity together
- **Health and Social Care**
  - Ensure healthy standard of living for all
  - Strengthen the role and impact of health prevention

The first section, however, will provide a demographic overview of the City.

1.1.4. Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015. They 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 the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The goals serve as a framework to cross check against our population needs assessment to help identify any gaps.

Scotland made a commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and there is alignment with Scotland's National Performance Framework . The 17 Sustainable Development Goals sit above a raft of detail (169 targets and 130 indicators) to drive and measure progress towards 2030. A summary table presenting the data in the Population Needs Assessment through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals is shown in Appendix 1. The Sustainable Development Goals covered by the themes are shown at the end of each section.

2. Demographic overview

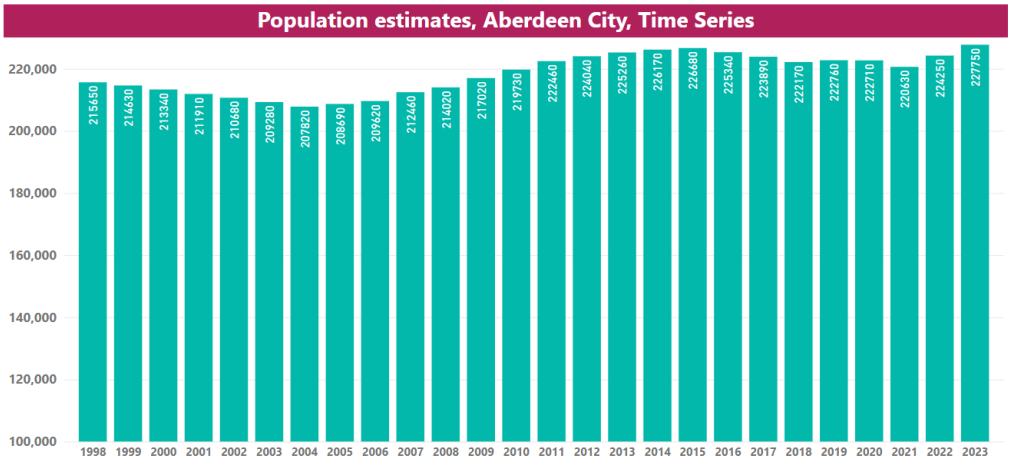
2.1. Population

2.1.1. Current population

Population: At 30th June 2023, Aberdeen City had an estimated population of 227,750 . This equates to 4.1% of Scotland's total population. In terms of population size, Aberdeen City is the 8th largest local authority in Scotland. There were more females (116,284) than males (111,466) in the city with females making up 51.1% of the population. Between 2013 and 2023, the population in Aberdeen City grew by 1.1% (from 225,260) compared to an increase of 3.3% for Scotland as a whole. (Normally mid-year population estimates are released in April each year, but the estimates for 2024 have been delayed and are not due until July 2025).

As yet, 2023 population estimates are not available for smaller areas of the city. However, based on 2022 mid-year estimates, the population varies considerably by neighbourhood, ranging from a low of 1,725 in Cummings Park to a high of 12,263 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield .

Population trends: Following an 11-year period of year-on-year increases, Aberdeen's population peaked in 2015 (226,170) and decreased in each of the 3 subsequent years before increasing again between 2018 (222,170) and 2019 (222,760). The population fell again in 2021 to 220,630 – its lowest level since 2010 (219,730). (The drop in population between June 2020 and June 2021 was consistent with that seen in other large cities which saw their populations fall during the pandemic while some rural areas saw their populations rise.) In the two years from 2021 to 2023 the population has increased by 7,120 and is now at its highest ever level. (Note: following the 2022 Census, rebased population estimates for 2011 to 2021 were published and differ from those previously published by National Records of Scotland.)

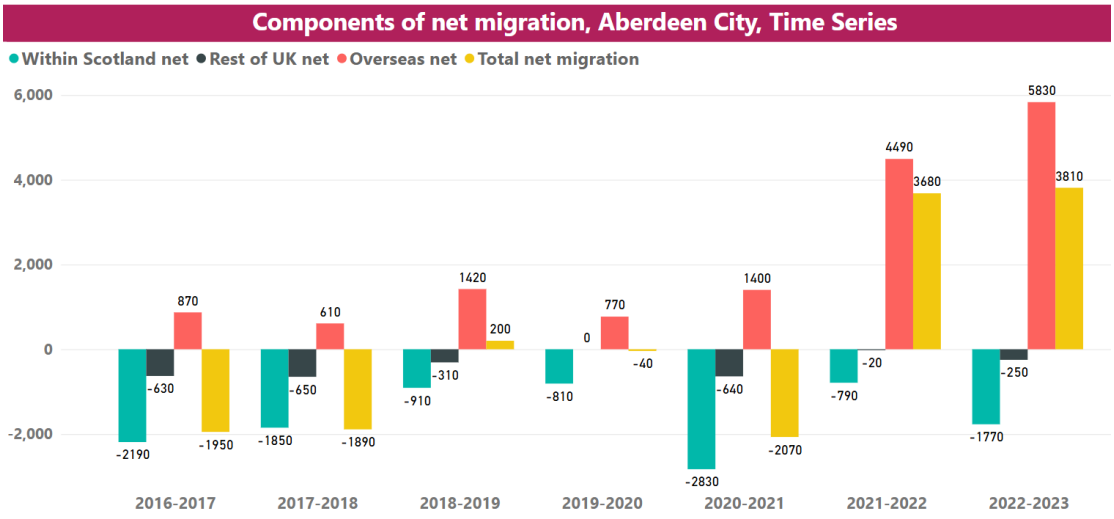


Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Estimates Time Series Data. Updated January 2025.
Note: Rebased population estimates for 2011 - 2021 were published in July 2024, so the population estimates for the years 2011-2021 will differ from those previously published here. Population figures for 2022 were revised in October 2024 so will differ from those published previously. In January 2025, the rebased population estimates published in July 2024 were amended. This chart presents these amended figures.

2.1.2. Population change and migration

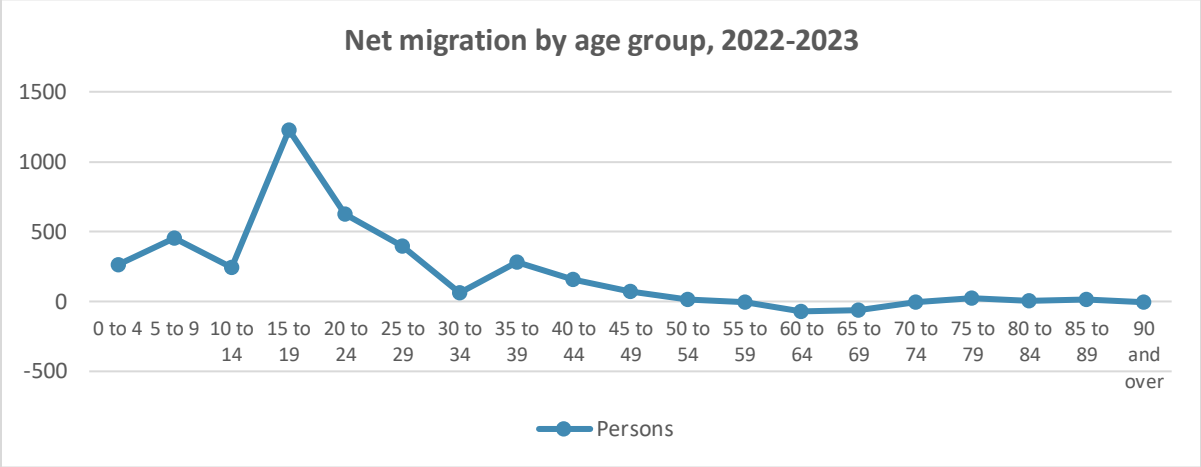
Population change: Population change is driven by two main components: 1) natural change (births minus deaths) and (2) net migration (the sum of migration to/from Scotland and internal migration). It also includes other changes (e.g. changes in prisoner and armed forces population) although these tend to make up a much smaller proportion of changes. Over the last two years, natural change has been negative (474 more deaths than births) with the increase in population between 2021 and 2023 in Aberdeen City being driven by positive net migration – in particular by overseas migration.

In 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, both within Scotland net migration and rest of UK net migration were negative, however these were offset by the relatively high levels of positive overseas net migration (4,490 in 2021-2022 and 5,830 in 2022-23) .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-year population estimates, Scotland. Updated January 2025. Note: migration figures were changed following the amended re-base of population estimates which were published in January 2025. This chart shows the amended figures.

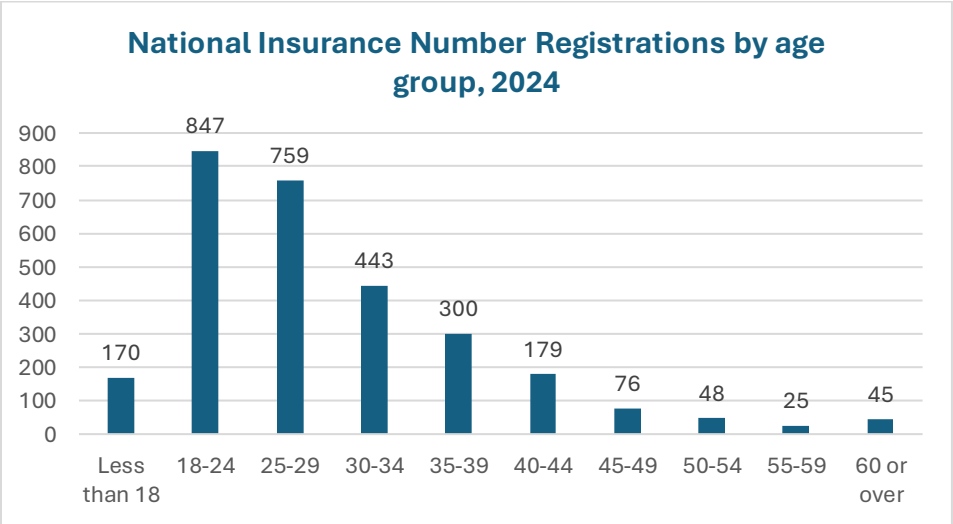
Migration to the City varies by age with most movement being in younger adults. In 2022-23, positive net migration was highest in the 15-19 and 20-24 year old age groups. The chart below shows net migration to the City by 5-year age groups .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Total Migration to or from Scotland

While there is limited data on origin/destination flows for overseas and the rest of UK migration, data on within Scotland migration for 2022-23 show that the highest levels of movement for Aberdeen were between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (3,024 out and 2,358 in, giving a net of -666), Aberdeen City and Edinburgh (898 out and 466 in, giving a net of -432) and Aberdeen City and Glasgow (701 out and 386 in, giving a net of -315). During 2020-21, positive net migration to Aberdeen City from other council areas in Scotland was relatively low with the highest positive net migration being from Highland (417 in and 288 out, giving a net of 129), Moray (237 in and 152 out, giving a net of 85) .

National Insurance Number Registrations (NINOs): These statistics show the number of adult overseas nationals registering for a National Insurance Number in order to work or to claim benefits/tax credits or apply for a student loan in the UK. In 2024 there were 2,893 National Insurance Number registrations in Aberdeen City, down from 4,885 in 2023 and 7,709 in 2022. In 2024 the most common age group for those registering for a National Insurance Number was 18-24 years .



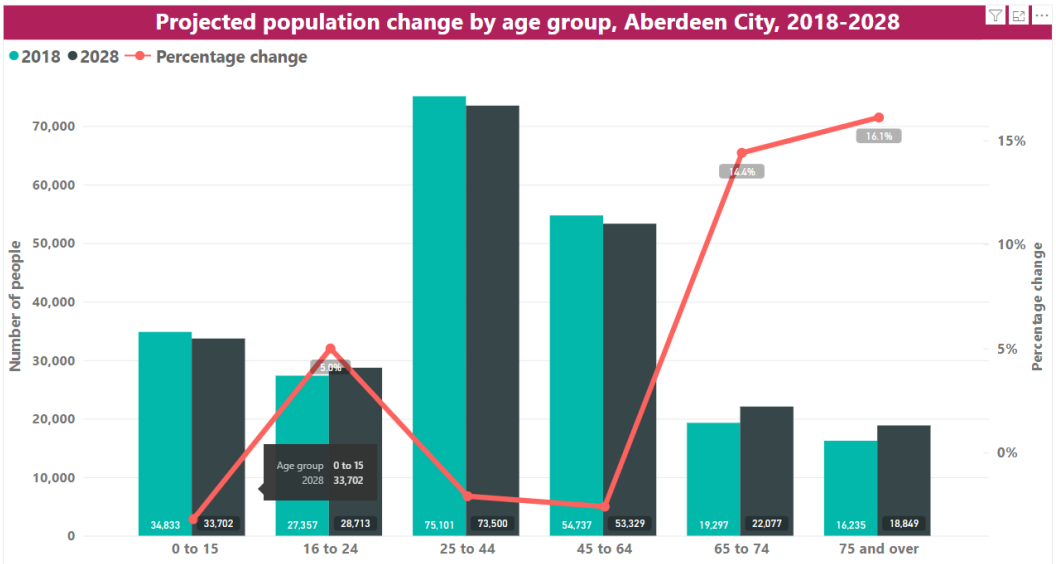
Source: Stat-Xplore: NINO Registrations to Adult Overseas Nationals Entering the UK.

2.2. Population projections

Population projections: Population projections are now very dated with the most recent being 2018-based (published in 2020). The 2018 base population for Aberdeen City at the time of publication was 227,560. However, rebased population figures published in January 2025 put the estimated population at 222,170 in 2018, so it is possible that the existing projections may not accurately reflect Aberdeen's population going forward. Newer projections (based on Census data) are not expected to be available until Summer 2025. The 2018-based population projections are given below.

Between 2018 and 2028 the population of Aberdeen is projected to increase by 1.1% to 230,170. Over the same time period, the population in Scotland is projected to increase by 1.8%. Most of the increase in Aberdeen City is projected to come from migration (1%) with natural change accounting for 0.1% of the projected increase. Across Scotland, between 2018 and 2028, 14 councils are projected to see a population decrease and 18 councils are projected to see a population increase .

Projected change by age group: The projected change is not consistent across all age groups. In Aberdeen City, decreases are projected in the 0-15 year age group (-3.2%), the 25-44 year age group (-2.1%) and in the 45-64 year age group (-2.6%). Increases are projected for the other age groups, with the largest increase being in the 75 years and over age group (16.1%). In terms of size, however, 25 to 44 years is projected to remain the largest age group with the 75+ years group projected to remain the smallest group .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based). Updated March 2020.

Projected change by gender: The projected change differs by gender. The male population is projected to increase by 2.5% over the period, while the female population is projected to decrease by 0.2%. This would mean that by 2022, the number of males in Aberdeen City would, in contrast to recent trends, be higher than the number of females.

When looked at by age group, the largest percentage increase is projected for males aged 75 years and over .

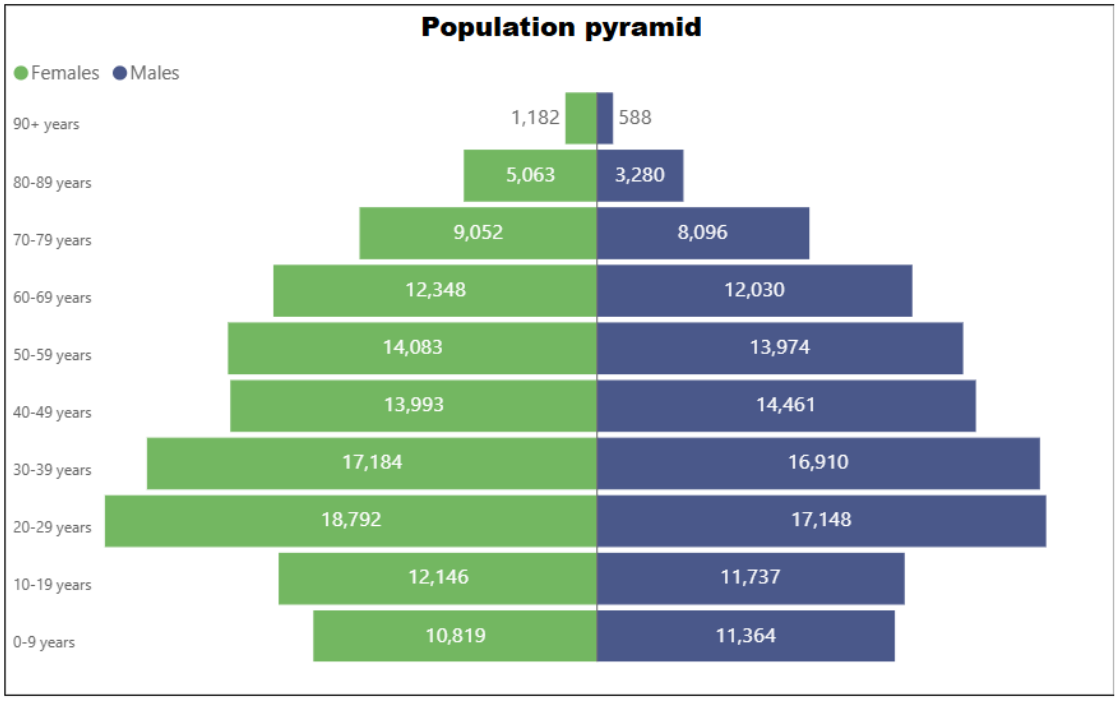
Projected change by gender by age group					
	Age group	2018	2028	Change	Percentage Change
Males	0-14	16900	16215	-685	-4.1%
	15-29	26086	24198	-1888	-7.2%
	30-44	27153	30079	2926	10.8%
	45-59	21077	20400	-677	-3.2%
	60-74	15615	17044	1429	9.2%
	75 & over	6421	8104	1683	26.2%
	All ages	113252	116040	2788	2.5%
Females	0-14	16192	15229	-963	-5.9%
	15-29	26454	24583	-1871	-7.1%
	30-44	24506	25611	1105	4.5%
	45-59	21316	20177	-1139	-5.3%
	60-74	16026	17785	1759	11.0%
	75 & over	9814	10745	931	9.5%
	All ages	114308	114130	-178	-0.2%

2.3. Population Profile

2.3.1. Age structure

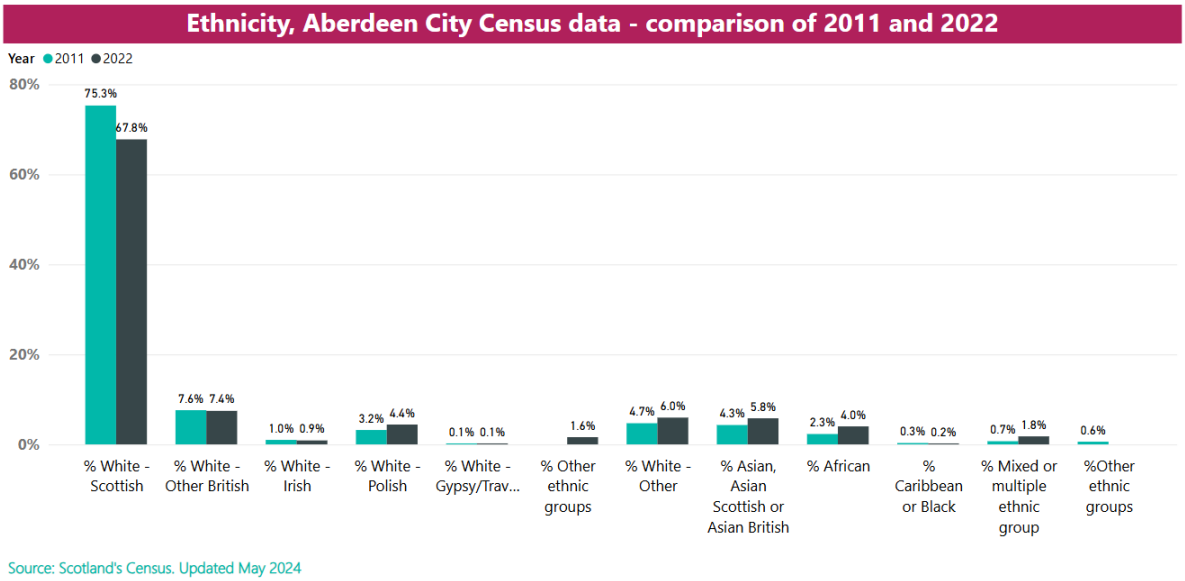
Age structure: Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen has a relatively young population. In 2023, the median age in Aberdeen was 38.7 years compared to 42.9 years for Scotland. Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen city has a higher proportion of working age people [1] (67.7% compared to 64.7%) and a lower proportion of people of pensionable age (16.1% compared to 19%). The proportion of people aged under 16 years was similar in Aberdeen City and Scotland (16.2% compared to 16.3%) . Within Aberdeen, however, the age structure varies considerably by neighbourhood. The proportion of children (0-15 years) ranges from 7% in Seaton and Old Aberdeen to 26% in Middlefield. The proportion of 16-64 year-olds ranges from 57% in Balgownie & Donmouth and Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber to 87% in Old Aberdeen and the proportion of people aged 65+ years ranges from 6% in Old Aberdeen to 28% in Balgownie & Donmouth . The population pyramid for Aberdeen City showing the distribution by 10-year age groups is given below.

[1] Working age at 30 June 2023 is defined as people aged 16 to 65 years. Pensionable age at 30 June 2023 was 66 years.



2.3.2. Ethnicity

Ethnicity: Aberdeen City has a diverse population. The most recent figures are from the 2022 Census. At March 2022, 67.8% of the city's population identified as White-Scottish compared to 77.7% for Scotland as a whole. Other White ethnic groups (White Other British, White Irish, White Polish, White Gypsy/Traveller and Other White) made up 18.8% of the population of the city (compared to 15.2% for Scotland) giving a total of 86.6% who identified as 'White'. Other ethnic groups made up 13.4% of the city's population compared to 7.1% for Scotland. Compared to 2011, the proportion on non-white ethnic groups has increased (from 8.2% in 2011).



Source: Scotland's Census. Updated May 2024

2.3.3. Census population overview

The Table below gives an overview of the population of Aberdeen City compared to Scotland from Census data.

2022 Census	Aberdeen City	Scotland
Sex		
Male	48.8%	48.6%
Female	51.2%	51.4%
Age Group		
0-15 years	15.7%	16.4%
16-24 years	13.4%	10.7%
25-44 years	29.4%	25.3%
45-64 years	24.4%	27.6%
65+ years	17.1%	20.0%
Ethnicity		
White: White Scottish	67.8%	77.7%
White: Other White British	7.4%	9.4%
White: Other White	11.3%	5.8%
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	1.8%	1.1%
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	5.8%	3.9%
African: African, African Scottish or African British	4.0%	1.1%
Caribbean or Black	0.2%	0.1%
Other ethnic group	1.6%	0.9%
Country of birth		
Europe: United Kingdom: England	7.4%	9.3%
Europe: United Kingdom: Northern Ireland	0.5%	0.7%
Europe: United Kingdom: Scotland	70.7%	79.4%
Europe: United Kingdom: Wales	0.3%	0.3%
Europe: United Kingdom: UK part not specified	0.0%	0.0%
Europe: Channel Islands and Isle of Man	0.0%	0.0%
Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Republic of Ireland	0.5%	0.4%
Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Other member countries in March 2022	8.8%	3.9%

Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Other EU accession countries March 2022	0.1%	0.1%
Europe: Other Europe: Non-EU countries	0.6%	0.3%
Africa	3.9%	1.3%
Middle East and Asia	5.3%	3.0%
The Americas and the Caribbean	1.6%	0.9%
Antarctica and Oceania and Other	0.3%	0.3%
Length of residence in the UK		
Born in the UK	78.9%	89.8%
Less than 2 years	4.6%	1.7%
2 years or more and less than 5 years	3.3%	1.5%
5 years or more and less than 10 years	4.2%	1.9%
10 years or more	9.0%	5.1%
General health		
Very good	49.2%	48.0%
Good	32.9%	30.9%
Fair	12.7%	14.2%
Bad	4.1%	5.3%
Very bad	1.1%	1.6%
Limiting illness		
Yes, limited a lot	8.1%	10.8%
Yes, limited a little	12.1%	13.3%
No	79.8%	75.9%
UK Armed forces veteran		
Not applicable (aged less than 16)	15.7%	16.4%
UK Armed Forces veteran	2.5%	3.2%
Not a UK Armed Forces veteran	81.8%	80.4%
Sexual orientation (16+ years)		
Heterosexual/Straight	87.3%	87.8%
Gay or Lesbian	1.9%	1.8%
Bisexual	2.6%	1.8%
Other sexual orientation	0.7%	0.5%
Not answered	7.5%	8.2%
Trans status or history (16+ years)		

No: Not trans and does not have a trans history	94.3%	93.6%
Yes: Trans or has a trans history	0.6%	0.4%
Not answered	5.1%	5.9%
Economically active (16+ years)		
Economically active - Employee	53.9%	50.6%
Economically active - Self-employed	6.1%	7.6%
Economically active - Unemployed	4.1%	2.6%
Economically inactive	35.8%	39.1%
Highest qualification		
Not applicable (aged less than 16)	15.7%	16.4%
No qualifications	10.6%	13.9%
Lower school qualifications	15.7%	15.8%
Upper school qualifications	9.6%	9.3%
Apprenticeship qualifications	5.9%	6.4%
Further Education and sub-degree Higher Education qualifications incl. HNC/HNDs	10.5%	11.1%
Degree level qualifications or above Education qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications)	32.1%	27.1%
National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC) (16+ years)		
Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	13.3%	12.1%
Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	20.1%	21.1%
Intermediate occupations	11.0%	11.7%
Small employers and own account workers	5.9%	8.0%
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6.9%	7.1%
Semi-routine occupations	10.2%	11.2%
Routine occupations	13.1%	13.5%
Never worked and long-term unemployed	5.7%	6.8%

Full-time students	13.8%	8.5%
Household tenure		
Owned: Owned outright	25.5%	29.6%
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	32.7%	35.7%
Owned: Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	0.4%	0.2%
Owned: Shared Equity (e.g. LIFT or Help-to-Buy)	0.8%	0.6%
Social Rented: Council (LA) or Housing Association/ Registered Social Landlord	20.5%	20.3%
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	18.8%	12.0%
Private rented: Other	0.3%	0.5%
Lives Rent Free	1.0%	1.2%

Source: Scotland's Census 2022

A more complete and granular exploration of Census Data for Aberdeen City can be found here: Aberdeen and North East - Output Area Atlas - Community Planning Aberdeen

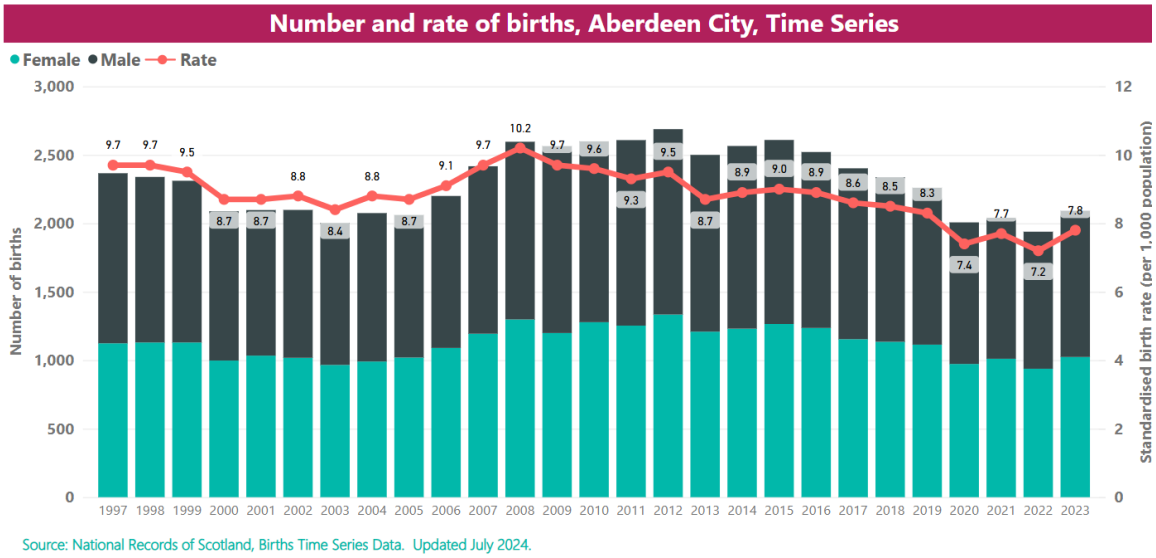
2.4. Births

Births: In 2023 there were 2,092 births in Aberdeen City – up from 1,939 in 2022. Of these births, 1,024 (48.9%) were female and 1,068 (51.1%) were male. The standardised birth rate was 7.8 per 1,000 population (compared to 8.4 for Scotland as a whole) and is the fourth lowest rate in Scotland, with the lowest being City of Edinburgh at 6.2 per 1,000 population. In 2023, the general fertility rate[2] was 41.8 in Aberdeen City compared to 44.8 in Scotland. Fertility rates varied by aged group, being lowest in the 15-19 age group at 6.0 per 1,000 population and highest in the 30-34 year age group at 87.8 per 1,000 population. The total fertility rate[3] was 1.21 in Aberdeen compared to 1.30 in Scotland .

The most common age group for mothers is 30-34 years (773 births) and the least common age group for mothers is 0-19 years (40 births). Compared to 20 years ago, more births are now to older mothers, with the number of births to women aged 0-19 years and 20-24 years decreasing (by 77% and 41% respectively) and the number of births to women aged 35-39 years and 40 years and increasing by (by 52% and 152% respectively – although the actual number of births to women aged 40 and over is still relatively low at 116 in 2023) . The number of births varies across the city. The Intermediate Zone with the highest number of births in 2023 was Kingswells (87 births) and the Intermediate Zone with the lowest number of births was West End North (17 births). The rate of births (crude

[2] Total live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, inclusive.
[3] The average number of children (per woman) that would be born to a cohort of women if they experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the age-specific fertility rates of the year in question.

rate per 1,000 population) ranged from a low of 4.7 in West End North to a high of 14.9 in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber West.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Births Time Series Data. Updated July 2024.

2.5. Deaths

Deaths: In 2023 there were 2,255 deaths in Aberdeen City – a slight increase from 2,248 deaths in 2022. Of these deaths, 1,124 (49.8%) were female and 1,131 (50.2%) were male. The age-standardised death rate was 11.4 per 1,000 population compared to 11.6 in Scotland. The highest number of total deaths were in the 80-89 years age group (671 deaths). For females, the most common age group for deaths was 90+ years (293 deaths) and for males the most common age group was 75-79 years (182 deaths) .

Death rates vary across the city. Based on Intermediate Zones, the most recent data is for 2021-2023 (3-year aggregate). Age-sex standardised rates range from a high of 2,188 per 100,000 population in City Centre East to a low of 720 in West End North. The equivalent rate for Aberdeen City is 1,144.

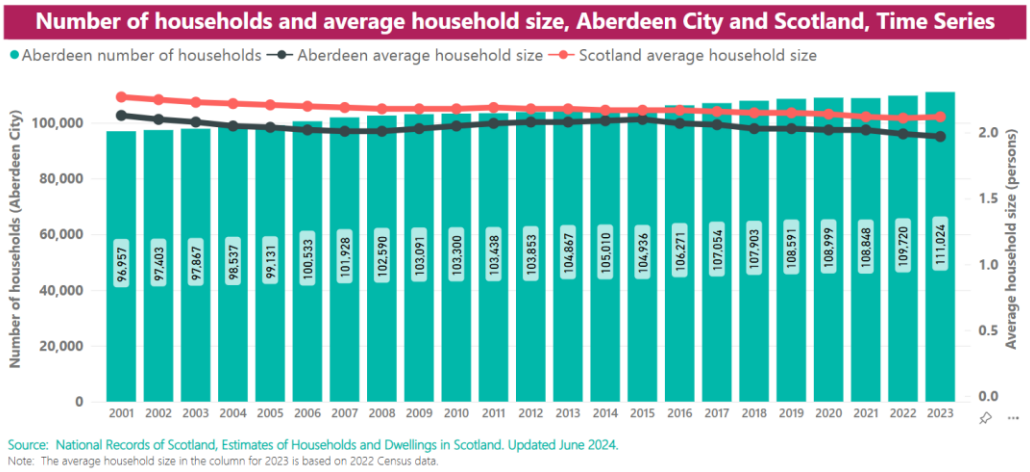
Under 75 mortality rates: In 2023, the age-standardised mortality rate for under 75s was 448 per 100,000 population which is slightly higher than the rate for Scotland (441.5) and the rate for 2022 (also 441.5). Under 75 mortality rates were higher for males (550.2) than females (348.0). While the rate for females was lower than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 354.7, the rate for males was higher than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 534.2 .

Early deaths (15-44 years, all causes): In 2021-2023, the rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) for early deaths in Aberdeen City was 106 which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 112. This rate varied by deprivation, being highest in the most deprived areas. The rate for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1 (most deprived) was 229.8 per 100,000 population compared to a rate of 61.6 for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate for early deaths varies across

the City (intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 28 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 263 per 100,000 population in Woodside .

2.6. Households

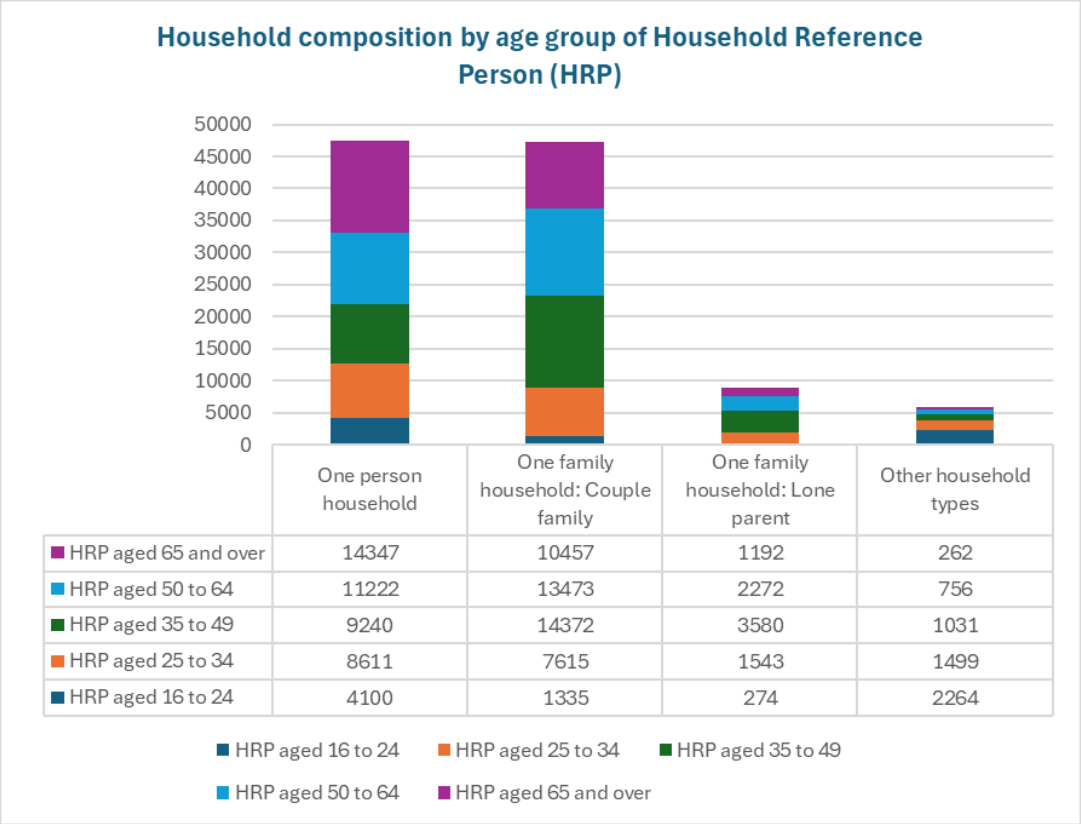
Households: In 2023, there were 111,024 households in Aberdeen City – up from 109,720 households in 2022. Since 2002, the number of households in Aberdeen has increased by 13.4% (133,157 households) which is similar to the rate for Scotland of 13.6%. In 2022, the average household size was 1.97 compared to 2.12 for Scotland. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, average household sizes have decreased over the past 20 years (from 2.13 and 2.27 respectively in 2001) .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland. Updated June 2024.
Note: The average household size in the column for 2023 is based on 2022 Census data.

Households Census data: At the time of the Census in 2022 there were 109,445 households in Aberdeen City. Of these, 43.4% were one person households, 43.2% were 'Couple family' households, 8.1% were lone parent households and 5.3% were other household types. Further breakdown on household composition is available by the age group of the Household Reference Person (HRP). For one person households, the most common age group was 65 years and over (30.2%) followed by 50-64 years (23.6%). The table below gives the percentage of each age group within each household composition type and the chart beneath gives the total number of households in each household composition type by age group of the Household Reference Person.

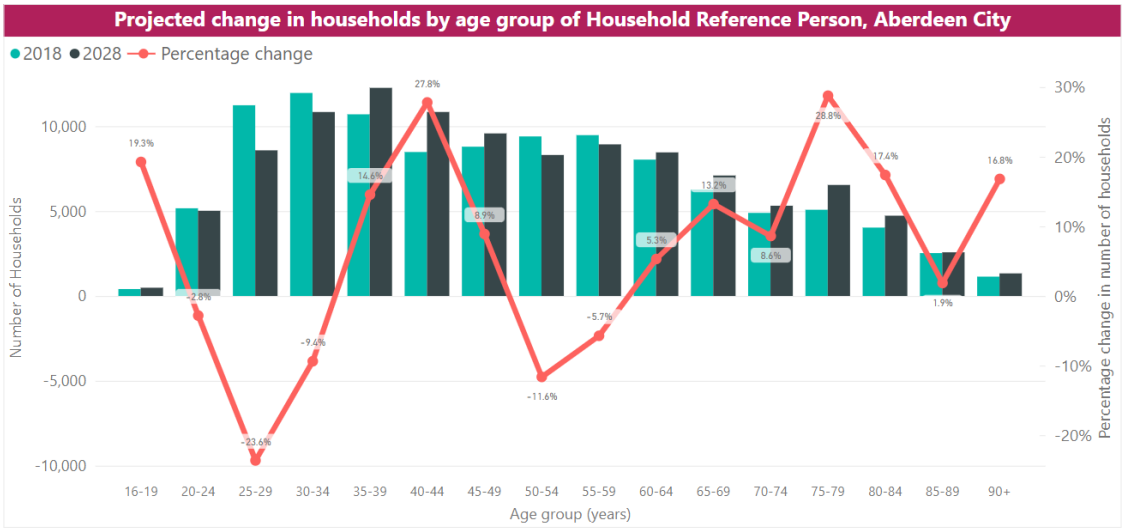
	One person household	One family household: Couple family	One family household: Lone parent	Other household types
HRP aged 16 to 24	8.6%	2.8%	3.1%	39.0%
HRP aged 25 to 34	18.1%	16.1%	17.4%	25.8%
HRP aged 35 to 49	19.4%	30.4%	40.4%	17.7%
HRP aged 50 to 64	23.6%	28.5%	25.6%	13.0%
HRP aged 65 and over	30.2%	22.1%	13.5%	4.5%



	One person household	One family household: Couple family	One family household: Lone parent	Other household types
HRP aged 65 and over	14347	10457	1192	262
HRP aged 50 to 64	11222	13473	2272	756
HRP aged 35 to 49	9240	14372	3580	1031
HRP aged 25 to 34	8611	7615	1543	1499
HRP aged 16 to 24	4100	1335	274	2264

Household projections: As with the population projections, the most recent household projections are 2018-based and so relatively dated. New projections are not expected until Summer 2025.

Between 2018 and 2028, the number of households in Aberdeen City is projected to increase from 107,586 to 110,884. This is a 3.0% increase, which compares to a projected increase of 5.0% for Scotland as a whole. In 2028, the household type "One adult" is projected to remain the most common in Aberdeen City (38.4% of all households in 2018 and 38.9% in 2028) and the household type "One adult, one or more children" is projected to remain the least common (3.7% in 2018 and 3.6% in 2028). Between 2018 and 2028, the household type "Three or more adults" is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-5.0%) and the household type "Two or more adults, one or more children" is projected to see the largest percentage increase (5.0%). Based on 5-year age groupings, between 2018 and 2028, the 25 to 29 age group is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-23.6%) and the 35 to 39 age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (28.8%). In terms of size, however, 35 to 39 years is projected to become the largest age group of a Household Reference Person (HRP), compared to 30-34 years in 2018 .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Household Projections for Scotland. Updated September 2020.

Emerging priorities

The demographic data is – as is often the case – the most difficult to interpret. In the context of community planning, the key features seem to be:

- The recent increase in overall population, but that this associated more with inward migration into Aberdeen than as a result of natural changes such as births and deaths. It is also interesting that the inward migration is primarily due to people from overseas coming to Aberdeen who tend to be from younger age groups.
- The population is projected to only increase modestly (1.1%) between 2018 and 2028. Of this the main components is expected to be due to migration.
- It should be noted that the age profile of the population is projected to see reductions in the proportion of younger men and women aged 0-14 years and 15 to 29 years. Most striking is the 26.2% increase in the population of men aged over 75 years by 2028. A similar increase is not observed for women (9.5%).
- Between 1997 and 2023 the birthrate in the city fell from 9.7/1000 population to 7.2/1000. In 2023 there were a total of 2092 births. This can be compared to 2252 deaths in the same year, meaning that for 2023 at least the number of births was lower

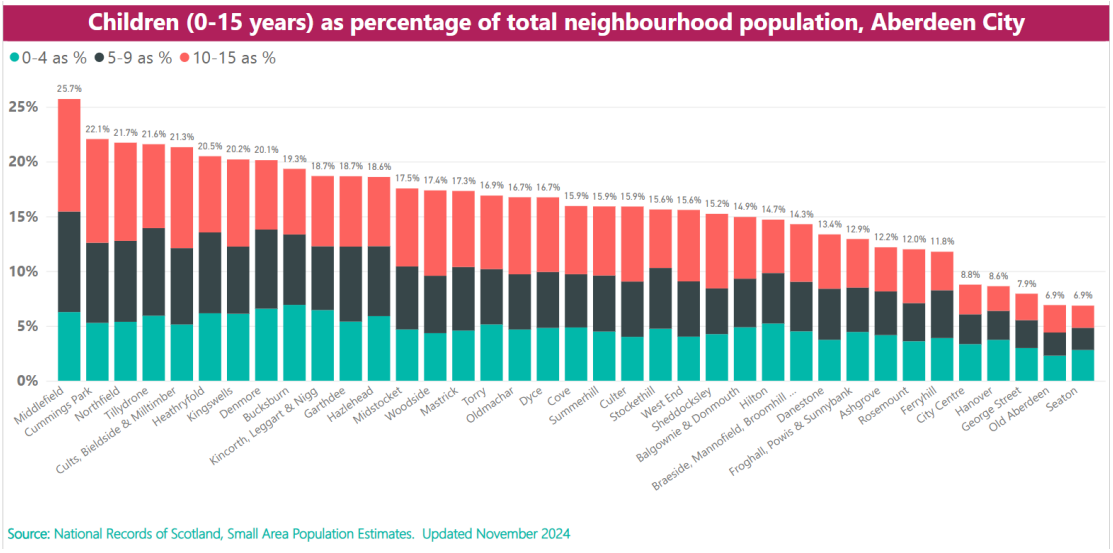
than the number of deaths. This is a feature of the population that needs careful monitoring.

- For 2021-2023, the all-cause rate for deaths amongst people aged between 15 and 44 years is lower in Aberdeen City than for Scotland as a whole. However, this masks a clear variation associated with deprivation across the city. The age-standardised rate of deaths per 100,000 in the least deprived areas of the city (SIMD 1) was 61.6 compared with a rate of 229.8 in the most deprived areas of the City (SIMD5). Addressing the underlying inequality which drives health inequality remains a key priority.
- Household composition has an impact on a range of factors associated with how services are delivered. In this context, the data are highlighting that over half of single occupant households are associated with people aged over 50.

3. Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Ensuring that a child's life starts well, and is supported as they develop into young people, is essential in creating good population health and wellbeing throughout life. Early support to the child – and to their families or principal care givers – will have a direct impact on the future and lifelong physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. Early action can help to reduce health inequality.

Child population: In 2023, there were 36,898 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City – 16.2 % of the city's population . The number and proportion of children varies by neighbourhood (2022-based). In terms of numbers, Old Aberdeen has the smallest child population (229) while Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber has the largest (2,570). The City Centre has the smallest proportion of children (6.9% of the population of the neighbourhood) and Middlefield the largest (25.7%) .

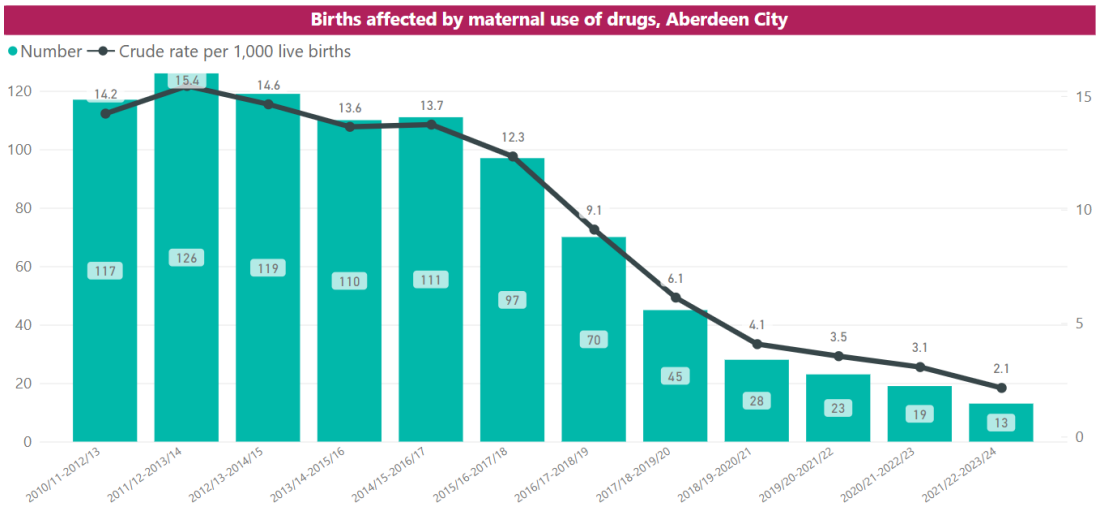


3.1. Give every child the best start in life

3.1.1. Early years

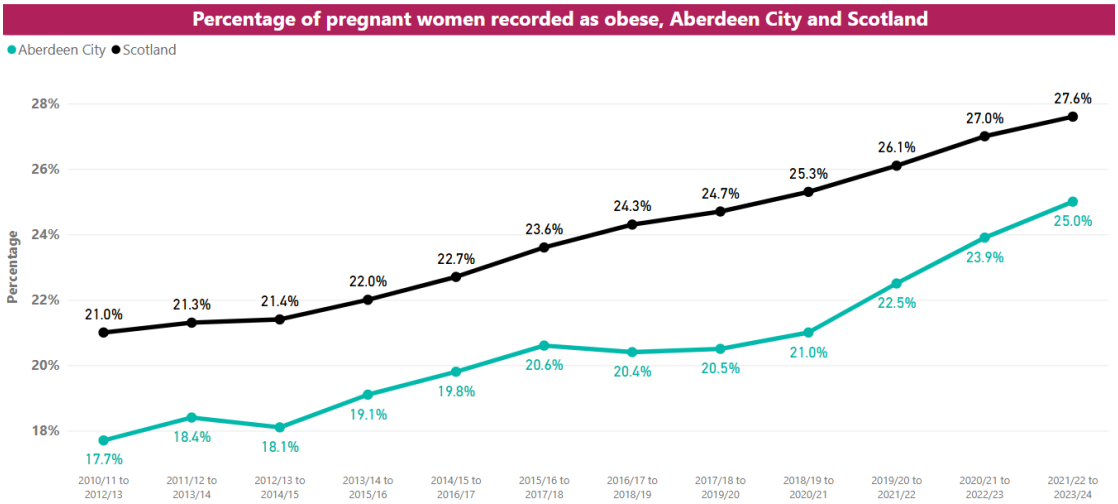
Smoking during pregnancy : In 2021-2023 (3-year aggregate), 9.6% of women in the City with a known smoking status were recorded as a 'current smoker' at their first antenatal appointment. Rates of smoking during pregnancy are slightly lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (10.7%) and have decreased gradually over the past few years (Note – new data collection method means that recent figures are not directly comparable with previous years). Rates are highest in the most deprived areas (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1) at 25% compared to 2.8% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates of smoking during pregnancy vary across the City (HSC localities, 2019/20-2021/22) at 10.9% in Aberdeen South, 12.2% in Aberdeen North and 13.1% in Aberdeen Central .

Maternities with drug use: In the period 2021/22-2023/24 there were 121 maternities with drug misuse recorded. This is equivalent to a rate of 20.2 (crude rate per 1,000 maternities) which is higher than the rate for Scotland of 17.9 . In the same period there were 13 babies affected by maternal use of drugs, equivalent to a rate of 2.1 (crude rate per 1,000 live births). The rate of babies affected by maternal use of drugs has fallen substantially in recent years .



Source: Public Heath Scotland, Babies affected by maternal use of drugs by Council Areas. Updated January 2025.
Note: number is the total number over the 3-year period

Maternal obesity: In 2021/22 to 2023/24, 25% of pregnant women in Aberdeen City were recorded as obese (Body Mass Index (BMI) 30 and over) at their antenatal booking – lower than the rate for Scotland of 27.5%. Rates of maternal obesity have been increasing in both Aberdeen and Scotland. Rates of maternal obesity vary by deprivation being highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 (most deprived) at 32.7% and lowest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 5 (least deprived) at 19.8%. Rates varied by Intermediate Zone being from a low of 10.4% in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 42.9% in Cummings Park .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles. Updated February 2025.

Healthy birth weight : In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 82% of babies born in Aberdeen City (full-term singleton births) were a healthy birth weight compared to 80.9% in Scotland. The proportion of babies who are a healthy birth weight has remained relatively stable over the past few years. Rates vary across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 72.5% in Danestone to a high of 91.4% in City Centre East .

Premature births: In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 8.7% of births in Aberdeen City were premature, slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 8.3%. The rate of premature births varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 3.2% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 15.9% in Summerhill .

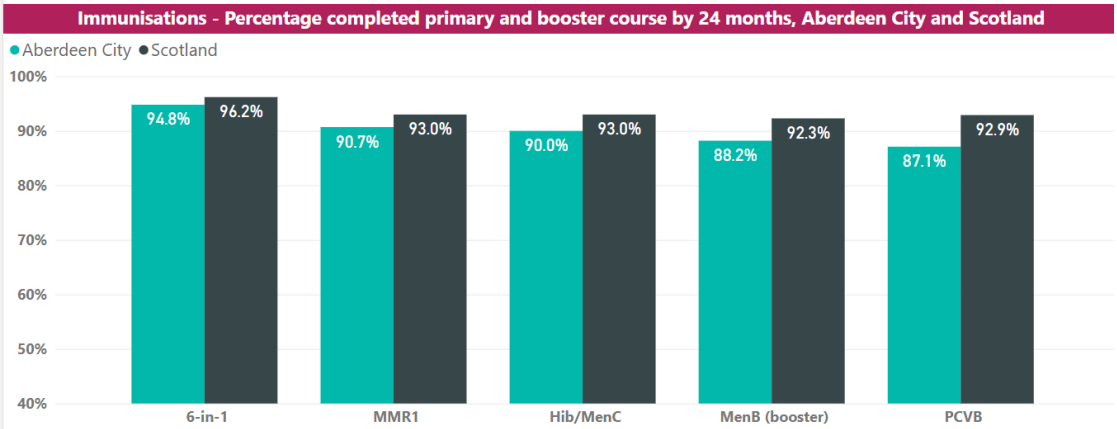
Infant deaths : In 2019-2023 the rate (crude rate per 1,000 live births) of infant deaths (age 0-1 years) in Aberdeen City was 4.2 – higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.5. In Aberdeen City the rate of infant deaths has increased in each of the last 3 data periods (from 2.5 in 2016-2020) .

Breast-feeding : In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 43% of babies in the City were exclusively breast-fed at the time of their 6-8 week review. This is significantly higher than the Scottish average of 32.3%. While the overall rate of breastfeeding for the City has increased over the past few years, there is variation across the City (based on Intermediate Zones) with rates ranging from a low of 16.5% in Northfield to a high of 73.6% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East .

Exposure to second-hand smoke : In 2020/21 to 2022/23 (3-year aggregate), 8% of babies were reported as being exposed to second-hand smoke at their 6-8 week review. This is higher than the rate for Scotland of 6.4%. The percentage of babies exposed to second-hand smoke has remained fairly static in Aberdeen in the last few periods while in Scotland the rate has continued to decrease .

Immunisation : In Scotland there is a national target for 95% of children to complete courses of routine childhood immunisations by 24 months of age. In 2023, rates of babies who have completed the primary and booster courses for these immunisations by 24 months were lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland and lower than the 95% target . Uptake of immunisation varies by Intermediate Zone. In 2021-23, percentage uptake of 6-in-1 vaccine at 24 months ranged from 76.4% in City Centre West to 99% in Culter and

uptake of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) ranged from 69% in City Centre East to 98% in Oldmachar West. The equivalent rates for Aberdeen City (i.e. 2021-2023) were 95.1% for 6 in 1 vaccine and 90.1 for Measles, Mumps and Rubella .

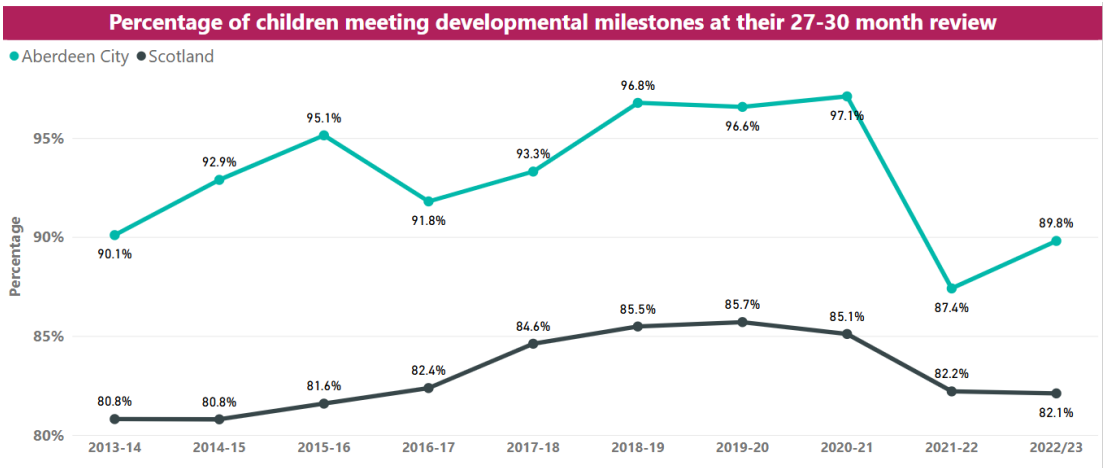


Source: ISD Scotland, Childhood Immunisation Statistics. Updated April 2024.

6-in-1 = The 6-in-1 vaccine (3 doses) protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and Hepatitis B. **MMR1** =Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (1 dose after 12 months). **Hib/MenC**=Hib/MenC Booster (1 dose after 12 months). **PCVB** =Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine booster (1 dose after 12 months). **MenB(Booster)** = Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (3 doses before 24 months of which one after 12 months, or 2 doses of which both after 12 months).

Developmental concerns at 27-30 months: At 27-30 month reviews, the health professional (normally a health visitor) assesses children's developmental status and records the outcome (e.g. no concern, concern newly suspected as a result of the review, or concern or disorder already known prior to the review) against each of nine developmental domains (social, emotional, behavioural, attention, speech language & communication, gross motor, fine motor, vision and hearing). In 2022/23, 89.8% of children reviewed had no concerns identified at the review – lower than the figure of 97.1% in 2020-21 but slightly higher than 87.4% in 2021-22 . In 2022/23, 67.4% of children who were eligible for the 27-30 month review received a review - down from 78% in 2021/22.

In 2020/21-2022/23, the percentage of children with one or more developmental concern varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 1% in Braeside, Mannofield & Broomfield East to a high of 18% in George Street .



Source: Improvement Service, Local Government Benchmarking Framework. Updated May 2024.

Note: In 2019/20 there were changes to how the measure is presented (now includes % which had no concerns across all domains + the % with no concerns recorded but some domains incomplete/missing) so data for previous years has been amended.

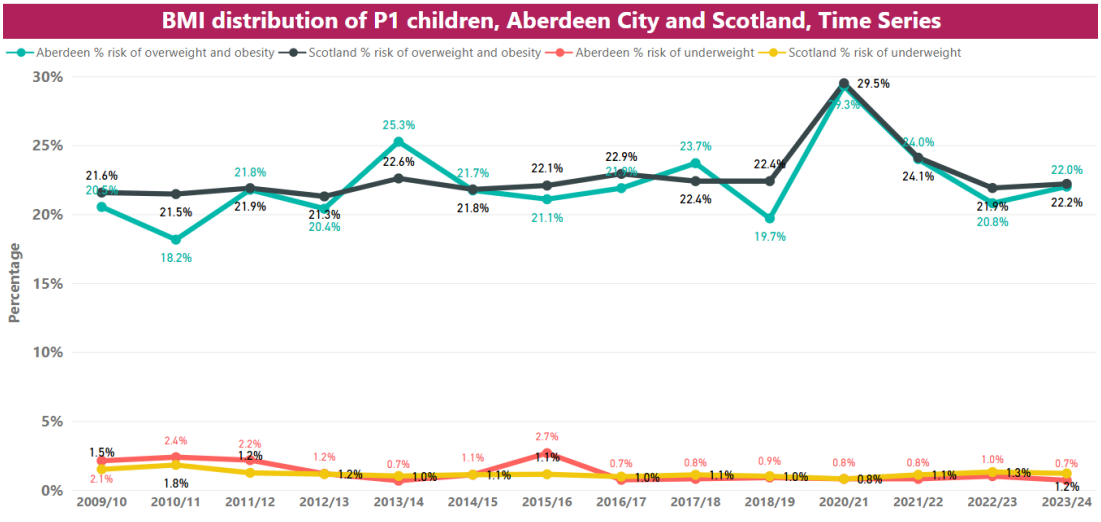
Unintentional injury in children under 5 years: In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 126 emergency hospital admissions for unintentional injury in children under 5 years (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 1,162 per 100,000 population – higher than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 916 but lower than the rate of 1,257 for the previous period .

3.1.2. Child health

Healthy weight/Body Mass Index (BMI) : In 2023/24, valid height and weight measurements were recorded for 1,995 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen City. Of these, 77.3% were classified as 'healthy weight' (Body Mass Index greater than 2nd centile and less than 85th centile) – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland of 76.5% - with 11.7% being classified at risk of overweight (Body Mass Index >85th and <95th centile) and 10.5% being classified at risk of obesity (Body Mass Index >=95th centile) giving a total of 22% being classified at risk of overweight and obesity (Body Mass Index >=85th centile) .

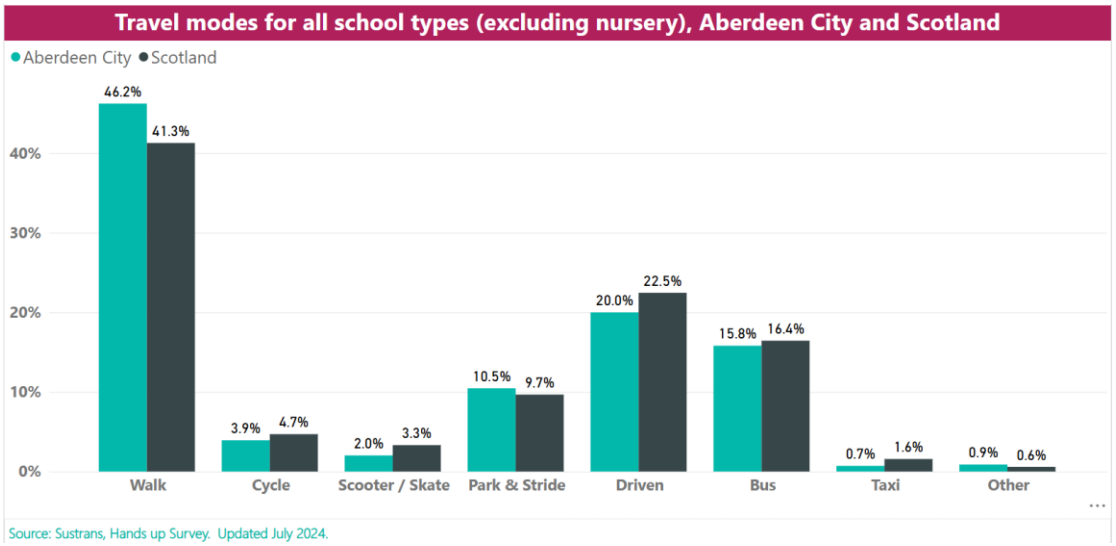
In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the percentage of Primary 1 children classified as being at risk of overweight and obesity (Body Mass Index greater than or equal to 85th centile) spiked in the immediate post-COVID-19 period (from 19.7% in 2018/19 to 29.2% in 2020/21 for Aberdeen City). In 2021/22, the figure dropped to 24% in both Aberdeen and Scotland. The percentage of Primary 1 children classified as at risk of underweight has remained at less than 1% (Note: no data is available for 2019/20 due to COVID-19).

In 2023/24 the percentage of Primary 1 children classified as 'healthy weight' varied by deprivation in Aberdeen City from 72.9% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1 (most deprived) to 82% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) . Based on 2021/22 data, the percentage of Primary 1 children who were a healthy weight varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from 50% in Seaton to 100% in City Centre East and City Centre West (with the equivalent rate for Aberdeen City of 75.3%) .



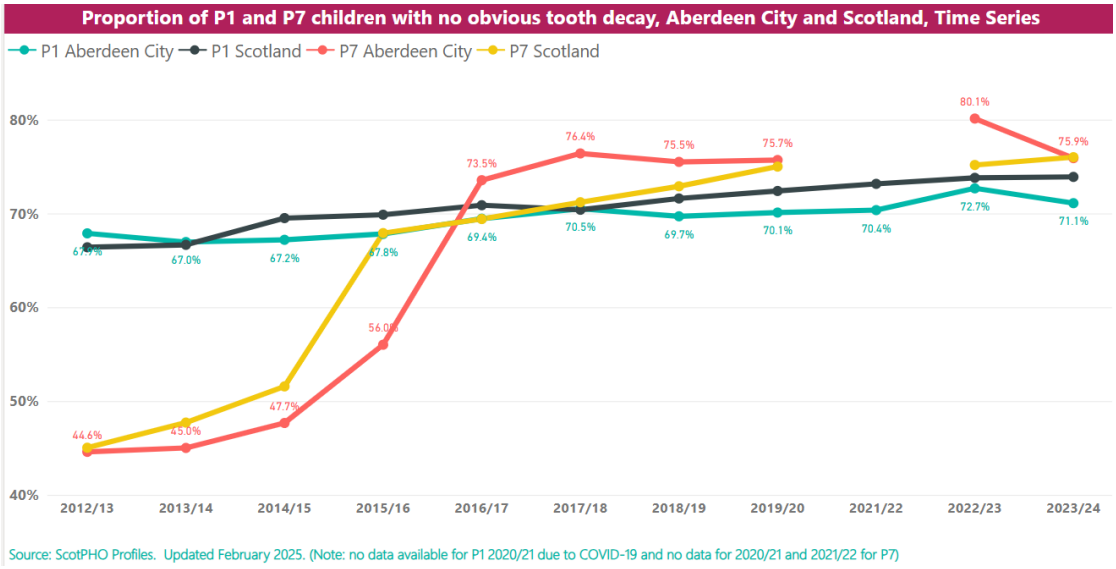
Source: ISD Scotland, Primary 1 Body Mass Index Statistics. Updated February 2025. ((Note data for 2019/20 is not available due to school closures related to COVID-19.)

Active travel to school: In 2023, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (46.2%), followed by being driven (20%) and bus (15.8%). Mode of travel varied by type of school. Walking was the most common mode of travel for both primary (52.5%) and secondary (41.8%) pupils, while nursery children were most commonly driven to school (48.7%) with 36.6% walking. Pupils at SEN schools most commonly travelled by 'other' means (86.2%). The most common modes of travel for pupils at independent schools were bus (34.4%) and Park & Stride (29.4%). While still relatively high, the proportion of children who walk to school has fallen since 2020, from 50.7% to 46.2% .



Dental health: In 2023/24, 71.1% of Primary 1 pupils in Aberdeen had no obvious tooth decay – lower than the average rate for Scotland of 73.9% and lower than the rate for 2022.23 of 72.7%. The rate varied by deprivation, being lowest for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 56.9% and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 80.4%. Across the City (Intermediate Zones), the proportion of P1 pupils with no obvious tooth decay ranged from a low of 39.1% in City Centre West to a high of 89.5% in both Midstocket and Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield North.

In 2023/24 the proportion of P7 children with no obvious tooth decay was 75.9% similar to 76% in Scotland but lower than the rate of 80.1% in 2022/23. Again, there was variation by deprivation (63% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 and 84.4% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5) and variation across the City with proportions ranging from a low of 50% in Dyce to a high of 100% in Hanover North .



Uptake of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in S3 girls : In 2021/22-2023/24, 81.5% (3-year rolling average percentage) of S3 girls had their Human Papillomavirus vaccine – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland (83.1%) and but higher than the rate for 2021/22-2022/23 of 79.2%. Rates of the vaccine uptake varied by deprivation, being lowest at 68% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 89.4%. Across the city (Intermediate zones) rates ranged from a low of 59.6% in Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank to a high of 97.6% in Braeside, Mannofield and Seafield East .

Teenage pregnancies : As in Scotland as a whole, the rate of teenage pregnancies (15-19 years) in Aberdeen City has reduced significantly over the past 10 years from 43.6 per 1,000 population (crude rate per 1,000 females aged 5-19 years) in 2010-2012 to 19.8 in 2020-2022 – lower than the rate for Scotland of 23.6. The rate of teenage pregnancies varies by deprivation from a high of 40.1 per 1,000 females age 15-19 years in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) to a low of 14 in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) . Data on teenage pregnancies is no longer available by Intermediate Zone, but is given by Health and Social Care localities (HSC). Rates in Aberdeen South and Aberdeen Central are similar (21 and 22 per 1,000 population) and are highest in Aberdeen North at 35 per 1,000 population. The rate of pregnancies for females under 16 years has also decreased in recent years - from a high of 10 per 1,000 females aged 13-15 years in 2009/11, to 1.6 per 1,000 in 2020/22 .

3.1.3. Smoking, alcohol, and drug use

Data on smoking, alcohol and drug use/misuse is available from the Physical Wellbeing Survey . 9,031 learners from P5-S6 completed the Physical wellbeing survey in November 2024, this is a slight decrease from 9,916 in November 2023 but an overall increase of 2,753 (43.9%) since the first survey carried out in March 2022.

Smoking: In November 2024, of those pupils that answered 'Have you ever tried smoking cigarettes or e-cigarettes' (9,031) 6.2% (566) of learners reported that they have tried smoking (either cigarettes or e-cigarettes) – a slight reduction since the previous survey in November 2023 (7.8%). 1.4% (128) of young people reported that they use e-cigarettes or vapes once a week or more.

Alcohol: Learners were asked about alcohol consumption, regularity and type of alcoholic drinks consumed. In November 24 88.4% (7,987) of the 9,031 learners who answered the related question stated that they had never had a drink of alcohol . From November 2023 there has been a decrease from 76 to 59 learners who state that they get drunk weekly, with Cider, Spirits and Alcopops highlighted as those most often selected for regular consumption.

Drugs: of the 9,031 pupils that answered the question 'Have you ever taken illegal drugs…' Most (8,843) of learners stated that they had never used drugs, however 2.1% (188) of learners reported that they have taken illegal drugs, drugs formerly known as legal highs, solvents or prescription drugs that were not prescribed for them. 26 of our learners also stated that they use drugs daily with the largest number of responses linked to cannabis, followed by Ketamine and Cocaine.

Alcohol- and drug-related hospital admissions, 11-25 years: In the period 2021/22-2023/24 the rate (per 100,000 population) of alcohol-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 190.1 compared to 182.6 in Scotland. In the same period, the rate of drug-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 86 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City – lower than the rate of 115 in Scotland.

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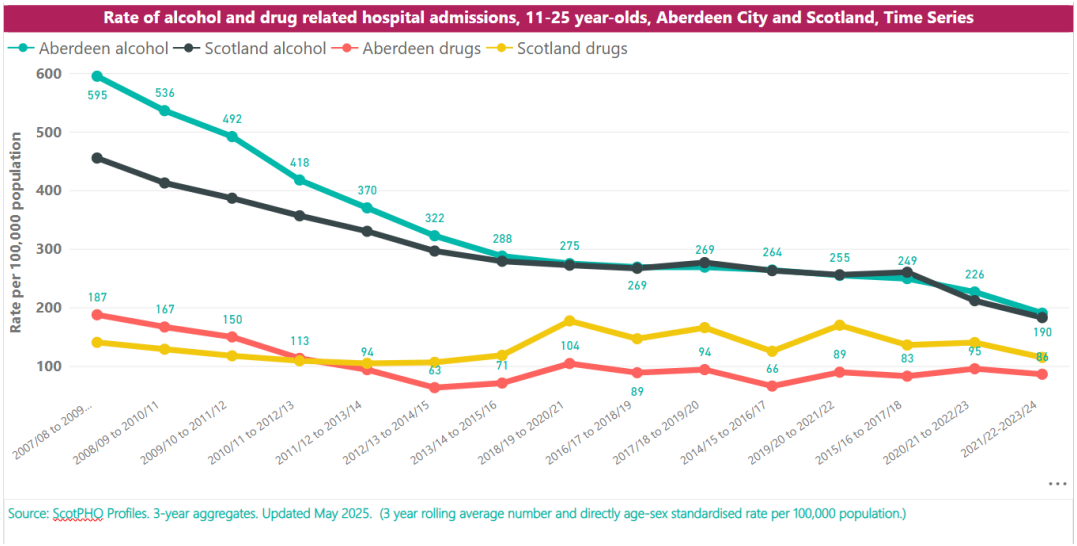
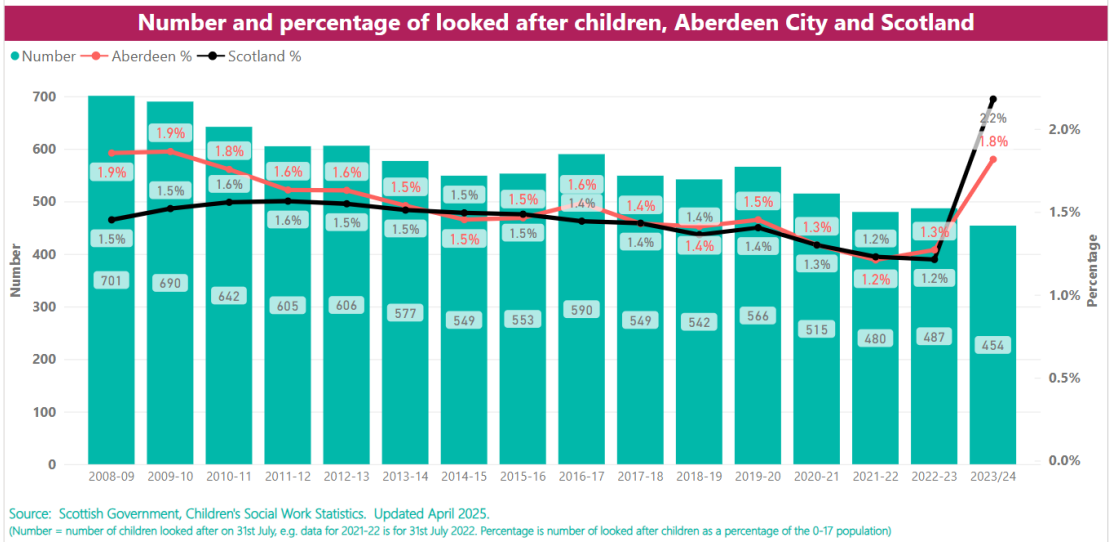


3.2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives

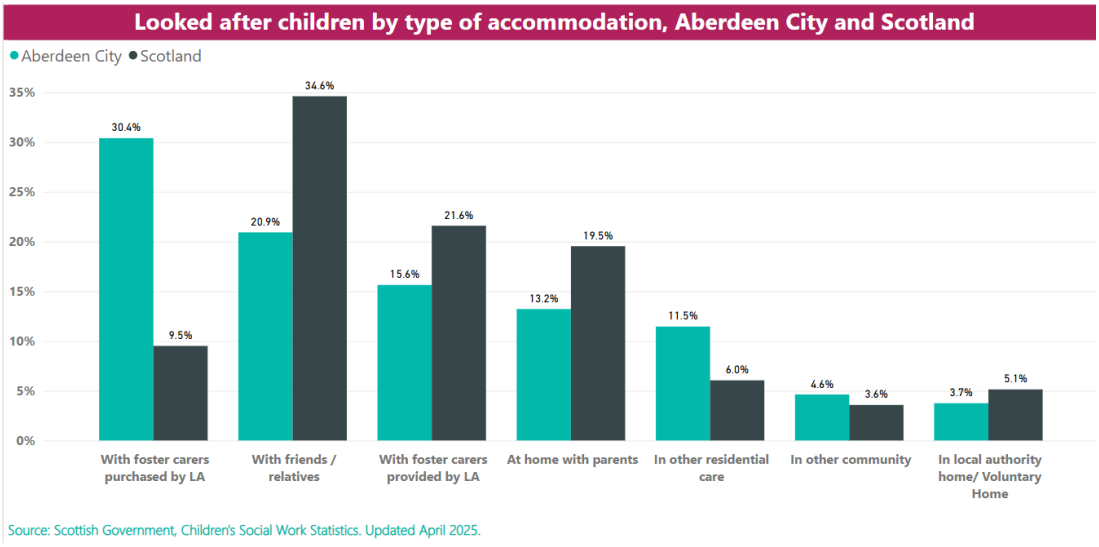
3.2.1. Looked after children

Looked after children (LAC): Between 1/08/2023 and 31/07/2024, there were 143 children starting to be looked after and 176 ceasing to be looked after. On 31st July 2024 there were 454 looked after children in Aberdeen City (down from the revised figure of 487 in 2023) – equivalent to 1.8% of the 0-17 years population compared to 2.2% for Scotland. Most (60.1%) looked after children in Aberdeen City are boys, and 18.7% are under 5 years old. 4.8% of looked after children are known to be from an ethnic minority group and 18.3% are known to have a disability. 16.3% of LAC are 16 years year or over .

In 2024, 5 children were admitted to secure care during the year (up from 1 in 2023 and 2 in 2022) .



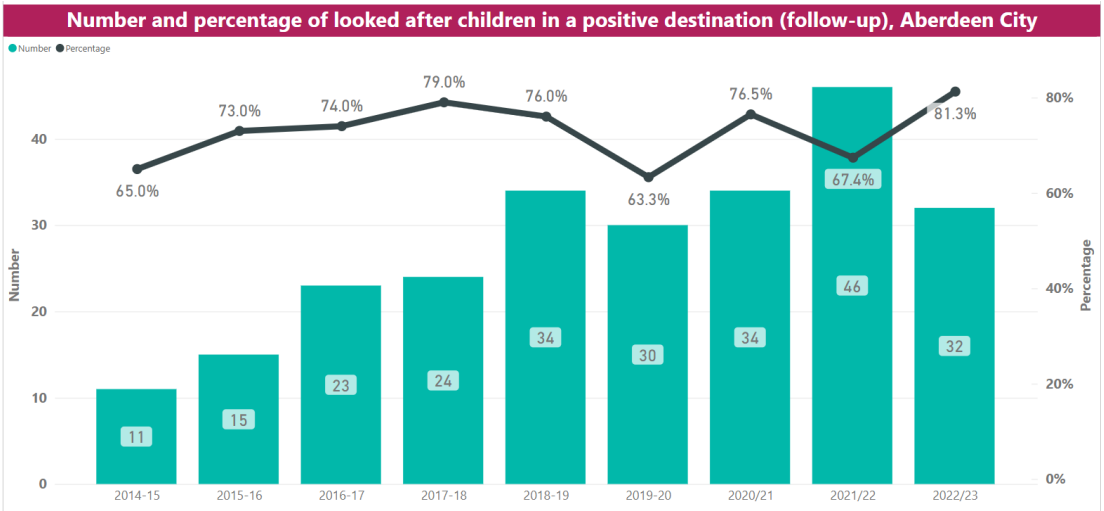
Accommodation: At 31st July 2024, foster care was the most common setting for looked after children in Aberdeen City (46%). At 34.1%, the proportion of looked after children in kinship care (at home with parents or with friends/relatives) was lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (54.1%) . In 2022-23, 18.4% of looked after children had more than 1 placement in the past year – higher than the rate for Scotland of 17.2% .



Looked After Children educational outcomes: In 2022/23, 68.8% of looked after children in Aberdeen City left school with 1 or more qualification at Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) level 4 – lower than the rate for Scotland of 75.7% and lower than the rate of 76.1% in 2021/22 . The equivalent rate for all pupils (at publicly funded schools) was 87% in 2022/23 and 86% in 2023/24 .

Attendance and exclusion data is only available every 2 years. In 2022/23 the attendance rates for looked after children in Aberdeen City was 88.4% compared to 84.4% for Scotland. The exclusion rate (per 1,000 pupils who were looked after) was 164 in Aberdeen City compared to 96.9 in Scotland .

Looked After Children positive destinations: In 2022/23, 81.3% of looked after children in Aberdeen City had a positive destination (based on 9-month follow-up survey and children who were looked after for the full year) compared to 71.1% in Scotland and higher than the rate for 2021/22 of 67.4%. This is lower than the rate for all children of 90.1% (2022/23) .



Bright Spots: 'Bright Spots' is a research and service improvement project set up by Corum Voice to understand what is important to children in care and care leavers to share leaning about what makes life good for them by measuring subjective wellbeing. Two cohorts were surveyed. The 'Your Life Your Care' survey was presented to 345 children/young people aged 4 – 17 years, and 'Your Life Beyond Care' to 227 young people aged 16 – 26 years. A small selection of the initial findings and areas for improvement is given below.

Your Life Your Care

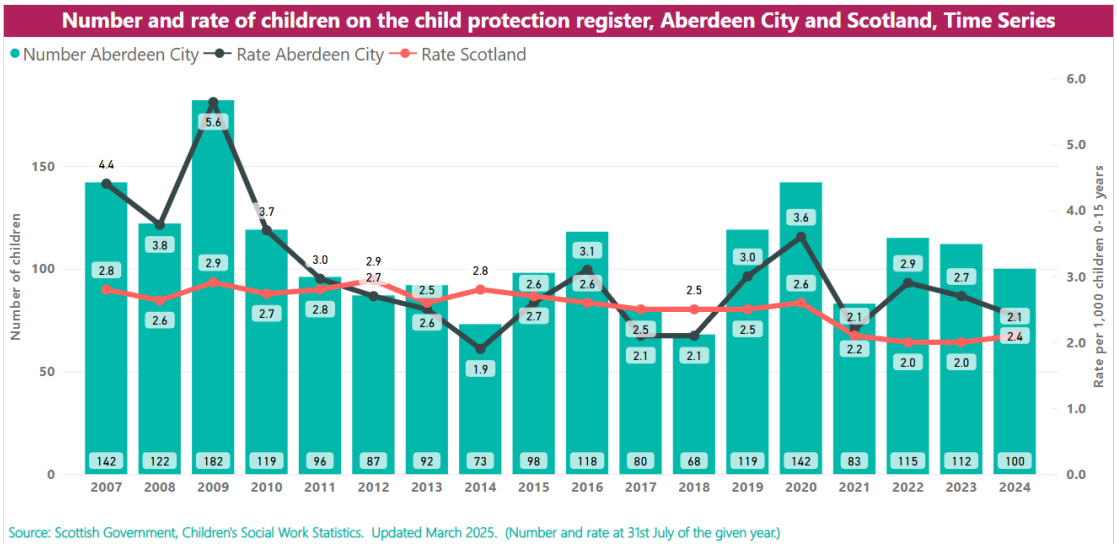
- More than half of children and young people (11- 17yrs) in Aberdeen had the same social worker over the last year.
- Six out of seven (86%) children and young people in care (8-17yrs) felt their lives were getting better.
- Fewer children and young people in Aberdeen had received an explanation about why they were in care compared to the comparator group.
- The percentage of Care Experienced Young People (11-17yrs) reporting they had with a really good friend was lower than the general population (91% to 97%).

Your Life Beyond Care

- More than nine in ten of care leavers (92%) who answered felt that they had a person who they trusted, who helped them and stuck by them no matter what.
- Two-thirds (66%) of comments about Youth Team Workers or Social Workers were very positive.
- One in five (22%) care leavers felt lonely 'often/always', over twice the rate for young people in the general population.
- One in three (30%) care leavers did not 'always' feel safe in their home and 36% did not 'always' feel safe in their neighbourhood. 41% did not 'always' feel settled in their home.

Child protection: At 31st July 2024, there were 100 children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) in Aberdeen City – down from 112 in 2023. The rate of children on the Child Protection Register (per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years) was 2.4 compared to 2.1 in Scotland . The most common concerns identified at case conferences of children who were on the child protection register at 31st July 2024 were neglect (49), parental substance use (35) emotional abuse (30) and parent ill health (29). (*Note: Child protection concern categories as defined in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - updated 2023, which includes a more detailed list of concern categories compared to those included in previous versions of these statistics. Multiple concerns can be recorded rather than just the main category of concern. Parental substance use refers to cases where both parental drug use and parental alcohol use have been identified as a concern.)*

In 2022/23, 4.1% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months – lower than the rate in 2021/22 of 18.2%. In Scotland 5.6% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months .



3.2.2. Mental health and wellbeing

Information on mental health and wellbeing is informed by the SHINE Mental Health Surveys which have been conducted each year since 2022 with the most recent survey undertaken in Autumn 2024 . Overall, across P6 to S6, 65% of pupils in these year groups in the local authority took part in the SHINE survey. Among, P6 and P7, 80% of pupils took part in the survey and 59% of secondary school pupils took part in the survey.

Given that an individual's mental health and wellbeing is influenced by a wide variety of factors, including environmental, social and the interaction between these, the survey looked at how family affluence (using the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) – low/medium/high) and gender (boy/girl/did not disclose) impacts wellbeing in the survey. In general, those in the low family affluence group were more likely to report a range of negative outcomes across nearly all the measures within the survey. Similarly, amongst both primary and secondary school pupils, those young people who did not disclose their gender were more likely to report a range of negative outcomes and feelings across nearly all measures. Below is a brief overview of some of the measures.

Primary 6 & 7

In Autumn 2024, 3,471 pupils from P6 and P7 completed this survey with 75 pupils not providing details of their gender and 4 pupils not identifying their year group. Incomplete responses meant that the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) score was not able to be calculated for 606 (17.5%) of primary pupils.

General health and wellbeing: Overall, 85% of P6 & P7 pupils reported that their health was 'excellent or good'. The percentage varied by Family Affluence (from 80% with low family affluence to 93% for those with high family affluence) and gender (71% for those who did not disclose their gender, 86% for boys and 85% for girls).

Overall, 61% of the primary pupils reported 'always or often feeling confident'. The proportion of pupils reporting always or often feeling confident was highest in the high family affluence group (69% compared to 63% medium affluence and 51% low family affluence). Boys were more likely than girls to report always or often feeling confident

(68% compared to 54%). Only 38% of those who did not disclose their gender reported always or often feeling confident.

Happiness: Learners were asked to rate how happy they were with various aspects of life (appearance, school, future, health, choice, friends, family, time use, things you have, home and overall). Across P6 and P7, learners were positive about many aspects of their lives. Low levels of happiness was most commonly reported for 'Appearance' (13%) and 'School' (10%).

With the exception of 'school' where there was no significant difference between groups, pupils in the lowest family affluence group were more likely to report low levels of happiness across all life domains than their more affluent peers. For example, 20% of those in the low affluence group reported low happiness with their appearance compared to 8% in the high affluence group and 9% in the low affluence group reported low levels of happiness with life as a whole compared to 4% in the high affluence group. Similarly, when looked at by gender, a higher proportion of those who did not disclose their gender than either boys or girls reported low happiness for all domains (with the exception of 'things you have' which was similar across all gender groups). In particular, 39% of those who did not disclose their gender had low levels of happiness with 'appearance', 25% had low levels of happiness with 'health' and 24% had low levels of happiness with school. There were also differences between boys and girls. For example, girls were more likely than boys to have low levels of happiness with 'appearance' (16% compared to 10%) and friendships (7% compared to 4%).

World Health Organisation (WHO)-5 Wellbeing Index: This is a five item scale which provides a measure of emotional functioning, with a score of 50 or less indicating low mood. A score of 28 or less indicates at risk of depression. Based on this scale, 22% of those in P6 & 7 showed evidence of low mood and 6% were at risk of depression. Again this differed by family affluence with 28% of pupils from the low affluence group reporting low mood compared with 20% in the medium affluence group and 16% of those in the most affluent group. Additionally, the percentage at risk of depression was highest in the least affluent group (10%) compared to the most affluent group (4%). These also varied by gender with girls being more likely to report low mood than boys (24% compared to 20%) and risk of depression (7% compared to 6%). Both low mood and at risk of depression were highest for those who did not disclose their gender (45% for low mood and 17% for at risk of depression).

Secondary 1-6

In Autumn 2024, 6,453 learners from S1-S6 completed the secondary survey with 173 learners choosing not to provide details of their gender. Incomplete responses meant that the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) score was not able to be calculated for 1,131 (17.5%) of secondary school pupils due to incomplete responses to the Family Affluence Scale questions.

General health and wellbeing: 81% of learners in S1-6 reported that their general health was 'excellent or good'. Reporting good or excellent health was also associated with family affluence with 88% of secondary pupils in the high family affluence group rating their health as good or excellent compared with 82% in the medium family affluence

group and 71% of those in the low family affluence group. There were also differences by gender with only 56% of those who did not disclose reporting excellent or good health (compared to 78% of girls and 84% of boys).

Overall, 45% of pupils in S1-S6 reported 'always or often feeling confident'. This varied by family affluence ranging from 37% in the low family affluence group to 53% in the high family affluence group. A higher proportion of boys (68%) than girls (54%) reported always or often feeling confident. Only 38% of those who did not disclose their gender reported always or often feeling confident.

17% of secondary pupils reported 'feeling lonely all or most of the time'. Those in the low family affluence group were more likely to report feeling lonely (22% compared to 16% medium affluence and 11% high affluence). Those who did not disclose their gender (40%) were more likely to report feeling lonely than either girls (20%) or boys (13%). This group was also more likely to 'self-harm' (40% compared to 17% of girls and 13% of boys). Those is the low family affluence group (19%) were also more likely to self-harm than either the medium affluence group (15%) or the high affluence group (11%).

Happiness: Learners were asked to rate how happy they were with various aspects of life (appearance, school, future, health, choice, friends, family, time use, things you have, home and overall). Secondary school learners were positive about many aspects of their lives. Low levels of happiness were most commonly reported for 'Appearance' (19%), 'School' (16%) and 'Future' (10%).

In all domains, those in the low affluence group were more likely to report low happiness than those in both the medium and high affluence groups. Similarly, those who did not disclose their gender were more likely than either boys or girls to report low happiness across all domains. This was highest for 'appearance' (47% in the gender not disclosed group reported low happiness with appearance). There were also differences between boys and girls with girls being more likely than boys to report low levels of happiness across all almost all domains (with the exception of 'things you have'). Again, this was highest for 'appearance' (25% of girls reporting low happiness compared with 13% of boys).

World Health Organisation (WHO)-5 Wellbeing Index: This is a five item scale which provides a measure of emotional functioning, with a score of 50 or less indicating low mood. A score of 28 or less indicates at risk of depression. Overall, 32% of S1-6 learners self-rated below the 50-score threshold indicating low mood and 11% below 28 indicating risk of depression. Those in the low family affluence group were more likely than those in the higher affluence groups to report both low mood and risk of depression. Those who did not disclose their gender were more likely to report both low mood and risk of depression than either boys or girls, and girls were more likely than boys to report both.

Feeling safe: Learners were asked to consider how safe they felt within various environments and across all schools and year groups, the majority of learners reported that they felt safe always or most of the time in their communities (88.5%), at home (96.7%) and in school (82.2%), however there is a percentage of learners who reported that they rarely or never feel safe in these environments.

Feeling listened to: Being available to listen to children and young people, is essential for supporting individual needs and understanding fully what is required. Learners were

asked if they had an adult in their lives that listens to them about how they are feeling. 71.7% positively shared that they always did. 3.7% (336) also stated no, they did not have an adult in their life that listens to them about how they are feeling. This is a similar percentage of learners from March 2022.

Child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS)

The National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland provides mental health services for children and young people with a wide range of mental health conditions including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, behaviour problems, depression and early onset psychosis. This treatment is provided through Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services. Data is available by Health Board. In the 12 months to September, there were 3,823 referrals received in Grampian Health Board, of which 3,046 (79.7%) were accepted. At the end of September 2024, there were 480 patients waiting to be seen. Of these 446 (92.9%) had been waiting less than 18 weeks (target period) .

Deaths from suicide 11-25 years: In 2018-2022 the rate (crude rate per 100,000 population) of deaths from suicide in people aged 11-25 years was 8.2 in Aberdeen City – lower than the rate for Scotland of 10.9 but higher than the rates of 7.2 in 2017-2021 and 6.2 in 2016-2020 .

3.2.3. School and Educational Outcomes

Early Learning and childcare: In 2024 there were 94 early learning and childcare centres in Aberdeen City (not including childminders) of which 51 were local authority centres and 43 were partnership centres. A total of 3,657 children were registered at the centres. There were 158 2 year-olds registered (40% of eligible 2 year-olds and 7% of all 2 year-olds), and 3,095 3 & 4 year-olds registered (97% of eligible 3 and 4 year-olds). There were also 404 deferred entries (children who are eligible to attend primary school but have deferred entry to remain in funded early learning and childcare) which is equivalent to 38% of those eligible to defer .

School and pupil numbers: In 2024 there were 14,968 primary school pupils and 11,209 secondary school pupils in Aberdeen City. There were also 128 pupils enrolled in Special Schools. The total number of pupils was 26,305. In 2024 there were 110 primary school pupils and 688 secondary school pupils with a known local authority of residence who attended school out with their local authority of residence .

Additional support needs/disability: In 2024, 36.6% (5,473) of primary pupils and 48.1% (5,386) of secondary pupils had additional support needs (up from 35.1% and 46% respectively in 2023). The most common reason for support for both primary and secondary pupils was English as an additional language with this reason being given for 45% of primary pupils with additional support needs and 33.9% of secondary pupils with additional support needs. (In 2024, 23.6% (6,198) of all pupils did not have English as their main home language. The five main home languages (other than English) are Polish, Arabic, Russian, Urdu and Ukrainian.) The next most common reason for additional support needs in both primary and secondary pupils was 'social, emotional and

behavioural difficulty' at 23.3% for primary pupils with additional support needs and 22.6% for secondary pupils with additional support needs. In 2024, 588 primary pupils and 488 secondary pupils had autistic spectrum disorder .

In 2023, 507 school pupils were assessed (400) and/or declared (80) as having a disability. This is equivalent to a rate of 18.2 per 1,000 pupils which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 37.1 per 1,000 pupils .

Free school meals (FSM): In 2024, 76.7% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were registered for Free School Meals in mainstream local authority schools – down slightly from 77.1% in 2023. (Note: from the beginning of the 2022/23 school year all pupils up to and including P5 were eligible for Free School Meals under the universal provision. In 2024, 19.2% of P6 and 17.1% of P7 pupils were registered for Free School Meals.) At secondary school level, 15.5% of pupils were registered for Free School Meals – down from 18.2% in 2023 and 16.6% in 2022. Since 2022, all pupils at special schools are eligible for Free School Meals .

Information on the uptake of Free School Meals is available from the Healthy Living Survey. On survey day in February 2024, a total of 8,150 primary school pupils had a free school meal (7,632 in P1-5 and 518 in P6-7), equivalent to 74.5% of all those registered and present on survey day (up from 72.3% in 2023). In secondary schools, a total of 676 free school meals were taken (49.7% of those registered and present on survey day – down from 56.5% in 2023).

Attendance: Percentage attendance is calculated in relation to the total number of possible attendances (half-days). In 2023/224, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 92.9% and for secondary schools the rate was 89.7%. Overall attendance rate for the city was 91.6% compared to 90.3% for Scotland. The attendance rate varied by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and was lowest for those in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 87.6% and highest in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 93.8%. Percentage attendance was also lower for pupils who were registered[4] for Free School Meals at 83.5% compared to 92.1% for those not registered .

Persistent absence: Information is also available on the percentage of persistent absence (10% or more sessions missed). In 2024, the rate of persistent absence was 27.5% for Aberdeen City compared to 31.4% for Scotland. Rates of persistent absence were higher for secondary schools (33.6%) than for primary schools (23.3%) or special schools (29.9%). While the overall rate is lower than 2022/23 (29.2%), it is higher than the preceding years (18.9% in 2020/21 and 20.6% in 2018/19) .

Exclusions: In 2022/23 there were 646 cases of exclusion in Aberdeen City (73 in Primary Schools and 573 in Secondary schools) – up from 408 in 2020/21. This is equivalent to a rate of 25.7 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. The rate of exclusions was higher in secondary schools (54.9) than in primary schools (5.0). The total number of pupils excluded was 408 (up from 294 in 2020/21) of which 48 were in Primary schools and 360 were in Secondary schools).

[4] Excludes pupils in the cohorts receiving universal provision of free school meals: P1-P5 and Special School pupils.

The number of pupils excluded varied by deprivation (based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles) being highest in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 33.4 per 1,000 pupils and lowest in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 7.4 per 1,000 pupils. There were also differences in the number of pupils excluded depending on whether or not they were registered for Free School Meals. The rate for those who were registered for Free School Meals was 51.7 per 1,000 pupils compared to a rate of 20.3 per 1,000 pupils for those not registered .

Eco-Schools: 107 Aberdeen schools (including nurseries and private schools) are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and 18 have achieved green flag status. A further five establishments have submitted a draft action plan to Keep Scotland Beautiful during 2024 meaning they are working towards their green flag award .

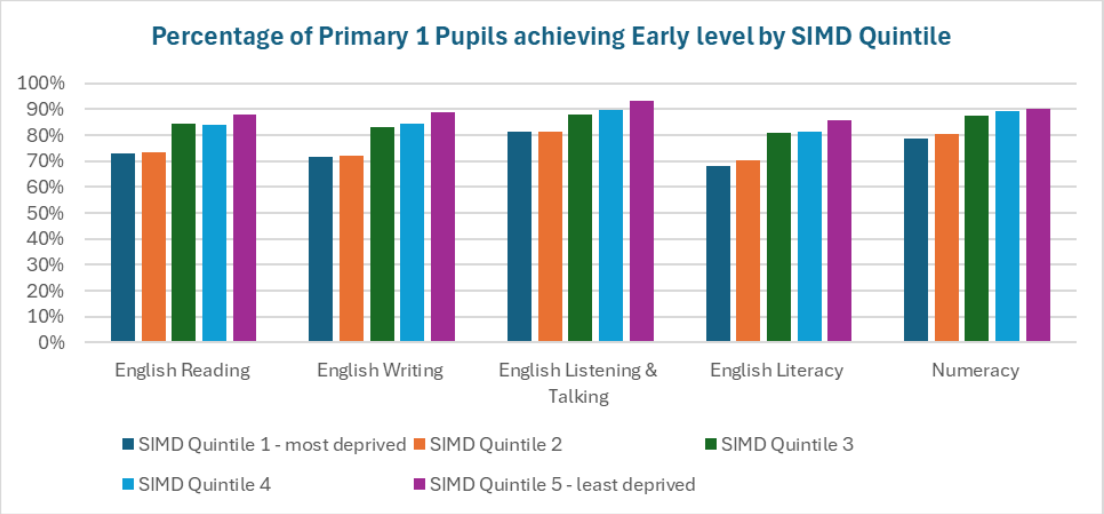
Attainment

Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels (ACEL): Data on achievement against expected levels (Early Level, First Level, Second Level, Third level or better and Fourth Level) is given at four stages – P1, P4, P7 and S3 – in five areas: reading, writing, listening and talking, literacy and numeracy. Achievement levels for 2023/24 for primary children are given in the table below. To allow easy (and crude) comparison with rates for Scotland, where Aberdeen is higher than Scotland the figure is shaded green and where it is lower it is shaded red .

Percentage of pupils achieving expected levels 2023/24				
		P1	P4	P7
		Early Level	First Level	Second Level
Reading	Aberdeen City	81%	76%	81%
	Scotland	81%	79%	81%
Writing	Aberdeen City	81%	71%	77%
	Scotland	79%	74%	76%
Listening and talking	Aberdeen City	87%	87%	85%
	Scotland	87%	87%	91%
Literacy	Aberdeen City	78%	67%	75%
	Scotland	77%	71%	74%
Numeracy	Aberdeen City	86%	74%	77%
	Scotland	85%	78%	78%

Source: Scottish Government, Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels 2023-24

Achievement of expected levels varies by deprivation. In Aberdeen City in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%. As an example, the chart below shows the percentage of Primary 1 pupils achieving Early level in each of the five areas .



Source: Scottish Government: Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels, 2023-24

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Literacy and Numeracy: In 2023/24, 84% of school leavers achieved literacy and numeracy at level 4 or better (compared to 87% in 2022/23) and 65% achieved literacy and numeracy at level 5 or better (compared to 62% in 2022/23) . In 2023/24, 66% of pupils gained 5+ awards at level 5 – up from 63% in 2022/23 .

Vocational and technical qualifications: Information is also available on the number of secondary and special school leavers attaining vocational and technical ('skills-based') qualifications and awards at Scottish Credit and Qualifications (SCQF) levels. In 2023-24, 41% of leavers achieved 1+ qualification at level 4 or better and 37% achieved 1+ qualification at level 5 or better. This is slightly higher than the respective rates for Scotland of 40.6% and 35% respectively and higher than the rates for 2022-23 of 34% and 31% respectively .

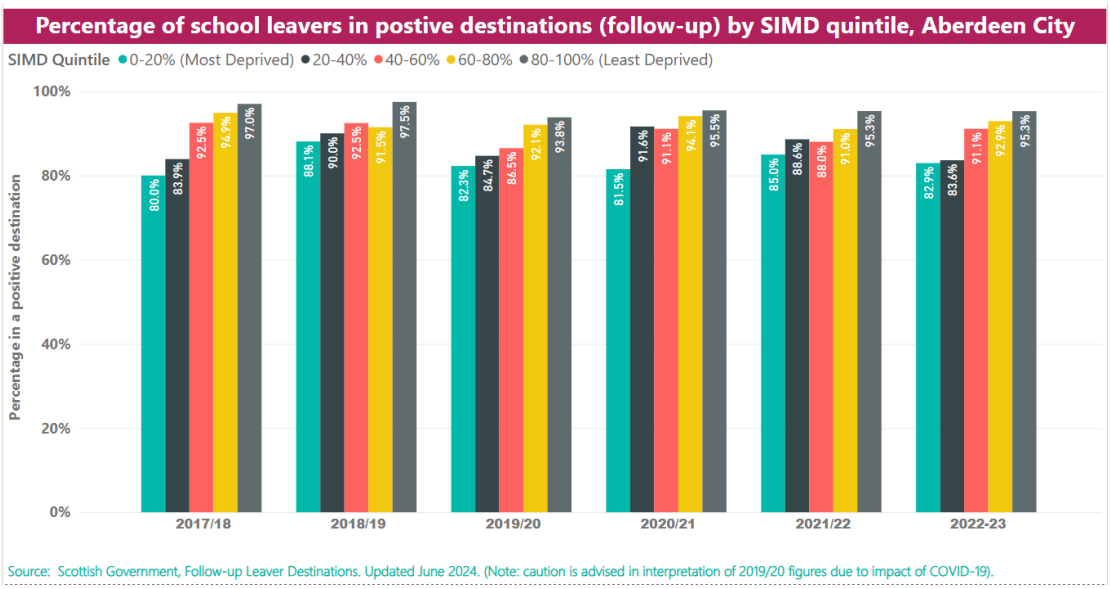
Overall average total tariff : In 2023-24 the overall average total tariff for Aberdeen City was 893 which is slightly higher than the score for 2022-23 of 882 but lower than the score for Scotland of 918 and family group average of 1,058. The average total tariff varied by deprivation, being lowest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 481 and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 1,198 .

Positive initial destinations: In 2023/24, 93.6% of school leavers had an positive initial destination, the same as the rate for 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 95.7%. The equivalent rate for school leavers with additional support needs was lower at 89.4%, down slightly from 91.6% in 2022/23 .

Follow-up destinations for school leavers are for outcomes approximately 9 months after the end of the school year. In 2022/23, 90.1% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, down slightly from 90.8% in 2021/22 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 92.8%. The most common destinations were higher education (40.8% of school leavers), further education (24.2%) and employment (23%) .

The percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination varied by deprivation (based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) with 82.9% of school leavers in the most

deprived quintile having a positive destination compared to 95.3% of those in the least deprived quintile .



Participation in Education Employment or Training: The Skills Development Scotland Participation measure provides information on the current position of all children and young people between the age of 16 to 19 years, where they remain in school or have since left. In 2024, 90.1% of 16-19 year olds were participating in education, employment or training – similar to 90.2% in 2022/23 .

Participation of Disabled Young People: In 2024, 86.8% of those identified as disabled were participating in education, employment or training – down from 89.4% in 2023. The participation rate for those identified as disabled is lower than participation among non-disabled young people who in 2024 had 90.3% participation rates .

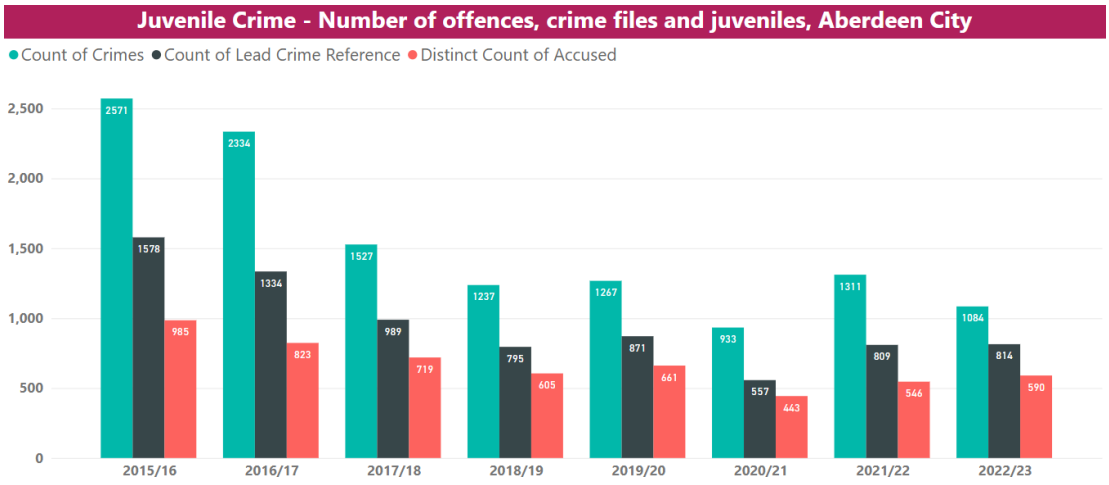
Participation levels in the 20% Most Deprived Communities: In 2024, participation rates were lower for those in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) than for those in the 20% least deprived areas (95.9%) .

Foundation apprenticeships (FAs): The most recent data was published in March 2023. At that date, six cohorts of pupils had participated in FAs (SCQF L6). In 2021/23 there were 117 enrolments for Cohort 6 and there were 15 FAs in training, down from 112 in the previous period .

3.2.4. Juvenile crime

Juvenile crime: In 2022/23, 590 young people (under 18 years) were identified as an accused – up from 546 in 2021/22. In the same period, the total number of Crimes decreased from 1,311 to 1,084 and the number of Lead Crime Reports increased from 809 to 814. Individuals aged 17 years have committed most offences each year for the last four years. Prior to this, in 2018/19, more offences were committed by 15 year olds

and 16 year olds. Most (71.5%) individuals identified as accused were male. In 2022/23 the most common crime group was Miscellaneous Offences, followed by Dishonesty .



Source: Police Scotland, Comparative Report on Juvenile Offenders, Aberdeen City Local Authority Area. Updated October 2024. Note: Data for previous years was revised in the 2022/23 report and may be different to that previously published.

Anti-social behaviour: In 2024, a total of 3,303 Youth Anti-social Behaviour calls were reported to the Police – down from 3,470 in 2023 .

Referred to Children's Reporter on offence grounds: in 2023/24 there were 253 young people referred to the Children's Reporter, with 121 being referred on offence grounds – up from 112 in 2022/23. In 2023/24, 85 young people were jointly reported to the Children's Reporter and the Procurator Fiscal, up from 69 in 2022/23 .

Diversion from prosecution: In 2023/24, 52 16-17 year-olds were diverted from prosecution – up from 47 in 2022/23 .

Justice Social Work Reports for 16-17 year olds: In 2023/24 there were 12 Justice Social Work reports submitted for 16-17 year olds in Aberdeen City, down from 13 in 2022/23 .

Emerging priorities

Giving children the best start in life is a "given" priority for ongoing action. However, based on these data, the levels of variation, often associated with deprivation across the city, requires closer consideration:

- Ensuring maternal health is an important first step in promoting infant health, across the city there is evidence for clear variation in maternal and infant health associated with deprivation in relation to smoking in pregnancy, maternal, obesity, and breastfeeding. Ensuring that current and new work in each of these areas will be effective in reducing these local inequalities remains a priority.
- The increasing rate of infant deaths in Aberdeen City requires further consideration. The most recent rate of 4.2/1000 livebirths in 2019-2023 may be lower than the

Scottish rate (3.5/1000 livebirths), but it is an increase over the rate of 2.5/1000 livebirth reported for 2016-2020.

- Ensuring we reach childhood immunisation targets and we deliver developmental checks remain important. For example, the proportion of children with one or more developmental concern varies from 1% to 18%.
- The data suggest that childhood obesity across the city is returning to pre-COVID levels. However, across the city there is clear variation in the proportion of children described as having a "healthy weight" associated with deprivation that must be addressed. Such variation is also seen in relation to the oral health of the city's children.
- Across the city, the data suggest that levels of smoking, alcohol use, and drug use in school children are low. This needs to be maintained.
- Levels of mental health and wellbeing in children remain an area that requires a continued focus with 1 in 5 P6 & P7 and 1 in 3 S1-6 children being assessed as experiencing low mood. Also of concern is the increase in the suicide rate amongst young people aged 11 to 15 years which has increase from 6.2/100,000 population in 2016-20 to 8.2/100,000 for 2018-2022.

4. Economic Stability

A healthy economy is an inextricable link to a healthy population. It is clear that the ways in which economic circumstances affect people can both enhance or reduce their health and well-being. Simply put, people who experience economic inequalities have poorer health and well-being. People who are economically secure have better health and wellbeing.

4.1. Create fair employment and good work for all

4.1.1. Economy

During the 2010s, the region embarked on economic diversification, actively seeking and attracting investments in other industries such as renewable energy, food and drink, and life sciences. The 2020s mark a period of growth and diversification for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire's regional economy. Positioned favourably for the transition to a low-carbon economy, the region boasts numerous innovative businesses in the renewable energy sector.

Recent economic indicators for Scotland paint a complex picture. In 2024, Scotland's economy is estimated to have grown by 1.1% compared to 2023, with the UK GDP growing by 0.9% over the same period. The entire UK faced significant inflationary pressures due to high energy prices and supply chain disruptions, resulting in an inflation rate exceeding 10% in the spring of 2023. Consequently, concerns have arisen about the cost of living across the UK. Projections suggest a real earnings drop of 1.5% across Scotland for the year 2023-24. Aberdeen, was particularly negatively impacted, with average earnings in 2024 only growing by 3% in real terms, slower than the rates in Scotland (4.3%) and the UK (3.6%). However, despite these challenges, average earnings in Aberdeen still outpace the Scottish and UK averages. Looking ahead, Skills Development Scotland forecasts that Aberdeen's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow at an average rate of 0.5% between 2022 and 2025, in contrast to the broader Scottish average growth rate of 1.2%.

Gross Value Added (GVA): In 2022 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a Gross Value Added per head of £36,748 (constant prices) showing an increase from 2021 (£32,826) and the 2020 low of £31,405. Gross Value Added per head in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire peaked in 2014 at £37,711.

The gap between the wealth of the North East region and both Scotland and the UK has been progressively narrowing since 2015. In 2015, the Gross Value Added per head in the North East was more than 30% higher than the Scottish and UK average. In 2022 Gross Value Added per head in the North East was 17% higher than Scottish average and 10% higher compared to the UK average.

Growth sector enterprises: Scotland's Economic Strategy recognises the importance of key industries in the continued growth of the country. The Strategy has identified six sectors where Scotland has a distinct comparative advantage – Food and Drink (including fisheries and agriculture), Creative Industries (including digital), Sustainable Tourism, Energy (including renewables), Financial and Business Services, and Life Sciences. In 2024 there were 3,710 growth sector enterprises in Aberdeen City with 45.9% being financial and business services. Since 2019 the number of growth sector enterprises has decreased by 1,150 (23.7%). In 2023, total employment in growth sector enterprises was 55,170 – the same as in 2022 and up from 53,630 in 2021. This is lower than the 2019 figure of 60,890 .

Oil and Gas: In the North East of Scotland, the oil and gas industry has been at the core of the region's economy for over five decades, contributing to the region's prosperity and higher average earnings compared to other parts of the UK. However, in the North East, direct employment in the sector declined from its peak of 30,600 in 2015 to 22,000 in 2022. 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. The Energy Transition Zone (ETZ), the largest dedicated energy transition complex in Scotland, has been allocated £53 million by the UK and Scottish Governments to facilitate the shift from oil and gas jobs to green energy. With over 90% of the UK's oil and gas workforce equipped with medium to high skills transferability, the North East emerges as a key energy transition region, well-positioned to adapt to adjacent energy sectors. As the region moves towards renewable energy and the growth of non-energy sectors, the emphasis on diversification aims to pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable economic future.

Tourism: In Aberdeen City, the tourism sector has witnessed a revival, with positive trends indicating significant growth. The city welcomed an estimated 190,000 international visitors in 2023, with over 1,300,000 nights spent—a record high since 2018. This increase in tourism led to an impressive expenditure of £134 million by international visitors, setting a new record and resulting in an average spend of £838 per visit . Additionally a report from Global Tourism Solutions shows the region attracted more than three million staying visitors in 2023, up 32.7% on 2022. In 2025, Aberdeen is expecting a surge in cruise tourism, with around 40,000 guests visiting the city between April and September due to an increase in cruise calls, with the Port of Aberdeen hosting 63 cruise calls during the season, a nearly 30% increase compared to previous years.

Air passengers: In 2024 there were 2.3 million terminal passengers through Aberdeen Airport. This is up from 2.23 million in 2023 and 1.96 million in 2022, but lower than the 2.91 million passengers in 2019 .

Rail passengers: In 2023-24 there were 2,287,858 entries and exits at Aberdeen train station. This is down from 2,497,108 in 2019-20 (numbers dropped to 393,982 during 2020-21), but higher than 2022-23 figure of 1,961,414.

Despite facing challenges during the pandemic, including revenue drops of 60% to 80% for hotels reliant on business or corporate trade, the resilience and promising recovery of

Aberdeen's tourism sector indicate a bright outlook for the city's economic growth and continued appeal as a vibrant destination.

4.1.2. Businesses

Business Outlook: The North East of Scotland stands as a thriving hub for business activity, boasting over 20% of Scotland's leading businesses. The North East of Scotland has over 21,500 businesses in 2023, although this number has been decreasing in recent year from a high of over 24,500 in 2015, but the region still has large companies including FirstGroup, Abrdn, Karro Food, Balmoral Group, Chivas Brothers, Enquest, and Wood, that have their headquarters or host major operations in the area. Aberdeen City showcases its commitment to innovation, with business expenditure on research and development more than double the Scottish average. The region consistently ranks among the top 10 in the UK for foreign direct investment, while also leading Scotland in patent applications per capita since 2015. Furthermore, North East Scotland's international exports per head are more than double the national average, representing 23% of Scotland's total international exports. Emphasising its dedication to advancing renewable energy, the University of Aberdeen is an integral part of the National Decommissioning Centre partnership for the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, a significant Innovate UK initiative. However, the latest Fraser of Allander Scottish Business Monitor report (Q4 2024) reveals that business sentiment has dropped to its lowest level out with the pandemic, reflecting the uncertainty across the UK at the moment.

Rateable Value Change: As of April 2023, Aberdeen was one of the biggest beneficiaries of the revaluation with the city's total rates bill down by 17%. Aberdeen had been experienced big increases in the 2017 revaluation, which reflected buoyant local economic conditions in the 2015 tone date. Business rate bills for Aberdeen shops fell by 19% and Aberdeen's hotels saw valuations fall by 20%. The next revaluation date is April 2026, with the rates being set based on market conditions in April 1st 2025.

As of April 2023, every empty unit on Union Street saw a reduction in its rateable value, at an average of a 26% drop, increasing their appeal to prospective tenants.

Businesses: In 2024 there were 7,860 enterprises and 10,455 local units in Aberdeen City [5]. This is up from 7,705 enterprises and 10,300 local units in 2023. In 2024, most enerprises (85.1%) were classified as Micro (employing up to 9 people), 11.3% were small (10 to 49 people), 2.% were medium (50 to 249 people) and 0.7% were large (employing over 250 people) .

Business births and deaths: In 2023 there were 875 new businesses in Aberdeen City – down slightly increase from 895 in 2022. Between 2015 and 2019, the number of business births each year was broadly stable (between 1065 and 1100) before dropping in 2020 to 830 and staying between 860 and 895 in the three years since. In 2023 there were 920 business deaths – lower than 1,200 in 2022. One-year survival rates of 2022 business

[5] An enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records) which has a certain degree of autonomy within an Enterprise Group. An individual site (for example a factory or a shop) in an enterprise is called a local unit.

births was 89.4% in Aberdeen compared to 92.5% in Scotland. Five-year survival rates of 2018 business births was 39.7% in Aberdeen compared to 39.8% in Scotland .

Business Gateway start-ups: In 2023-24 there were 389 Business Gateway Start-ups – down from 411 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 17.1 per 10,000 population – higher than the rate for Scotland of 13.6 per 10,000 population .

4.1.3. Labour market

Labour Market Outlook: The labour market in Aberdeen has witnessed both challenges and positive developments in recent times. In 2022, the employment rate fell to 71.2%, marking its lowest level since 2016, while Economic Inactivity reached a record high of 24.9%. Both have since recovered, with employment hitting 77.4% in 2024 and economic inactivity reaching 18.8% both of which outperform against the Scottish and UK averages. One particularly affected group has been young people, with the youth employment rate (age 16-24) falling by over 40 percentage points to just above 30% during the pandemic, although it has since recovered to over 50%. Prior to the pandemic, Aberdeen's youth employment rate stood among the highest rates of all local authorities in Scotland, at over 70%. Younger workers, who are over-represented in industries severely affected by lockdown restrictions, such as retail and hospitality, experienced significant disadvantage. Despite these challenges, North East Scotland enjoys one of the highest densities of private sector employment in all of Scotland. Throughout the pandemic, Aberdeen experienced a slower recovery in job postings compared to other major cities and the overall Scottish average. However, since August 2022, Aberdeen has surpassed its pre-pandemic level of job postings, reaching a recent high in June 2023. The region's recovery efforts and vibrant private sector offer potential for continued growth and resilience.

Employment and employment sectors: In 2023, there were an estimated 159,000 jobs in Aberdeen City (up from 158,000 in 2022) of which 109,000 (68.6%) were full time and 50,000 (31.4%) were part-time. The most common sectors/industries were Human Health and Social Work Activities (17.6 % of jobs), Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (12.6%), Mining and Quarrying (12.6%) and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (10.7%) .

Employment by occupation: In the year January 2024-December 2024, almost a third (32.7%) of those in employment in Aberdeen City were in Professional Occupations compared to 25.2% in Scotland. Associate Professional and Technical Occupations was the next largest group in Aberdeen at 11.8% compared to 14.5% in Scotland. The proportion of those in Elementary Occupations was 8.5% compared to 9.6% in Scotland.
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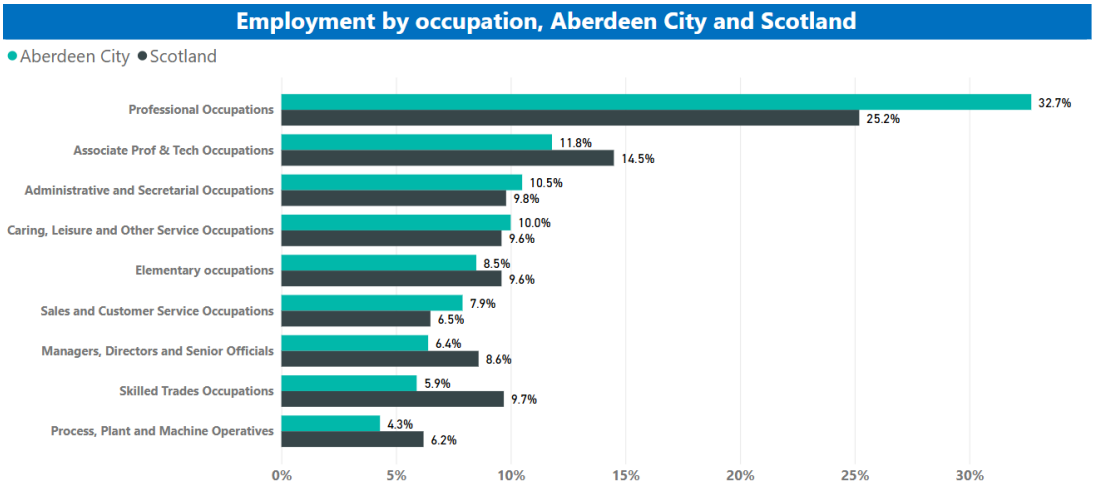
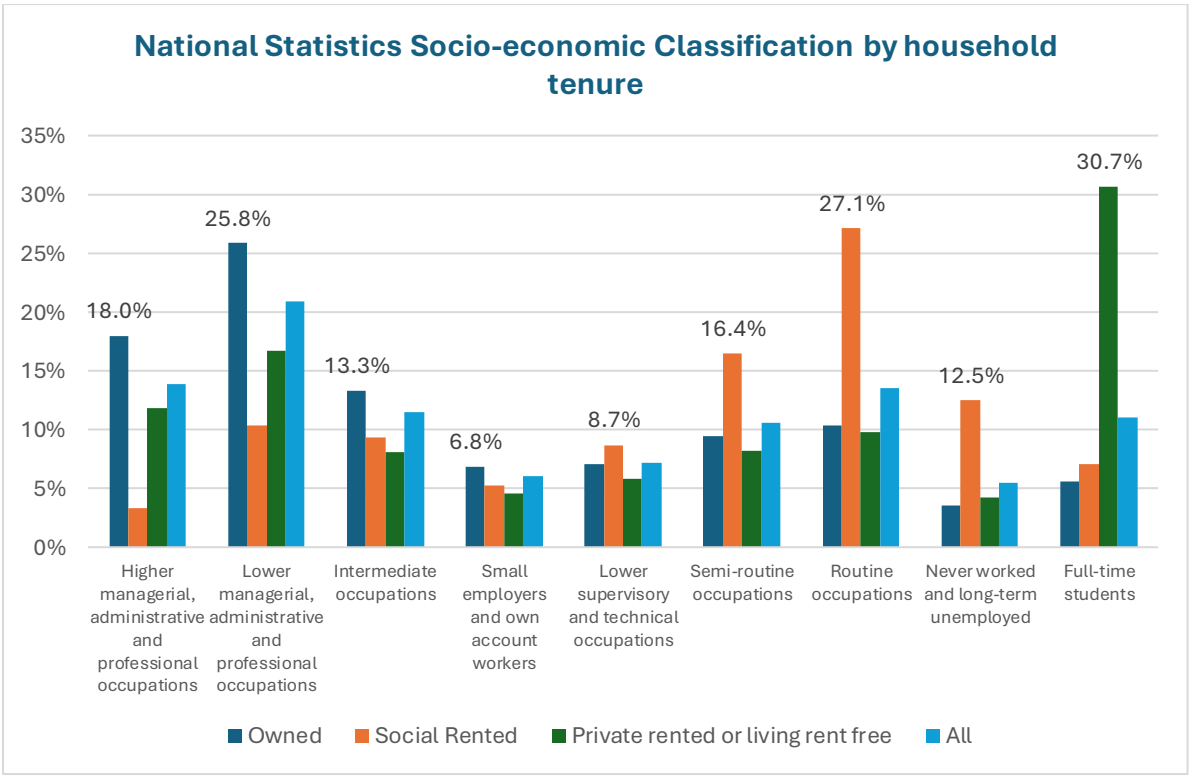


Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated April 2025. (Percentage is a proportion of all persons in employment. Note: 0% indicates sample too small for a reliable estimate.)

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC): The NS-SeC is an occupational classification system that provides an indication of socio-economic position based on occupation. Based on Census data, the most common National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (10 groups) for people (16+ years) in Aberdeen City was Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations (20.9% of people aged 16+ years). The proportion of people (16+ years) in each of the classifications varied by household tenure. The chart below shows the proportion of people from each household tenure type in each of the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification groups (percentage figures are given for the highest percentage in each classification).



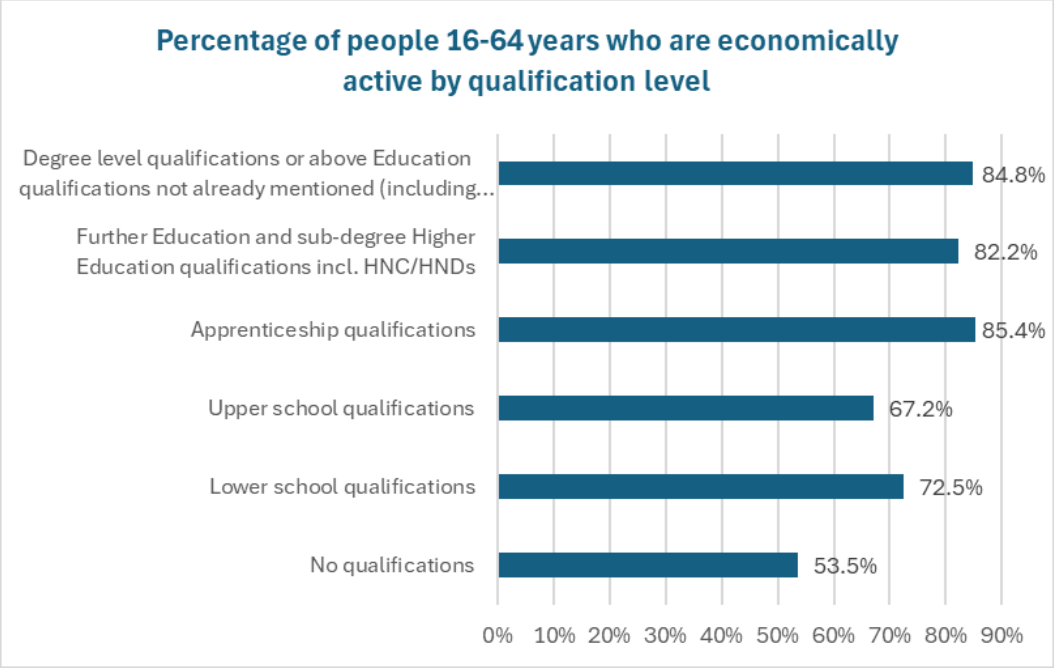
Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

Economic activity[6]**:** In the year from January 2024-December 2024, 78.4% of Aberdeen's working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active, higher than the rate for Scotland of 77% but lower than the rate of 81.2% in October 2023-September 2024. A higher proportion of males (81.7%) than females (75.4%) were economically active. The proportion of males and females who are economically active is higher in Aberdeen than in Scotland at 80% for males and 74.1% for females in Scotland.

Economic inactivity: In the year from January 2024-December 2024, 21.6% of Aberdeen's working age population were economically inactive compared to 23% in Scotland and up from 18.8% in the period October 2023-September 2024. Of of those who were economically inactive, 38.1% were students, 16.5% were looking after family/home, 15.9% were long-term sick, and 11.7% were retired. Most (86.6%) of those who were economically inactive did not want a job. The economic inactivity rate for ethnic minorities (16-64 years) was higher than the overall rate at 28.5% .

Economic activity Census data: Information on economic activity is also available from the Census. In 2022, 77.7% of people aged 16-64 were economically active in Aberdeen City. Rates of people who were **economically active** varied by age group, being highest in the 25-34 year (86.7%) and 35-49 year (86.2%) age groups. In the 50-64 year age group, 72.1% were economically active. The rate was lowest in the 16-24 year age group where 62.3% were economically active.

Based on Census data, economic activity also varied by qualification level, with a larger proportion of those with higher levels of qualifications being economically active compared to those with lower qualifications or no qualifications.

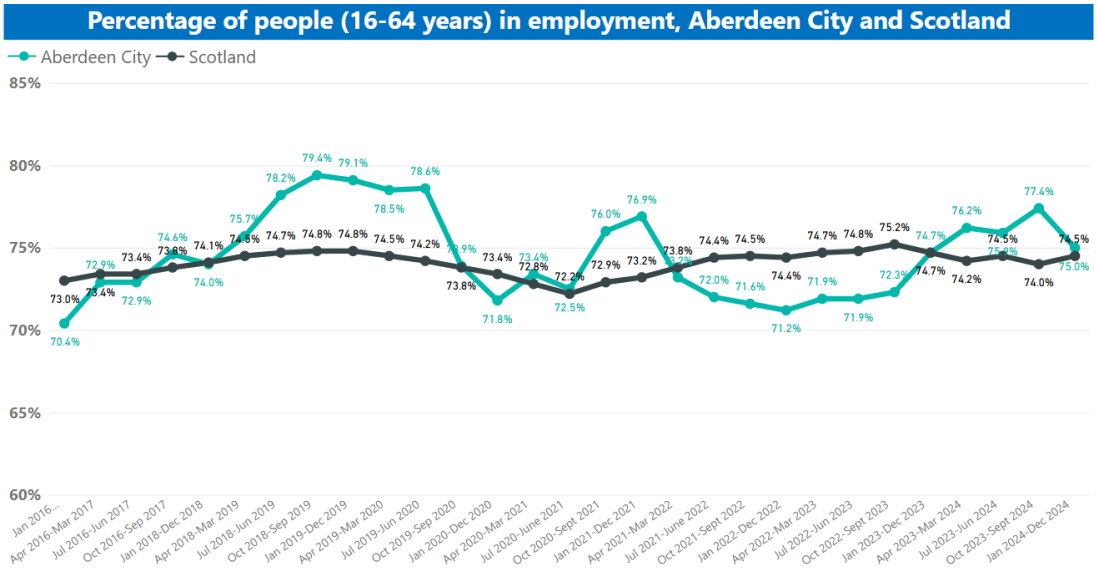


Source: Scotland's Census 2022

[6] Economically active refers to people who are either in employment or unemployed. Economically inactive refers to people who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who are looking after a home or retired.

The Census also allows us to explore economic activity by some health-related indicators. The overall rate for **economic inactivity** for people aged 16-64 years was 22.3%. For those who reported having a long-term illness that limited their activities (either a little or a lot) the rate was 48.3% compared to 17.2% for those who did not report having a long-term limiting illness .

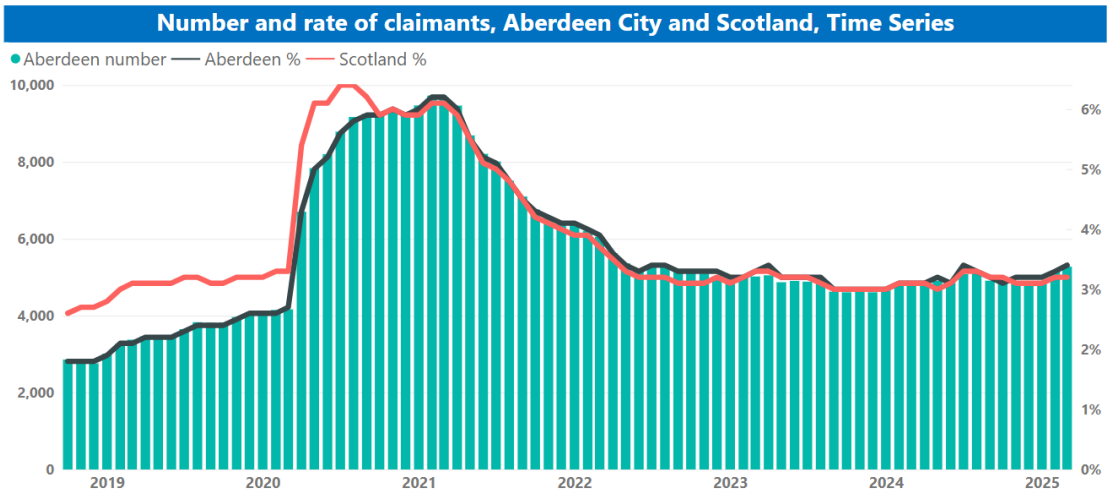
Employment rate: In the same period (January 2024-December 2024), 75% of Aberdeen City's working age population were in employment compared to 74.5% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate for October 2023-September 2024 which at 77.4% was the highest rate since July 2019-June 2020 when it was 78.6%. A higher proportion of males (77.8%) than females (72.7%) were in employment. These rates were slightly higher than the respective rates for Scotland of 77% and 72.1%. At 65.2%, the employment rate for ethnic minorities was lower than the overall rate. This is slightly higher than the corresponding rate for Scotland of 64.9% and higher than the rate for the previous period (October 2023-September 2024) of 63.7%



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated April 2025.

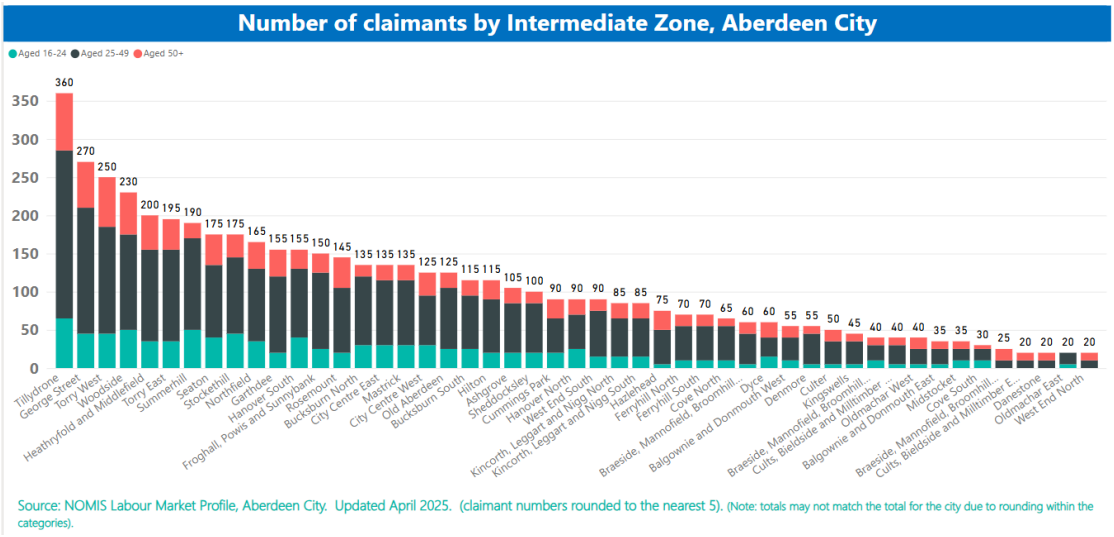
Claimant count[7]**:** In March 2025 there were 5,275 claimants in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 3.4% compared to 3.2% in Scotland. More claimants in Aberdeen City were male (3,115) than female (2,165) and most (3,155) were aged 25-49 years. 985 claimants were aged 16-24 years and 1,35 claimants were aged 50+ years .

[7] Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed.



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated April 2025.

The number of claimants varies across the City (Intermediate Zones), being highest in Tillydrone (360 claimants) and lowest in West End North (20 claimants) .



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated April 2025. (claimant numbers rounded to the nearest 5). (Note: totals may not match the total for the city due to rounding within the categories).

Unemployment (model-based): In the year from January 2024-December 2024, the (model-based) unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 3.7% - higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.2% but lower than the rate for the same period last year of 4.3% .

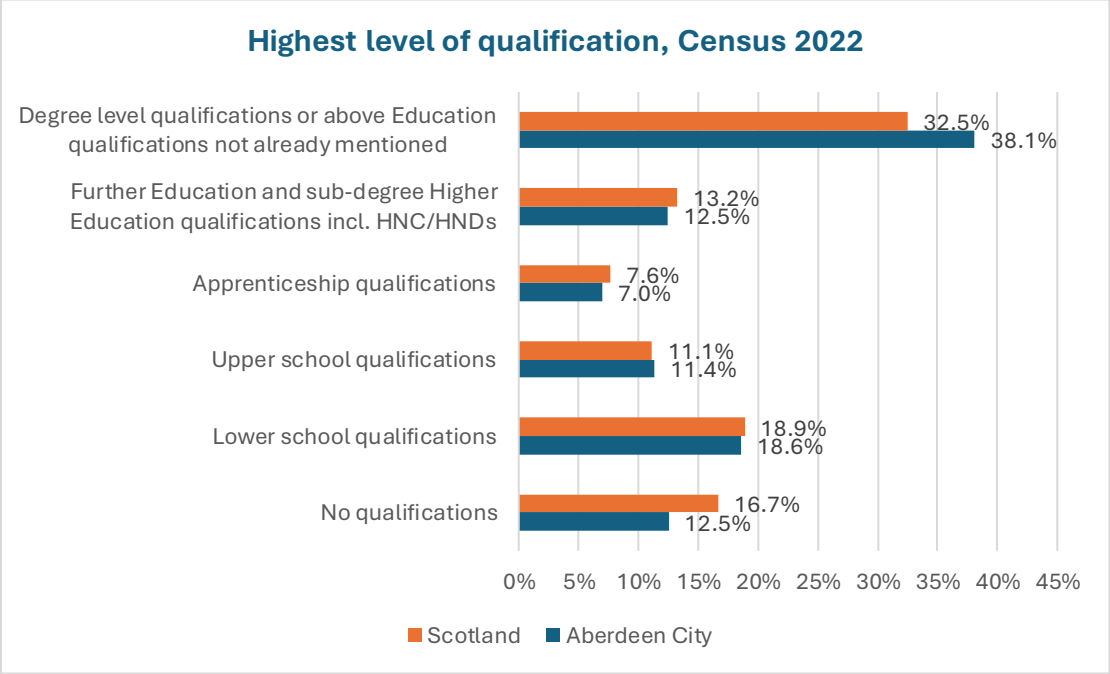
Employability pipeline: In 2023-24 there were 477 unemployed people assisted into work from council employability programmes – up from 430 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to to a rate of 8.2% (of the number of unemployed people based on the model-based unemployment count) compared to a rate of 12.1% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate of 9.3% in 2022-23 .

Workless households: In January to December 2023 there were an estimated 13,700 workless households (i.e. households where no-one aged 16 years or over is in employment) in Aberdeen City – an decrease from 15,200 in 2022. This is equivalent to 16.2% of all households compared to 17.4% in Scotland. In Scotland (no data available for Aberdeen City), it is estimated that 10.7% of children are in workless households .

Job density: In 2022 there were an estimated 172,000 jobs in the City – equivalent to 1.11 jobs per person aged 16-64 years (compared to 0.81 for Scotland) .

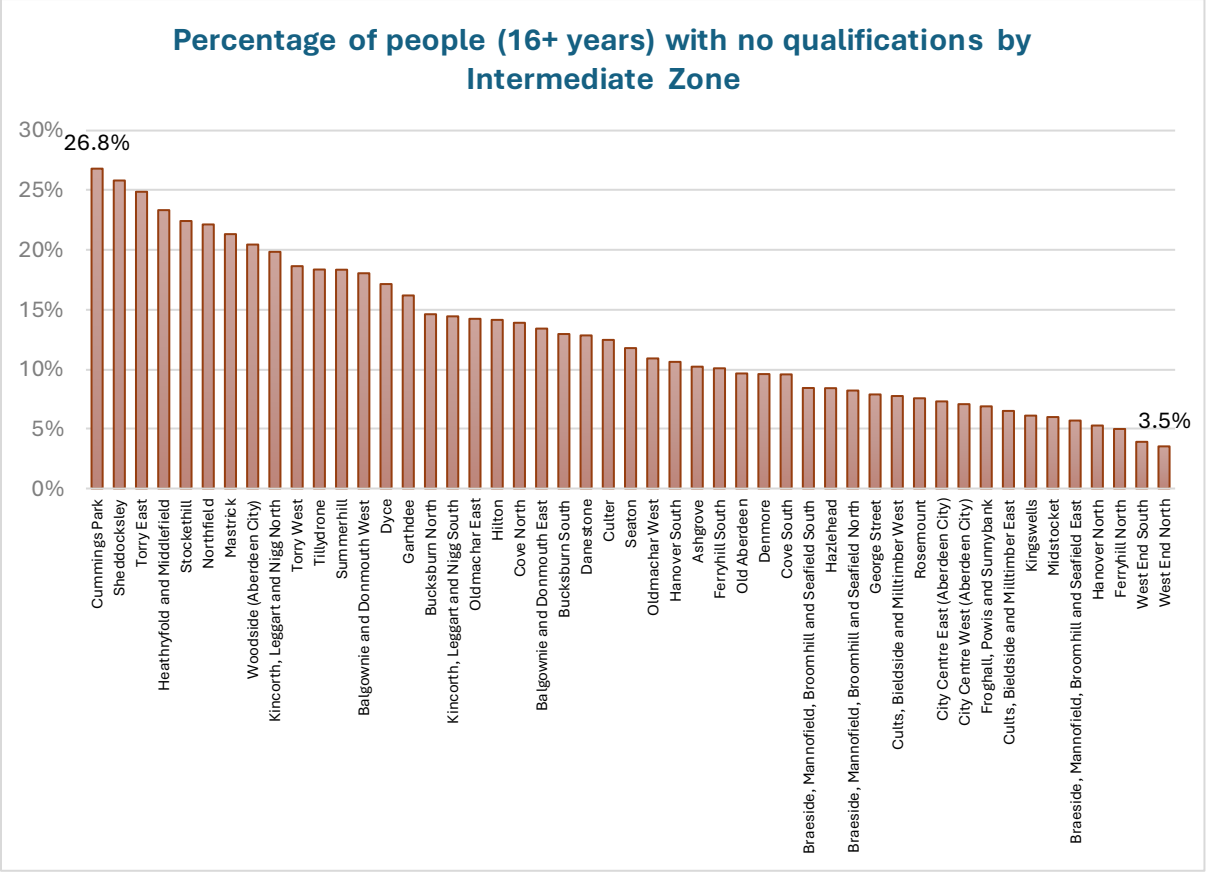
Qualifications: In January to December 2024, compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City had a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to Registered Qualifications Framework (RQF) 4 and above (63.6% in Aberdeen and 54.5% in Scotland). (Registered Qualifications Framework 4 and above being HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent) .

Highest qualification Census 2022: Data on the highest level of qualification is available from the Census and similarly shows that a higher proportion of people (16+ years) are qualified to degree level or above in Aberdeen City (38.1%) than in Scotland (32.5%) with the proportion of people with no qualifications being lower in Aberdeen City (12.5%) than in Scotland (16.7%). Proportions with other levels of qualifications were broadly similar in Aberdeen and Scotland .



Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

Highest qualification by Intermediate Zone Census 2022: Qualification levels varied across the City (Intermediate Zones). For example, the percentage of those (16+ years) qualified to a degree level or above ranged from a low of 15.9% in Sheddocksley to a high of 66.9% in West End North. Conversley, the proportion of adults with no qualifications ranged from a high of 26.8% in Cummings Park to a low of 3.5% in West End North. The chart below shows the percentage of people (16+ years) with no qualifications by Intermediate Zone .



Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

Modern appenticeships: In 2023-24, there were 746 starts, up from 700 in 2022-23 . In 2024-25 Q3, there were 1,254 Modern Apprenticeships currently in training (compared to 1,072 in 2023-24 Q3). The percentage of leavers successfully achieving a Modern Apprenticeship increased from 73.9% in 2023-24 Q3 to 75.8% in 2024-25 Q3 .

Graduate apprenticeships: In 2021-22, 60 people in Aberdeen City enrolled in a Graduate Apprenticeship – up from 49 in 2020-21 .

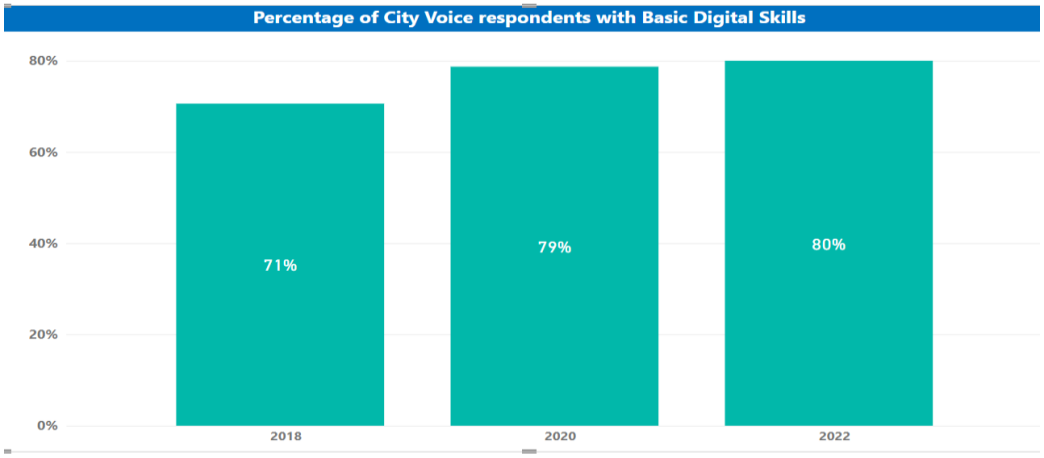
Digital skills: The digital technology sector is growing rapidly and is a key contributor to economic growth – creating an unprecedented demand for skills with employers across all sectors. Skills Development Scotland reports than annual vacancies in ICT in Scotland are projected to average 15,600 per annum, a 20% increase on previous estimates, and that employers report that they find it difficult to recruit employees with the right technical skills or experience .

In Scotland, between 2008 and 2018, the number of teachers whose main subject is Computing Science fell by almost 23%. Similarly, data from the SQA Annual Statistics Report shows that between 2017-21, National 5 participation in Computing Science fell by 15%. Participation in Higher Computing Science fell by 24% over the same period. Most of the pupils who take Computing Science are males. By the time pupils take the Higher Computing Science qualification, only 17% of them are female on average; an imbalance that continues as they move on through university and into industry . In Scotland, 79% of those undertaking Computing Science courses were males and in 2017, only 23% of digital technology roles were held by women .

According to the Department for Digital, Culture and Sport, in 2021 half (48%) of businesses were recruiting for roles that required data skills. The most common type of data role sought by businesses was a data analyst (12%). One in ten (10%) were recruiting for a Head of Data, with similar proportions recruiting for a Data Manager (9%), a Chief Technology Officer (8%) and a Data Protection Officer (8%). The need for data skills is not confined to people in specialist data roles; virtually all white-collar workers increasingly need to have a basic understanding of data. As mentioned in the Analytic Britain report, "The data revolution has implications...for the entire workforce. We all need to become more data literate to operate successfully in increasingly 'data-rich' environments" .

Digital technologies are also part of daily life for most people. Reliance on digital technologies became even more apparent during the pandemic – working from home, connecting with friends and family, and undertaking basic everyday tasks such as shopping and banking. Based on results from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 91% of households in Aberdeen City had home internet access.

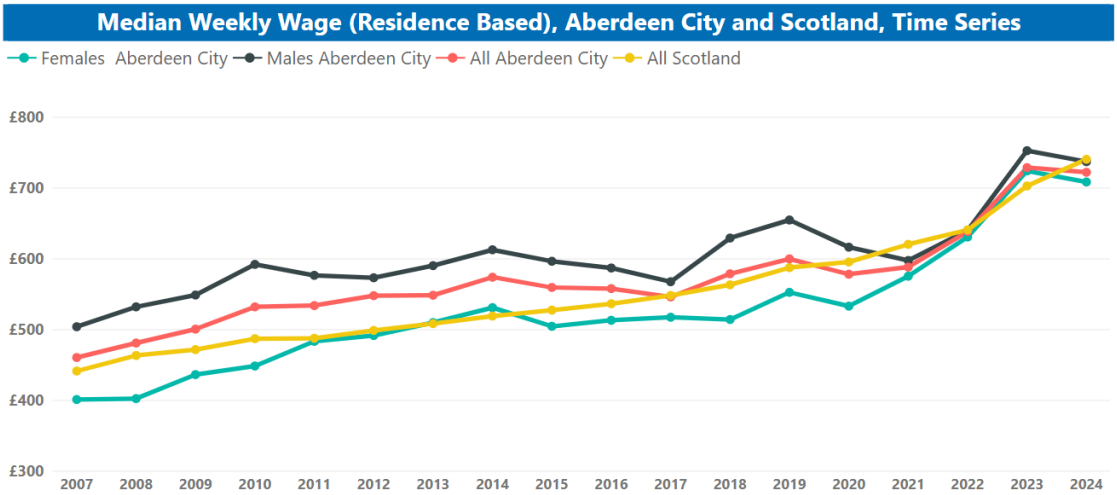
A series of questions relating to digital technology have been asked in the City Voice survey. In December 2022 (City Voice 46), when asked about access to digital tools, 79% of City Voice respondents reported having access to a laptop or PC, 88% to a smart phone and 68% to a tablet. Overall, 96% of respondents reported having access to at least one of these devices. This is an increase from 2018 when 90% of respondents reported having access to at least one device, with the largest increase being in access to smartphones (increase from 71% in 2018 to 88% in 2022). 91.4% of respondents reported having household access to internet at home (similar to the findings from the Scottish Household Survey for 2023). City Voice respondents were also asked a series of questions about their ability to perform digital tasks. Based on responses, 80% of respondents were identified as having 'basic digital skills' – an increase from 71% in 2018 .



Source: City Voice, percentage of respondents who answered 'I can do this' to each of the foundation skills. (Note: the questions asked in 2018 were slightly different to those asked in subsequent years so results are not directly comparable.) Updated January 2023.

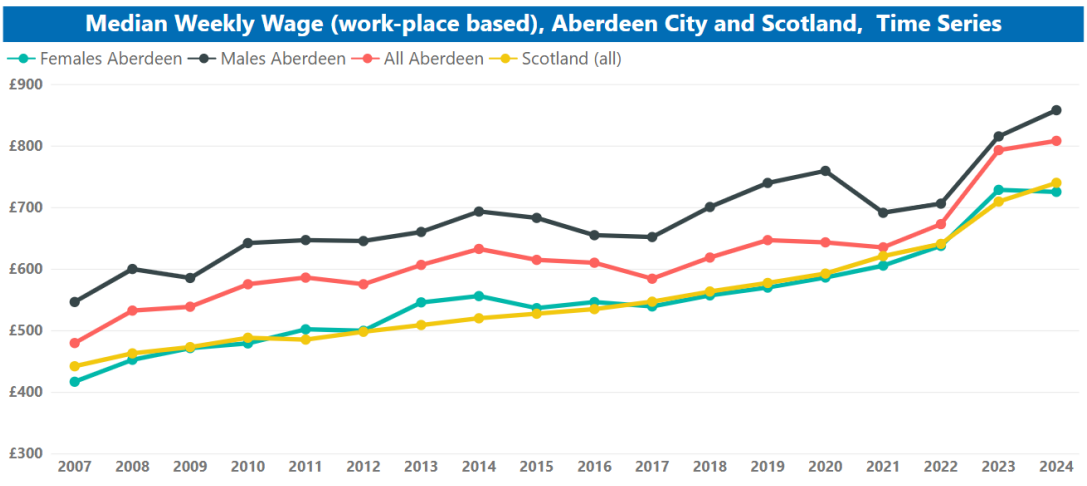
4.1.4. Earnings

Average weekly wage by place of residence: In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers **living** in Aberdeen City was £721.70 – lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £740.00. As in Scotland, the median weekly pay was higher for males (£736.70) than for females (£708.00). The gap between male and female wages has closed somewhat in recent years – in 2019 the difference in average weekly wage between males and females living in Aberdeen City was £102.20 compared to £28.70 in 2024. While male full-time workers living in Aberdeen City earned less than those in Scotland (£767.70), female full-time workers earned more (£701 in Scotland). The average weekly wage increased between 2020 and 2023, before dropping slightly in 2024 .



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated December 2024.

Average weekly wage by place of work: In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers **working** in Aberdeen City was £807.90 – higher than the equivalent for Scotland of £739.70. As in Scotland, the median weekly pay was higher for males (£857.70) than for females (£725.00) – a difference of £132.70 (down from £170 in 2019) .



Source: NOMIS Labour Market Profile, Aberdeen City. Updated December 2024.

Living Wage: In 2024 an estimated 10% of employees in Aberdeen City were earning less than the Living Wage compared to 11.4% in Scotland and up from 8.4% in 2023 and 6.9%

in 2022 . In December 2024, there were 110 employers in Aberdeen City who were signed up to the Real Living Wage – up from 100 in January 2024 .

4.2. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all

4.2.1. Poverty

Cost of living crisis overview: While most households in Scotland will be affected by increases in the cost of living, a report by the Scottish Government suggests that low income households are particularly adversely affected with particular groups being most adversely affected. This includes women, disabled people, ethnic minorities, rural households, larger households, young people, students and carers, lone parents and single person households, households in receipt of income related benefits, people narrowly ineligible for benefits and people with no recourse to public funds .

While there has been support for people with the cost of energy, people and families have been affected by the increase in inflation and locally there has been an increase in demand for emergency food provision. Support to mitigate some of the impacts locally has included:

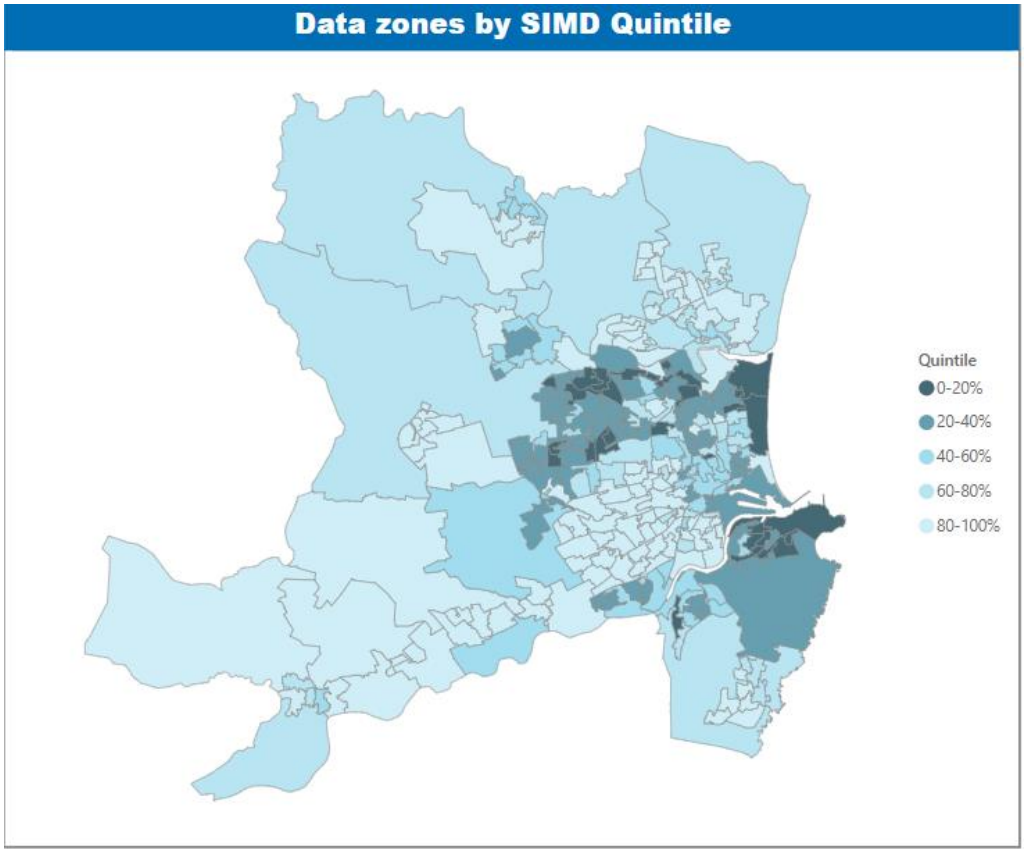
- Increased financial advice provision
- Increased support through Scottish Welfare Fund
- Procurment of suitable food to increase supply of emergency food
- Provision of fuel vouchers
- Provision of Warm Spaces during the winter period to alleviate cost of heating homes

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD): The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation. If an area is identified as 'deprived', this can relate to people having a low income but it can also mean fewer resources or opportunities. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks all data zones in Scotland from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,976).

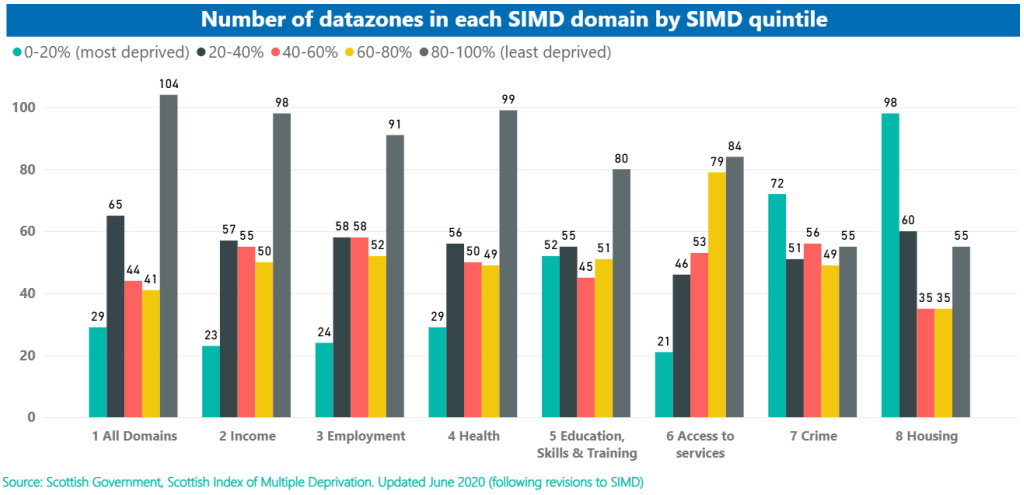
The most recent Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation release was in 2020. Based on overall rankings of deprivation (i.e. All Domains), Aberdeen City's position worsened between 2016 and 2020. The number of datazones in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintile 1) increased from 22 (out of 283) in 2016 to 29 in 2020, and the number of datazones in the 20-40% most deprived areas of Scotland increased from 57 to 65. This means that the proportion of datazones in the 40% most deprived areas of Scotland has increased from 28% to 33.2%. Conversely, while lower than in 2016, Aberdeen City still has a relatively high number of datazones in the 20% least deprived areas of Scotland with 104 (36.7%) datazones in this category . At mid-2022, there were 20,893 people in Aberdeen living in the 20% most deprived areas, of which 3,770 were children . (It should be noted that Scottish Index of Multiple

Deprivation is an area-based measure of relative deprivation - not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived, and not everyone who is deprived lives in a deprived area.)

The map below shows the distribution of datazones by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles based on the overall rankings (all domains) and the chart beneath shows the number of datazones in each quintile for each of the individual domains.



Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020V2



Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Updated June 2020 (following revisions to SIMD)

Relative poverty Scotland: Each year the Scottish Government produces a report on Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland (based on the Family Resources Survey).

In 2021-24 an estimated 20% of people in Scotland were living in relative poverty (below 60% of median income) after housing costs. Before housing costs, an estimated 18% of people were living in poverty. A third of people in poverty live in households that lack high food security. In 2021-24, 61% of working-age adults in relative poverty after housing costs were living in a household where someone was in paid work.

Child poverty in Scotland: In 2021-24 an estimated 23% of children[8] in Scotland (240,000 children each year) were living in relative poverty after housing costs. Before housing costs, it is estimated that 22% of children (220,000 children each year) were in relative poverty. While the poverty risk is lower for children in working households compared to those in non-working households, not all work pays enough to ensure the household is above the poverty threshold. In 2021-24 it is estimated that 75% of children in relative poverty were living in working households . A child poverty summary, based on single year data, is also available. Compared with the previous year's statistics, relative child poverty in 2023-24 reduced from 26% to 22% in Scotland while absolute child poverty fell from 23% to 17% .

Note: The Family Resources Survey provides information only at a national level. This means that alternative data sources used for local child poverty are not directly comparable with official poverty estimates for Scotland.

Child Poverty Aberdeen City: There are two main sources of information on Child Poverty in Aberdeen City. One is the 'Children in Low Income Families' dataset produced by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) which gives the number of children living in low income **before housing** costs. The other is 'Local Child Poverty' statistics produced by End Child Poverty which gives figures on the number and percentage of children living in poverty **after housing costs**. (These are based on the Children in low income families local area statistics produced by the Department of Work and Pensions, but with additional analyses to estimate the effect of housing costs on child poverty in local areas .)

Children in relative low income families: The most recent data is for financial year 2023/24. (Note: Changes to the way these statistics are produced were introduced for 2023/24 [9]. As a result, the back series of figures have been revised so may differ from those previously published.)

Provisional data for 2023/24 estimates that 5,615 children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative low income families[10] - down from the revised figure of 6,163 in 2022/23. In

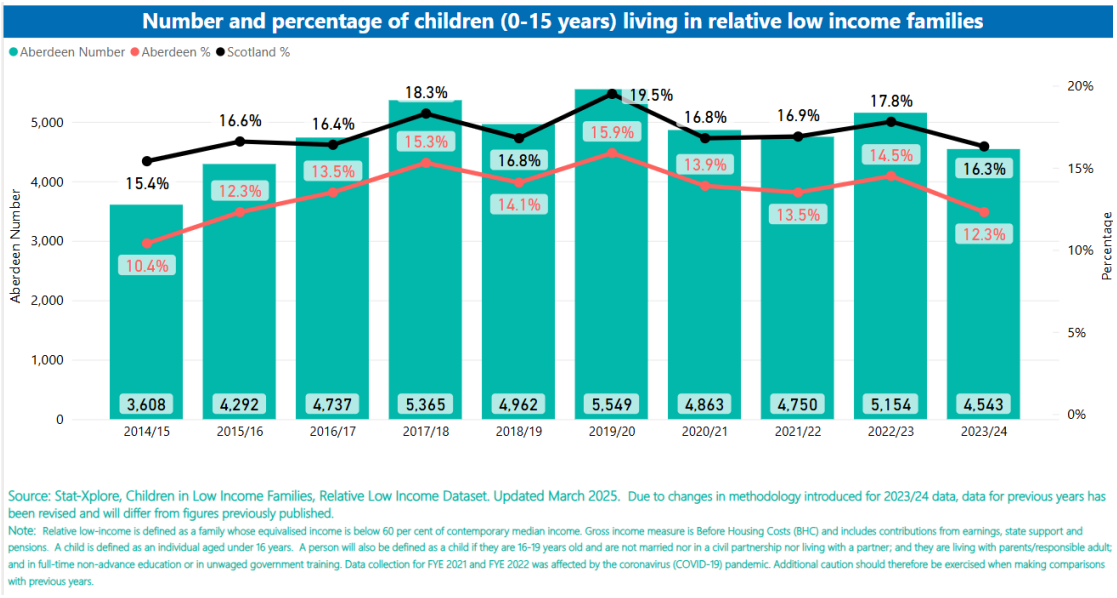
[8] 'Child' refers to a dependent child. A dependent child is a person aged 0-15, or a person aged 16-19 and: not married nor in a Civil Partnership nor living with a partner, and living with their parents, and in full-time non-advance education or in unwaged government training.

[9] Following the successful completion of discovery work and a period of user engagement, this release calibrates figures to HBAI single-year UK estimates (not regional estimates) and imputes receipt of Scottish Child Payments for eligible households so it is included as an income stream. Consequently, there are revisions to the back-series at UK, regional and local area level. Children in low income families: local area statistics - GOV.UK

[10] Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income **before housing costs** (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. A person is defined as a child if they are under 16

2023/24, two thirds (66.7%) of children in relative low income families were in working families and almost a quarter (23.2%) were under 5 years old. Most (58.2%) children living in relative low income families were in lone parent families.

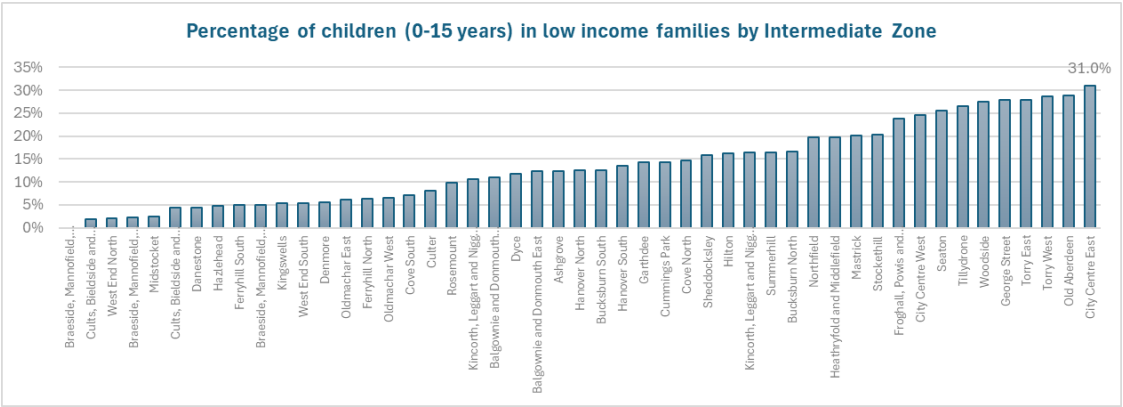
The total for 2023/24 of 5,615 includes 1,071 dependent 16-19 year-olds (see note 9). Overall there were 4,543 children aged 0-15 years in Relative low income families. This is equivalent to 12.3% of the 0-15 years population (down from 14.5% in 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 16.3%) . (Note: it is not possible to get an overall percentage for all children in low income families due to the complexity of identifying 16-19 year-olds defined as child dependents.)



Source: Stat-Xplore, Children in Low Income Families, Relative Low Income Dataset. Updated March 2025. Due to changes in methodology introduced for 2023/24 data, data for previous years has been revised and will differ from figures previously published.

Note: Relative low-income is defined as a family whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of contemporary median income. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions. A child is defined as an individual aged under 16 years. A person will also be defined as a child if they are 16-19 years old and are not married nor in a civil partnership nor living with a partner; and they are living with parents/responsible adult; and in full-time non-advance education or in unwaged government training. Data collection for FYE 2021 and FYE 2022 was affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Additional caution should therefore be exercised when making comparisons with previous years.

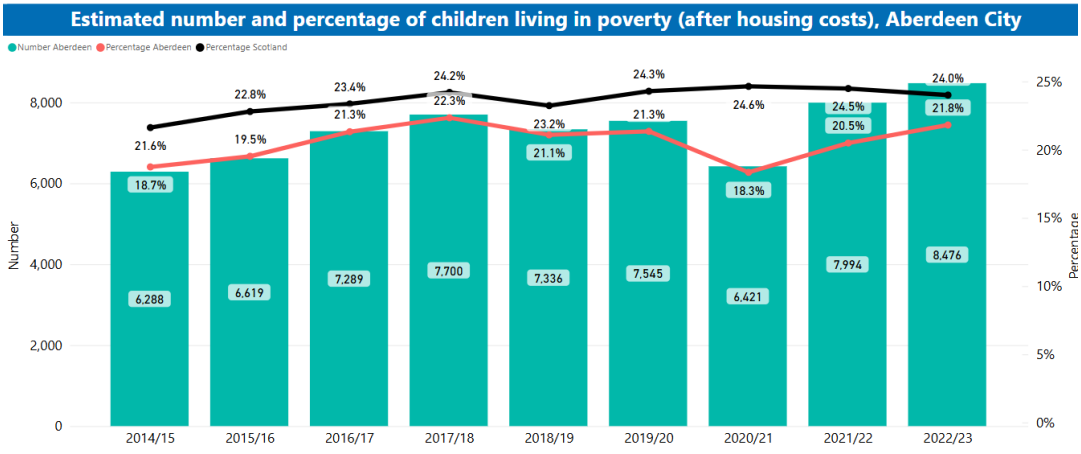
The number of children (0-15 years and dependent 16-19 year-olds) in relative low income families varies across the city (intermediate zones) ranging from a low of 5 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 347 in Tillydrone. The percentage of 0-15 year-olds in low income families ranges from 0% in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield South to 31% in City Centre East.



years old. A person will also be defined as a child if they are 16-19 years old and not married/in a civil partnership nor living with a partner and living with parents/responsible adult and in full-time non-advance education or in unwaged government training.

Absolute low income: Department of Work and Pensions also provide information on the number of children in absolute low income families. Absolute low income is defined as family in low income before housing costs in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. In 2023/24 there were 3,633 children (0-15 years) in absolute low income. This is equivalent to to a rate of 9.8% (down from 11.5% in 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 13.2%) .

Child poverty: These figures come from research published by the End Child Poverty coalition. The most recent data is for 2022/23 (i.e. based on the unrevised Children in Low Income Familes data). End Child Poverty reported that in 2022/23 an estimated 8,476 children (0-15 years or 16-19 and in full-time education) in Aberdeen City were living relative in poverty **after housing costs**. This is equivalent to 21.8% of children compared to 24% for Scotland and 20.5% in 2021/22 .



Source: End Child Poverty, Local Child Poverty Statistics. Updated August 2024. (A child is defined as aged 0-15, or aged 16-19 and in full-time education.) Poverty is defined as being in a household with an income below 60% of the contemporary median income, after housing costs. Note: These statistics are calibrated to regional 2-year average rates from HBAI. Due to sampling issues during 2021/22 related to the Covide-19 pandemic, additional caution may be required in interpreting the statistics for FYE 2021, 2022 and 2023 particularly when making comparisons with previous years.

(Note: Data collection for Financial Year End 2021 and 2022 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is advised that additional caution should therefore be exercised when making comparisons to previous years.)

Gender based poverty: Information the impact of the cost of living is available from the Aberdeen Gender Inequality and Poverty Report produced by the Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) . The report states that "*Issues such as austerity, wage stagnation, rising inflation, and the Covid-19 pandemic, all impact women due to pre-existing structural inequalities. Rising costs have hit individuals on the lowest incomes the hardest. This disproportionately affects women as they are more likely to experience poverty throughout their lifetime with lower levels of savings and wealth in comparison to men as well as being unable to increase paid work due to caring responsibilities. Particular groups of women are hit hardest such as disabled women, ethnic minority households, single parents, survivors of abuse, women with no recourse to public funds, and those with caring responsibilities.*"

As part of the broader research done to inform the report, an online community survey was conducted in November-December 2024. This received 262 responses from across Aberdeen. Of these, 82% were female, 15% were male, 2% were trans or non-binary and 1% preferred not to say. A range of additional demographic information was collected

including: household make-up; employment status; employment sector; household income; age-group; ethnicity; immigration status; recourse to public funds; disability and sexual orientation.

When asked, about a third of respondents stated they were struggling to manage everyday household expenditure. This increased for single parents, disabled, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and single households and decreased for male respondents (the men who took the survey tended to have higher incomes, were more likely to work full time and in the private sector. They were less likely to be disabled and there were no single parents). The tables below give an overview of responses for all respondents and then broken down by household groups.

How are you managing household expenses (responses based on those who have the costs).

Household expense	**Yes, I struggle to manage these costs**	**No, but I have had to make changes to other areas of household spending**	**No, I am able to manage this household cost**
Food (255)	30%	39%	31%
Energy (248)	38%	39%	23%
Housing (229)	31%	36%	33%
Transport (219)	24%	33%	43%
Broadband (237)	23%	32%	45%
Other Household Costs (244)	33%	37%	30%
Childcare (41)	54%	34%	22%

Percentage of men and women who are struggling to manage household bills

Household Expense	**Women**	**Men**
Food	29%	20%
Energy	39%	24%
Housing	32%	20%
Transport	24%	14%
Broadband	23%	16%
Other household costs	35%	19%

Percentage of different household groups who are struggling to manage household bills

Household Expense	**Disabled people**	**Single households**	**Single parents**	**BME**
Food	37%	37%	69%	33%
Energy	48%	43%	54%	50%
Housing	38%	34%	66%	46%
Transport	40%	34%	50%	24%
Broadband	33%	31%	38%	23%
Other household costs	50%	43%	54%	35%

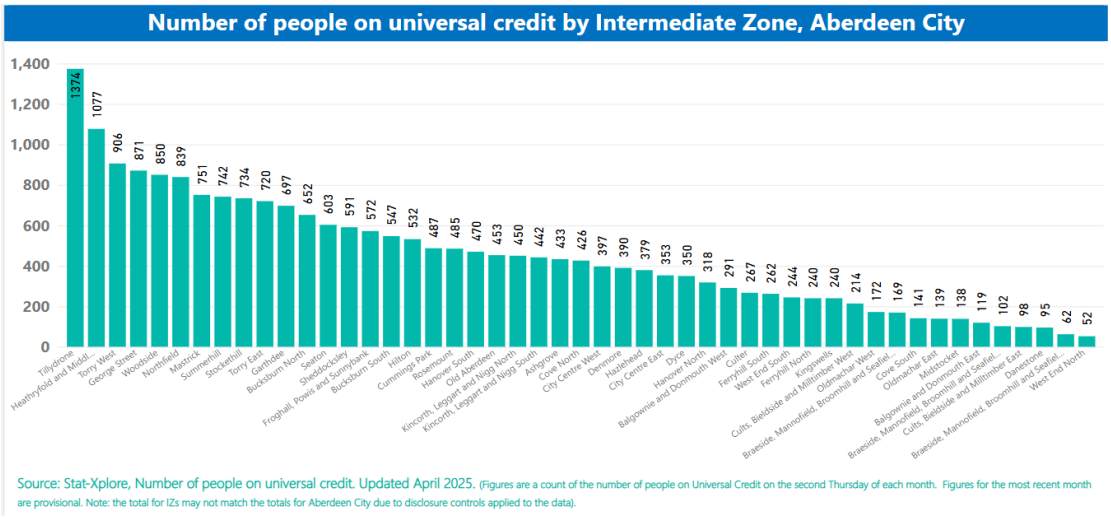
Percentage of different household groups using strategies to manage household bills. Respondents stated that in order to manage costs in the last 12 months they had:

Strategy	All	Disabled people	Single parents	Single households	BME households
Cut back on food expenditure	61%	67%	85%	65%	82%
Not put the heating on	56%	68%	77%	65%	64%
Not going to the dentist	24%	37%	23%	33%	25%
Cutting back on journeys	35%	43%	54%	29%	32%
Cutting back on eating out	61%	69%	77%	59%	64%
Cancelling tv subscriptions/broadband	28%	37%	38%	22%	36%
Using savings	54%	54%	30%	55%	54%
Taking on debt	18%	26%	54%	13%	25%
Not replacing clothes/shoes for myself	49%	60%	85%	54%	40%
Taking on more hours at work	12%	4%	15%	9%	21%
Doing more unpaid care work	3%	1%	0	1%	7%

Strategies used by different groups reflect the options available to them to manage household costs. For example, disabled people are often unable to increase their income by taking on more hours at work as this is not an option open to them, which explains why they use other options at higher levels. For single parents, the use of savings is lower as many women do not have access to savings due to lower levels of wealth.

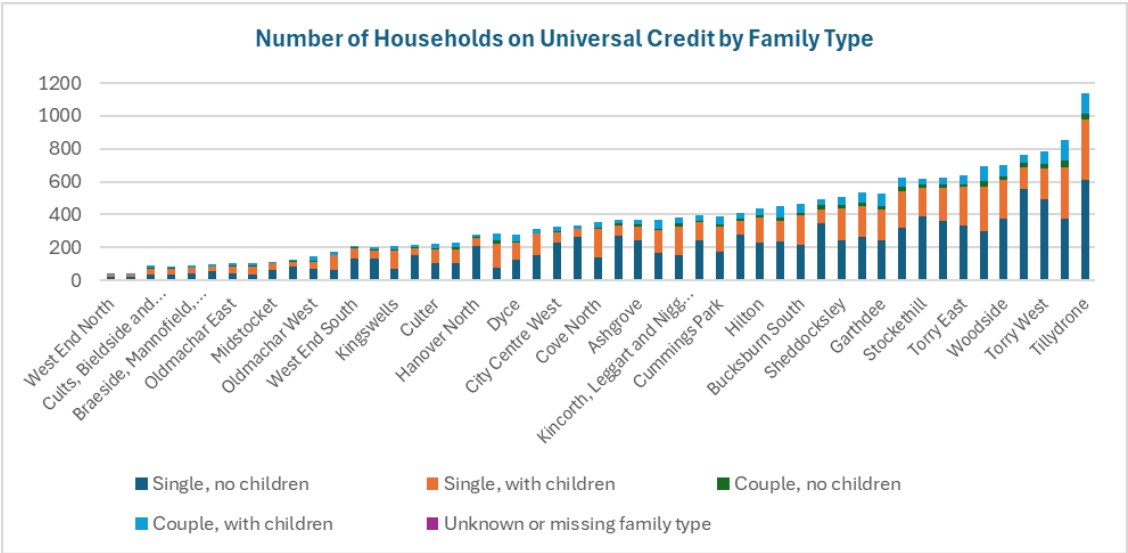
Respondents outlined various impacts of the high cost of living on them. 50% say their financial situation has impacted on their mental health, 29% their physical health, 37% worry about their security in retirement.

Universal credit (people)**:** In March 2025 there were 21,923 people on Universal Credit in Aberdeen City – up from 21,385 in February (however as people may be transferring to Universal Credit from the old system, caution is advised in interpretting figures as increases may be due to this). In February 2025, 33.7% (7,212) of those on Universal Credit were in employment . The number of people on Universal Credit varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 52 in West End North to a high of 1,374 in Tillydrone. (Note: the total for Intermediate Zones may not match the totals for Aberdeen City due to disclosure controls applied to the data.)



Source: Stat-Xplore, Number of people on universal credit. Updated April 2025. (Figures are a count of the number of people on Universal Credit on the second Thursday of each month. Figures for the most recent month are provisional. Note: the total for IZs may not match the totals for Aberdeen City due to disclosure controls applied to the data).

Households on Universal Credit: In November 2024, there were 18,187 households on Universal Credit – ranging from a low of 41 households in West End North to a high of 1,135 households in Tillydrone. Of the 18,187 households on Universal Credit, 7,656 (42.1%) had children with over three quarters (76.1%, n= 5,824) of these being 'single with children' families. The percentage of households on Universal Credit that had children, ranged from 17.3% in City Centre East to 67.9% in Denmore.



Source: Stat-Xplore: Households on Universal Credit

How the household is managing financially: Questions about how the household is managing financially are asked in the Scottish Household Survey. In 2023 49% of households were managing well in Aberdeen City compared to 52% in Scotland as a whole. The proportion managing well has dropped from 55% in 2019 (and from the highest level of 66% in 2014 and 2015) .

Savings: The Scottish Household Survey also includes a question about savings. In 2023, 69% of respondents reported that they or their partners had savings and 20%

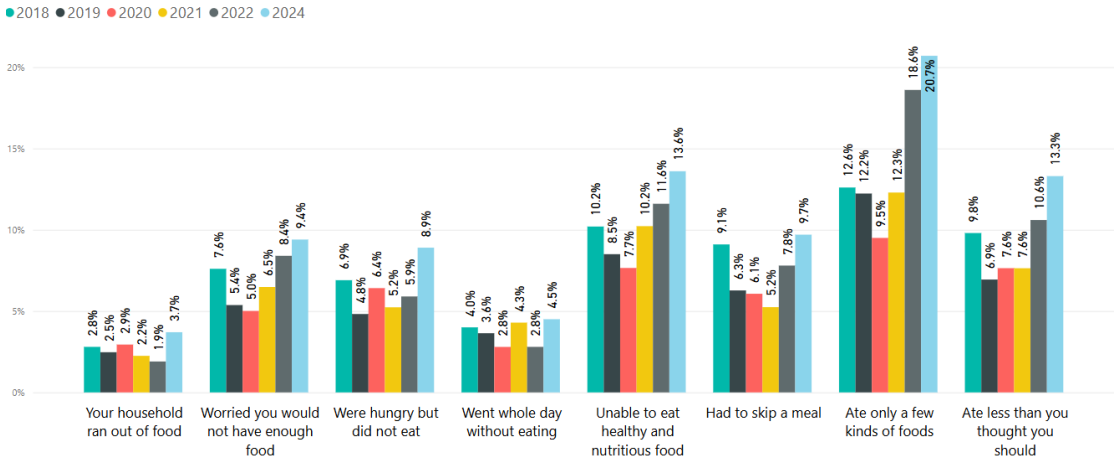
reported that they had no savings. The most recent comparable data is for 2019. At that point, 82% of respondents reported that they or their partner had savings and 15% reported that they had no savings. .

Food security: Questions around Food Security have been asked in a number of City Voice surveys – most recently in May 2024 (City Voice 50). Specifically, the questions ask if during the last 12 months, there was a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:

- You were worried you would not have enough food to eat?
- You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food?
- You ate only a few kinds of food?
- You had to skip a meal?
- You ate less than you thought you should?
- Your household ran out of food?
- You were hungry but did not eat?
- You went without eating for a whole day

While most respondents did not report concerns around their ability to access healthy or nutritious food due to money or lack of other resources, in May 2024, 20.7% of respondents reported they ate only a few kinds of food, 13.6% that they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 13.3% that they ate less than they thought they should and 9.4% that they were worried they would not have enough food to eat. Since 2020, the proportion of respondents who answered 'yes' has increased in most categories, with the largest increase being in the proportion who reported they ate only a few kinds of food (from 9.5% to 20.7%) .

Food security: Percentage of City Voice respondents who answered 'yes' to the question: during the last 12 months was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources you:



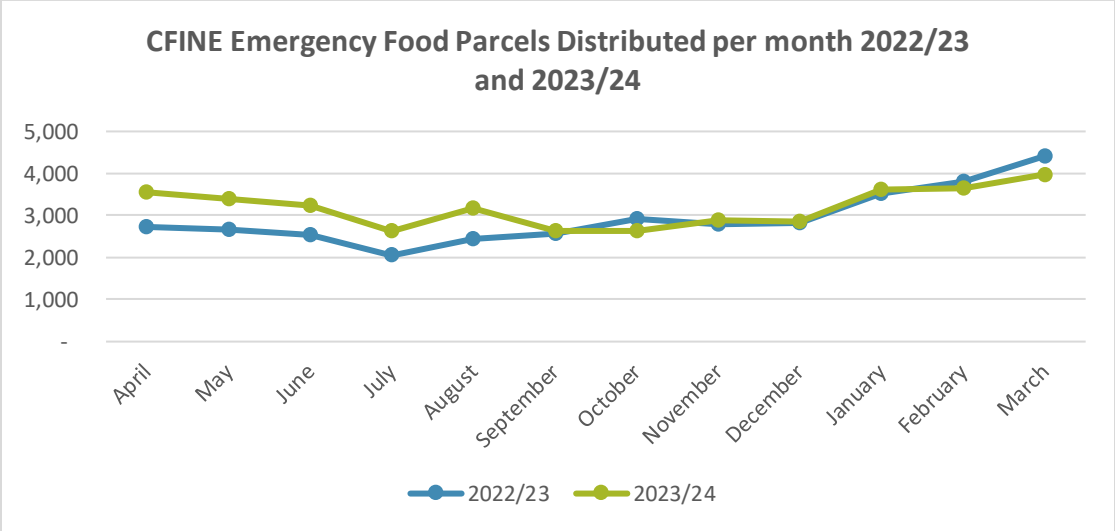
Source: City Voice. Updated July 2024.

Questions relating to food security are also asked in the Scottish Health Survey. In 2019-2023, 12% of people in Aberdeen City said they were worried they would run out of food

compared to 11% for Scotland and an increase from 8% when this was first asked in 2016-19 .

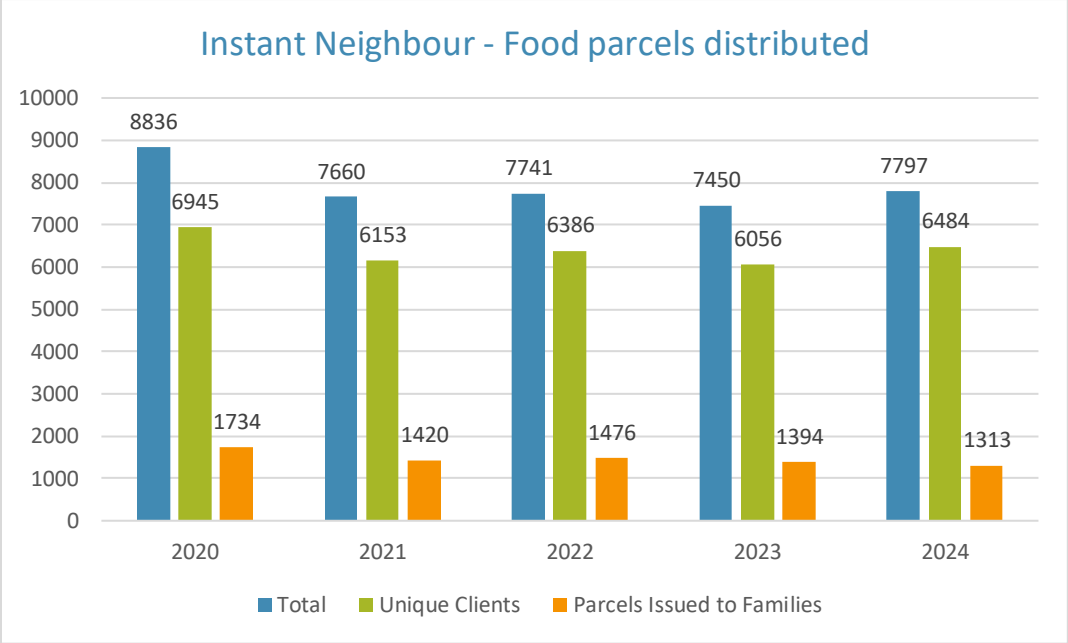
Foodbank use: There is currently no single source of data on foodbank use in Aberdeen City. Data for this document has been provided by three independent organisations (CFINE, Trussel Trust, and Instant Neighbour) who provide emergency food parcels in Aberdeen City. Across these three organisations, 55,522 parcels were distributed in 2023/24 – up from 53,495 in 2022/23 (an increase of 2,027). This averages 4,627 parcels every month in 2023/24 compared to 4,458 per month in 2022/23.

CFINE: In 2023/24 CFINE distributed 38,235 emergency food parcels – up from 35,307 in 2022/23. This is an average of 3,186 per month (up from an average of 2,942 per month in 2022/23). The monthly distribution of emergency food parcels increased in the first three months of 2024, peaking in March when 3,978 parcels were distributed.

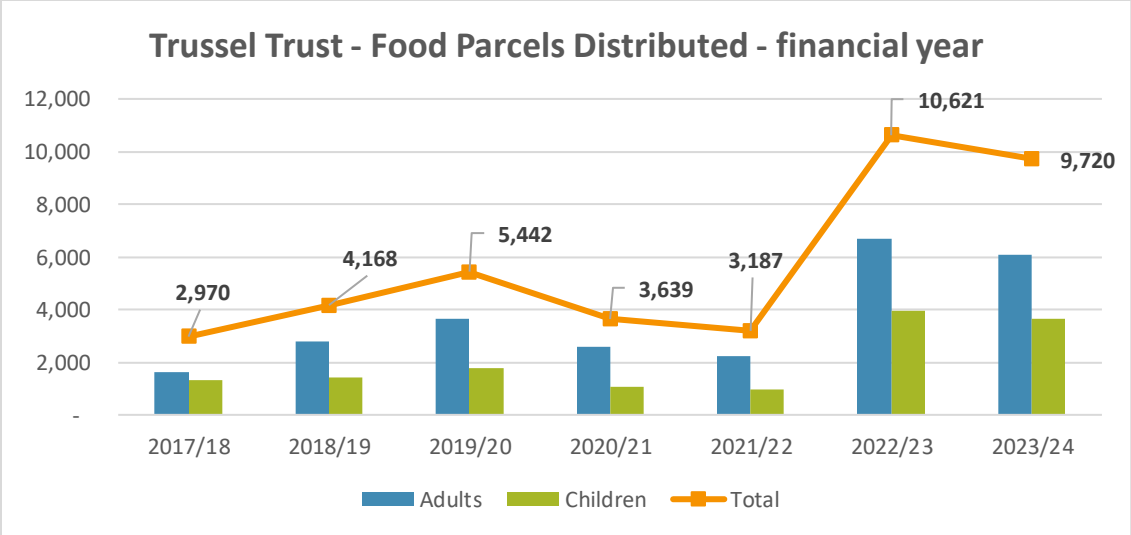


Instant Neighbour: In the calendar year 2024, Instant Neighbour distributed 7,797 (average of 650 per month) food parcels with 1,313 of these being distributed to families. 606 clients were newly registered in 2024. Most clients visited the foodbank once in a month (unique clients) with the remainder visiting more than once. Around 7,600 parcels a year were distributed in both 2022 and 2023.

On average there were 150 food parcels distributed in a week during 2024 – a marked increase on the average of 143 in 2023. 7 more food parcels a week equates to at least 49kg more food being distributed a week.



Trussell Trust: The Trussell Trust publishes data on the number of food parcels distributed by their network in each Local Authority. In the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, there 9,720 parcels distributed in Aberdeen City – down from the peak of 10,621 in 2022/23, but over three times higher than the number distributed in 2021/22 (3,187). Of the parcels distributed in 2023/24, over a third (37.5%, n=3,647) were to children. More recent data shows that 3,599 food parcels were distributed by Trussell in Aberdeen in the first half of 2024/25 (1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024). Of these, 1,154 (32.1%) were to children and 2,445 were to adults .



Source: Trussell Trust

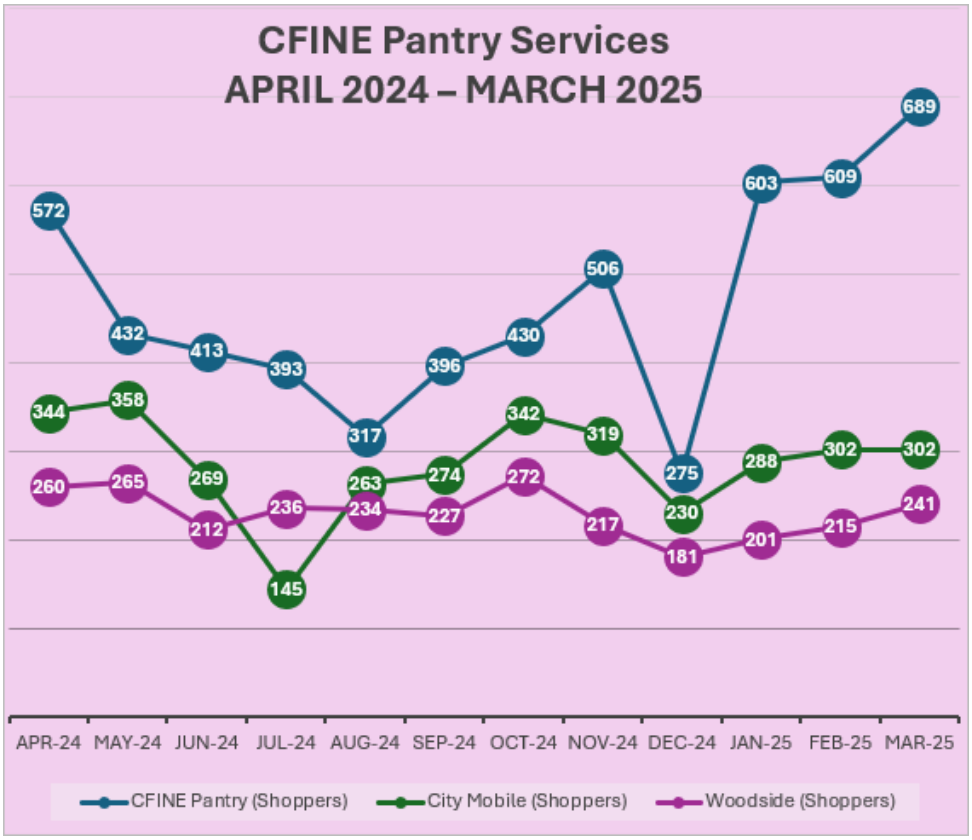
Community Pantries: Mitigating food poverty through increased memberships of community pantries was highlighted as an area where people could be offered dignity and choice rather than the foodbank offer of crisis provision. Since last reported figures March 2023, to accommodate the ever increasing need for membership, the Static CFINE

pantry service has developed to open 4 days a weeks and the Mobile pantry van now serves 12 locations in the City's priority neighbourhoods at Middlefield, Sheddocksley, Kincorth, Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton, Northfield, Quaryhill, Bucksburn, Hilton, Inchgarth and Dyce. Woodside Pantry membership is monitored and recorded in the pantry total figures and receives the bulk of their food delivery via FareShare Surplus and FareShare retail , manage by CFINE.

To reflect the true pantry figures we record and report member's attendance, not membership numbers alone. Members do not always attend weekly, indeed the mobile locations are mostly fortnightly, but the pantry must be attended at least once in any 4 week period. There is currently a waiting list for all pantries, and we are making changes to accommodate more members each day.

Attendance Figures for March 2025 by Pantry, CFINE 689, City Mobile 302 and Woodside 241 giving a total of 1,232

Membership figures March 2025 by pantry, CFINE 300, Mobile Pantry 190 and Woodside 80 giving a total of 570. The chart below shows annual attendance figures by pantry.



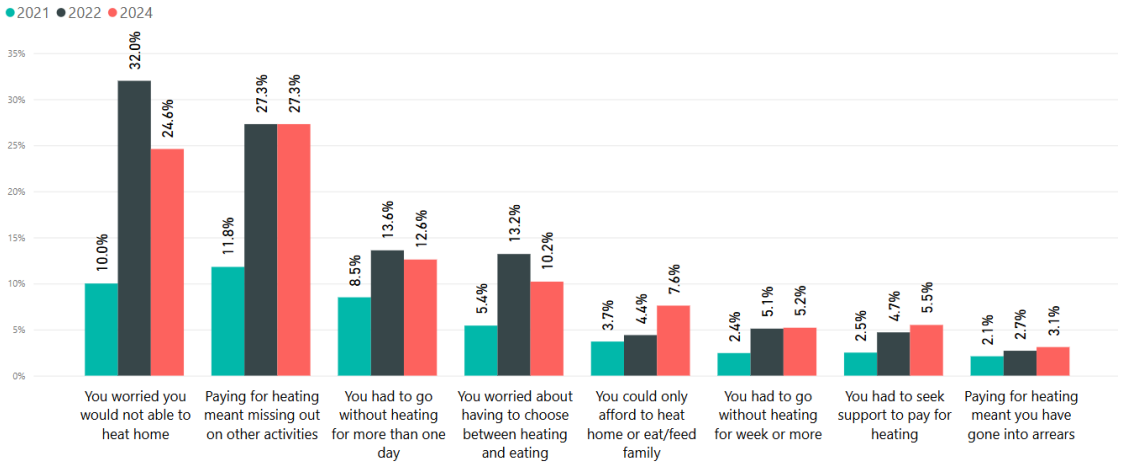
Allotments: The allotment waiting list continues to grow: 793 households were waiting in 2021, by March 2023 this had risen to 1,047 households and by September 2024 it had risen again to 1,251 households. There are currently 573 Aberdeen City allotment plots .

Fuel poverty: Official statistics for fuel poverty are now very dated with the most recent being for 2017-19 (data collection for the Scottish House Condition Survey was affected by COVID-19 with new local authority figures not expected to be available until early

2026). In 2017-19 an estimated 26.1% of households were in fuel poverty[11] – up from 23% in 2016-18 and higher that the rate for Scotland of 24.4%. A higher proportion of those in social housing were in fuel poverty than those in owner occupied housing (46.2% compared to 12.9%). In 2017-19 an estimated 12.8% of households were in extreme fuel poverty .

A series of questions around ability to heat your home were asked in City Voice 45 (August 2021), City Voice 46 (December 2022) and, most recently, City Voice 50 (May 2024). In May 2024, a quarter (24.6%) of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – down from 32% in December 2022 but considerably higher than when the quesitons were first asked in 2021 (10%). Over a quarter of respondents (27.3%) said that paying for heating meant missing out on other activities (compared to 11.8% in 2021) .

Your heating: Percentage of City Voice respondents who answered 'yes' to the question: during the last 12 months was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:



Source: City Voice. Updated July 2024.

[11] A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, total fuel costs necessary for the home are more that 10% of the household's adjusted net income (after housing costs), and if after deducting fuel costs, benefits received for a care need or disability and childcare costs, the household's remaining adjusted net income is insufficient to maintain an acceptable standard of living. For extreme fuel poverty a household would have to spend more than 20% of its adjusted net income (after housing costs) to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.

Emerging priorities

The overall data on the economic position presents a positive picture, but the data also show how not everone in the City is benefitting from the economic potential:

- The data provide an updated picture on local social and economic inqualities, measured by the SIMD, which determine wider lived experience s such as health. Place based approaches to reducing experiencing inequalities over time must remain a priority, seeking to reduce both the aboslute and relative inequalities across the City.
- One in seven households in Aberdeen have no one working within them, which equates to 13,700 workless households. The data highlight that economic inactivity for people from ethnic minorities is more pronounced. Anchor organisations can play a part in terms of improving the numbers of under-represented groups in public sector employment, and continuing to expand the Real Living Wage programme, particularly within food, catering and accommodation sectors, where there are often higher numbers of people from ethnic minorities and younger people employed.
- Households with a low income are a concern, not least for the 12% of such households where some 3,600 children aged 15 years and under reside. Supporting such households through employability support, provision of free/subsidised childcare/access to community pantries are areas for further development.
- Managing houshold expenses is also an area for prioritisation. The survey data from the City highlight that fuel and food poverty continue to be issues for many people, especially those who live with a disability, are in single housholds, or are from a minority comunity . The data identfy 13 priority locations which should be the focus for developing place-based approaches to improving access to affordable food, fuel, and transport.

5. Health and Social Care

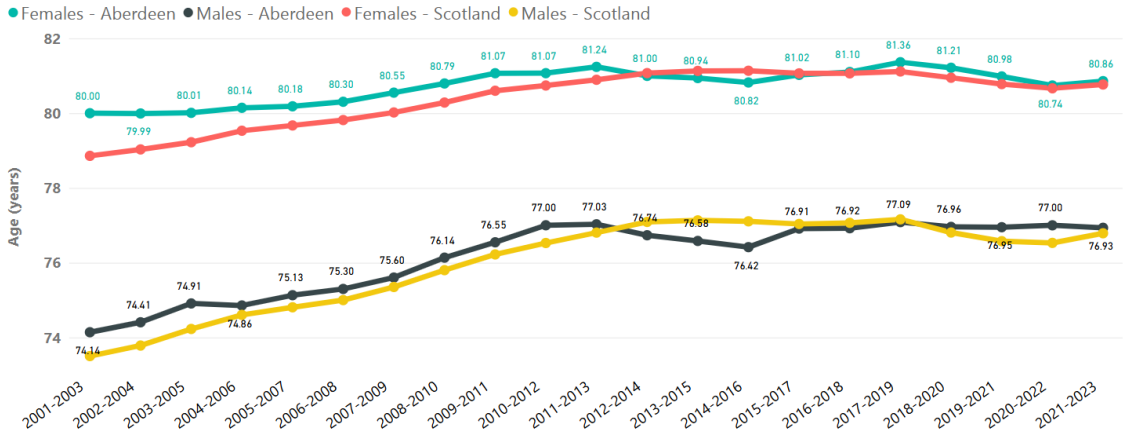
5.1. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

5.1.1. Estimated life expectancy at birth

Estimated life expectancy: National Records of Scotland provide Life Expectancy estimates. These are 'period' life expectancy and are calculated assuming that mortality rates for each age group are constant throughout a person's life. Period life expectancy is often described as how long a baby born now could expect to live if they experienced today's mortality rates throughout their lifetime. While it is unlikely that this would be the case, is it a useful measure of population health at a point in time and is useful for comparing trends over time.

In general, Life Expectancy (LE) at birth is higher for females than for males. In 2021-23 in Aberdeen City Life Expectancy at birth was estimated to be 80.9 years for women and 76.9 years for men, i.e. on average, a baby girl born in Aberdeen City in 2021-2023 could expect to live for 80.9 years while a baby boy born in Aberdeen City in the same period could expect to live for 76.9 years. The estimated Life Expectancy at birth for both females and males is similar to that for Scotland (80.8 years and 76.8 years respectively). Across Scotland, life expectancy has increased since the early 1980s but has now remained virtually unchanged since 2012-14, with most of Scotland's council areas experiencing a slow-down or a stall in life expectancy growth since that time.

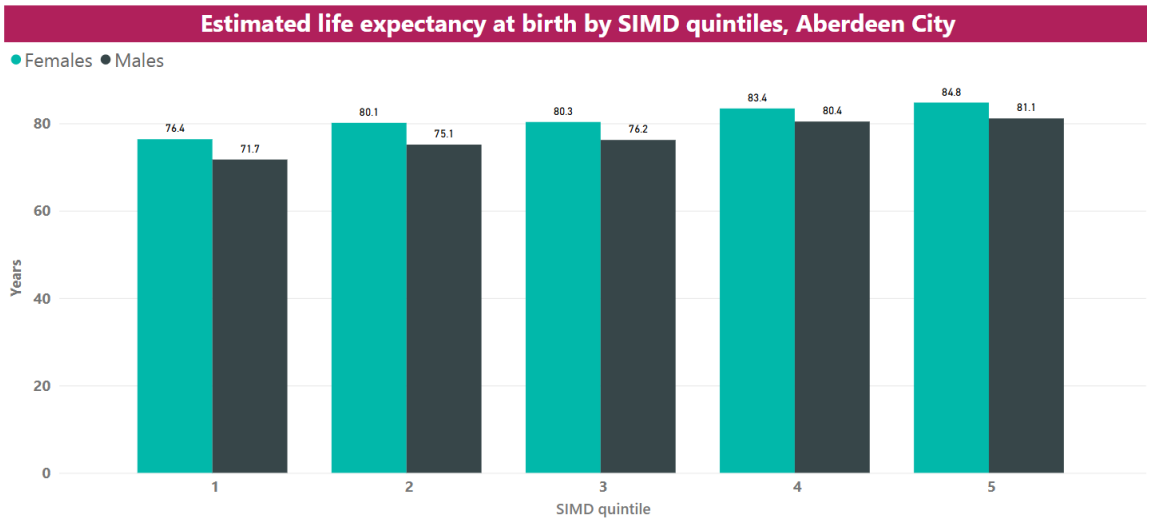
Estimated life expectancy at birth for Males and Females, Aberdeen City and Scotland, Time Series



Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland. Updated October 2024. (Note: figures for 2009-2011 to 2020-2022 were revised to take account of the rebased mid-year population estimates for 2011-2021 published in 2024.)

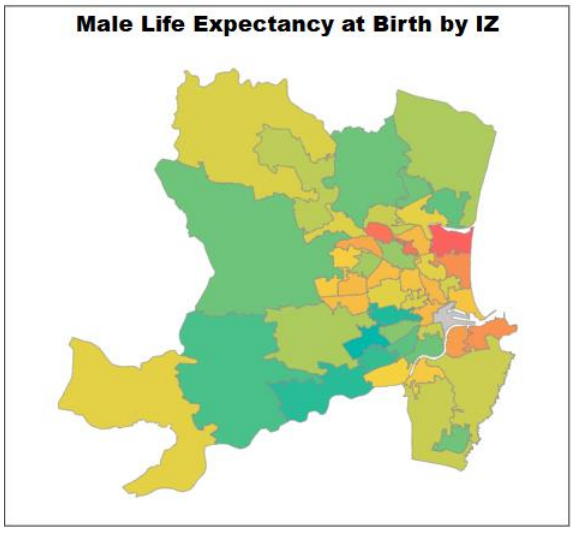
Estimated life expectancy by deprivation: Estimated life expectancy is strongly associated with deprivation. In Aberdeen City in 2019-2023, estimated life expectancy for males in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 71.7

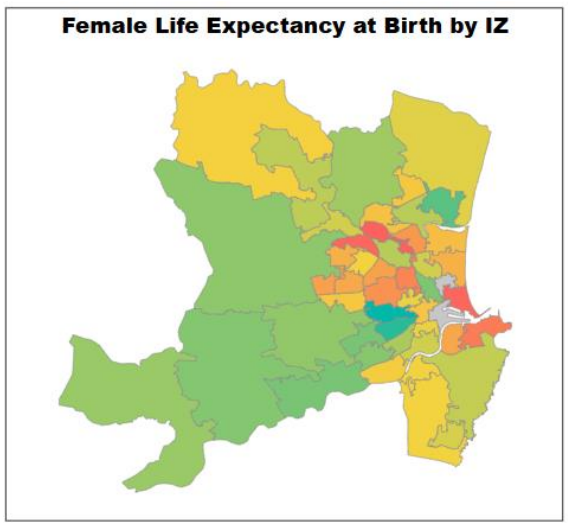
years compared to 81.1 years for males in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) – **a difference of 9.5 years.** For females, estimated life expectancy for females in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 was 76.4 years compared to 84.8 years for females in quintile 5 - **a difference of 8.4 years** . Comparison with data from 2013-2017 shows that the gap in estimated life expectancy between most and least deprived quintiles in Aberdeen City has decreased slightly for males (previously 9.7 years) and increased for females (previously 7.4 years).



Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland. Updated October 2024. SIMD 1 = most deprived and SIMD 5 = least deprived.

The relationship between estimated life expectancy and deprivation means that for both males and females there are important differences in estimated life expectancy at birth depending on where you live in Aberdeen City. The most recent data available for smaller geographies (Intermediate Zones) is for the period 2019-2023 (5-year average). For males, estimated LE at birth ranges from a low of 68.1 years in Old Aberdeen to a high of 84.2 years in Braeside, Mannofield and Broomhill & Seafield North – a difference of 13.7 years. For females it ranges from a low of 74.4 years in Woodside to a high of 88.1 years in West End North – a difference of 13.7 years .

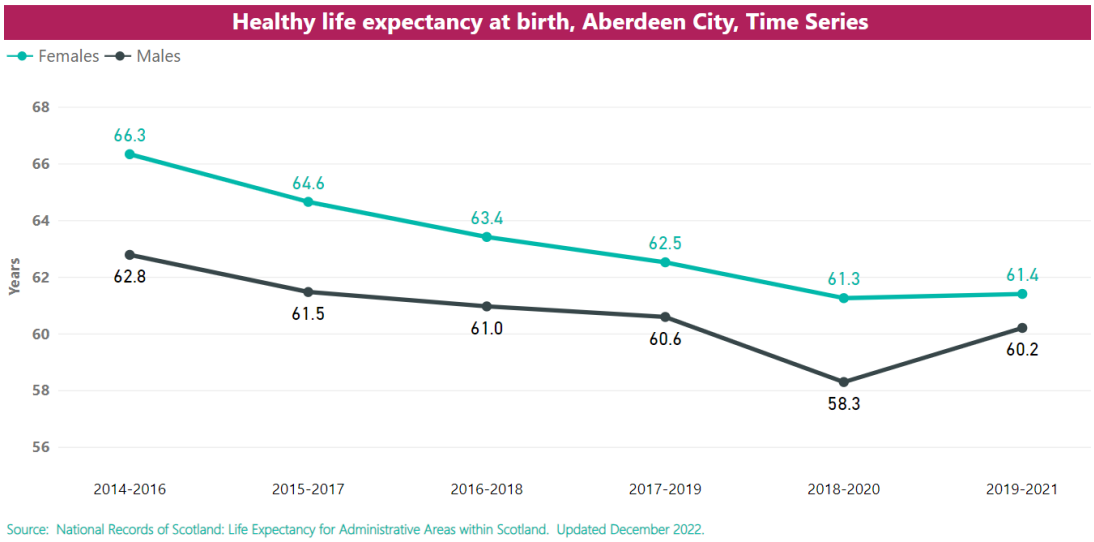




Source: ScotPHO profiles.

5.1.2. Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy: While Life Expectancy (LE) counts total years of expected life regardless of level of health, Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) represents the number of years that an individual can expect to live in good health[12]. The most recent data on HLE is for 2019-21. In 2019-21, males in Aberdeen City had an estimated life expectancy at birth of 76.9 years and a healthy life expectancy of 60.2 years, giving an expected period of 'not good' health of 16.7 years. This means that a baby boy born in 2019-2021 could expect to live 78.3% of his life in good health. In 2019-2021, females in Aberdeen City had an estimated life expectancy at birth of 81.0 years and a healthy life expectancy of 61.4 years, giving an expected period of 'not good' health of 19.6 years. This means that a baby girl born in 2019-2021 could expect to live 75.7% of their life in good health. So while on average females have a higher life expectancy than males, they also spend a higher proportion of their lives in 'not good health'. In Scotland, HLE is strongly associated with deprivation. Healthy life expectancy for males in the most deprived areas of Scotland was 26 years lower than in the least deprived areas. For females the difference was almost 25 years. In the most deprived areas, males and females spend more than a third of their life in 'not good' health compared to around 15% in the least deprived areas .



Source: National Records of Scotland: Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland. Updated December 2022.

[12] Healthy life expectancy uses the sample population and death inputs as life expectancy. In addition, it requires survey data from which to estimate prevalence of good health. These data come from the general health question in the Annual Population survey which asks: How is your health in general; would you say it was…. Very Good; Good; Fair; Bad or Very Bad. Healthy life expectancy is defined as the number of years that someone could expect to spend in 'good' or 'very good' health. Source: National Records of Scotland: Methodology Guide

5.1.3. Disability/health

Aberdeen City has a slightly higher rate of people (known to the local authority) with learning disabilities at 5.5 per 1000, compared to 5.2 for Scotland as a whole (most recent report 2019).

At the time of the Census in 2022, 20.2% of Aberdeen City's population reported having a long-term illness that limited their abilities either a little (12.1%) or a lot (8.1%) compared to 24.1% in Scotland. The proportion of people saying they had a long-term illness that limited their abilities (a lot or a little combined) varied by age group, and was lowest in the 0-15 year group at 6.5% and highest in the 65+ years group at 47.8% (see table below) . The overall Census figure of 20.2% was lower than the similar indicator in the Scottish Health Survey (2019-2023) where 30% reported having a limiting long-term illness in Aberdeen City (compared to 36% in Scotland). A further 10% reported having a non-limiting long-term condition (compared to 12% in Scotland) .

In the Census, 82.1% of the city's population reported having good (32.9%) or very good (49.2%) general health compared to 78.8% for Scotland as a whole. The percentage rating their health as 'good' (i.e. good and very good combined) varied by age group, decreasing with increasing age. It was highest for 0-15 year-olds at 97.5% and lowest for those aged 65 years and over at 58.5% (see table below) . A similar question is asked in the Scottish Health survey. In 2019-2023, the percentage rating their health as good was slightly lower than the Census at 78% (compared to 72% for Scotland) .

	Percentage of people with an illness that limited their abilities	Percentage of people rating health as 'good'
Aged 0 to 15	6.5%	97.5%
Aged 16 to 24	13.2%	91.4%
Aged 25 to 34	11.7%	89.6%
Aged 35 to 49	14.7%	85.2%
Aged 50 to 64	24.8%	74.6%
Aged 65 and over	47.4%	58.5%

Source: Scotland's Census 2022

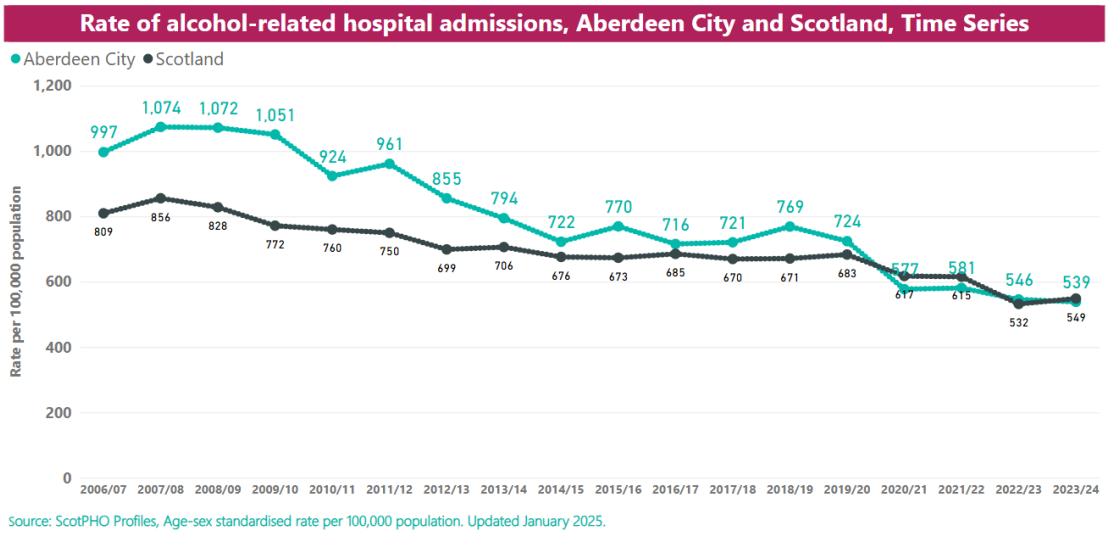
5.1.4. Health behaviours

Alcohol: In the period 2019-23, 23% of adults in Aberdeen City were drinking above the guideline recommendations of 14 units per week. This is slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 22% and from the rate in 2018-2022 of 22% . (Note: data for 2018-2022 and 2019-2023 does not include data for 2020 due to COVID-19.)

Questions relating to alcohol consumption were asked in City Voice 49 (February 2024). When asked if they knew the maximum number of units of alcohol recommended over a

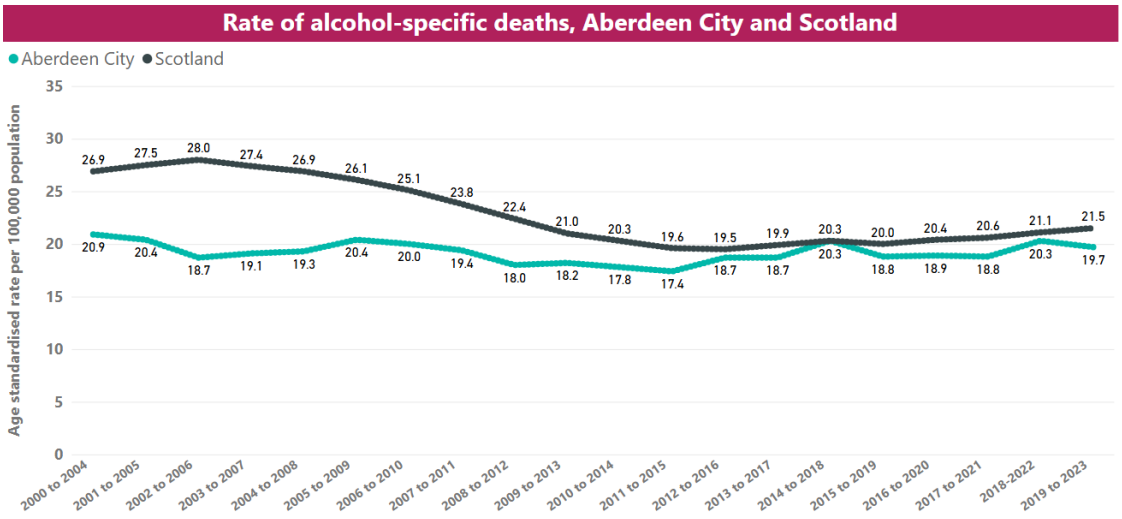
week, less than half (48.6%) of respondents correctly choose 14 units. The next most common response was don't know at 24.6% . These results are similar to when these questions were asked in the City Voice previously (December 2022) – responses of 46.7% and 25.9% respectively.

Alcohol-related hospital admissions: In 2023/24 there were 1,170 alcohol-related hospital admissions in Aberdeen City – equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 538.5 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 548.5. Alcohol-related hospital admissions were highest for those in the most deprived areas at 1,044.2 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 300.7 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). Across the City (Intermediate Zones), the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions ranged from a low of 32.3 in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 1,432 per 100,000 population in Torry West .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles, Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Updated January 2025.

Alcohol-specific deaths: In 2023 there were 45 alcohol-specific deaths in Aberdeen City – down from 49 deaths in 2022. As the number of alcohol-specific deaths can fluctuate substantially on a yearly basis, a 5-year rolling average number is also given. For the period 2019-23 this figure was 40.6 – lower than the figure of 41.8 in 2018-22. The rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths in 2019-23 was 19.7 per 100,000 population – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.5, and lower than the rate for 2018-22 of 20.3 per 100,000 population. Rates of alcohol-specific deaths are higher for those in deprived areas. In Aberdeen City in 2019-23, the rate (age-sex standardised) for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 40.4 per 100,000 population compared to 10.5 per 100,000 population for quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates of alcohol-related deaths vary across the city (Health and Social Care (HSC) localities, 2019-23 data) at 13.9 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen North, 14.4 in Aberdeen South and 34.1 in Aberdeen Central .

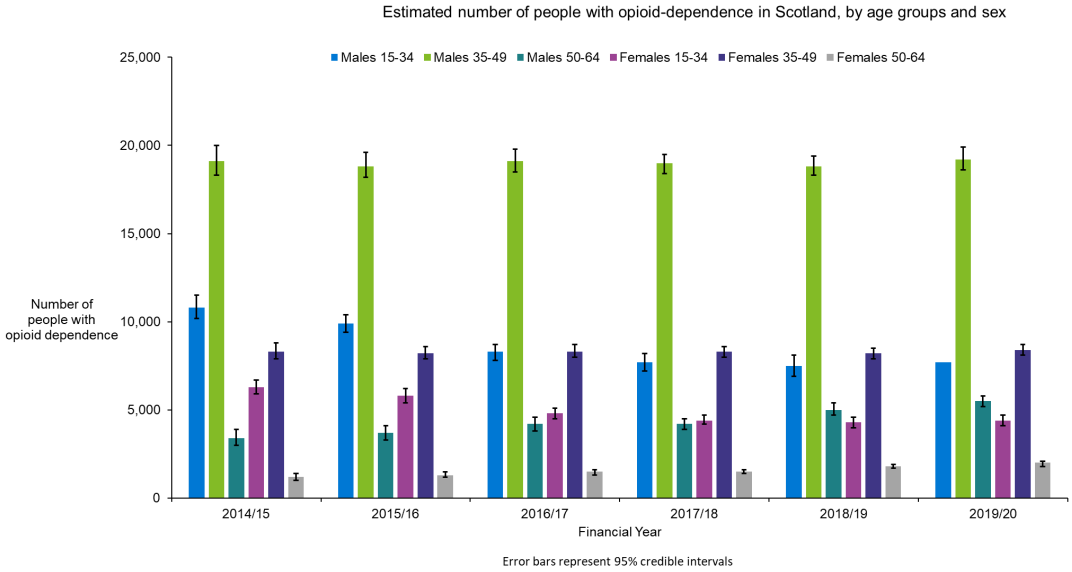


Source: NRS, Alcohol-specific deaths, Age-standardised rate per 100,000 population, 5-year averages. Updated September 2024.

Alcohol Treatment Services: In Q2 2024/25, 89 people accessed specialist alcohol treatment services, up from 82 in Q1 2024/25. Median length of wait was 14 days .

Drugs use prevalence: Data on prevalence of problem drug use is limited. In 2015/16 it was estimated that 1.5% of Aberdeen's population have a problem drug use compared to 1.6% in Scotland. Estimated prevalence of problem drug use was higher in males (2.0%) than females (0.9%).

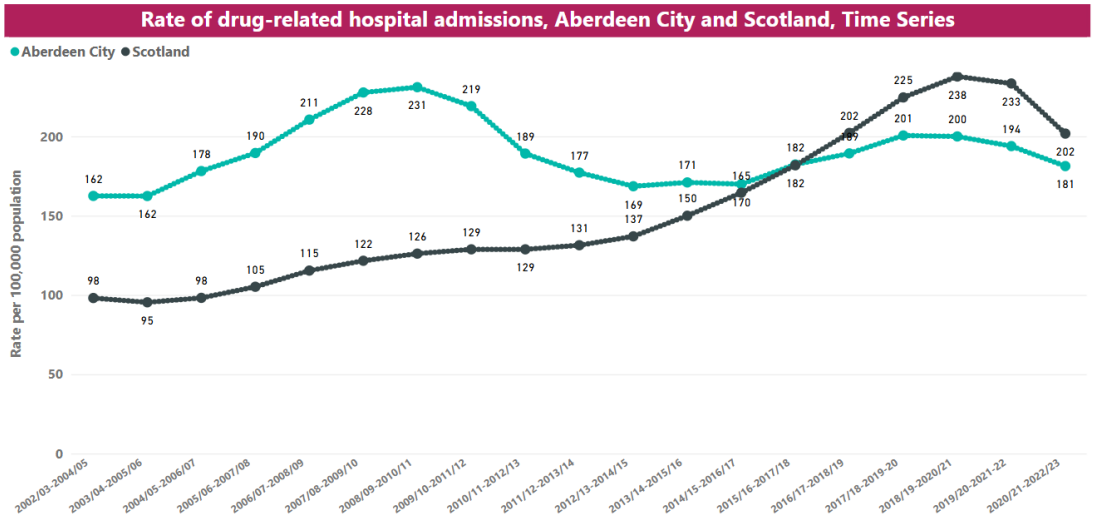
More recent data at Scotland level estimates that in 2019/20, 47,100 people (aged 15 to 64 years) in Scotland were dependent on opioids (1.32%) – with a higher number of males (32,300) than females (14,700) being dependent. Prevalence is highest in the 35-49 year age group .



Source: Public Health Scotland

Drug-related hospital admissions: In 2020/21-2022/23 there were 411 drug-related hospital admissions (3-year rolling average number) in Aberdeen which is equivalent to a

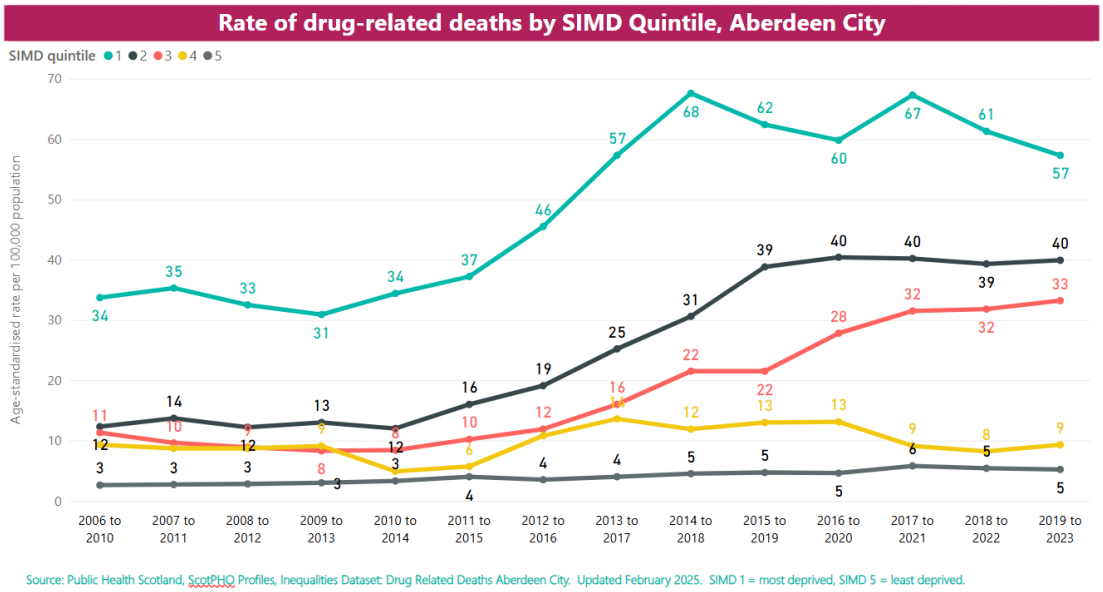
rate (age-sex standardised) of 181.3 per 100,000 population, compared to 201.8 per 100,000 population in Scotland. Following a period of increasing drug-related hospital admissions, the rate has decreased slightly in the past three periods – from 200.6 in 2017/18-2019/21. Based on 2018/19-2020/21 data, rates of drug-related hospital admissions were higher for those in deprived areas at 532 per 100,000 population for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 39.9 in quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate of drug related hospital admissions varies (Health and Social Care localities) from 118 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, to 163 in Aberdeen North and 248.5 in Aberdeen Central .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles, 3-year rolling average and directly age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Updated October 2024.

Drug-related deaths: In 2023 there were 54 drug-related deaths in Aberdeen City – up from 42 deaths in 2022. Of the 54 deaths in 2023, 36 were males and 18 were females. As the number of deaths can fluctuate substantially on a yearly basis, annual rates (age-standardised per 100,000 population) for 5-year periods are also given. In the period 2019-2023, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 23.7 deaths per 100,000 population. This is similar to the rate for Scotland (23.6 per 100,000 population) and the same as the rate for 2018-2022. In Aberdeen City, drug-related deaths were highest in the 45-54 year age group and the 35-44 year-old age group (with 61.5 and 57.1 per 100,000 population respectively in 2019-2023) .

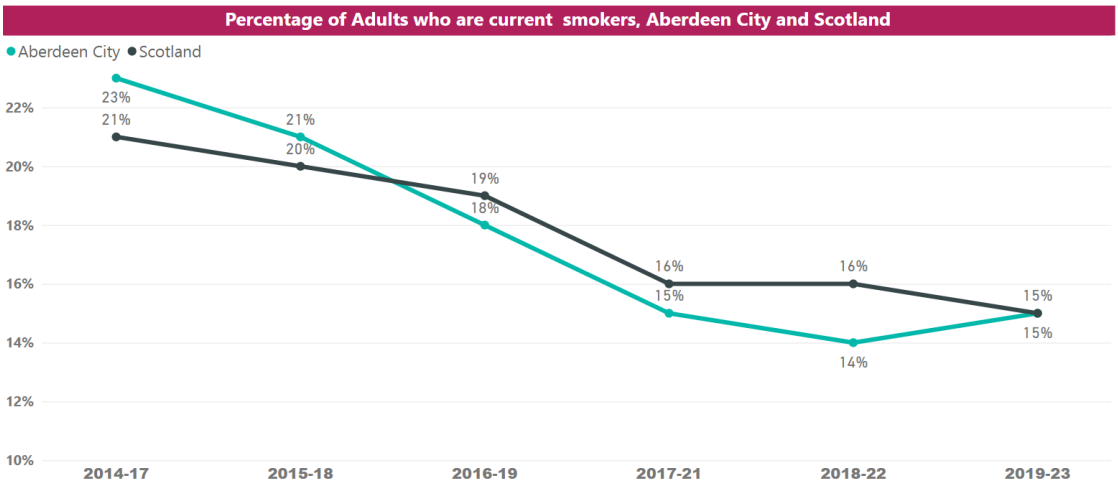
The rate of drug-related deaths is higher for those living in deprived areas. In Aberdeen City in 2019-2023, the rate (age-sex standardised) of drug related deaths for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 57.3 per 100,000 population compared to 5.2 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived) .



Naloxone Provision: Naloxone is a medication that counters the effects of opioid overdose, specifically it counteracts the impact that opiates exert on the central nervous system and on the respiratory system. There has been an 11% decrease in the total number of naloxone kits issued in Aberdeen from 2023/24 to 2024/25, (1,407 to 1,250). Of the 1,250 kits issued in 2024/25, 77% were issued to Persons at Risk, a 2% reduction from 2023/24. In 2024/25, 12% of kits were supplied due to the previous kit being used, this a 7% increase from 2022/23. From 2022/23 to 2023/24 we saw an increase in supply in Central (12%) and South (7%) Localities, with a slight decrease of 2% in North. However in 2024/25 we saw a slight decrease of 5% (23) in Central, and 27% (51) decrease in South, however a 3% (5) increase in North.

Drug Treatment Services: In Quarter 2 2024/2025, 109 people accessed specialist drug treatment services, down from 113 in Quarter 1. Median length of wait was 4 days .

Smoking: In the period 2019-2023, an estimated 15% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers – the same rate as Scotland. A higher proportion of males (17%) than females (13%) were smokers. The percentage of adults who are current smokers has decreased from 23% in 2014-17. It is estimated that 7% of adults use e-cigarettes (7% males, 7% females) – up from 5% in 2018-2022 . (Note: data for 2019-2023 does not include 2020 data due to COVID-19).



Source: Scottish Health Survey: Results for local Areas, Updated November 2024. Note: Data for 2020 is not included in data for 2017-21, 2018-22 or 2019-23.

Obesity: The most recent data on Body Mass Index (BMI) is from 2016-19 (changes in data collection methods for 2021 and 2023 due to COVID-19 mean that Body Mass Index data is not available for 2017-2021, 2018-2022 or 2019-23 for local authority areas). In 2016-19 it was estimated that 23% of the City's adult population was obese (classified as a Body Mass Index of 30+). This was lower than the rate for Scotland of 29% and a decrease from 25% in 2014-17. In 2023, in Scotland it was estimated that 32% of the population was obese .

Physical activity: In the period 2019-2023, an estimated 71% of adults in Aberdeen City were meeting the recommended guidelines for physical activity (150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week) compared to 65% for Scotland. 21% percent had low or very low levels of physical activity and 9% had some activity .

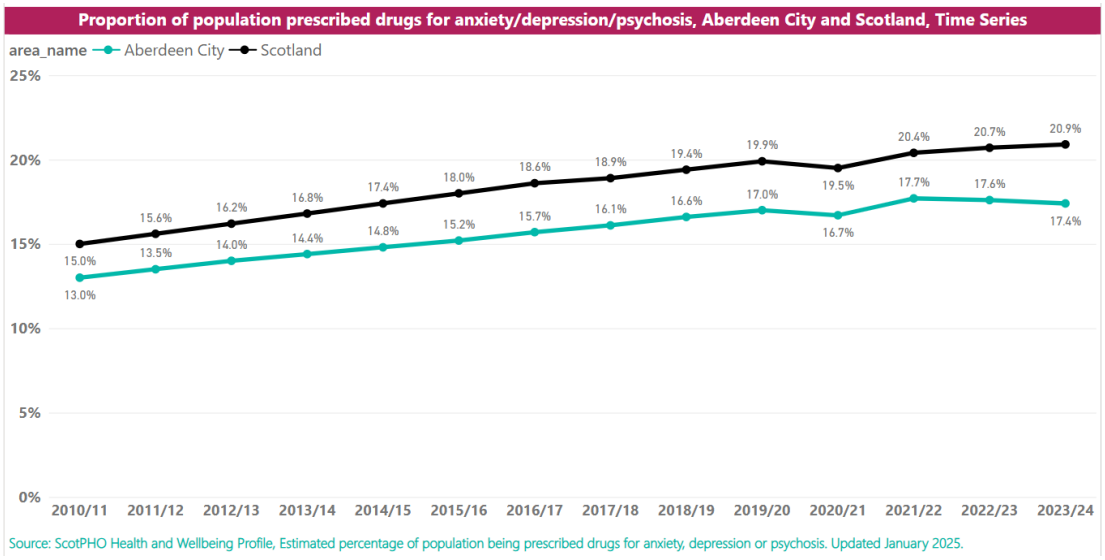
Based on data from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 87% of adults in Aberdeen City had taken part in some form of physical activity (including walking) in the previous month. When walking was excluded, the proportion dropped to 53%. The most common activities were walking (at least 30 minutes) at 79%, multi-gym/weight training at 22%, and running/jogging at 14% .

5.1.5. Mental health

Dementia: Alzheimer Scotland estimate that there are 90,000 people with dementia in Scotland with around 3,000 of these being under the age of 65 years . In 2023, Dementia and Alzheimer's disease were the leading cause of death for females in Aberdeen City (13.4% of all female deaths) and the second most common cause of death for males (7% of all male deaths) [13] .

[13] The leading cause of death analysis is based on a list of causes developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). There are around 60 categories in total and cancers are grouped separately according to the type of cancer,

Prescriptions for anxiety/depression/psychosis: In 2023/24, 39,713 people in Aberdeen City were prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. This is equivalent to 17.4% of the population – lower than the proportion for Scotland of 20.9%. Although the rate for Aberdeen City has fallen slightly from a high of 17.7% in 2021/22, the proportion of people receiving prescriptions for these conditions has increased in recent years, from 13% (28,630 people) in 2010/11. In 2023/24, a higher proportion of those from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) were prescribed (23.8%) than those in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 14.3%. The proportion of people prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis varied by Health and Social Care locality, at 15.9% in Aberdeen Central, 16.9% in Aberdeen South and 20.5% in Aberdeen North .

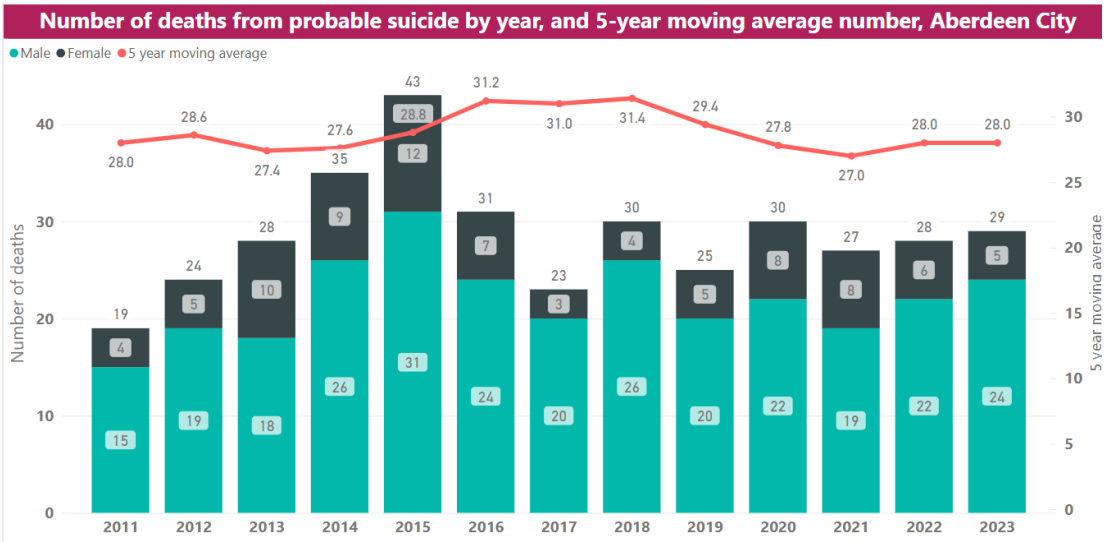


Psychiatric patient hospitalisations: In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 467 (3-year rolling average number) patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 210.3 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 216.1 per 100,000 population. Rates of patients with psychiatric hospitalisation have continued to fall in both Aberdeen City and Scotland over the last ten years (from 288 and 286 respectively in 2011/12-2013/14). Rates of psychiatric patient hospitalisation varied by deprivation, being highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 343 per 100,000 population compared to 144 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived). In Aberdeen City, rates were highest in Aberdeen Central (283 per 100,000 population). Rates were similar in Aberdeen North (185) and Aberdeen South (178) .

Deaths from suicide: In 2023 there were 29 probable suicides in Aberdeen City (24 male and 5 female). The number of suicides in a single year in the City peaked at 43 deaths in 2015 . As the number of probably suicides can fluctuate on a yearly basis, a 5-year moving average is also given. For the period 2019-2023, the 5-year moving average for Aberdeen City was also 28 (same as the previous period). For the period 2019-2023 the rate (age-standardised per 100,000 population) of 12.3 per 100,000 population was the lower than

for example, lung, breast and prostate cancer are all counted as separate causes. If all cancers were grouped together, cancer would be the leading cause of death.

the rate for Scotland of 14.6 per 100,000 population . Data on rates of probable suicide are no longer available for Aberdeen City at Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation or Health and Social Care locality level. However, in Scotland, rates of probable suicide varied by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, being highest in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 27.6 per 100,000 population compared to 9.3 in quintile 5 (least deprived) .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Probable Suicides. Updated August 2024. (Note: the 5-year moving average figure is given in the column for the final year e.g. the five year moving average number for 2019-23 is in the column for 2023.)

Mental health and wellbeing: The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) is a standardised scale which measures mental distress and mental ill-health. A score of 4 or more is indicative of a potential psychiatric disorder. In 2019-2023, an estimated 18% of people in Aberdeen City had a score of 4 or more – lower than the rate for Scotland of 21% and unchanged from 2018-2022. A higher proportion of females (19%) than males (17%) had a score or 4 or more .

Mental wellbeing is measured using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS). Possible total scores range from 14 to 70 with higher scores indicating greater wellbeing. In 2019-2023, the average (mean) score for Aberdeen City was 49.5 – slightly higher than the score for Scotland of 48.7. Mean scores were similar for males (49.9) and females (49.1) .

5.1.6. Screening and flu vaccines

Bowel screening: In the latest 2020-2022 reporting period, bowel screening uptake rates in Aberdeen City increased to reach 67.8%. This is higher than the Scottish rate for that period (66.2%), however slightly lower than the NHS Grampian health board uptake rate of 71.1%. In terms of localities, Aberdeen South reported the highest uptake rate of 71.1%, followed by Aberdeen North at 69.3% and Aberdeen Central at 61.5% .

Breast cancer screening: The NHS Grampian **breast cancer** screening uptake rate for females aged between 50-70 has remained stable since 2011.The latest data for the

three-year rolling period 2020-2023 indicates an uptake rate of 80.3%. This is higher than the Scottish rate of 75.9%, and places NHS Grampian as the joint third highest rate during the reporting period .

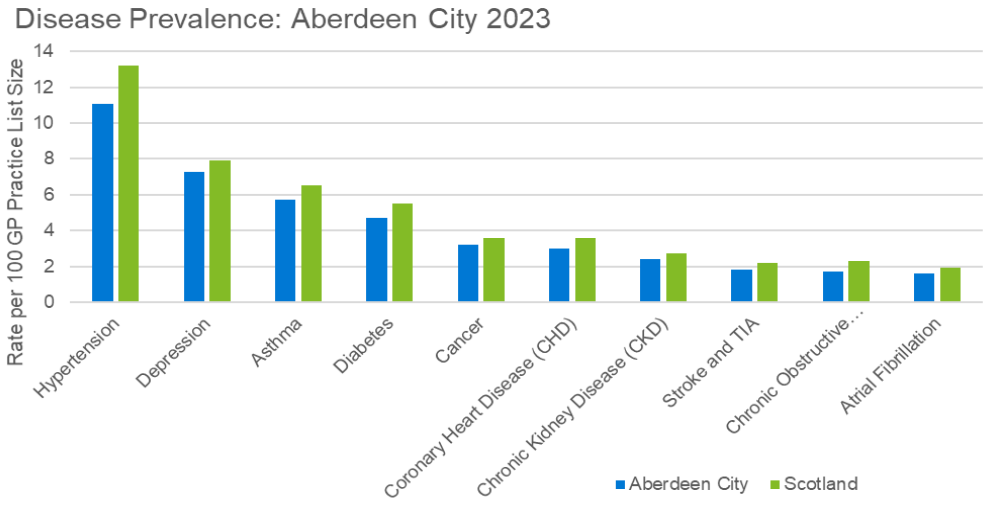
Cervical screening: The NHS Grampian **cervical screening** uptake rate for females aged 25-49 in 2021/22 was 67.3% (percentage who had a recorded screening test within the last 3.5 years). This rate was marginally higher than the Scottish average rate of 65.7%, but ranks NHS Grampian 12th out of the 14 Scottish Health Boards Between 2018/19 and 2021/22 uptake rates in NHS Grampian and Scotland overall declined year on year .

Influenza vaccines: During 2022-23, 56,564 Influenza vaccines were administered to eligible groups for Aberdeen City (50.8%). This is below the NHS Grampian (54.8%) and Scotland average rates (53.8%), however Aberdeen City (at 37.7%) exceeds the NHS Grampian (36.3%) and Scotland averages (35.2%) for those in the 50-64 years cohort (Adult Flu Vaccine) .

5.1.7. Disease prevalence

In 2023, the most prevalent disease in Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnerships overall was hypertension, at an incidence of 11.1 patients per 100 population. Hypertension was also the most prevalent condition in each of the individual GP Clusters across Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, ranging from 10.0 to 12.1 per 100 population. The most prevalent disease across Scotland in 2023 was also Hypertension at 13.2 patients per 100 population, above Aberdeen City's rate .

Depression was reported as the second most prevalent condition across Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership at 7.3 patients per 100 population, a marginally lower rate compared to Scotland overall (7.9). Aberdeen City Central cluster's rate was significantly higher than the partnership and overall Scottish rates at 10.5 patients per 100 population, however it should be noted that this data only included 50% of practices in this cluster .

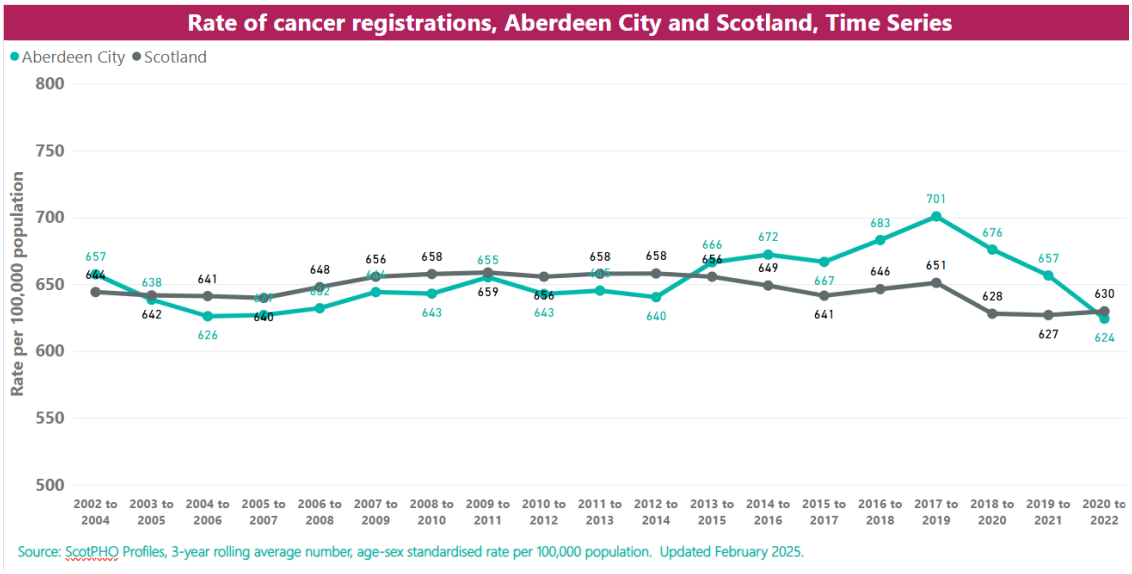


5.1.8. Key diseases

Key diseases: In 2023, cancer and circulatory diseases (such as coronary heart disease and stroke) together accounted for half (50.4%) of all causes of death in Aberdeen City. In 2023, 26.6% of male deaths and a 24.2 % of female deaths were caused by cancer, and 25.6% of male deaths and 24.5% of female deaths were caused by circulatory diseases .

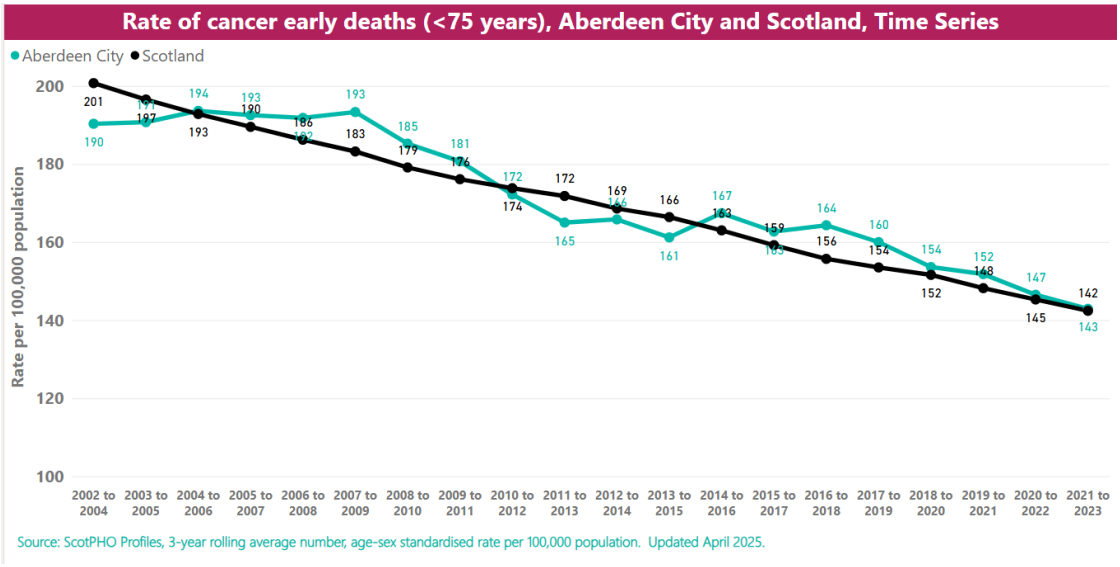
Leading causes of death are also given for specific disease classifications (e.g. types of cancer and circulatory diseases are listed separately). In 2023, Ischemic heart diseases were the leading cause of death for males (12.6% of a male deaths), followed by Dementia and Alzheimer disease (7%) and Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung (6.9%). For females, Dementia and Alzheimer disease was the leading cause of death for (13.4% of all female deaths), followed by Ischaemic heart diseases (78.3%) and cerebrovascular disease (8.1% of all female deaths) .

Cancer: In 2020-2022 there were 1,287 new cancer registrations in Aberdeen (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) of 624.2 – similar to the rate for Scotland of 629.7. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the rate of cancer registrations decreased from the rates in 2019-2021 (656.6 and 626.9 respectively). The rate of cancer registrations varies by derivation (rate of 768.9 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 571.2 in quintile 5 (least deprived)) and by Health and Social Care localities, at 609.5 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, 627.4 in Aberdeen North and 656 in Aberdeen Central .



Cancer early deaths: In 2021-23 there were 267 early deaths (<75 years) from cancer (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 142.9 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 142.4 per 100,000 population. Overall, the rate of early deaths from cancer has been decreasing in both Aberdeen City and Scotland. The rate of early deaths from cancer is higher is deprived areas at 249 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 98 in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varies across the City (Intermediate

Zones), from a low of 63 per 100,000 population in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 315 in Woodside .



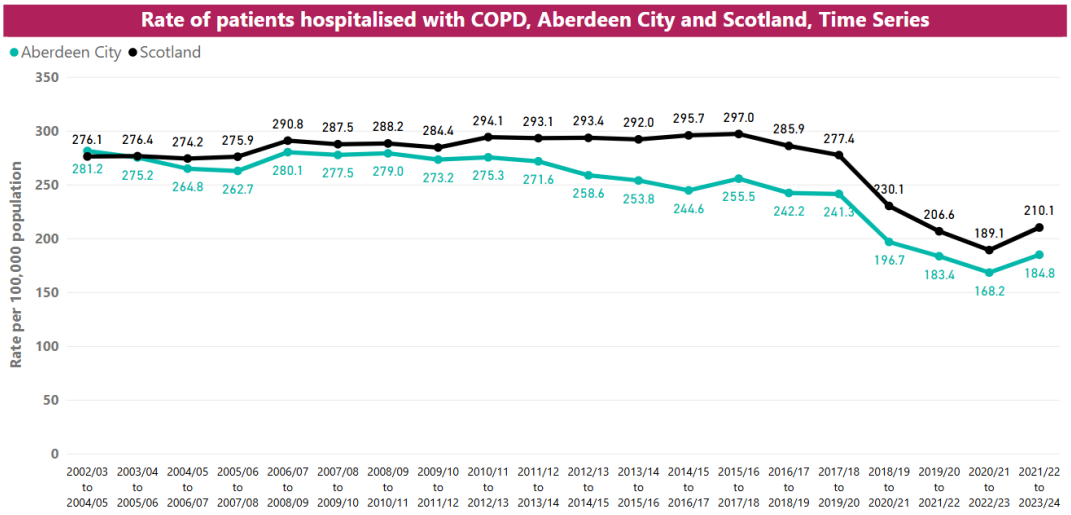
Coronary heart disease (CHD): In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 663 patient hospitalisations with coronary heart disease (3 year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 334.2 per 100,000 population – slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of326.8 per 100,000 population. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, the rate of Coronary Heart Disease patient hospitalisations has decreased over the past 10 years. Coronary Heart Disease hospitalisations are higher in deprived areas at a rate of 443.1 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 256.2 in quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate of hospitalisations varies by Intermediate Zone, from a low of 146 per 100,000 population in Ferryhill North to a high of 532.4 in Torry East .

In 2021/2023 the rate (age-sex standardised) of early deaths (<75 years) from Coronary Heart Disease was 43.9 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City, lower than the rate for Scotland of 54.5. The rate of early deaths from Coronary Heart Disease was higher in more deprived areas (95.9 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 25 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varied across the city (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 0 in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West, Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South, Cove North and Hanover North to a high of 132 per 100,000 population in Hannover South.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): In 2021/22-2023/24, the incidence[14] of Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Aberdeen City was 200 (3-year average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 121.5 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 136.8 per 100,000 population. After 5 consecutive periods of decreases, incidence increased in both Scotland and Aberdeen City in this last data period (from 104.2 and 119.3 respectively). In 2021-2023 there were 94 deaths (3-year average), which is a rate (age-sex standardised) of 58.1 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 62 per 100,000 population. Again,

[14] Total number of patients with a first admission in 10 years who were discharged from hospital or died.

the rate of Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease deaths increased in this last period (from 52.2 and 58.7 respectively in 2020-2022). The increase in incidence is reflected in the increase in patient hospitalisations. In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 305 (3-year rolling average number) patient hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (up from 273 in 2020/21-2022/23). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 184.8 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 210.1. In Aberdeen City, the rate of patient hospitalisations for Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is higher for those in deprived areas at a rate of 402.9 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 65.4 in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 22 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 497 in Mastick .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles. 3-year aggregate, age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Updated February 2025. (COPD - chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease).

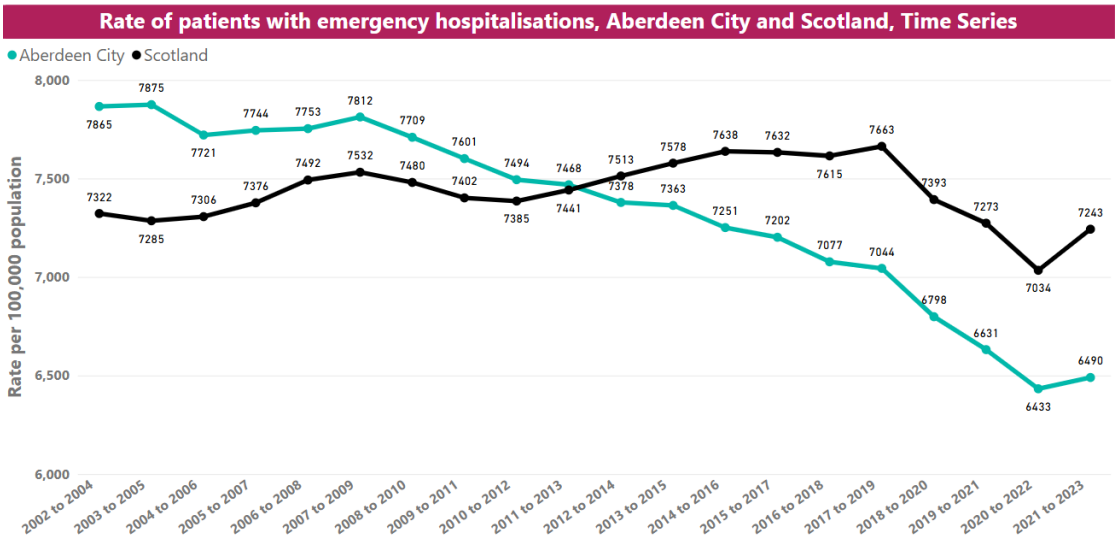
Asthma patient hospitalisations: In 2021/22 to 2023/24 the rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) of asthma hospitalisations was 63.6 in Aberdeen City, lower than the rate for Scotland of 76.2 but higher than the rate for 2020/21 to 2022/23 of 52.8. In Aberdeen City, the rate of patient hospitalisations for Asthma is higher for those in deprived areas at a rate of 102 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 40.5 in quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates varied across the city (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 17.3 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield North to a high of 162.4 in Northfield.

Data from the Scottish Health Survey estimates that in 2019-23, 18% of people in Aberdeen City had doctor-diagnosed asthma – up from 16% in 2018-22 and slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 17%. A higher proportion of females (19%) than males (17%) had doctor-diagnosed asthma .

5.1.9. Hospitalisations

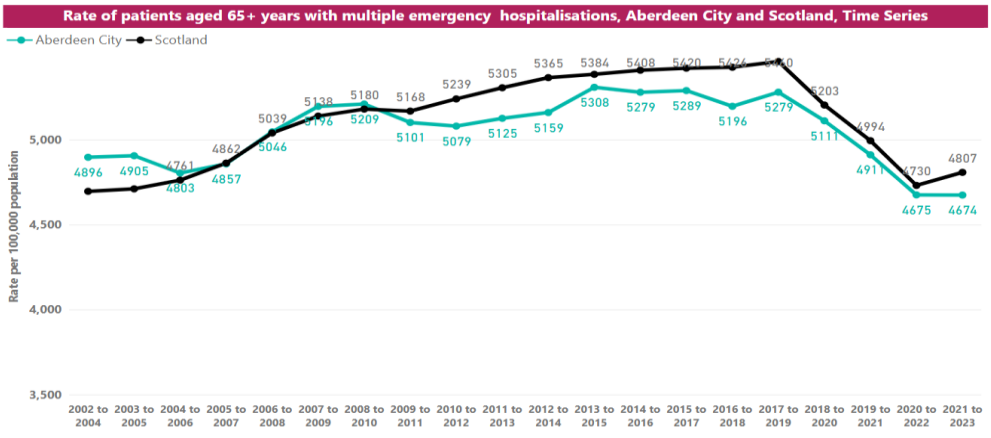
Emergency hospitalisations: In 2021-2023 there were 13,734 emergency patient hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average) – equivalent to a rate (age-sex

standardised) of 6,490 per 100,000 population. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 7,243. In Aberdeen City the rate of emergency patient hospitalisations had been gradually decreasing, from 7,812 per 100,000 population in 2007-2009, to a low of 6,433 in 2020-2022. This is the first increase since then. The rate of emergency patient hospitalisations varies across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 4,339 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 10,054 in Torry East .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles, 3-year aggregate number and directly age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Updated February 2025.

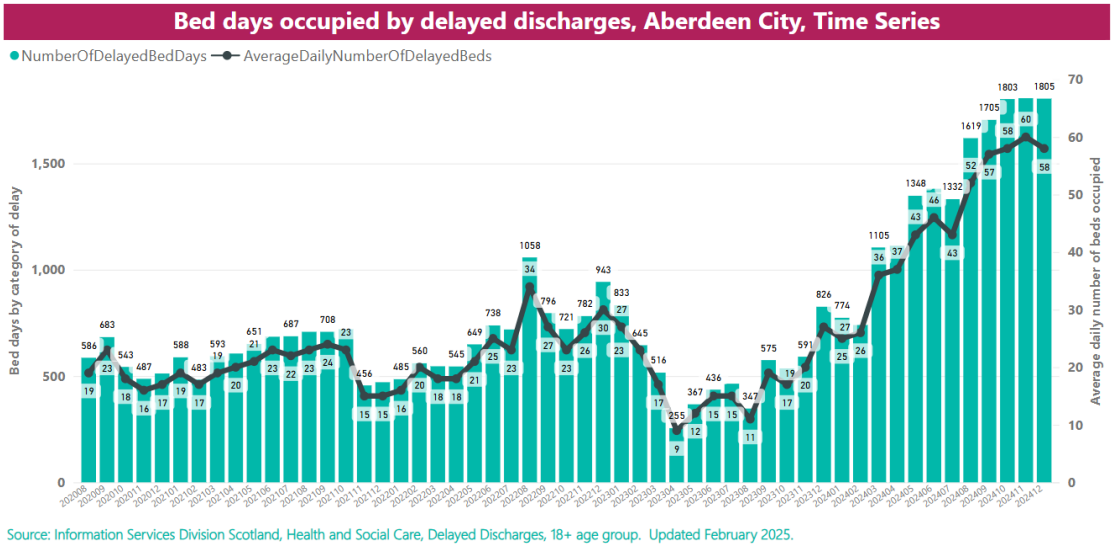
Patients aged 65+ years with multiple emergency hospitalisations: In 2021-2023 there were 1,758 patients aged 65+ years with 2 or more emergency hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 4,674 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 4,807 and similar to the rate of 4,675 per 100,000 population in 2020-2022. Rates vary across the City (Intermediate Zones), ranging from a low of 2,348 in West End North to a high of 11,184 in City Centre East .



Source: ScotPHO Profiles, 3 year rolling average number and directly age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Last updated February 2025.

Delayed discharges: A delayed discharge occurs when a hospital patient who is clinically ready for discharge from inpatient hospital care continues to occupy a hospital bed beyond the date they are ready for discharge. At the census point (last Thursday of the month) in December 2024, there were 1,805 days spent in hospital by people whose

discharge was delayed, with an average daily number of beds occupied due to people delayed in hospital being 58. The number of delayed discharges has increased substantially in the last year from 826 in December 2023 and an average daily number of 27 beds. The most common reason for the delay in December 2024 was standard 'Health and Social Care Reasons' with 1,573 delayed bed days. Overall, the average (median) length of stay was 66 days, however the average length of stay varied by reason for the delay with median length of stay being 36 days for those with standard reasons and 113 days for those with complex reasons .



Source: Information Services Division Scotland, Health and Social Care, Delayed Discharges, 18+ age group. Updated February 2025.

5.1.10. Social care services/care homes

People supported by social care services: In 2023/24 a total of 8,790 people in Aberdeen City were receiving social care services/support by the Health and Social Care Partnership. This equates to a rate of 38.6 per 1,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 42.8 per 1,000 population. The rate of people receiving social care services/support remained fairly static between 2017/18 and 2022/23 at around 46 per 1,000 population before dropping to 38.6 in 2023/24.

The most common type of support received was Social Worker (6,000 people) followed by Care at Home (5,305 people) and then Care Home (2,055 people) – although this varied by age group with Care at Home being the most common type of support in the 65-74 years and 75-84 years age groups. More females than males were receiving support (rates of 578.3 compared to 420.4 per 1,000 people). The most common client group for people receiving social care services were Elderly/Frail (rate of 581.5 per 1,000 people receiving support), followed by Dementia (116.2) and Physical and Sensory Disability (111.7). 14.9% of all those receiving support were known to be living alone (although the living alone status was not known for 66.9% of people receiving support).

Long term care needs: In 2023/24 there were 3,365 people (18+ years) with long-term care needs who received social care services or support funded by a Health and Social

Care Partnership. Of these, 1,900 were receiving personal care at home, 1,385 were Care Home Long Stay residents and 80 were Continuing Care Census/Hospital Based Complex Clinical Care.

High levels of care: In Aberdeen, in 2022/23 there were 510 people aged 65+ years with high levels of care need who were cared for at home (i.e. who received 10 and more hours of home care purchased or provided by the local authority). This equates to 28.3% of all people in this age group with high levels of care need – lower than the Scottish average of 36.7% .

Care homes: In 2024 there were 50 care homes in Aberdeen City with a total of 1,681 registered places and 1,486 residents. Most of these (1,433/96.4%) were long stay residents with two thirds of these being female. Older people (65+ years) made up the largest portion of care home residents (79.7%). Since 2014 the number of care homes has decreased by 28% (down from 69 in 2014) and the number of registered places has decreased by 9% (from 1,856 in 2014) .

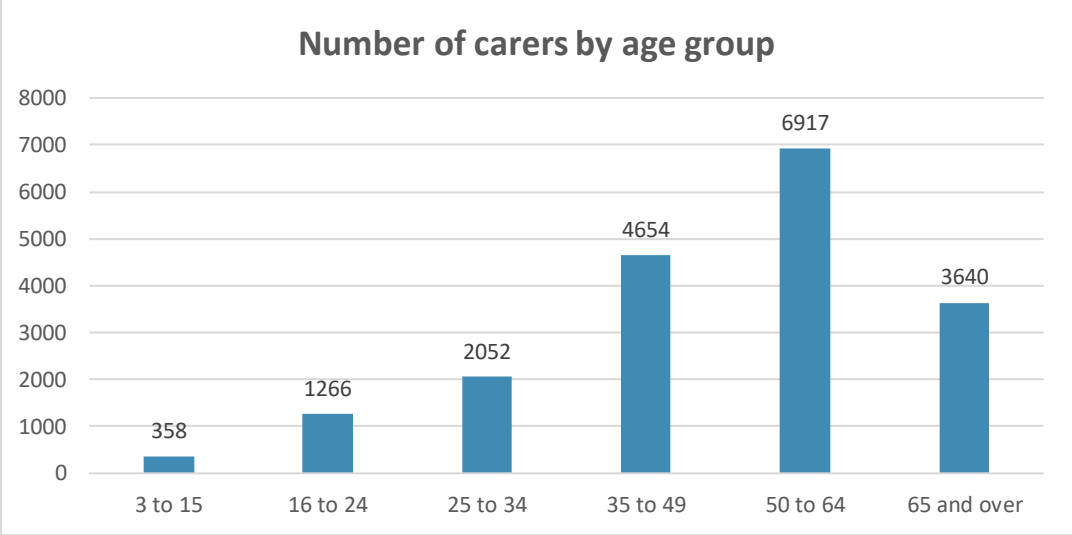
The Health and Care Experience Survey 2024 revealed that over half the respondents in Aberdeen City had a positive experience of social care. Almost three quarters of respondents had a positive experience of being treated with compassion and understanding, however a quarter of respondents had a negative experience in terms of the awareness of the help, care and support options available to them.

Last six months of life: In Aberdeen City, in 2023/24 there were 2,112 deaths in Aberdeen City (including falls but excluding people who died from other external causes). For these individuals, 90.1% of their last six months of life was spent either at home or in a community setting with the remaining 9.9% spent in hospital. This is equivalent to an average of 18 days in hospital in the six months prior to death (same as in 2022/23) .

5.1.11. Looking After Own Health and Wellbeing

Own health and wellbeing: In Aberdeen in 2024, 92% of respondents to the Scottish Health and Care Experience (HACE) Survey reported being able to look after their own health 'very well' or 'quite well' and 68% of people receiving care, support and help with everyday living agreed that they were supported to live as independently as possible, 69% agreed that they felt safe and 77% that they were treated with dignity and respect .

Unpaid carers: In the 2022 Census, 18,888 people in Aberdeen City reported providing unpaid care – equivalent to 8.7% of the population aged 3 and over. This is higher than the rate at the 2011 Census of 7%. Most carers (60%) in 2022 were providing up to 20 hours of unpaid care a week with 21.8% (4,123) saying they provided more than 50 hours of unpaid care a week. More females (11,013) than males (7,877) provided unpaid care. Carers were most common in the 50-64 year age group (6,917), however 358 children (3-15 years) were also identified as carers



Source: Scotland's Census 2022

Based on the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) 2019-2023, an estimated 11% of Aberdeen's population identify as a Carer. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 15% and lower than the rate for 2018-2022 of 13% .

Emerging priorities

- Across Scotland life expectancy (LE) is stalling, and healthy life expectancy (HLE) is declining. Aberdeen is not immune from these changes with the most recent data suggesting that LE for Aberdeen City in 2019-21 was 76.9 years, of which HLE was 60.2 years. Variations across the population are noted, showing the lose link there is to deprivation and both LE and HLE. At present our focus is on improving HLE, but do not take account of the effects of inequality in both LE and HLE. Addressing the social and economic factors that drive inequality should become a more urgency focus for our work

- This relationship between the wider social and economic determinants that drive the inequalities that create health inequality is a factor in all the data presented in relation to poor mental health associated with higher rates of prescribing, hospitalisations for mental illness, and for suicides. Taking a more preventative, population health approach to promoting and protecting mental health and wellbeing needs to be considered alongside addressing the wider social and economic determinants of mental health.

- Similarly, inequalities underpin many of the specific diseases explored in the data whether it is cancer, heart disease, or respiratory disease. Clearly there is an element of addressing the types of behaviours that are associated with health

risks - smoking, obesity and physical inactivity – which contribute to such diseases and looking to preventative programmes such as cancer screening and primary care opportunistic screening, but we also need to be moving beyond a health behaviour approach alone and considering how we can support role of place and whole-systems approaches ensuring a focus around health equity as a determinant of poor health

- Caring for older people or those with longer term conditions is also highlighted as a priority need within the presented data. Again, preventative approaches that operate across the life course to promote active ageing and support greater self-management and care amongst those with long term need to be further developed.

6. Communities and Housing

The "place" of Aberdeen is both the buildings, streets and spaces that make up the physical environment around us, and our "communities", the people, social groups, and the support networks that make up our social environment.

6.1. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities

6.1.1. Our Place

Area: Aberdeen City covers an area of 186 square kilometres and has a population density of 1,226 persons per square kilometre (2021). In terms of population size, it is the 8th largest local authority in Scotland.

Neighbourhoods: The City contains 37 neighbourhoods – small area geographies that are used (by Community Planning) to differentiate between different areas of the City. (Note: the neighbourhood boundaries do not match official administrative data boundaries. As a result, official data may not be available at neighbourhood level. Intermediate Zones approximate neighbourhood boundaries.)

Priority localities: The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland. Following SIMD 2020, 13 of Aberdeen's neighbourhoods are recognised as deprived on this basis: Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Cummings Park, Northfield, Heathryfold, Mastrick, Kincorth, Ashgrove, George Street and Stockethill.

6.1.2. Community empowerment

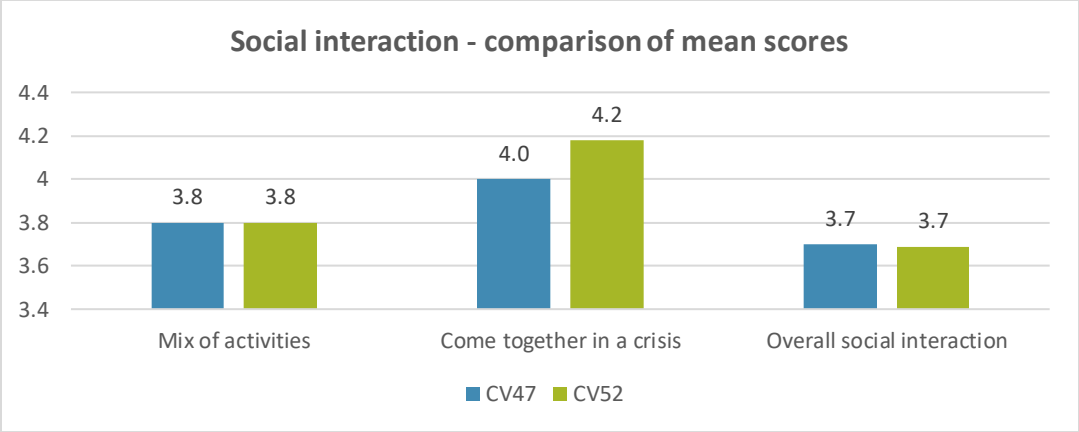
Following the publication of the Community Empowerment Strategy by Community Planning Aberdeen's Community Empowerment Group, two Community Empowerment editions of the City Voice have been undertaken. The first of these was in June 2023 (City Voice 47) and the second in December 2024 (City Voice 52). These asked panellists about current involvement and empowerment in their communities. Some of the questions were inspired by the Place Standard which is a recognised framework used for assessing places. The full reports for City Voice 47 and City Voice 52 can be found here . A brief summary comparing results from both surveys is given below.

Social interaction: The first set of questions asked participants about different aspects of social interaction in their neighbourhood, with respondents being asked to rate each on a scale of 1-7 (where 1 = little room for improvement and 7 = a lot of room for

improvement). Mean scores were calculated for each question (a higher score = a more positive response).

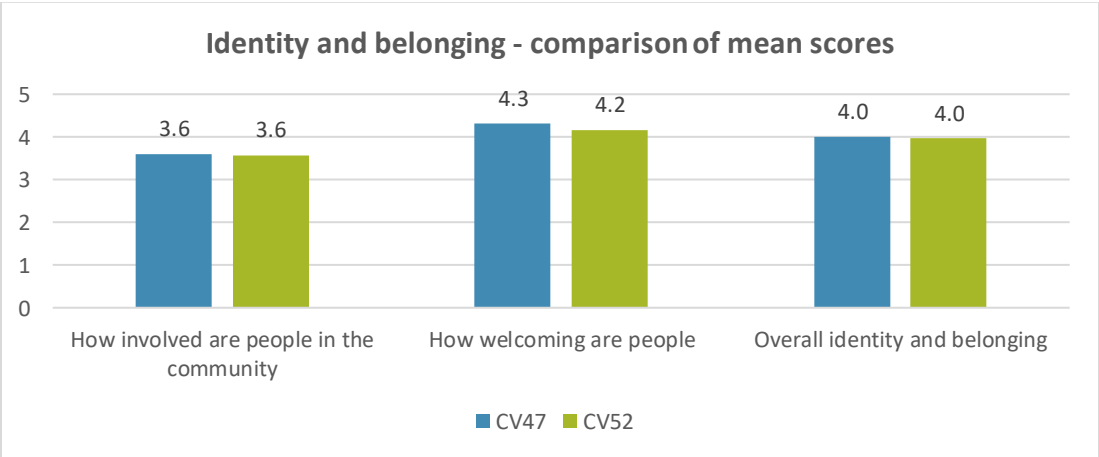
In City Voice 52, the highest scoring response was for **would people come together in a crisis** with a mean score of 4.2 with **is there a mix of activities** scoring lower at 3.8. The mean score for **overall, how would you rate opportunities for social interaction** was 3.7.

Comparison of results shows the mean scores for questions were very similar in City Voice 47 and City Voice 52, with the response to **would people come together in a crisis** increasing slightly from 4.0 to 4.2 and scores for the other two questions unchanged.



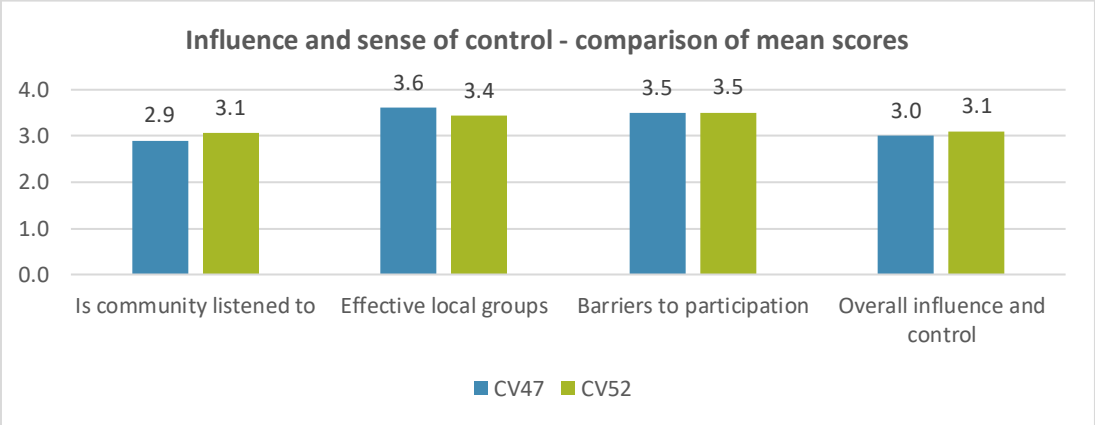
Identity and belonging: The next set of questions asked to what extent their neighbourhood has a positive identity that supports a strong sense of belonging. In City Voice 52 the highest scoring response was for **how welcoming are people in this** place which had a mean score of 4.2. The lowest scoring was **how involved are people in the** community which had a mean score of 3.6. The mean score for **overall, how strong is the sense of identity and belonging** was 4.0.

As with the previous set of questions, the mean scores for each question were very similar in both surveys, with the response to **how welcoming are people in this place** decreasing slightly from 4.3 to 4.2 and scores for the other two questions unchanged.

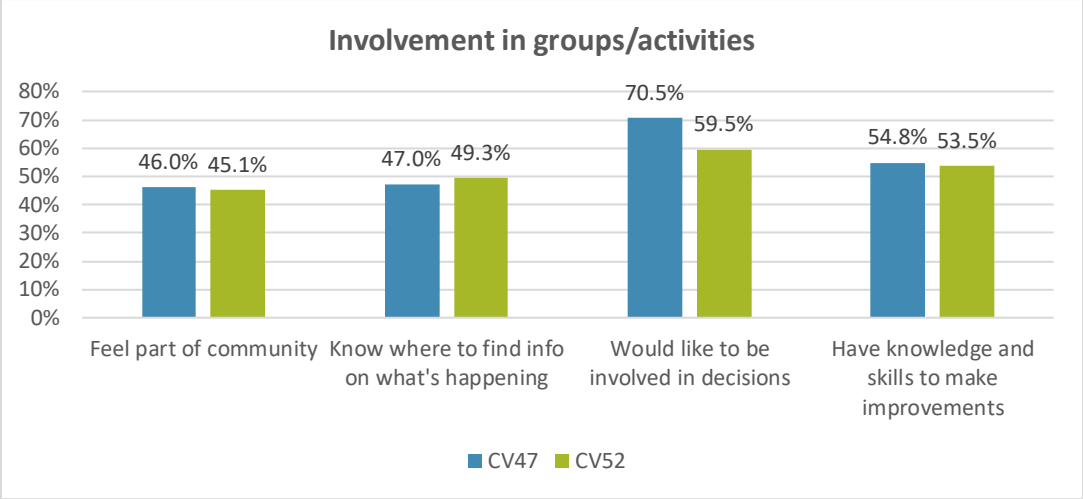


Influence and control: This set of questions was around whether people felt listened to and included in decision-making when things happen in their neighbourhood. On the whole the mean scores in this section were lower than in the previous two sections. The most positive response was for **are there barriers to participation for some people** which had a mean score of 3.5, followed by **are there effective local groups** with a mean score of 3.4. Both **is the community listened to** and **overall, do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better** had a mean score of 3.1.

Again the mean scores were broadly similar across both surveys, with responses to **is the community listened to** increasing slightly from 2.9 to 3.1 and **overall, do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better** increasing from 3.0 to 3.1. The score for **are there effective local groups** fell slightly from 3.6 to 3.4 and the score for **are there barriers to participation for some people** remaining the same at 3.5.



Involvement in community groups: In this section of the questionnaire, panellists were asked to rate their agreement with a range of statements relating to involvement in community groups or activities. In City Voice 52, agreement was highest for **I would like to be involved in decisions which affect my community** with 59.5% of respondents agreeing with this statement. Over half of respondents (53.5%) agreed with the statement that they have the **knowledge and skills to work with others to make improvements in the community** and just under half (49.3%) agreed that they **know where to find information about what is happening within my community.** At 45.1%, levels of agreement were lowest for **I feel part of the community where I live.** On the whole, the proportion of respondents who agreed with the statements is similar in both questionnaires. The exception is in the percentage who agreed that they **would like to be involved in decisions which affect their community** which has fallen from 70.5% in City Voice 47 to 59.5% in this most recent survey.



Volunteering: Data from the Scottish Household Survey estimates that 16% of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in 2023 – this is down from 22% in 2022 and 25% in 2021. In Scotland there was a similar drop in levels of volunteering – from 22% in 2022 to 18% in 2023 .

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) reports that there are over 80,700 volunteers in Aberdeen who regularly give their time in support of local communities, contributing an incredible 6.2 million hours of help every year, making a positive difference to all aspects of life, people and communities across our city . Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations logged 10,882 volunteer interactions during the year. Youth volunteering is a great strength in Aberdeen, with 3,129 young people (age 12-25 years) undertaking Saltire Awards for volunteering (locality breakdown: Central: 787, North: 1397 and South: 945 people).

There are challenges both locally and nationally in sustaining volunteering levels, particularly due to the impact of the ongoing cost of living crisis and additional pressures voluntary and community groups face, with it noted by Volunteer Scotland that 'many voluntary sector organisations have experienced a 'perfect storm' of increased demand, rising costs and stagnating income, and individuals have less time and finance which is reducing their capacity to volunteer' and also 'residual, longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on formal volunteering participation'.

Using digital and data to help our communities: The benefits of using data to improve productivity and transform public services have been recognised in the UK Data Strategy 2020 and the subsequent "Roadmap for digital and data, 2022 to 2025" . The Strategy also recognises some of the existing barriers. Presently data is not consistently managed, used or shared in a way that facilitates informed decision-making or joint working across the public sector. Effective use of data and digital technology can help the way we deliver our services and is fundamental to their planning and re-design. It can also empower people in our communities – improving the way they interact, both with each other and with public sector services. Data from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2019 suggests a relatively high degree of trust in public service organisations to use personal

data only for acceptable purposes. When asked, 58% of adults said they had either 'a great deal' or quite a lot' of trust in public service organisations, compared to only 15% for private companies .

Aberdeen City Accreditations: Aberdeen has been a Fairtrade City since 2004. The accreditation renewal process is overseen by the Fairtrade Foundation. The Aberdeen Fair and Sustainable Trade Group, made up of a range of organisational partners and individuals, works to maintain accreditation for the people of Aberdeen.

Aberdeen is also a Sustainable Food Place and was awarded a silver accreditation in the initiative in 2022. The partnership, Granite City Good Food, works to maintain and extend that accreditation for the people of Aberdeen.

6.1.3. Housing

Dwellings: In 2023 there were 124,369 dwellings in Aberdeen City – an increase of 1,006 (0.8%) on the number of dwellings in 2022 (123,363). Since 2013, the number of dwellings has increased by 11,656 (10.3%). The number of dwellings varies by neighbourhood from 724 in Cummings Park to 6,691 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield. Most (58.9%) are in Council Tax bands A-C, with 26.2% being in bands D-E and 14.9% being in bands G-H . The proportion of dwellings within each Council Tax band varies by neighbourhood. For example in Cummings Park, 99% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands A-C, while in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber, 67% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands F-H .

40.5% of dwellings have a single adult discount with the proportion of dwellings with these discounts ranging from a low of 24.7% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber to a high of 50.8% in Woodside. 6.8% of dwellings have 'occupied exemptions' (e.g. student households), with the highest levels of exemptions being in Old Aberdeen (34%), George Street (32%), Seaton (28%) and Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank (19%) .

Second homes account for less than 1% of all dwellings in the City (n=686) and in 2023 there were 7,790 vacant dwellings (6.3% of all dwellings) – down from 8,121 in 2022. The percentage of vacant dwellings ranges from a low of 2% in Old Machar to a high of 11.9% in Garthdee.

Most (55%) dwellings are flats, 18% are terraced, 16% are semi-detached and 11% are detached (based on 2017 – no update since then). Again this varies by neighbourhood e.g. in Seaton 96.8% of dwellings were flats while in Kingswells only 2.6% were flats and 63.1% were detached . Data from the 2022 Census shows that 49.7% of occupied households were living in whole houses or bungalows (12.6% detached, 21.2% semi-detached and 16% terraced) with 50.2% of households living in flats.

At the time of the 2022 Census, 56.5 % of occupied households in the City were owned (28.7% owned outright and 26.7% with a mortgage or loan) , 22.4% were socially rented, 19.8% were privately rented and 1.3% were rent-free. Tenure varied by Intermediate Zone. Ownership (either outright or with a mortgage) was lowest in Seaton at 22.8% and highest in Oldmachar East at 91.2%. Less than 1% of households were socially rented in

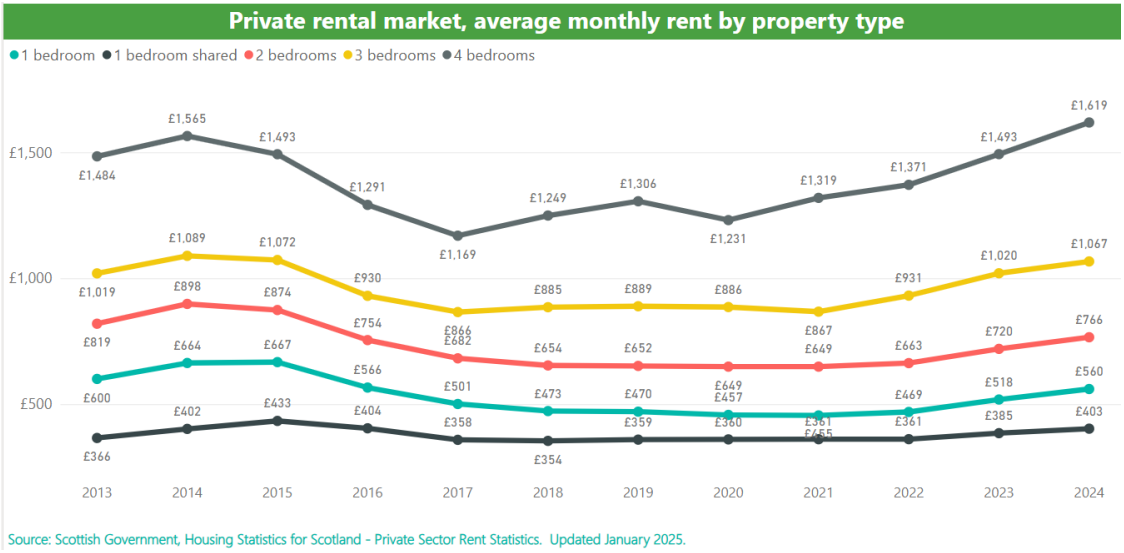
Danestone compared to 62.5% in Torry East. City Centre East had the highest percentage of privately rented households (55.8%) and Northfield the lowest (3.3%) .

Housing stock: In Aberdeen City in 2024 the Local Authority's housing stock totalled 23,255 – up from 22,772 in 2023. Of the Council stock, 17,732 (76.3%) were flats and 5,532 (23.7%) were houses. Since 2014, the total housing stock owned by the Council has decreased by 3.4% - from 22,496 . At 31st March 2023 there were 3,720 applicants on the waiting list and 1,774 on the transfer list for housing.

Supply of new housing: In 2023-24, 1,089 new houses were supplied in Aberdeen City. Of these, 509 were private sector new builds, 387 were local authority new builds and 193 were housing association new builds .

Supported housing: A range of supported housing is provided by the Local Authority. In 2023, housing for older people included 110 very sheltered, and 1,873 sheltered dwellings (of which 223 are wheelchair adapted) and 1,533 medium dependency. Some 3,516 dwellings have been fitting with a community alarm. Housing for people with physical disabilities included 448 dwellings adapted for wheelchair use, 830 for ambulant disabled and 1,902 with other adaptions .

Private rental sector: In 2024, the average monthly rent in Aberdeen City and Shire (Broad Rental Market Area) was £560 for a one-bedroomed property, £766 for a 2-bedroomed property, £1,067 for a 3-bedroomed property and £1,619 for a 4-bedroomed property. These were higher than the average rents in 2023 with the largest increase being in 4-bedroomed properties which increased from £1,493 in 2023 . With the exception of 4-bedroomed properties, rents are lower than their 2015 peak.



Source: Scottish Government, Housing Statistics for Scotland - Private Sector Rent Statistics. Updated January 2025.

House sales: In 2024, the average (mean) purchase price for a residential property in Aberdeen City was £181,008 – up from £178,726 in 2023. (The median price was £146,000.) This is still lower than the 2015 peak of £223,986. The number of properties sold increased from 4,132 in 2023 to 4,461 in 2024 .

6.1.4. Homelessness

Homeless applications: In Aberdeen City in 2023-24, there were 1,763 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation, of which 1,270 were assessed as homeless. There were 1,970 people (of which 596 were children) associated with the applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. The number of applications is similar to the figure for 2022-23 (1,772) and up from 1,404 in 2021-22. In the first two quarters of 2024-25 there have been 889 applications .

In 2023-24 there were 50 applications were at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping the night before their application, and 95 where at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping in the 3 months prior to their application. 483 of the households assessed as homeless had at least one identified support need (up from 449 the previous year).

At 31st March 2024, 442 households were in temporary accommodation (up from 399 in March 2023), 90 of these households had either pregnant women or children in them (up from 45 in March 2023) with a total of 175 children in temporary accommodation (up from 85 in March 2023) .

Youth homelessness: In 2023-24, there were 481 youth homelessness applications (up from 470 in 2022-23) of which 351 were assessed as homeless .

Prison homelessness: In 2023-24 there were 30 applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from – down from 45 in 2022-23 .

6.2. Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes

6.2.1. Crime

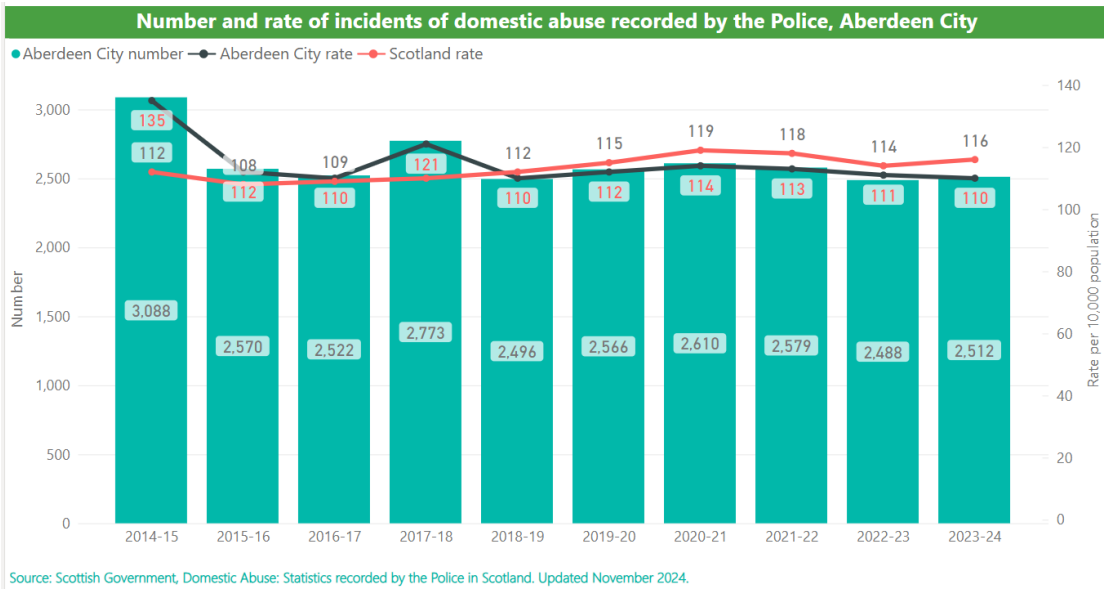
Crimes and offences: In Scotland, crimes and offences are classified into groups, with a new group for Coronavirus restriction crimes being added in 2019/20. Data from 2021-22 onwards uses new categories of crime and offence groups. The changes include the introduction of a new set of crime and offence groups and categories. The largest change is the transfer of Common assault and stalking from the miscellaneous offences group to the non-sexual crimes of violence group and by extension the recorded crime total.

In 2023-24 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,432), Road Traffic Offences (4,647) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,756). The total rate (per 10,000 population) for crime was 663 (550 for Scotland) and for offences was 320 (also 320 for Scotland) .

Source: Scottish Government, Recorded Crime in Scotland. Updated July 2024.
Note: The data release for 2021-22 is the first edition to present crime statistics using the new set of crime and offence groups. The largest change is the transfer of Common assault and Stalking from the Miscellaneous offences group to the Non-sexual crimes of violence group, and by extension the recorded crime total for Scotland. All data has been back revised.

The rate of recorded crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas (Intermediate Zones). In 2022/23, the rate (crude rate per 10,000 population) of recoded crime ranged from a low of 226.5 in Cove South to a high of 7,873.5 in City Centre East .

Domestic abuse: In 2023-24 there were 2,512 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – up from 2,488 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 110 per 10,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 116 per 10,000 population . Not all incidents of Domestic Abuse result in a crime being recorded. In 2023-24 there were 142 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse – up from 116 in 2022-23 .



Source: Scottish Government, Domestic Abuse: Statistics recorded by the Police in Scotland. Updated November 2024.

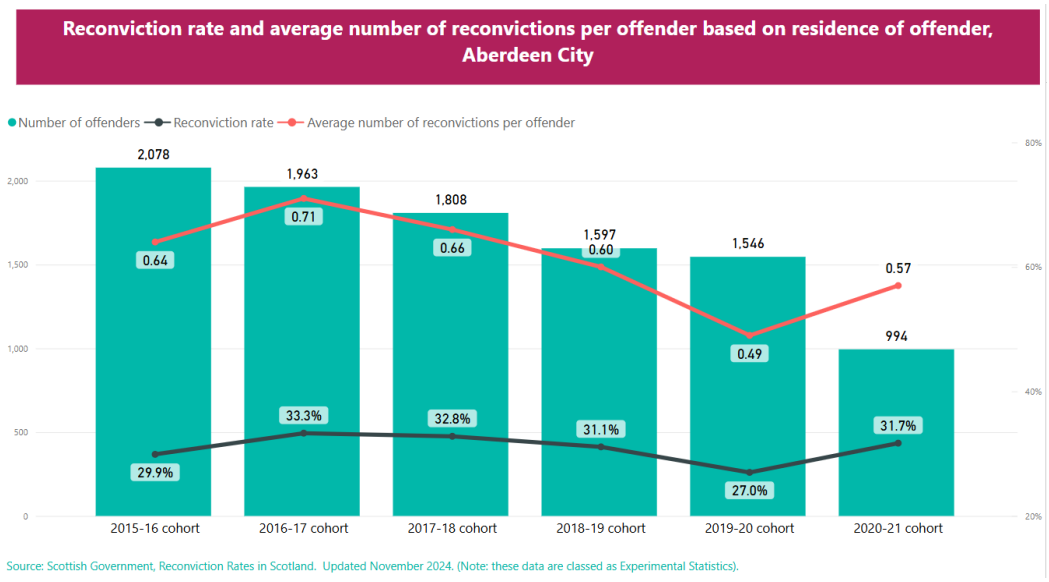
Hate Crime Reports: In 2023-24 there were 316 hate crimes recorded by the police in Aberdeen City – up from 291 in 2022-23 but down from 361 in 2021-22. This is equivalent to a rate of 14 per 10,000 population compared to a rate of 11 for Scotland as a whole. In Scotland, the most common aggravator for hate crimes was Race (62.7%) followed by Sexual Orientation (23.9%) .

Discrimination and/or harassment: Based on data from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 8% of people in Aberdeen City experienced discrimination and 4% experienced harassment .

Anti-social offences: In 2023-24 there were 1,956 anti-social offences recorded by the police in Aberdeen City – slightly lower than the number for 2022-23 of 1,986. The rate for 2023-24 was 87 per 10,000 population compared to a rate of 88 in Scotland .

6.2.2. Justice Social Work

Reconvictions: Of the 994 offenders (over 18 years) in the 2020-21 cohort, 31.7% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence (mean 0.6 reconvictions per offender) . (Note: 2020-21 cohort data has been impacted by COVID-19 pandemic and should not be interpreted to be indicative of longer term trends.)

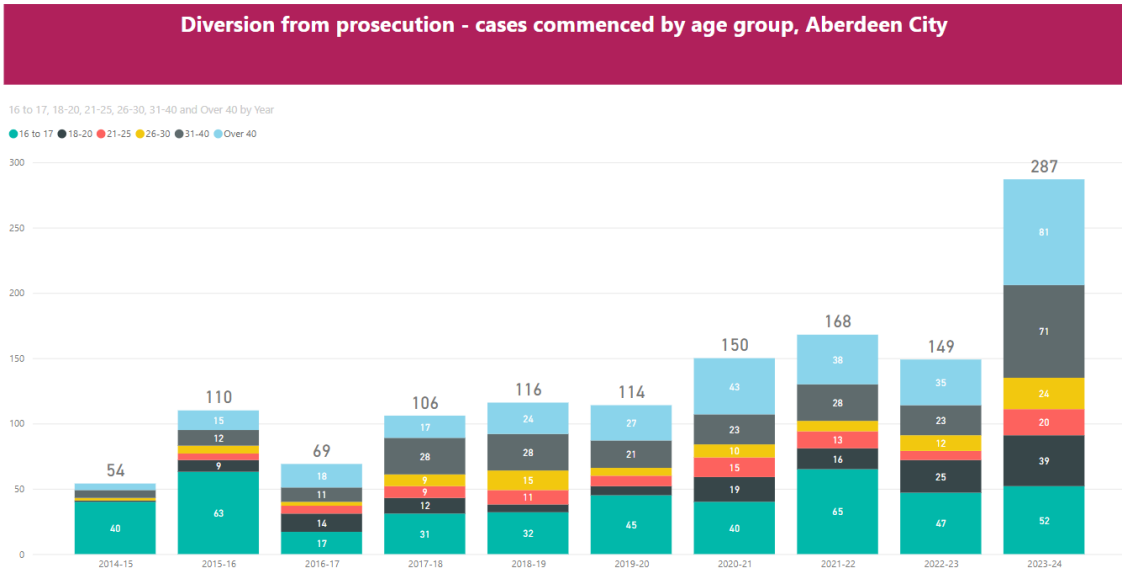


Source: Scottish Government, Reconviction Rates in Scotland. Updated November 2024. (Note: these data are classed as Experimental Statistics).

More than one offence: In 2024-25, 1,243 adults were charged with more than one offence – down from 1,279 in 2023-24.

Community payback orders: In 2023-24, 82.9% of Community Payback Orders were successfully completed, up from 80.5% in 2022-23 .

Diversion from prosecution (DP): In 2023-24 there were 444 referrals for Diversion from Prosecution. 287 Diversion from Prosecution Cases commenced (252 distinct individuals) of which 52 were 16 and 17 year-olds and 39 were 18-20 years. The number of Diversion from prosecution cases commenced increased substantially between 2022-2023 (149) and 2023-24 (287) .



Source: Scottish Government, Justice social work statistics: local authority time series tables, Diversion from prosecution. Updated January 2025.

Bail supervision orders: In 2023/24, 126 Bail Supervision Cases were commenced (116 individuals of which 94 were males and 22 were females). These Orders are agreed by the Court so that an individual is supervised by Justice Social Work instead of being remanded in prison (which can lead to negative outcomes for individuals in relation to employment, housing, family relations, etc, which can result in an increased likelihood of further offending) .

Voluntary assistance and statutory throughcare: In 2023/24, 15 individuals received voluntary assistance , down from 86 in 2022/23 (although up from 4 and 13 in 2021/22 and 2020/21 respectively). In the same period, 198 received statutory throughcare, up from 173 in 2022/23.

Confidence in community justice: Questions about Community Justice have been asked in City Voice 49. When asked whether they agreed that **people, rather than spend a few months in prison for committing a minor offence, should help their community as part of a community sentence**, over three quarters of respondents (76%) agreed. This is lower than when the question was asked in the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (data only available at Scotland level) when 82% of respondents agreed with the statement .

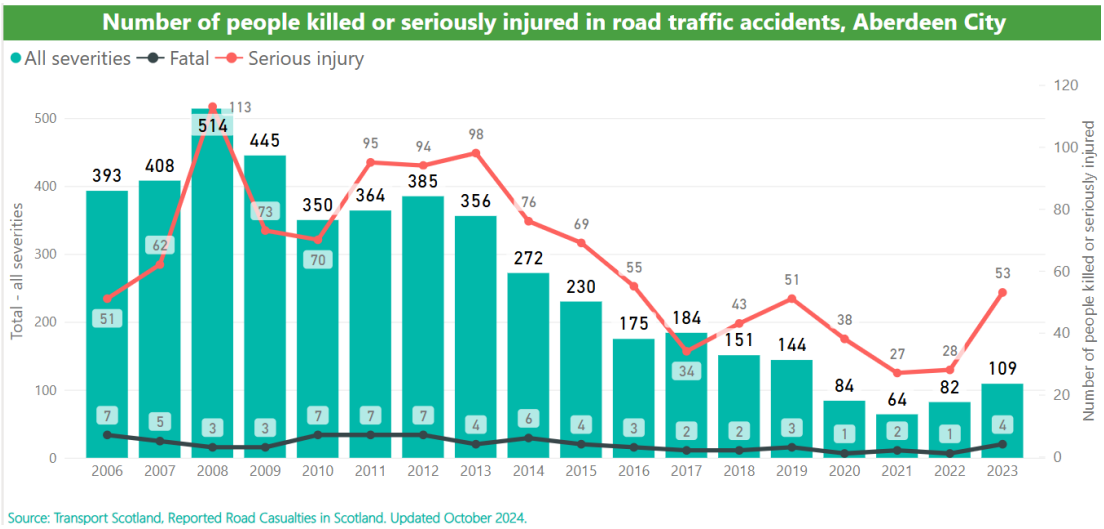
6.2.3. Safety

Accidental dwelling fires: In 2023-24 there were 222 accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen City (up slightly from 215 in 2022-23) which is equivalent to a rate of 179 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 140 in Scotland. Impairment due to alcohol/drugs was suspected to be a contributory factor to accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen in 14.9% of cases – higher than the rate for Scotland of 13.5%.

In 2023-24 there were also 18 deliberate dwelling fires (rate of 14.5 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 16.1 for Scotland). In total there were 717 fires in Aberdeen City in 2023-24, of which 414 were primary fires, 302 were secondary fires and 1 was a chimney fire. This

is down slightly from the total of 827 fires in 2022-23. There were 4 fatal casualties and 44 non-fatal casualties .

Road safety: In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (from 64 in 2021) . In 2019-21, the rate of casualties from road traffic accidents varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 7 per 100,000 population in Danestone to a high of 110 per 100,000 population in City Centre East .



Emerging priorities

There is a continuing need to ensure that people and place are at the heart of our population need assessment: This this regard the following issues can be considered emerging priorities:

- Ensuring that we broaden the types of data that are included in the PNA needs to be explored. These should include:
    - Data derived from the wider use of the Place Standard tool;
    - Data from those with live experiences;

- Data on those who feel more or less involved in community planning and delivery. It should be a priority to focus on the 13 priority locations identified to consider how place based /community led approaches could be developed applied?

7. Neighbourhood and environment

Both the very local and the wider physical environment are important in creating health and sustaining wellbeing for individuals, for families and for communities. Local issues which impact on health include, air quality; the location, quality and accessibility of green spaces; walkability and transport, particularly in support of active travel; and the physical appearance of localities, such as litter and poor or derelict buildings, which can impact on mental health. Climate change will continue to impact our communities through direct effects including increased mortality and ill-health associated with excess heat and cold and loss associated with flooding and other extreme weather events

7.1. Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

7.1.1. Your neighbourhood

A series of questions about 'Your Neighbourhood' has been asked in the City Voice, most recently in City Voice 51. These questions are based on the Place Standard format which provides a framework for asking about places – covering both physical and social aspects of a place. Participants were asked to answer the questions with their **local neighbourhood** in mind (while everyone will have their own idea about what a local neighbourhood is, for the purpose of these questions we suggested an area within a 15-minute walk from home would be relevant). The questions covered 14 themes:

- **Moving around :** Can you easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?
- **Public transport:** Does public transport meet your needs?
- **Traffic and parking:** Do traffic and parking arrangements allow you to move around safely and meet your needs?
- **Streets and spaces:** Do streets and spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?
- **Green space:** Can you regularly experience good quality natural space? This includes a wide variety of environments from parks and woodlands to green space alongside paths and streets.
- **Play and leisure:** Do you have access to a range of space and opportunities for play and leisure activities?
- **Services and amenities:** Do services and amenities (e.g. healthcare, schools, libraries, shops and restaurants) meet your needs?
- **Work and local economy:** Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality jobs?

- **Housing and community:** Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?
- **Social interaction:** Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?
- **Identity and belonging:** Does your neighbourhood have a positive identity and do you feel that you belong?
- **Feeling safe:** Do you feel safe in your neighbourhood?
- **Care and maintenance:** Are buildings and spaces well cared for?
- **Influence and sense of control:** Do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?

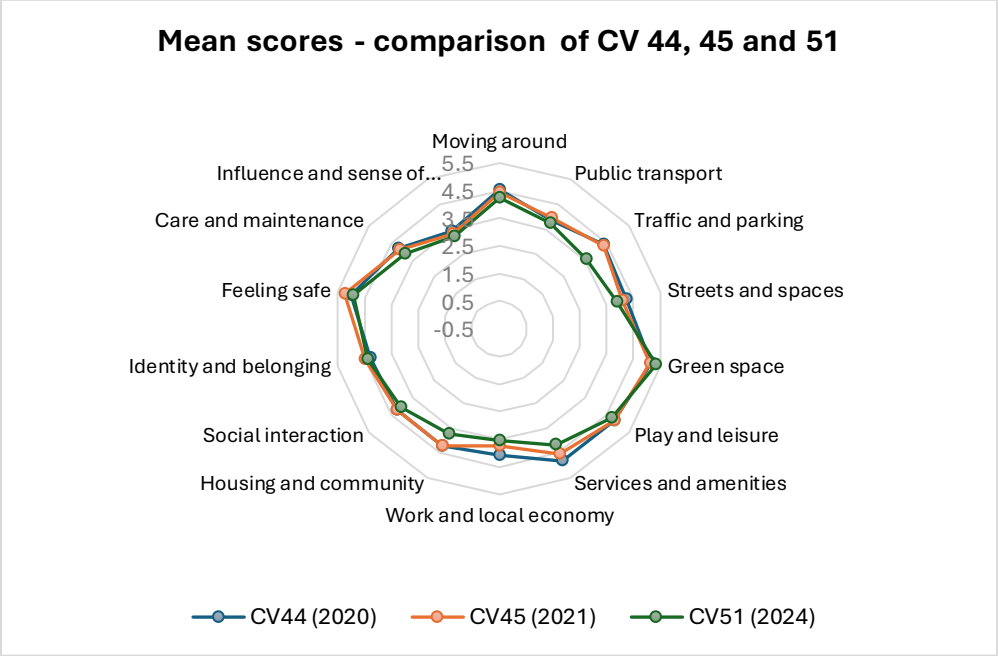
For each of the 14 topics, participants were asked to give a score on a scale of 1-7, where 1 = lots of room for improvement and 7 = very little room for improvement. Mean scores are calculated for each topic with a higher mean score indicates a better rating.

In the most recent City Voice survey that included these questions (City Voice 51, August 2024), **green space** and **feeling safe** were the highest scoring topics with mean scores of 5.3 and 4.9 respectively followed by **play and leisure** (4.7). The lowest scoring topics were **influence and sense of control** (mean score of 3.2), **traffic and parking** (3.5) and **work and local economy** (3.6). The table below shows the mean scores for all indicators from highest to lowest.

Topics	Mean scores
Green space	5.3
Feeling safe	4.9
Play and leisure	4.7
Identity and belonging	4.4
Moving around	4.2
Services and amenities	4.2
Social interaction	4.1
Streets and spaces	3.9
Care and maintenance	3.9
Public transport	3.8
Housing and community	3.7
Work and local economy	3.6
Traffic and parking	3.5
Influence and sense of control	3.2

The same set of questions have been asked in previous City Voice questionnaires. On the whole, responses show a broadly similar pattern each time these questions have been asked, with most of the changes being relatively small. The most notable change is in relation to **traffic and parking** where the mean score has fallen from 4.4 in CV44 (2020) to 3.5 in City Voice 51 (2024). With the exceptions of **green space** and **identity and belonging**, mean scores for all of the topics have fallen since the questions were asked

in CV44 (2020). The chart below shows mean scores across these three City Voice questionnaires with the table giving a more detailed comparison, highlighting the differences in scores between City Voice 44 (2020) and City Voice 51 (2024).

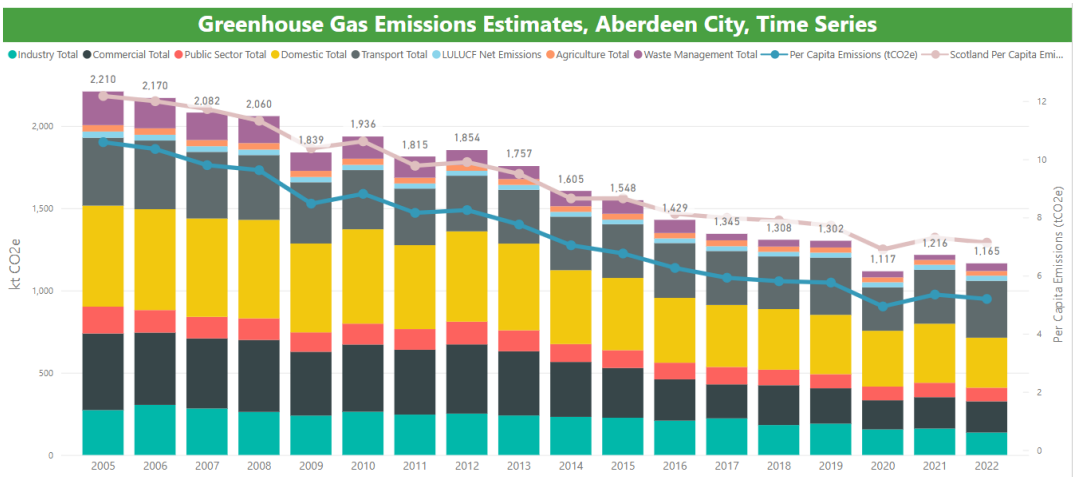


	CV44 (2020)	CV45 (2021)	CV51 (2024)	Difference between CV44 and CV51
Moving around	4.5	4.4	4.2	-0.3
Public transport	3.9	3.9	3.8	-0.1
Traffic and parking	4.4	4.3	3.5	-0.8
Streets and spaces	4.2	4.1	3.9	-0.4
Green space	5.2	5.1	5.3	0.2
Play and leisure	4.9	4.8	4.7	-0.1
Services and amenities	4.8	4.5	4.2	-0.6
Work and local economy	4.1	3.8	3.6	-0.5
Housing and community	4.2	4.2	3.7	-0.5
Social interaction	4.2	4.2	4.1	-0.1
Identity and belonging	4.3	4.5	4.4	0.1
Feeling safe	5.0	5.2	4.9	-0.1
Care and maintenance	4.2	4.1	3.9	-0.3
Influence and sense of control	3.4	3.3	3.2	-0.2

7.1.2. Environment – climate change

Greenhouse gas emissions: In 2020, estimates of methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) emissions were included in the published statistics for the first time, in addition to the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates which were published previously.

In 2022, Greenhouse Gas emissions estimates totalled 1,165 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO2e) for Aberdeen City – down from 1,216 in 2021. Transport was the single largest contributor (29.7% of all greenhouse gas emissions) followed by domestic use (26.1%). In 2022 per capita emissions were lower in Aberdeen City (5.2 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e)) than in Scotland (7.1 tCO2e) .



Source: www.gov.uk, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics. Updated July 2024.
Note: In 2020, estimates of methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) emissions in these statistics for the first time, in addition to the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates which were published previously. Changes to methodology in 2022 data. 2005 to 2021 recalculated for consistent time series.

Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) emissions: In 2022 carbon dioxide emissions in Aberdeen totalled 1,063 kilotonnes (kt) (down 44.3% since 2005) – down from 1,128 in 2021. Since 2005, per capita carbon dioxide emissions have fallen in both Aberdeen and Scotland, mostly due to the greening of the electricity grid, and the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap has put in place a local commitment to meeting the Scottish Government target of Net Zero Emissions by 2045. In 2022, per capita levels were similar in Aberdeen (4.74 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e)) and Scotland (4.81 tCO2e) .

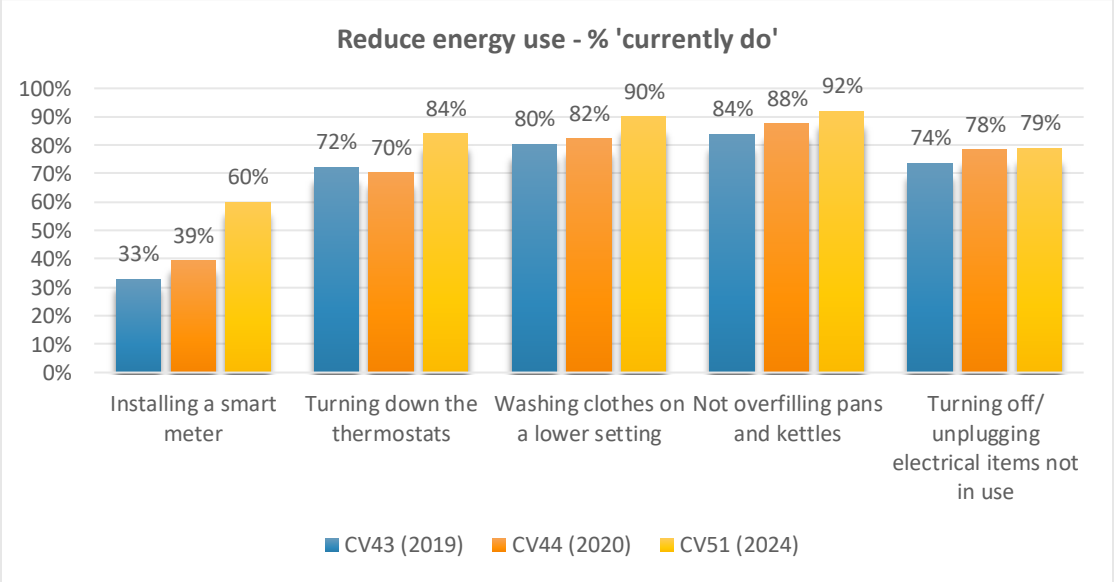
Carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of local authorities: alongside the full dataset, a subset dataset is also published which gives carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities (e.g. excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways, land-use, livestock and soils). In 2022, carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of local authorities totalled 999.5 kilotonnes – down from 1,044.8 kilotonnes in 2021.

Public Sector carbon dioxide emissions: In 2022, Public Sector carbon dioxide emissions totalled 81 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO2e) – down from 85 in 2021. Public Sector Gas made up 76.5% of emissions.

Renewable energy: In 2023, Aberdeen City had 3,679 renewable energy installations (3,663 of which were photovoltaics) compared to 2,845 in 2022 and 789 in 2014 (2014 is

the first year of data available). The installed capacity (Megawatts) was 80.9 megawatts in 2023 compared to 67.5 in 2022 and 10.3 in 2014. Renewable energy generation was 13,098 Megawatt-hours (MWh) in 2023 – compared to 11,690 Megawatt-hours in 2022.

Reducing energy use and demand: Questions around reducing energy use and demand have been asked in the City Voice, most recently in August 2024. Overall the results suggest that most respondents are already taking steps to reduce the amount of energy they use e.g. turning down heating thermostats or switching off/ unplugging electrical items not in use or installing smart meters. Other ways of reducing energy use identified by respondents included drying clothes outside, using an air fryer instead of an oven, only heating the rooms that are used most, and wearing extra layers of clothing. Most respondents also reported that they currently are, or would be prepared to, undertake actions which would reduce energy demand, e.g. install energy saving lightbulbs, upgrade to more energy efficient appliances or upgrade insulation levels. The exception to this is installing renewable energy technologies such as solar panels, where over half of respondents (57.4%) reported either they were not prepared to do this, or that this option was not applicable (e.g. those living in rented accommodation).



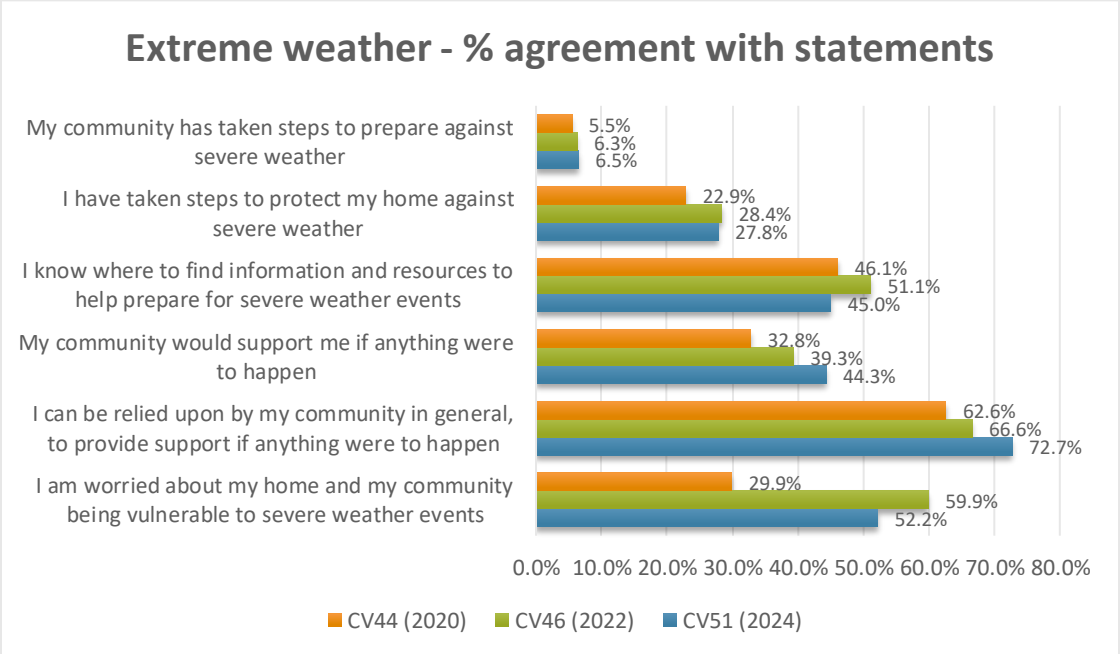
Climate Emergency Declaration: In March 2023, Aberdeen City Council added its voice to the growing number of local authorities around the world to have responded to the global climate change and nature loss crises by declaring a climate and nature emergency. Details of the declaration are available in the **minutes of the full Council meeting of 22 February 2023** (see item 18).

A city-wide Green Champions network exists to identify areas of improvement, drive change towards sustainable and resource efficient behaviour and promote activities which can benefit both climate and nature, as well as reducing long term costs and carbon inefficiencies. The developing city-wide network (currently six partners) meet up quarterly to support, share, and learn from each other.

Adaptation: Climate change is being experienced now across Aberdeen. Changes to local rainfall patterns and weather events are being seen, putting increasing numbers of people and property at risk. A Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) explored severe weather events experienced in Aberdeen over 2014-2019; as well as the impact on Council services. In comparing information with the previous Local Climate Impact Profile 2008-2013, changes in severe weather events, including storms, rainfall and warmer weather, between the two periods were noted. A refresh of Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework was produced in 2022, alongside an update to the Evidence Base which informs Aberdeen Adapts. The Evidence Base reflected strategic climate risks relevant to the city, taking information from sources including UK Climate Projections (UKCP18).

Results from the 2023 Scottish Household Survey estimate that 73% of people in Aberdeen City see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem – up from 68% in 2012 .

Extreme weather readiness: Questions about readiness for extreme weather events have been asked in City Voice, most recently in August 2024. Over half (52.2%) of respondents agreed (either strongly agree or agree) that they were worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather events, considerably higher than the response to when this question was asked 2020 (29.9%), but slightly lower than when asked in 2022 (59.9%). While 72.7% of respondents agreed that they could be relied upon to by their neighbours or community to provide support if anything were to happen, only 44.3% agreed that their community would support them if anything were to happen. Less than half (45%) of respondents said they would know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events. Over a quarter (27.8%) of respondents reported they had taken steps to protect their home against severe weather and only 6.5% thought that their community had taken steps to prepare against severe weather with the most common response to this final statement being don't know (45.5% of respondents) .



Flood Risk: : Scotland has been separated into 14 Local Plan Districts for flood risk management purposes. These districts are based on river catchments and coastal areas which cross administrative and institutional boundaries. Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), working with others, has produced a Flood Risk Management Strategy for each Local Plan District . The most recent Flood Risk Management Strategy produced by Scottish Environment Protection Agency 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).

Number of people and properties at risk from flooding for each area:

- Aberdeen City - North (Bridge Of Don, Dyce, Kingswells-north): 7,600 people and 4,200 homes and businesses, 670 people and 610 homes and businesses and 100 people and 50 homes and businesses.
- Aberdeen City - South (Central): 23,000 people and 14,000 homes and businesses
- Peterculter: 790 people and 430 homes and businesses
- Cove and Nigg Bay (Cove Bay and Nigg Bay): 260 people and 150 homes and businesses and 90 people and 90 homes and businesses.

The total number of people at risk from flooding for the North-East Local area is 51,000. The total 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.

The total number of homes and businesses at risk from flooding for the North-East Local area are 30,000. The total number of homes and businesses at risk of flooding for Aberdeen City is 19,530. This means that 65.1% of the number of homes and businesses at risk from flooding in the North-East are within Aberdeen City.

Nature based solutions are being employed across Aberdeen, at locations such as at Seaton Park, Stronsay Park, and Maidencraig, to reduce flood risk while delivering additional outcomes for people and wildlife. A recent national Nature of Scotland Award was given to Aberdeen for this pioneering work on natural flood management.

7.1.3. Environment - nature

Greenspace: Greenspace is important for a wide range of reasons, including health and well-being, improving biodiversity, climate mitigation and environmental protection. Greenspace also provides opportunities for play and recreation for all ages as well as providing economic benefits and ecosystem services. Greenspaces directly improve our health and wellbeing , benefitting society and helping to reduce costs on local and wider communities, the NHS, other public sector services and local businesses. Well-managed and maintained spaces can support people to interact with each other and promote a sense of place and community pride. Aberdeen has a diverse mix of greenspaces for

people and wildlife. The types, quantities, quality and accessibility of these are not evenly distributed across Aberdeen. Areas of social deprivation tend to have lower diversity and quality spaces which in turn can impact on the health outcomes for those communities. Some areas, e.g. Deeside, have much higher prevalence of tree cover than others. Aberdeen has an overall tree canopy cover of 13%, much lower than comparable cities, Scotland as a whole, and national targets. Further analysis of the context, actions and trends in this area is required.

Protected Land: 21.3% of land in Aberdeen City is protected for nature.

Aberdeen has 1,450 hectares of parks and other greenspaces. Further extensive areas of land are managed for people and nature and other co-benefits by other public, private and community bodies and partnerships, including, Forestry and Land Scotland, The River Dee Trust, the Woodland Trust and individual private land-owners.

The protection and enhancement of high-quality greenspace networks supports the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: 3 Good Health & Well-Being; 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities; 13 Climate Action; and 15 Life on Land. High-quality greenspace networks will also play a key role in helping to achieve the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap by helping to store carbon and reduce carbon emissions.

Aberdeen's greenspaces are assessed through a periodic Open Space Audit, with the latest Audit currently being finalised. This Audit will provide information that is critical to directing greenspace management policies and targeted interventions and improvements for all partners going forward.

86.9% of respondents to the Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire visited Aberdeen's greenspace or open space at least once a week *(Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire results will be published as part of the upcoming Open Space Audit report refresh).*

Questions about greenspace have also been asked in the City Voice. In August 2024, 74.5% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with overall greenspace in the City – up from 64.5% in March 2020 – and two-thirds of respondents (66.7%) said they would like to see more green spaces managed for nature. When asked what they felt were the most important benefits of good quality green spaces, the benefits most commonly identified by respondents were improving mental health (57.9%) and making space for nature (52.5%) followed by space for children to play (43.7%). Over 90% of respondents agreed both that it was important for people to have access to nature in their neighbourhoods and that spending time in nature was important for their own personal wellbeing .

The amount of blue green infrastructure, including green walls, green roofs and rain gardens, within the built environment must be increased and enhanced to ensure a sustainable balance of blue, green and grey is achieved and to halt urban crawl and the density of buildings, roads and hard infrastructure devoid of blue and green space.

The Net Zero Aberdeen Natural Environment Strategy identifies ways how we can all work together to improve greenspaces in the city e.g. by exploring sites to create naturalised grasslands and wildflower meadows across multiple land ownerships and increasing biodiversity and contributing to carbon stores and carbon savings from a reduction in intensive grass cutting on land across the city.

Aberdeen City Council is extending naturalised greenspace management by improving and creating blue/green habitats in two high profile parks in the city. The Council is using a Nature Restoration in Parks grant from the Scottish Government to survey, plan and design work to further improve the parks for nature e.g. by creating/improving wildflower meadow areas for pollinators and tree planting. Aberdeen Flagship Parks for Pollinators Project also supports longer term 'B-lines' pollinator work between Aberdeen City Council and the charity Buglife. Volunteering is an important function of the Aberdeen B-Lines – 167 local volunteers helped with 73 hours of volunteer events. Volunteering and being in nature is an excellent way to improve wellbeing by being active, improving mental health, socialising and working as a team to do something positive for the environment.

Woodland: Aberdeen has 2,410 hectares of woodland - 13% of Aberdeen City's total land area. By comparison, Scotland's woodland cover is 18%. Native woodlands account for 22% of the total woodland area in Aberdeen. There are an estimated 115,000 individual street, park and garden and civic trees across the City. Aberdeen City currently has 164 Tree Preservation Orders covering an area of 300 hectares, protecting selected trees and woodlands whose removal would significantly impact the amenity of an area.

Water environment: Aberdeen is a coastal harbour city bounded by two major inland waterways, the River Dee and the Don. These connections to water are important parts of its history, culture, economy, and well-being. Flooding, erosion, pollution, and wildlife impacts are all being experienced at the coast and inland and have significant implications for our people and economy. Further analysis of the context, actions and trends in this area is also required.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) produces a classification system (five quality classes: Bad, Poor, Moderate, Good and High) to assess surface waters. In this system Aberdeen has 18 water bodies. Most of these (83.3%) are categorised as at least 'moderate' condition .

The River Don is currently classified as in a 'bad' ecological condition for its 10.7kms from Dyce to the tidal limit. The River Dee is currently classified as in a 'moderate' ecological condition for its 10.4kms from Peterculter to the tidal limit. The Denburn is currently classified as in 'poor' ecological condition for its 9.2kms length and the Leuchar Burn 'poor' ecological condition for 9Kms. The coastal water from Don Estuary to Souter Head (50 square kilometers) is classified as in good ecological status. North and south of this strip is in 'high' ecological condition

The table below provides an overview of the condition of all 18 surface waters for 2023, 2020 and 2019.

Name	2023	2020	2019
South Mundurno Burn	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Den Burn	Poor ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Don - Dyce to tidal limit	Bad	Bad	Bad

Bucks Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential
River Don - Inverurie to Dyce	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Black Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Dee - Banchory to Peterculter	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Culter Burn	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Gormack Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
Leuchar Burn	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential
Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn	Poor ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
Dee (Aberdeen) Estuary	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Don Estuary	High	High	High
Don Estuary to Souter Head (Aberdeen)	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Cruden Bay to the Don Estuary	High	High	High
Souter Head to Garron Point	High	High	High

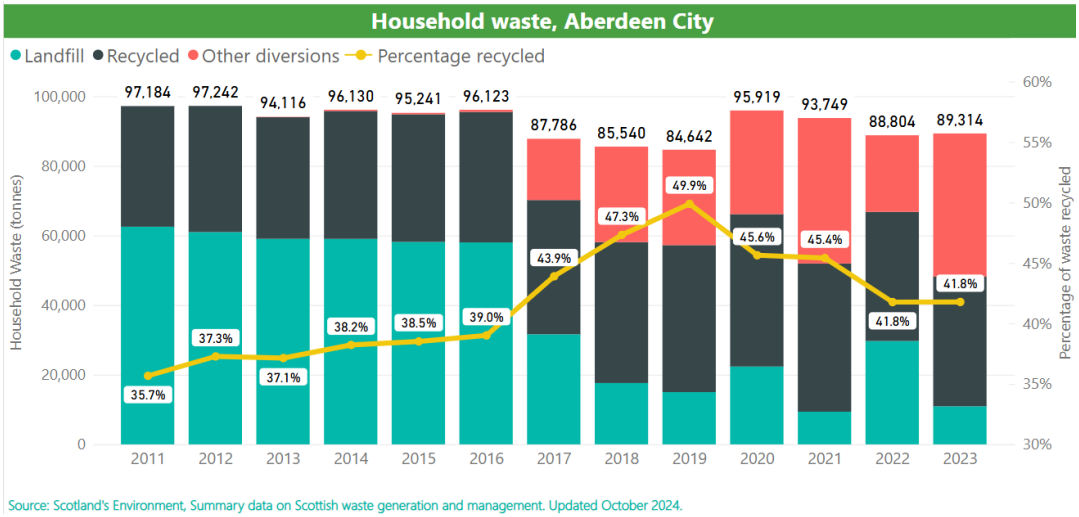
Domestic water supply: The River Dee and its tributaries, together with a number of private water supplies, provide a domestic water supply for the whole of Aberdeen City and over half of Aberdeenshire. Over 300,000 people drink water supplied by the River Dee each day . Climate change is likely to bring more uncertainty and may exert pressure in areas that have not yet experienced water scarcity. Scottish Environment Protection Agency are responsible for the forecast, monitoring and report of the situation facing Scotland's water resources and produces a during the summer months .

Natural heritage: The dramatic decline and loss of natural heritage is, alongside climate change, a crisis facing most of the globe. Aberdeen is not immune to this and this places risks on our citizens through impacts on food security, economy and health and wellbeing. Aberdeen has a diverse range of species and habitats and their outlook is currently mixed. Aberdeen has 1 Special Area of Conservation (SAC), 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 4 Local Nature Reserves and 44 Local Nature Conservation Sites. Approximately 21.3% of our land is protected for wildlife. Aberdeen City Council

also manage a significant number of sites for nature that are not designated but provide essential refuge, food and wildlife corridors within Aberdeen. Currently, it is unclear what proportion is managed for nature but undesignated and this requires further analysis to compare to the UK wide target of 30% by 2030.

7.1.4. Household waste

In 2023, 89,314 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City. 2020 and 2021 saw increases in the amount of household waste generated compared to the preceding years. Overall, the amount of household waste going to landfill has fallen from 58,021 tonnes in 2016 to 10,930 in 2023. In the same period, the level of waste being recycled and 'other' diversions from landfill (disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods) has increased. In 2023, 41.8% of household waste was recycled (slightly less than the previous year) and 12.2% was sent to landfill. Other diversions accounted for 46% of household waste. The carbon impact of household waste was 219,570 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO2e) in 2023, down from 227,310 in 2022 .

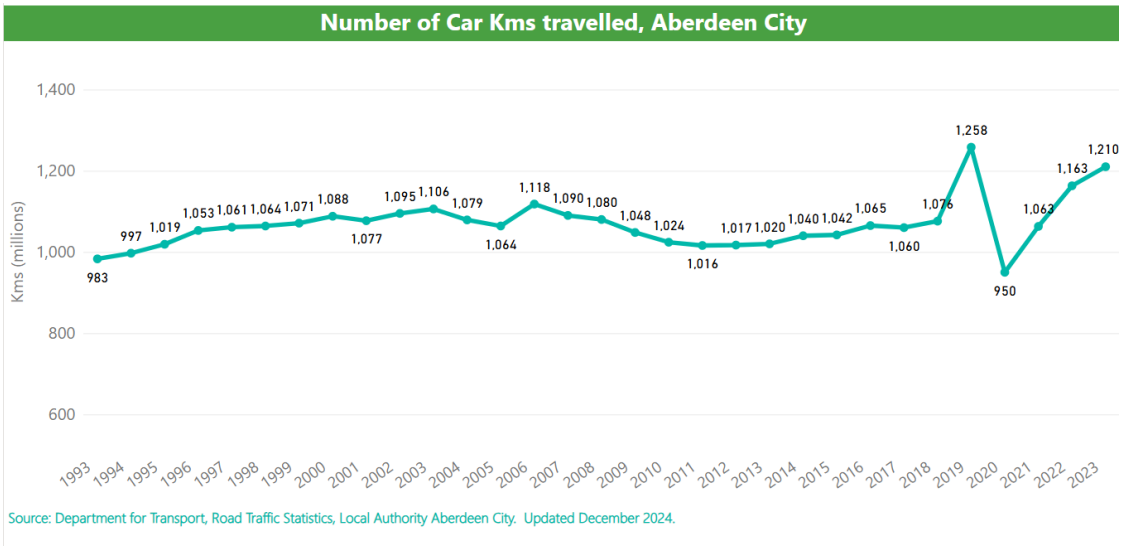


Source: Scotland's Environment, Summary data on Scottish waste generation and management. Updated October 2024.

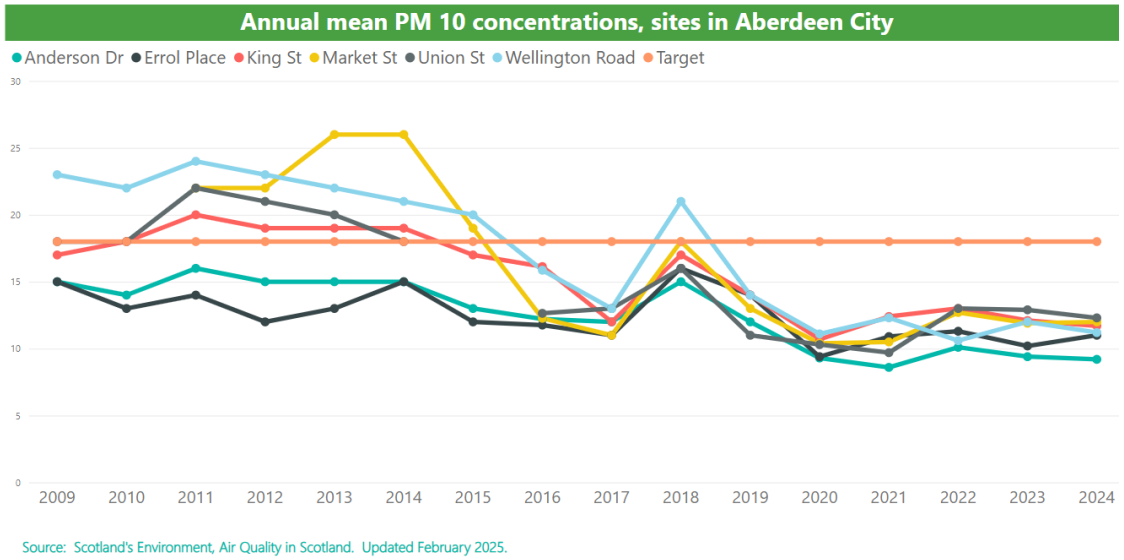
7.1.5. Sustainable travel

Active travel: In 2023 an estimated 13% of people in Aberdeen City used active travel (walking or cycling) to get to work or education. This is down from 14% in 2022 . In 2023, 30% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (up from 28% in 2022) and 1% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (down from 2% in 2022). Driving a car was the most common main mode of travel at 45% . In 2023, most City Voice respondents (80.6%) reported walking as one mode of travel and 16.3% reported they cycled as one mode of travel (December 2023) .

Car Kms travelled: In 2023, a total of 1,210 million kms were travelled by car and taxi in Aberdeen City – up from 1,163 million kms in 2022 .



Air Pollution: Information on particulate matter 10 (PM10) concentrations is available for six sites in Aberdeen City (Anderson Drive, Errol Place, King Street, Market Street, Union Street and Wellington Road) . For particulate matter 10, the annual mean concentration for the air quality objective of 18 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m3), and the daily mean concentration with the air quality objective of 50 micrograms per cubic metre - not to be exceeded more than seven times per year - have not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016.



Electric Vehicles: In 2024/25 there were 149 public chargepoint sockets installed by the Council in order to encourage the use of electric vehicles - up from 79 in 2022/23, 56 in 2020 and 30 in 2017. In addition to these, there are a growing number of publicly available charge points that the Council does not have responsibility for.

Emerging priorities

The Paris Climate Change Declaration was clear that there can be no planetary health without human health. Within the context of the Population health assessment, the data highlight the following priority areas:

- Many of the areas that are associated with climate resilience are a focus for environmental sustainability, notably in relation to green-space, transport, air and water quality, waste management, and land use. In all of these areas the potential for human health co-benefits have been identified and the meaningful delivery of such co-benefits needs to be maximised.
- The potential for climate change to increase the impact of social and economic inequalities – leading to wider health inequalities – needs to be understood more clearly and reflected in work to move beyond mitigation of the impact of greenhouses gases (delivering net zero) and into adapting systems, services, and places that are adapted to the future climate.
- There is a clear design for place-based approaches to creating climate resilience, especially in the context of flood prevention, water quality, air quality, and dealing with extreme weather events. These are areas that should be being progressed on multi-agency basis in line with the Scottish National Adaptation Plan.

Appendix 1: An interpretation of the PNA through the lens of the UN Sustainable Appendix Development Goals

	In 2022/23 an estimated 8476 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City were living in poverty (below 60% median income after housing costs). This is equivalent to 21.8% of children compared to 24% for Scotland (End Child Poverty 2023). The proportion of children living in poverty has increased slightly in Aberdeen from 21.3% in 2019/20. The number of datazones in Aberdeen within the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland increased from 22 (out of 283) in 2016 to 29 in 2020. Additionally the proportion of datazones within the 40% most deprived areas of Scotland has increased by 5.2% in Aberdeen between 2016 and 2020.
	20.7% of City Voice respondents reported they ate only a few kinds of food, 13.6% that they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 13.3% that they ate less than they thought they should and 9.4% that they were worried they would not have enough food to eat. In April to September 2024, 122,391 emergency food parcels were given by food banks in the Trussell community in Scotland. In 2022/23, 77% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were registered for FSM in mainstream local authority schools. At secondary school level, 16.6% of pupils were registered for FSM – up from 15.7% in 2021 and 13.9% in 2020. In 2023/24, valid height and weight measurements were recorded for 1,995 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen City. Of these, 77.3% were classified as 'healthy weight' (BMI greater than 2nd centile and less than 85th centile) – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland of 76.5% - with 11.7% being classified at risk of overweight (BMI>85th and <95th centile) and 10.5% being classified at risk of obesity (BMI>=95th centile) giving a total of 22% being classified at risk of overweight and obesity(BMI>=85th centile) Less than 1% of P1 children were classified as being at risk of underweight. The allotment waiting list continues to grow: 793 households were waiting in 2021, by March 2023 this had risen to 1047 households and by September 2024 it had risen again to 1251 households. There are currently 573 Aberdeen City Council allotment plots (ACC Annual Allotments Report).
	In 2021-23 in Aberdeen City life expectancy at birth was estimated to be 80.9 years for women and 76.9 years for men and both are similar to the Scotland average of 80.8 years for women and 76.8 for men. The life expectancy gap between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Aberdeen has decreased to 9.5 years for men and increased to 8.4 years for women.

	In 2019-2023, the rate of infant deaths (age 0-1 years) in Aberdeen City was 4.2 per 1000 live births – higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.5 and higher than the rate for 2018-2022 of 3.9. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the rate of cancer registrations decreased from the rates in 2019-2021 (656.6 and 626.9 respectively). In Aberdeen City, the rate of Coronary Heart Disease patient hospitalisations has decreased over the past 10 years as has the rate of early deaths from cancer (under the age of 75). The rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths in 2019-23 was 19.7 per 100,000 population – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.5, and lower than the rate for 2018-22 of 20.3 per 100,000 population. In the period 2019-2023, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 23.7 deaths per 100,000 population. This is similar to the rate for Scotland (23.6 per 100,000 population) and the same as the rate for 2018-2022. In the period 2019-2023, an estimated 15% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers – the same rate as Scotland. The percentage of adults who are current smokers has decreased from 23% in 2014-17. It is estimated 7% of adults currently use e-cigarettes.
	In 2022/23, 90.1% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, down slightly from 90.8% in 2021/22 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 92.8%. 12.4% more school leavers had a positive destination from the least deprived areas of Aberdeen compared to the most deprived. In 2022/23, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 92.3% and for secondary schools the rate was 89.8%. Overall attendance rate for the city was 91.2% compared to 90.2% for Scotland. In January to December 2023 (no data available for 2024), compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City had a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to RQF4 and above (61.1% in Aberdeen and 55.1% in Scotland). (RQF = Registered Qualifications Framework, with RQF4 and above being HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent) 107 Aberdeen schools (including nurseries and private schools) are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and 18 have achieved green flag status. A further five establishments have submitted a draft action plan to Keep Scotland Beautiful during 2024 meaning they are working towards their green flag award.
	The gap between male and female wages has closed somewhat in recent years – in 2019 the difference in average weekly wage between males and females living in Aberdeen City was £102.20 compared to £28.70 in 2024. While male full-time workers living in Aberdeen City earned less than those in Scotland (£767.70), female full-time workers earned more (£701 in Scotland). In 2023-24 there were 2,512 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – up slightly from 2,488 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 110 per 10,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 116 per 10,000 population.

	The River Dee and its tributaries, together with 150 private water suppliers provide a domestic water supply for the whole of Aberdeen City and over half of Aberdeenshire. Over 300,000 people drink water supplied by the River Dee each day. Climate change is likely to bring more uncertainty and may exert pressure in areas that have not yet experienced water scarcity. SEPA are responsible for the forecast, monitoring and report of the situation facing Scotland's water resources and produces a weekly report during the summer months. Drinking water quality is monitored and maintained according to the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland.
	Official statistics for fuel poverty are now very dated with the most recent being for 2017-19 (data collection for the Scottish House Condition Survey was affected by COVID-19 with new local authority figures not expected to be available until early 2026). In 2017-19 an estimated 26.1% of households were in fuel poverty– up from 23% in 2016-18 and higher that the rate for Scotland of 24.4%. A higher proportion of those in social housing were in fuel poverty than those in owner occupied housing (46.2% compared to 12.9%). In 2017-19 an estimated 12.8% of households were in extreme fuel poverty. A series of questions around ability to heat your home were asked in City Voice 45 (August 2021), City Voice 46 (December 2022) and, most recently, City Voice 50 (May 2024). In May 2024, a quarter (24.6%) of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – down from 32% in December 2022 but considerably higher than when the questions were first asked in 2021. Over a quarter of respondents (27.3%) said that paying for heating meant missing out on other activities (compared to 11.8% in 2021) In 2023, Aberdeen City had 3,679 renewable energy installations (3,663 of which were photovoltaics) compared to 2,845 in 2022 and 789 in 2014 (2014 is the first year of data available). The installed capacity (MW) was 80.9 MW in 2023 compared to 67.5 MW in 2022 and 10.3MW in 2014. Renewable energy generation was 13,098 MWh in 2023 – compared to 11,690 MWh in 2022.
	In 2023 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a GVA per head of £36,748 (constant prices) showing an increase from 2021 (£32,826) and the 2020 low of £31,405. The gap between the wealth of the North East region and both Scotland and the UK has been progressively narrowing since 2015. In 2015, the GVA per head in the North East was more than 30% higher than the Scottish and UK average. In 2022 GVA per head in the North East was 17% higher than Scottish average and 10% higher compared to the UK average In the year from Oct 2023-Sept 2024, 81.2% of Aberdeen's working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active compared to 76.6% in Scotland and up from 75.4% in the same period last year. In 2024 there were 7,860 enterprises and 10,455 local units in Aberdeen City. This is up from 7,705 enterprises and 10,300 local units in 2023. In the year from Oct 2022-Sept 2024, the (model-based) unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 3.7% - higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.3% but lower than the rate for the same period last year of 4.1% In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers **living** in Aberdeen City was £721.70 – lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £740.00.

	In 2022, 96% of City Voice respondents reported having access to either a laptop or PC, a smart phone or tablet : an increase from 90% in 2018. In 2023, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (46.2%), followed by being driven (20%) and bus (15.8%). In 2023, 30% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (up from 28% in 2022) and 1% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (down from 2% in 2022).
	In 2024, participation rates for 16-19 year-olds in education, employment or training were lower for those in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) than for those in the 20% least deprived areas (95.9%) In 2024, 86.8% of young people identified as disabled were participating in education, employment or training – down from 89.4% in 2023. The participation rate for those identified as disabled is lower than participation among non-disabled young people who in 2024 had 90.3% participation rates.
	In Aberdeen City in 2023-24, there were 1,763 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation, of which 1,270 were assessed as homeless. The number of applications is similar to the figure for 2022-23 (1,772) and up from 1,404 in 2021-22. In 2023-24 there were 2,287,858 entries and exits at Aberdeen train station. This is down from 2,497,108 in 2019-20 (numbers dropped to 393,982 during 2020-21), but higher than 2022-23 figure of 1,961,414 For PM10, the annual mean concentration for the air quality objective of 18ug/m3, and the daily mean concentration with the air quality objective of 50ug/m3 – not to be exceeded more than seven times per year – have not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016. The annual mean PM2.5 objective of 10µg/m3 has also not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016. In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (from 64 in 2021).
	In 2023, 89,314 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City. 2020 and 2021 saw increases in the amount of household waste generated compared to the preceding years. Overall, the amount of household waste going to landfill has fallen from 58,021 tonnes in 2016 to 10,930 in 2023. In the same period, the level of waste being recycled and 'other' diversions from landfill (disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods) has increased. In 2023, 41.8% of household waste was recycled (slightly less than the previous year) and 12.2% was sent to landfill. Other diversions accounted for 46% of household waste.

	In 2022, Greenhouse Gas emissions estimates totalled 1,165 ktCO2e for Aberdeen City – down from 1,216 ktCO2e in 2021. Transport was the single largest contributor (29.7% of all greenhouse gas emissions) followed by domestic use (26.1%). In 2022 per capita emissions were lower in Aberdeen City (5.2 tCO2e) than in Scotland (7.1 tCO2e) Data from the most recent City Voice questionnaire (August 2024), showed that Over half (52.2%) of respondents agreed (either strongly agree or agree) that they were worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather events, double the response to when this question was asked 2020 (30%), but slightly lower than when asked in 2022. Results from the 2023 Scottish Household Survey estimate that 73% of people in Aberdeen City see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem – up from 68% in 2012.
	The River Don is currently classified as in a 'bad' ecological condition for its 10.7kms from Dyce to the tidal limit. The River Dee is currently classified as in a 'moderate' ecological condition for its 10.4kms from Peterculter to the tidal limit. The Denburn is currently classified as in 'poor' ecological condition for its 9.2kms length and the Leuchar Burn 'poor' ecological condition for 9kms The coastal water from Don Estuary to Souter Head (50 square kilometers) is classified as in good ecological status. North and south of this strip is in 'high' ecological condition.
	Aberdeen has 2,410 ha of woodland - 13% of ACC's total land area. By comparison, Scotland's woodland cover is 18%. Native woodlands account for 22% of the total woodland area in Aberdeen. There are an estimated 115,000 individual street, park and garden and civic trees across the City. In August 2024, 74.5% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with overall greenspace in the City – up from 64.5% in March 2020 In 2024, 21.3% of Aberdeen's land was protected for nature. 86.9% of respondents to the Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire visit Aberdeen's greenspace or open space at least once a week (Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire results will be published as part of the upcoming Open Space Audit report refresh).
	The rate of crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas. In 2023-24 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,432), Road Traffic Offences (4,647) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,756). The total rate (per 10,000 population) for crime was 663 (550 for Scotland) and for offences was 320 (also 320 for Scotland). Of the 994 offenders (over 18 years) in the 2020-21 cohort, 31.7% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence (mean 0.6 reconvictions per offender). In 2023-24 there were 142 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse – up from 116 in 2022-23

	Aberdeen's relationship with developing countries is in part expressed through its status as a Fairtrade City and this accreditation is maintained by a partnership of organisations connecting through the Aberdeen Fair and Sustainable Trade Group. Policy coherence across the goals is being assisted locally by the Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership and other important partnerships which include Aberdeen Climate Action, ACVO, Aberdeen Cycle Forum, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, Granite City Good Food | Sustainable Food Places in Aberdeen City, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership, NESTRANS.

References

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Appendix 1 Masterplan 2026

Timeline to the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans in 2026, including underpinning plans and strategies. I.e. Local Development Plan, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Strategic Plan, Local Housing Strategy, Community Learning and Development Plan, Children's Services Plan, Local Development Plan, and Local Transport Strategy. This also includes key milestones for Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Aberdeen Place Programme.

2025 – Development of Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and underpinning plans and strategies				
Jan 25	**Feb 25**	**Mar 25**	**Apr 25**	**May 25**
• Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland first Aberdeen Places Working group meeting • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Report • Local Development Plan Evidence Report stakeholder consultation on early draft Topic Papers start • Presentation of Local Housing Strategy to Strategy Board • Community Learning and Development -Analysis of current state to help shape proposed Community Learning and Development priorities, plan consultation with staff and partners • Community Learning and Development contribute to Engagement plan for strategy board • Community Empowerment Group input into how to	• Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland local launch (24 February) • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland first health inequality report and identification of priorities for action • Business in the Community Launch Aberdeen Place Programme • Presentation of community engagement plan (all Strategies, Community Learning and Development, Local Housing Strategy and Integrated Joint Board Plan) to Strategy Board for approval. • Scottish Women's Budget Group Community Sessions • City Voice Survey – Travel and Transport • South Locality Empowerment	• Community Planning Aberdeen Board meeting • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Places Board Institute of Health Equity and Public Health Scotland • Development of Population Needs Assessment • 24 March 2025 – Public engagement starts (Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Locality Plans, all Strategies, Community Learning and Development, Local Housing Strategy, Integrated Joint Board Plan & Local Development Plan Evidence Report) (Place Standard survey, locality events, targeted sessions, outreach) • Scottish Women's Budget Group findings • Review of year 2 of the Children's Services Plan to be presented to Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee	• Collaboration for Health Equity national Launch • Development of annual outcome report and locality plan annual reports • Review of year 2 of the Children's Services Plan to be presented to Education and Children's Services Committee • North, South, Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	• Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group: Local Outcome Improvement Plan workshop • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland initial consultation scoping report and data pack • Revised Population Needs Assessment to Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group • Initiate integrated impact assessment process using agreed model • Cross check Population Needs Assessment data with current priorities • 18 May 2025 – Public engagement ends (Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Locality Plans, all Strategies, Community Learning and Development, Local Housing Strategy,

engage Lived Experience • North South & Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership • North & Central Locality Empowerment Group • Scottish Women's Budget Group data analysis	Group • February 2025 Integrated Joint Board Insights session on Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan	• Locality Planning Participatory Budgeting events • Presentation of Local Housing Strategy to Committee for approval to consult • North, South, Central Locality Empowerment Group & Priority Neighbourhood Partnership		Integrated Joint Board Plan & Local Development Plan Evidence Report) • Annual outcome report and locality plan annual reports to Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group • Submission of Review of year 2 of the Children's Services Plan to Scottish Government • North & Central Locality Empowerment Group • North, South & Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership
Jun 25	**July 25**	**Aug 25**	**Sep 25**	**Oct 25**
• Community Planning Aberdeen Board meeting • Revised Population Needs Assessment to Community Planning Aberdeen Board • Annual outcome report and locality plan annual reports to Community Planning Aberdeen Board • Report Revised Draft Local Transport Strategy to NZET (Date To Be Confirmed) • South Locality Empowerment Group	• Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Places Board Institute of Health Equity and Public Health Scotland • Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan to IJB 1st July 2025 for approval • Local Development Plan Evidence Report finalised • North, South, Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	• Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group: Local Outcome Improvement Plan Workshop • Community Planning Aberdeen/Health Determinants Research Collaboration/Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Event 27 August • Outcome of Engagement reported • Final Local Housing Strategy to Committee • Children's Services Plan and Alcohol and Drug Partnership Framework will align with Local	• Community Planning Aberdeen Board meeting • Scottish Women's Budget Group response from Council • Workshop/meetings held by Outcome Improvement Groups to continue (Children's Services Board will align) to support the development of Local Outcome Improvement Plan • Start Public Consultation on Revised Draft Local Transport Strategy (Date To Be Confirmed) • Community Learning and Development Plan due to Committee	• Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group: Local Outcome Improvement Plan Workshop • Collaboration for Health Equity Places Board Institute of Health Equity and Public Health Scotland • Initial recommendations for Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Locality Plans/Children's Services Plan–considered by Management Group • Director of Public Health assessment of Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Children's Services Plan

		Outcome Improvement Plan timescales in the development of Plan 2025-30 • City Voice Survey – People • Local Development Plan Gate Check to Full Council – evidence report • Local Development Plan Call for Ideas Starts (consultation) • North & Central Locality Empowerment Group • North, South, Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	• South Locality Empowerment Group	• North, South, Central Locality Empowerment Group & Priority Neighbourhood Partnership
2025 – Publication of Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36 and underpinning plans and strategies				
Nov 25	**Dec 25**	**Jan 26**	**Feb 26**	**Mar 26**
• Community Planning Aberdeen Board meeting • Community Planning Aberdeen Health Determinants Research Collaboration/ Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Workshops • Annual Aberdeen Responsible Business Event • City Voice Survey – Place • Scottish Women's Budget Group evaluation report • Local Development Plan Call for Ideas ends • North & Central Locality Empowerment Group • Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	• Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Draft recommendations • Further recommendations for Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Locality Plans/Children's Services Plan • End Public Consultation on Revised Draft Local Transport Strategy (Date To Be Confirmed) • South Locality Empowerment Group • North & South Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	• Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Aberdeen Places Work Group Meeting • Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Locality Plans/Children's Services Board Plan Stakeholder consultation sessions • Preparation of Proposed Local Development Plan starts	• Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group: Draft refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Locality Plans/Children's Services Plan out for consultation • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Aberdeen Places Work Group Meeting • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Report (Consultation) • City Voice – Community Empowerment	• Community Planning Aberdeen Board meeting: Draft refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan/Locality Plans/Children's Services Plan out for consultation • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Report (Consultation) • Feedback to public on results of consultation and draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan

Apr 26	June 26			
• Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group: Final Local Outcome Improvement Plan/ Locality Plans/Children's Services Plan	• Community Planning Aberdeen Board meeting: Final Local Outcome Improvement Plan/ Locality Plans/Children's Services Plan • Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland Aberdeen Places Work Group Meeting • Final Collaboration for Health Equity Report • Final Locality Plans to Integrated Joint Board • Final Local Transport Strategy to NZET for approval (Date To Be Confirmed)			
Post April 2026 – Local Development Plan and Local Transport Strategy				
Dec 26	**Jan 27**	**Jan 28**	**May 28**	
• Proposed Local Development Plan Finalised	• Local Development Plan Proposed Plan Formal Consultation starts (Date To Be Confirmed)	• Local Development Plan Examination begins (Date To Be Confirmed)	• Local Development Plan Adoption (Date To Be Confirmed)	

Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen– Progress Report
Lead Officer	Martin Murchie, Director, Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen
Report Author	Martin Murchie, Director, Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen
Date of Report	2 May 2025
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 21 May 2025

Purpose of the Report
To present the most current progress report of the Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen (HDRCA).

Summary of Key Information
1 BACKGROUND 1.1 The Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen has ongoing engagement with the infrastructure of Community Planning Aberdeen. The attached Appendix updates the Management Group on the most recent activity of the HDRCA. **2 CONCLUSION** 2.1 There are numerous opportunities for further developing joint working between CPA and the Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen. This report provides further information on completed, current and planned activity. CPA Management Group are invited to comment and encouraged to identify further value adding collaboration. **3 NEXT STEPS** 3.1 See recommendations below.

Recommendations for Action
It is recommended that members of the CPA Management Group note the progress report and consider what further collaboration might be prioritised between CPA and the HDRCA.

Opportunities and Risks
There are significant opportunities for further collaboration between CPA and the HDRCA including: • improved evidence for planning improvement and evaluating impact • further funding opportunities through research calls and collaborative working with academics The main risks include: • overstretching available resources without sufficient prioritisation; • not satisfying the funding body's requirements of the grant award; and • insufficient joint planning leading to duplication of effort with limited resource.

Consultation
This report has been submitted to the HDRCA Steering Group

Background Papers
None.

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Reporting Phase	NIHR Theme

Building the HDRC Team

Good progress has been made over the last period. We have recruited to additional posts using re-profiled budget, bringing in additional resource for culture change and knowledge sharing, as well as additional research support posts. These posts took a long time to develop and agree through LA processes. A gap remains on development resource for research data management and governance; a new post is currently being designed to address this.

We are continuing to develop the team with the skills, knowledge and connections they need. This has included: 1-2-1 supervision / mentoring on project work from HDRC Co-Applicants; bespoke training session from HDRC Co-Applicants for the team; up-skilling team members in areas where we have not been able thus far to recruit (e.g. health economics); and regular peer to peer learning and reflection & review sessions.

Culture Change

The HDRC is driving change to how the Council engages with the wider determinants of health and the use of research and evidence more broadly. Examples from this period include:

- how the Council develops strategy has been redesigned so strategy is built upon the levers we have to influence the determinants of health and delivers an improved approach to the use of evidence, engagement, theories of change, and evaluation;
- multi-agency governance is also being shaped to focus on the determinants of health and the use of evidence, as can be seen through the draft Population Needs Assessment;
- briefings to elected members now include a section which relates the decision explicitly to the determinants of health;
- the Council's annual delivery plan is shaped around the determinants of health and evidence; job profiles include responsibilities on research and evidence.

HDRC profile and activity has an increasing profile across the organisation and this has led to multiple requests for HDRC support and involvement. These include:

- the co-design and host the launch of the next Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-2036
- supporting the review of community planning arrangements;
- involvement in the Population Needs Assessment and co-ordination of this with Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- input to the Local Development Plan evidence chapters;
- synthesis and interpretation of evidence.

Our recent appointment of two posts to support cultural change and skills development and knowledge sharing will provide the capacity and skills to drive forward a wider programme in the next period.

Collaboration

The HDRC launched a Seminar Series aimed at Council and CPA staff, featuring guest speakers from UOA, RGU and NHS Grampian; these seminars introduce approaches and methods from academia and public health, and will include sessions on literature reviewing,

evidence appraisal, study design methods, and developing theories of change, as well as a mini-series on evaluation. Each guest speaker will be joined by a member of the HDRC Team who will be on hand to make the links into applying the approach into practice. Seminars will include time for discussion and questions. These sessions are recorded and will be made available online.

For council officers, we are also launching a research collaboration hub – this is a network that is open to anyone interested evidence-based decision making – through this network the HDRC will offer a range of activities, including, 'Meet the Researcher' sessions, Guest Speaker Events, Research and data analysis. This hub is being co-designed with Council Officers and will launch to a wider audience in June 2025.

We have a University of Aberdeen PhD opportunity being advertised currently which will focus on new approaches to community involvement and lived experience and which will be co-supervised by Council Officers to ensure that the outputs are sufficiently integrated with council and community planning activity.

HDRC Embedded Researchers have begun to participate in their allocated Outcome Improvement Groups and will play a key role in supporting their groups through the process of developing LOIP 2026-36; the launch event for which is being co-designed by the HDRC with CPA.

We continue to offer funded places on short courses with our partners RGU and University of Aberdeen, and our programme of bitesize Lunch and Learn sessions which offer intros to research related topics continue to run on a fortnightly basis.

Further Funding

Our applications for further funding, details of which have previously been provided, have had some success, but overall there are opportunities for further progress to take full advantage of the opportunities which joint working with academia brings. We are organised to review all relevant funding opportunities, and have regular formal meetings with university colleagues, but have had challenges around generating "bid ready" proposals in advance of calls and in joining up sufficient and appropriate resources from both the Council and Universities once potential projects had been identified.

We have a number of potential collaborative projects being shaped around healthy weight and poverty related areas, and are hosting a two day collaborative Sandpit Event in May this year focussed on developing new research proposals around the wider determinants.

We have been successful in securing a further year's funding for our Child Poverty Accelerator project on low income families; in leading the bid to work with the "Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland" (although this is resource in kind rather than direct funding); and in collaborating in the successful funding bid for the "Fairer Futures Pathfinder".

Achieving progress in priority research areas

We've made good progress in this area, with different approaches being taken to respond to different social determinants areas. We have focused our priority areas for 2025 to focus in on housing, early years, poverty and healthy weight.

An Early Learning & Childcare longitudinal study work has been established with Education Colleagues, and is currently seeking recruitment and consenting of participants through ACC's statutory parent and carer ELC consultation. The protocol for this work is established and ethical approval has been applied for through the University of Aberdeen. The study is expected to 'go live' in Autumn 2025.

HDRC is leading on the re-development of council and local multi-agency strategy focusing on the social determinants of health and the use of evidence, theories of change and evaluation. This work began with the refresh of the "Local Housing Strategy". We are linking this with other HDRC workstreams including "warm home prescribing" and linkage of local authority housing data with NHS health data at an individual level, as part of a Housing and Health project. This project is connected in with wider projects in the UK and with partners in the Grampian region; phase one of the project aims to have housing health profiles at household level by the ends of

HDRC co-applicants are leading on a local whole system approach to healthy weight. HDRC staff are working to enable evidence support for this programme, throughout the system mapping and action planning phases, and are working with the University of Aberdeen and the Rowett Institute on potential research collaborations to support this work.

Amongst our work on poverty is the continuing development of the "Low Income Family Tracker" as key evidence, exploring its use in “Fairer Future Pathfinder” work. We have also undertaken evidence reviews on the needs of asylum seekers; and debt cancellation. Additional evidence reviews have been done on initiating factors for substance use and the impact of financial incentives in behavioural change. All of these have been commissioned and scoped with colleagues to maximise their impact on LA decision making.

In terms of data for research, progress has been made on several aspects of this. We have developed an online, interactive Health Inequalities Atlas for the North East of Scotland and have been commissioned to develop this for other parts of Scotland. Having completed foundational work on data sharing and processing governance arrangements, work is progressing on data sharing and matching, specifically of NHS patient data and local authority housing data. We are engaged with colleagues and Bloomberg Associates exploring preventative analytics for homelessness. We have two created a regional communities; one of data analysts sharing for joint work and good practice, and open around multi-agency data governance. This group will also share data and good practice but also aims a more streamlined approach to agreeing robust data sharing arrangements to support research, strategic planning and improvement work across the system.

Meaningful Engagement with Local Communities

The HDRC has supported the Your Place city wide engagement, and are working with to develop, upskill and embed quality quantitative and qualitative analysis through this, including the managed use of AI. As part of this work, HDRC public partners have provided advice and have been testing new approaches to engaging with communities.

HDRC Lived Experience Projects co-designed with Community Justice Outcome Improvement Group, and aimed at capacity building around lived experience, and testing approaches to reaching new groups is now in the data analysis phase, with reporting expected later in the year. Tools and guides based on the learning from this project are also being developed.

HDRC is a co-applicant on successful NIHR consortium project re maternal health, this project is at the early design stage, but will involve working with CPA to facilitate community engagement and involvement.

HDRC has facilitated the initiative of a longitudinal study of the impact of the expansion of early learning and childcare, directly through engaging with those affected. Plans for this year include taking forward a community identified research priority.

Engagement with other "institutional" stakeholders including at regional and national level is channelled through our work with the "North East Population Health Alliance" and the "Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland". Through this we are jointly working with other local authorities, NHS Boards and Public Health Scotland.

Routes to Impact

Our approach to ensuring routes to impact is to systematically connect HDRC activity with the decision making in ACC and. To enable this, the HDRC Director and Senior Research Fellow are members of the Council's Strategy Board and the HDRC has a leading role in the redevelopment of the Council's Strategy Framework to ensure the social determinants of health are consistently at the core of all strategy; that strategy is appropriately informed by research and evidence; that knowledge gaps are identified and inform future activity; that engagement is well designed and analysed; that theories of change are clear; and that impact is appropriately measured and evaluated.

This approach is reflected through various forms and layers of governance and decision making. At multi-agency level HDRC embedded researchers are in place to connect the work of a broad network of outcome groups with the HDRC. HDRC delivered or supported products, including evidence reviews, data and analysis, knowledge sharing products are jointly commissioned and delivered through these governance arrangements.

HDRC Embedded Researchers have begun to participate in their allocated Outcome Improvement Groups and will play a key role in supporting their groups through the process of developing LOIP 2026-36; the launch event for which is being co-designed by the HDRC with CPA will enable HDRC to feed in evidence and help with its interpretation and translation.

The HDRC is working alongside the WSA Healthy Weight programme in Aberdeen to provide evidence support throughout the system mapping and action planning phases to ensure a consistent focus on the evidence of what works.

We have established a HDRC Knowledge Sharing Group and with a supporting framework in place to guide this activity and to ensure that knowledge and learning from all of our activities is proactively embedded in areas of work and appropriately shared with Council, wider practitioners, academics and the public.

Our newly appointed HDRC Knowledge Management Officer will take forward plans with CPA for a Research & Evidence hub hosted within the wider CPA website, which will bring together in one place HDRC outputs and resources together with curated evidence to support both CPA and ACC planning processes.

Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Financial Incentives for Health Behaviour Changes
Lead Officer	Phil Mackie, Consultant in Public Health, NHS Grampian Prevention Lead, Aberdeen City Health & Social Care Partnership and Vice Chair of the Management Group
Report Author	Phil Mackie / Leonard Ho
Date of Report	02/05/2025
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 21 May 2025

Purpose of the Report
To present the finding from the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) rapid review on the effectiveness in providing financial incentives to support health behaviour change

Summary of Key Information

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 At the meeting of the CPA MG on the 28th August 2024 it was requested that the Health Determinants Research Collaboration review the available evidence regarding the effectiveness of using financial incentives to support human behaviour change.

1.2 This request originated in the desire to have a fuller understanding of the role that financial incentives could play as part of Aberdeen City local Outcome Improvement Plan projects and guide its decision making regarding such projects.

1.3 It was also anticipated that the evidence review could provide guidance for CPA stakeholders and OIGs in developing specific future improvement projects to meet the stretch outcomes set out in the LOIP.

1.4 This report summarises the approach to, and findings of, the Rapid Review undertaken by the HDRC (attached).

2 The Health Determinants Research Collaboration Rapid Review

2.1 The Health Determinants Research Collaboration Rapid Review was undertaken following standard, systematic methods. As a rapid review, the evidence base was searched for English-language, peer-reviewed systematic reviews published from January 2020 to December 2024

2.2 Studies were identified as suitable for inclusion if they synthesised qualitative or quantitative research on the effects of financial incentives on four health behaviour changes areas:

- participation in physical activity;
- smoking cessation;
- alcohol abstinence; and
- moving to a healthy diet.

Studies were limited to those relating to individuals aged 18 years and above. No restrictions were placed on study outcomes or intervention duration.

2.2 The included studies showed that there were a range of incentives used covering: cash payments; vouchers; and provision of goods. There was variation in the level and times over which incentives were offered.

2.3 For physical activity participation, the included studies indicated that incentives were associated with increased step counts and with maintaining gym attendance. These effects were sustained during and after the intervention period. The evidence suggests that the size of the incentive does have an effect, but physical activity can be effectively changed with small incentives.

2.4 For smoking cessation incentivisation has been shown to work with high rates of smoking cessation found amongst pregnant women. However, more generally the studies suggest that size of the incentive is less important on changing smoking behaviour than the type of behavioural support and the length that it is provided.

2.5 There is no clear evidence to support or reject the effectiveness of incentives in encouraging health behaviour change in relation alcohol abstinence. The impact of national, ***negative*** incentives (e.g. minimum unit prices) requires ongoing research.

2.6 Similarly, there is no clear evidence to support or reject the effectiveness of incentives in encouraging health behaviour change in relation to moving to a healthier diet. Forms of financial incentives other than direct cash rewards, may be considered to encourage healthy diet uptake, these include discounts, vouchers, and coupons for supermarket and farmers' market purchases.

2.7 The HDRC has produced both a short rapid review report and a 'visual abstract' which summarises the review findings in a highly accessible way.

3 NEXT STEPS

3.1 The rapid review report should be widely shared across organisations who are working as part of the CPA, through Outcome Improvement Groups, and be used to help in the development of future LOIP projects that are considering the use of financial interventions. HDRC Embedded Researchers attached to Outcome Improvement Groups can provide support in this consideration as required.

3.2 The CPA Management Group should use the findings from the rapid review to guide its work supporting the governance of the LOIP.

3.3	All improvement projects that are authorised to use financial incentives as an element of the changes they are making should include an evaluation of the effectiveness of their use as part of its final reporting.

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that members of the CPA Management Group:

i) note the findings from the rapid review and take this into account in its future decision making.

ii) request that the CPA Management Group use the finding from the report in supporting the governance of the LOIP.

Opportunities and Risks

The adoption of the finding from the rapid review will provide clarity around the

Consultation

HDRC members
CPA Board and Management Group Members

Background Papers

HDRC (2025) HDRC Rapid Evidence Review - Financial Incentives for Behaviour Change

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NIHR | Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR HEALTH BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

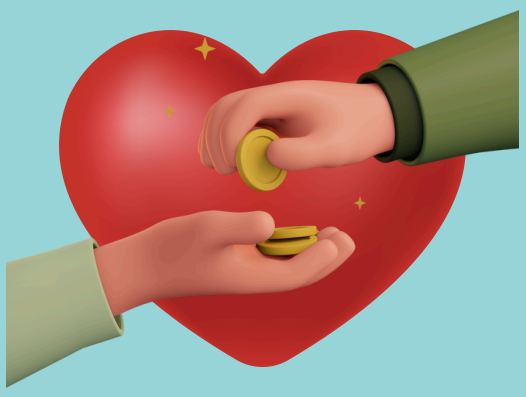
A rapid evidence review

MARCH 2025

DR LEO HO
DR SARAH McGARROL

HDRC ABERDEEN

NIHR | Health Determinants Research Collaboration Aberdeen

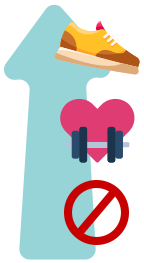


Financial incentives for health behaviour change

Do they work?

Key takeaway

Financial incentives have been shown to increase



daily step counts

gym attendance

smoking cessation

During and after the intervention period

Incentives can include

cash

goods

vouchers

Physical Activity

Small incentives are still effective, though effects are enhanced by larger rewards

Smoking Cessation

Pregnant women show high cessation rates.
The success is influenced more by the duration and type of behavioural support provided rather than the size of the incentive

Alcohol abstinence & healthy diet

No relevant evidence was able to support or refute the effectiveness of financial incentives

INTRODUCTION

Need for this review

Financial incentives refer to any cash or non-cash rewards with a monetary value. Although they are believed to motivate changes in human behaviour, to inform evidence-based policy development, it is essential to review the latest academic literature on the impacts of financial incentives on health behaviour changes and the sustainability of these changes. This rapid evidence synthesis aims to summarise recent evidence on the effects of financial incentives on (i) physical activity participation, (ii) smoking cessation, (iii) alcohol abstinence, and (iv) healthy diet uptake.

What we did

Google Scholar was searched for English-language, peer-reviewed systematic reviews published from January 2020 to December 2024, using relevant keywords. A systematic review is a research design that attempts to collate all empirical evidence that fits pre-specified eligibility criteria to answer a specific research question (e.g., the effects of an intervention). By synthesising all relevant individual primary studies, systematic reviews are intended to provide the best summaries of evidence to support decision-making.

Studies were deemed eligible if they synthesised qualitative or quantitative research on the effects of financial incentives on one of the above four health behaviour changes among individuals aged 18 years or older. No restrictions were placed on study outcomes, intervention duration, or types of physical activity.

FINDINGS

1 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Mitchell et al [1] found that, compared to no interventions, cash rewards of USD 1.50 per person per day, on average, statistically significantly increased average daily step counts during the research period (by 607.1 steps) and at follow-up assessment after the incentives were removed (by 513.8 steps). Using wearable trackers and providing larger incentives might be associated with larger effects, and individuals who were less active or older might be more responsive to cash rewards. Cash rewards as small as USD 0.10 per person per day might also be capable of increasing physical activity participation.

Luong et al [2] showed that financial incentives (i.e., cash, donations, reimbursements, vouchers, and goods/services) had a moderate effect on increasing gym attendance and sustained a slight ncrease in gym attendance after incentives had ceased. They also had a small effect on increasing average daily steps at the end of the intervention and demonstrated a sustained small effect on walking behaviour at the longest follow-up after incentives had ceased.

Boonmanunt et al [3] compared various behavioural-economic interventions aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of incentives for promoting physical activity. Their analysis indicated that standard monetary rewards, deposit contracts (where participants risk losing money if they do not meet goals), and lottery-based incentives (where meeting goals make participants eligible for a lottery prize) were significantly more likely to achieve physical activity goals at the end of interventions. However, only deposit contracts continued to significantly increase goal achievement six months after the intervention compared to no financial incentives.

2 SMOKING CESSATION

Notley et al [4] indicated that financial incentives (i.e., cash, vouchers, goods, or a combination of these) were effective at increasing smoking cessation rates, both during the intervention period and at follow-up assessments after the incentive programme had ended. Pregnant women responded particularly well to financial incentives, showing higher rates of cessation compared to other included individuals. Additionally, positive effects might also be observed among women who continued to be abstinent even 24 weeks postpartum. However, no direct relationship between larger incentive amounts and better quit rates was found. The effectiveness of financial incentives might depend more on the duration and type of behavioural support provided alongside the financial rewards, rather than the size of the incentive alone.

Zhou et al [5] evaluated the combined effects of financial incentives with other smoking cessation interventions, such as pharmacotherapy and behavioural support. The results revealed that financial incentives were more effective when combined with behavioural and pharmacological treatments. The combination of incentives with treatments like nicotine replacement therapy or varenicline 1 demonstrated significantly better outcomes than minimal interventions, such as advice or counselling alone. The analysis also showed that the duration of the incentive programme also played a significant role in its effectiveness. Longer interventions with sustained financial rewards, especially when coupled with continuous support, were associated with better long-term outcomes. However, the impact of incentive size was less clear, with the study noting that larger incentives did not consistently correlate with better cessation rates.

Breen et al [6] examined the relationship between the size of financial incentives and smoking cessation outcomes. They found that while financial incentives generally increased quit rates, higher incentive amounts did not necessarily lead to higher rates of success. The study also suggested that other programme elements—such as the frequency and timing of the incentives, the presence of behavioural support, and the individual's motivation to quit—were more significant factors in determining the success of smoking cessation programmes. Their findings are consistent with the results from Zhou et al, which indicated that smaller, sustained rewards might be as effective as larger, one-time incentives in achieving long-term cessation.

3 HEALTHY DIET UPTAKE

Huangfu et al [7] investigated the effects of price reductions on healthy food purchases and consumption. The interventions included discounts, vouchers, coupons for specific supermarket and farmers' market purchases, and free healthy food boxes. They demonstrated that a 20% price reduction led to a 16.6% increase in fruit and vegetable purchases over at least a six-month period (evidence for a longer study period was not available). The effect of price reductions was consistent across populations, with increases of 15.6% in low-income groups and 17.3% in the general population. In contrast, no statistically significant change in unhealthy food purchases or consumption was observed for each 20% price reduction. However, this review did not examine the use of direct cash incentives to encourage healthy diet.

Boonmanunt et al [3] also revealed that only deposit contracts increased goal achievement compared to no financial incentives at the end of interventions. No long-term data were provided by this review.

4 ALCOHOL ABSTINENCE

No relevant systematic review was available to support or refute the use of financial incentives for alcohol abstinence.

IMPLICATIONS & COMMENTS

There is evidence supporting the use of financial incentives to encourage physical activity participation, smoking cessation, and healthy diet uptake. However, the following points should noted when adopting the evidence

Even though cash rewards could increase individuals' average daily step counts by 513.8 steps, this increase may not be significant enough to bring a significant health impact in the long run. Similar concerns apply to the increase in gym attendance attributed to financial incentives

Changes in health parameters, such as blood pressure and blood glucose, were not explored in the systematic reviews on financial incentives for physical activity participation. Therefore, the effectiveness of financial incentives in relation to health benefits through physical activity participation cannot be determined

The evidence on financial incentives for smoking cessation concerned only the rate of complete smoking cessation, rather than the reduction of cigarette intake. Nevertheless, other evidence [8,9] has shown a dose-response relationship between the number of cigarettes smoked per day/month and the lifetime risk of death and developing various chronic health conditions. Therefore, even if complete cessation is not achievable, reducing daily cigarette intake may still be beneficial to health

Governments rely on taxation and a price floor (e.g., minimum unit pricing) to influence alcohol consumption. Additional evidence may best be gathered from longitudinal time-series studies to determine reductions in alcohol consumption

Various forms of financial incentives, other than direct cash rewards, may be considered to encourage healthy diet uptake. These include discounts, vouchers, and coupons for supermarket and farmers' market purchases

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Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Community Planning Budget 2024/2025 – Q4 Budget Monitoring Report
Lead Officer	Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead, Prevention and Community Empowerment
Report Author	Allison Swanson, Improvement Programme Manager
Date of Report	1 May 2025
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 31 May 2025

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the 2024/25 Community Planning Budget's financial performance for the period 1 February to 31 March 2025.

Summary of Key Information

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The community planning budget agreed for 2024/25 on 29 April 2024 was £1,638,519. This included contributions from Aberdeen City Council, Police Scotland, NHS Grampian and NESTRANS.

	2024/25 Budget £
Aberdeen City Council	1,605,725
NHS Grampian	18,032
Police Scotland	5,000
NESTRANS	5,000
Sub Total	1,633,757
Civic Forum carried forward	4,762*
Total	1,638,519

* Carried forward funds allocated to the Civic Forum in 2018/19.

2 COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET 2024/25

2.1 This budget monitoring report shows current and projected expenditure for 2024/25 as at the end of quarter 4.

	2024/25 Budget £	Year to date spend £	Full year forecast £	Variance £ (Difference between forecast and budget)
Fairer Aberdeen Fund	1,534,436	1,534,436	1,534,436	0
Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations/Third Sector Interface/ engagement: Community Planning	62,321	62,321	62,321	0
City Voice	37,000	37,000	37,000	0
Community Toolkit	4,762	4,762	4,762	0
Total	**1,638,519**	**1,638,519**	**1,638,519**	**0**

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the Management Group:

i) Note Community Planning Aberdeen Budget's performance during quarter 4 of 2024/25.

Opportunities and Risks

Regular reporting on the current year's budget gives Community Planning Aberdeen the opportunity to determine whether value for money is being achieved and allows early identification of possible shortfalls.

Consultation

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

Maggie Hepburn, Chief Executive, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations
Aileen Duncan, Finance Development Officer, Aberdeen City Council
Susan Thom, Fairer Aberdeen Fund Co-ordinator, Aberdeen City Council

Background Papers

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

Community Planning Budget 2024/25

Contact details:
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Community Planning Aberdeen

Progress Report	Draft Community Planning Budget 2025/26
Lead Officer	Michelle Crombie, Strategic Lead, Prevention and Community Empowerment
Report Author	Allison Swanson, Community Planning and Improvement Manager
Date of Report	1 May 2025
Governance Group	CPA Management Group – 31 May 2025

Purpose of the Report

This report sets out the contributions from Community Planning Aberdeen partners to the Community Planning Budget 2025/26 and details proposals for how this money will be spent.

Summary of Key Information

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 On 29 April 2024, Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) Board agreed the Community Planning Budget for 2024/25. Contributions to the 2024/25 budget were made by Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and Nestrans.

2 COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET 2025/26

2.1 Contributions to the 2025/26 Community Planning Budget are below.

	2025/26 Budget £
Aberdeen City Council	1,605,725
NHS Grampian	18,032
Police Scotland	5,000
NESTRANS	5,000
Total	1,633,757

3 BUDGET COMMITMENTS 2025/26

3.1 The budget commitments for 2025/26 are detailed below.

	2024/25 Commitments £
Fairer Aberdeen Fund	1,534,436
ACVO Third Sector Interface/ engagement: Community Planning	62,321
City Voice	37,000
Total	**1,633,757**

3.2 The Fairer Aberdeen Fund. The fund is allocated to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) by Aberdeen City Council to help tackle poverty and deprivation across the City. The fund supports partners to work together to tackle area based and individual poverty; and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities. Funding supports initiatives and services for the most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable people across the City. An application process is in place to ensure funding is allocated to appropriate programmes and projects which demonstrate a link to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. Organisations funded are required to meet specific terms and conditions and comply with "Following the Public Pound" financial guidance.

3.3 Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) Third Sector Interface. Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations has a critical role in building the third sector relationship with Community Planning Aberdeen. It also plays a critical development role with regards to the Third Sector and volunteering locally in Aberdeen. These roles together put Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations at the heart of building the bridge between sectors in Aberdeen to support a growing range of local 'assets' that can contribute to the delivery of better outcomes for the City. Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations provides a number of services to help build this capacity across the third sector so it has confidence to participate and contribute to improvement activity. The Council has agreed a funding package with Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations in exchange for the provision of these services to strengthen the link between the third sector and Community Planning Aberdeen.

4 NEXT STEPS

4.1 Community Planning Aberdeen Board asked to approve the budget at its meeting in June 2025. Subject to approval, the Management Group will then receive quarterly reports on the community planning budget to monitor current and projected expenditure to ensure early identification of possible shortfalls.

Recommendations for Action

It is recommended that the Management Group:

i) agrees to submit the final proposed Community Planning Budget 2025/26 to the Community Planning Aberdeen Board on 18 June 2025 for approval.

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Consultation

The following people were consulted in the preparation of this report:
Jason Carrigan, Police Scotland
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Maggie Hepburn, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations
Susan Thom, Fairer Aberdeen Fund Co-ordinator, Aberdeen City Council

Opportunities and Risks

The Community Empowerment Scotland Act requires Community Planning Partners to collectively provide sufficient resource to meet agreed ambitious improvement targets for the themes they prioritise for improvement. It also requires

partners in the CPP to target collective resources effectively and efficiently towards these priorities, including by eliminating gaps and duplications in service provision. This is particularly true for helping those communities experiencing deep-rooted and multi-faceted inequalities of outcomes, towards whom numerous public sector bodies direct significant resource.

Background Papers
The following papers were used in the preparation of this report. 2024/25 Community Planning Budget Proposal to CPA Board

Contact details:
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Aberdeen City Council
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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
Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group: 21 May 2025/Board: 18 June 2025	
Local Outcome Improvement Plan Refresh Workshop session – Implications of review of community planning and impact of Population Needs Assessment on existing Local Outcome Improvement Plan	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)/ Allison Swanson
Population Needs Assessment	Anne McAteer (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Planning Aberdeen Annual Outcome Improvement Report	Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)
Locality Plan Annual Outcome Improvement Report	Jade Leyden (Aberdeen City Council)/lain Robertson (Health and Social Care Partnership)
Community Planning Aberdeen 2025/26 Budget Setting Report	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Planning Aberdeen 2024/25 Quarter 4 Budget Report	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)
Proposed collective partnership approach to incentives as a behavioural change mechanism	Phil Mackie (NHSG)
Project End Report: Improvement Aim 5.1	Graeme Simpson (Aberdeen City Council)
Health Research Determinants Collaboration Update	Martin Murchie (Aberdeen City Council)
Regional Real Living Wage Action Plan (Board only)	Martin Barry (Scottish Enterprise)
Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group: 13 Aug 2025/Board: 24 Sept 2025	
Local Outcome Improvement Plan Refresh Workshop session – Emerging priorities from public engagement for the Local outcome Improvement Plan Refresh and Locality Plans 2026-36	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)/ Allison Swanson
Community Planning Aberdeen Improvement Programme Quarterly Update	Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Planning Aberdeen Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report (Management Group only)	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)
Health Determinants Research Collaboration Update	Martin Murchie (Aberdeen City Council)
Public Engagement Results Report	Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Learning and Development Plan 2025-27	Eleanor Sheppard (Aberdeen City Council)
North East Scotland College Strategic Plan	Robin MacGregor (North East Scotland College)
Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group 22 Oct 2025/Board 19 Nov 2025	
Local Outcome Improvement Plan Refresh Workshop session – Draft Stretch Outcomes and Theory for Change Local outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)/ Allison Swanson

Title of report	Contact Officer
Community Planning Aberdeen Improvement Programme Quarterly Update	Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)
Health Determinants Research Collaboration Update	Martin Murchie (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Planning Aberdeen Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report (Management Group only)	Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group Feb /Mar 2026	
Draft Local outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans for public consultation	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)/ Allison Swanson
Community Planning Aberdeen Improvement Programme Quarterly Update	Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)
Health Determinants Research Collaboration Update	Martin Murchie (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Planning Aberdeen Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report (Management Group only)	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Planning Aberdeen Management Group May/ June 2025	
Final Draft Local outcome Improvement Plan for public consultation	Allison Swanson (Aberdeen City Council)
Final Draft Locality Plans for public consultation	Jade Leyden (Aberdeen City Council)/ Iain Robertson (Health and Social Care Partnership)
Health Determinants Research Collaboration Update	Martin Murchie (Aberdeen City Council)
Community Planning Aberdeen Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report (Management Group only)	Michelle Crombie (Aberdeen City Council)
TBC	
New Tobacco Strategy	Susan Webb (Public Health)
HMP Prison/ Greene King/ Aberdeen City Council Partnership Update	Isla Newcombe (Aberdeen City Council)
University of Aberdeen/Community Planning Aberdeen Synergies Presentation *(Board only)*	Pete Edwards (university of Aberdeen)
Housing Bill Stage 2 of the parliamentary process; and full Implementation Plan when the Bill has progressed through Stage.	Mel Booth (Aberdeen City Council)

Acronyms:

Aberdeen City Council	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

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				
Scottish Government – Just Transition Fund After you apply - Just Transition Fund: application form and guidance - gov.scot	JTF is a £500 million ten-year commitment that will support projects in the North East and Moray which contribute towards the region's transition to net zero. The project/programme must: • contribute to the transition to net zero in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire or Moray • help to diversify the regional economy away from carbon-intensive industries • capitalise on the opportunities, including jobs and prosperity, that the transition to net zero will bring • demonstrate delivery against the mandatory Just Transition Outcome on Jobs, Skills and Economic Opportunities. This is a capital fund and it can be used to buy fixed assets (land, buildings, machinery etc.); buy inventory; acquire long-term financial assets, or financial assets used to generate a long-term return; undertake R&D activities which meet the criteria for capitalisation in budgets, where the recipient is a private sector body	Minimum value of £500, 000 and maximum value of £5 million. £8.5 million is available this round.	17th June 2025	Registered charity; business, or public sector body. All organisations must be headquartered, and demonstrate a strong connection to Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City or Moray with project activity and benefits realised within these areas

Scottish Enterprise - Workplace Transformation Support Fund https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/funding-and-grants/business-grants-and-funding-calls/workplace-transformation-support	Grants are available for enterprises in Scotland working in key sectors, aimed at supporting projects that transform practices, skills, and leadership capabilities within the workplace. The funding is designed to help companies foster business growth by instigating change in important strategic areas. The goal is to increase and accelerate capital investment and maximise returns. The fund's focus is on key industries of the future, including: Clean energy. Professional, scientific and technical services. Information and communications. Manufacturing.	Up to £100,000, to fund up to 50% of project costs. To qualify for support, the project must be linked to a capital investment worth at least £200,000. Applicants are required to provide at least 50% of their project costs from other sources.	Applications may be made at any time to support the delivery of projects by 31 March 2026.	Applicants must: Operate within the area served by Scottish Enterprise Operate in a key industry, like: manufacturing; professional, scientific and technical; information and communications; or clean energy.
Scottish Government - Housing Infrastructure Fund https://www.gov.scot/policies/more-homes/housing-infrastructure-fund/	Grants available for the unlocking of sites to provide new affordable housing which aligns with the 'Housing to 2040' strategy. Projects must meet the five key criteria of the Fund: Developments/projects should be part of a clear planning framework and either included in the current Strategic Housing Investment Plans (SHIPs) for the local area or be able to evidence that it will be included in forthcoming SHIPs. Costs should be related to infrastructure works out-with the curtilage of the development and can be demonstrated as representing Value for Money for any public support. Costs cannot be met by either the applicant	Discretionary	There are no deadlines. Applications can be made at any time. Applications are currently being accepted for Round 3.	Local authorities and registered social landlords registered in Scotland can apply.

	organisation or another funding source and there is strong evidence that the funding being requested is the minimum amount required to ensure a project is viable. There is clear alignment with the Housing to 2040 strategy core aims. Local strategic context ie instance place-based investment principles, including 20 minute neighbourhoods.			
People				
Bank of Scotland Foundation – Energise Programme Bank of Scotland Foundation	The focus of the Energise grants programme is exclusively on funding grassroots charities that work with vulnerable individuals. This targeted focus comes as the current economic situation continues to impact charities and at-risk groups throughout Scotland. The funding can be used for core costs, delivery costs, project costs and/or general running costs.	Unrestricted grants of up to £20,000 (£10,000 per year over two years) are available to charities with an annual income of under £50,000. Unrestricted grants of up to £40,000 (£20,000 per year over two years) are available to charities with an income of between £50,000 and £150,000.	11th June 2025	Registered charities
Health and Wellbeing in Museums Fund **https://www.museumsassociation.org/funding/health-and-wellbeing/**	This fund aims to support the development and continuation of groundbreaking health and wellbeing programmes in UK museums during a time of financial crisis and increasing demand for services.	Around 20 grants of between £50,000 to £75,000 are available over two funding rounds in 2025 and 2026.	26th June 2025	UK Museums can apply.
National Lottery Community Fund - Supporting Change: Carers (Scotland)	The Fund will support projects to improve the health and wellbeing of unpaid carers by making meaningful and lasting system changes. The following costs are eligible for funding:	Grants of between £500,000 to £2 million are available over 5 to 10 years. Organisations can also apply for up to £50,000 in development funding.	28th August 2025	Local authorities; community and voluntary organisations

https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/supporting-change-carers	• Organisational running costs. • Equipment. • One-off events. • Staff costs. • Training costs. • Transport. • Utilities. • Volunteer expenses. • Part of the organisation's overheads. • Some capital costs.			
National Lottery Community Fund - Fairer Life Chances (Scotland) https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/fairer-life-chances#section-3	Grants are available for projects that support children, young people and families, or help people to be healthier and have better access to support, with a focus on those experiencing poverty, discrimination and disadvantage. The following costs are eligible for funding: • Equipment. • One-off events. • Staff costs. • Training costs. • Transport. • Utilities. • Volunteer expenses. • Part of the organisation's overheads.	Up to £500,000	Application can be submitted any time.	Local authority, registered charity, CICs, SCIOs, constituted voluntary and community organisations
Place				
Scottish Government - Museums Galleries	Grants are available to accredited museums in Scotland to support capital projects that help	Grants of up to £100,000 will be available.	The EOI period will	Any organisation

Scotland - Repair and Adaptation Fund **https://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk/funding/repair-and-adaptation-fund/**	build long-term resilience and increase accessibility. The Fund is intended to support projects: • That address urgent repair needs that are negatively impacting the safety and security of or access to collections, negatively impacting visitor experience, limiting the ability of staff to carry out work, or creating health hazards. • Aiming to lower running costs by improving environmental efficiency and contributing to Scotland's goal of net-zero emissions by 2045. • That improve the accessibility of museums for disabled visitors, volunteers, staff, and those with additional needs.	Applicants can apply for up to 100% of the total project costs. However, MGS welcome financial contributions from the applicant organisation or other sources wherever possible.	open on 25 June, and close on 23 July 2025. The deadline for full applications will be 6 August 2025. Round Two: The EOI period will open on 1 October, and close on 29 October 2025. The deadline for full applications will be 5 November 2025.	based in Scotland that runs an accredited museum may apply. Applications from partnerships are eligible
Barclays Community Sport Fund 2025 to 2027 Barclays Community Sport Fund - Sported	The funding supports organisations who are working within the most deprived areas of the UK and are making sport more accessible to women and girls, as well as engaging people from other under-represented groups including people with	Up to £1000	22nd June 2025	Not-for-profit organisations including community groups, youth

	disabilities, from racially diverse communities and from the LGBTQ+ community. The funding is unrestricted and can be used for anything that will support delivery of football, cricket, or tennis activities for women and girls.			groups and traditional sports clubs.
Hugo Burge Foundation - Creative Grants **https://www.hugoburgefoundation.org/grants**	Grant funding is available to support projects, individuals, and organisations across the UK that promote creativity through three key areas: Creative Education, Creative Communities, and Creative Individuals. Grants can be used to support a wide range of activities including individual projects, community arts festivals and cultural fairs, workshops in schools and field trips to arts or cultural sites. Creative Education: Supporting projects that provide young people (ages 0-29) with opportunities to engage in creative activities. This includes funding for workshops in schools, field trips to cultural sites, and the purchase of materials for student engagement. Creative Communities: Aiding organisations, festivals, fairs and community groups that develop and deliver cultural and creative arts initiatives within their local areas. Creative Individuals: Providing individual artists, including those in visual and expressive arts, writers and craftspeople, with funding to support their artistic projects.	Up to £15,000	For 2025, there will be two funding windows: Round One: 1-31 May 2025 Round Two: 1-30 September 2025	Creative Education - individuals, schools, and arts & culture organisations. Creative Communities - organisations, festivals, fairs and community groups. Creative Individuals - artists who are over 18.

Asda Foundation - Local Community Spaces Fund https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/local-community-spaces-fund/	The aim of the Fund is to repair, renovate and develop accessible community spaces for continued delivery of essential activities and services to benefit the local community, particularly those experiencing loneliness, isolation and disadvantage. The project should benefit people of all ages and from all communities. Applications must address at least one of the following funding priorities: Carry out essential repairs to enable the space to continue to function. Renovate an existing space to accommodate more users/activities. Create a new community space where groups can meet and undertake activities. Improve accessibility to, or within, a community building.	Up to £20,000 The Asda Foundation must contribute at least 50% of the total project cost (up to £20,000) and can fund up to 90% of the total project cost. It is anticipated that approximately 70 projects will be funded. Applicants must already have 10% of the total project cost (demonstrated in submitted accounts).	**28th May 2025**	Charities, VCSE and other not-for-profit organisations.
SPAR Community Cashback https://www.spar.co.uk/community-cashback-apply/	The grants will be given based on the strength of the applicant's story, the recipient's levels of dedication to their community and the credibility of what the grant would be spent on and its impact for the local community.	Up to £10,000	4th June 2025	Local voluntary or community organisation, registered charity/
Historic Environment Scotland – Partnership Fund https://www.historicenvironment.scot/grants-	This fund will support organisations delivering projects and activities that align with Historic Environment Scotland's Grant Priorities: Increase understanding of and engagement with Scotland's historic environment. Enhance communities' use of the historic	Discretionary As a guide, applicants should aim to request no higher than 50% funding from HES.	15th August 2025	Third sector organisations

[and-funding/our-grants/partnership-fund/](#)	environment in place-making. Strengthen the resilience of Scotland's historic environment. Use the historic environment as a catalyst for climate action. Increase the quality and availability of historic environment skills. Increase economic benefits from the historic environment sustainably and inclusively. Funding can be used for direct costs and appropriate levels of indirect costs where these are associated with funded activities (ie not general core funding).			
Technology				
SSEN – Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund [https://www.ssen.co.uk/about-ssen/our-communities/powering-communities-to-net-zero-fund/](#)	Grants are available for constituted not-for-profit organisations in Northern Scotland to deliver projects that support communities to become more physically and environmentally resilient and support the purchase or installation of low carbon technologies. Funding will provide support for projects that create a stronger, coordinated resilience framework for local communities to mitigate the impact of, or support the local response to, a significant climate emergency such as extended power loss or severe weather events and climate change. Examples of eligible technologies include: Solar panels; Electric vehicle charging ports; Replacement or upgrade of heating system to a	A total of £3 million is available through this fund. For community-led physical and environmental resilience projects, grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 are available. Grants of up to £40,000 may be considered in exceptional circumstances. For low-carbon technology projects, grants of between £1,000 and £20,000 are available. Grants of up to £40,000 may be considered in exceptional circumstances.	25th June 2025	Community groups based within the SSEN distribution area can apply.

	low carbon heating system, including thermal storage, biomass, and ground or air source heat pumps; Battery storage; Renewable energy sources; Smart heating controls; Energy efficiency measures.			
Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) - Community Buildings Fund **https://localenergy.scot/funding/cares-community-buildings-fund/**	The Fund is available for grant funding, advice and support for community organisations to decarbonise community buildings. Funding can be used for decarbonising many types of self-managed community buildings, including: Village halls. Community centres. Community hubs. Sports facilities. Faith buildings. Applicants should apply for at least one of the following core measures: • Heat pumps (air source, ground source or water source). • A connection to heat network. • Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. • Solar water heating.	Grant funding is available for up to 80% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £80,000	Applicants must submit EOI. Eligible applicants will be invited to submit a full application. The Fund to reopen in Spring 2025. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the end of October 2025.	Scottish charitable incorporated organisations (SCIOs). Private companies limited by guarantee (CLGs). Community benefit societies (BenComs). Community interest companies (CICs).
Scotland's Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Fund - Phase 2 **https://www.salixfinanc**	Grants are available to progress whole building approach projects that decarbonise heating systems and improve the overall energy performance of their buildings.	Grants of up to £2.5 million are available for projects taking place in FY 2025/26. Projects may start from last August 2025/early September 2025 and must be	**27th May 2025**	Local authorities; Local authority arms-length external

e.co.uk/schemes/scotlands-public-sector-heat-decarbonisation-fund-phase-2?utm_campaign=fund_webinarsreminder.31.03.25&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery	This Fund has two strategic objectives: To support projects that will replace existing polluting heating systems with clean heating systems. To support energy efficiency projects where they can demonstrate that they are part of a whole building retrofit approach or broader strategy for heat decarbonisation, including connections to heat networks.	completed with money spent by 31 March 2026.		organisations; Universities.
The Different Foundation - AI for All https://www.thedifferent.foundation/ai-for-all	The funding is intended to promote access and opportunity for members of underrepresented and diverse communities in AI innovation. It supports organisations committed to diversity in technology. The current focus is addressing digital bias, elevating diverse voices, and developing AI that works for everyone.	The programme offers: One-off grants of up to £2,500. Four hours of specialised mentorship with respected leaders in AI. This mentorship provides practical guidance to enhance impact, improve programme delivery, and strengthen organisational capabilities.	30th June 2025 1 August and close 30 September 2025 for the December 2025 grant round.	UK registered charities with a turnover of between £150,000 and £1.15 million and one to ten employees can apply.